Weston Solutions, Inc.
2300 Clayton Road, Suite 900
Concord, CA 94520
www.westonsolutions.com

June 26, 2019

Mr. Robert Wise
Federal On-Scene Coordinator
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9, Emergency Response Section
2445 North Palm Drive, Suite 100
Signal Hill, CA 90755

Subject: Slauson Tanker Response
Emergency Response Report
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California
TDD No.: 0002/1302-T2-R9-17-04-0002
Document Control No.: 0149-08-ACDX

Dear Mr. Robert Wise:

Under Technical Direction Document (TDD) No. 0002/1302-T2-R9-17-04-0002, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 Emergency Response Section (ERS) tasked the Weston Solutions, Inc. (WESTON®) Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) to provide technical assistance at the Slauson Tanker Emergency Response Site located at 210 West Slauson Avenue in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California (Site) (Figure 1). Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) Robert Wise requested that START provide assessment, monitoring, and removal oversight support to a gasoline release from a fuel tanker explosion and subsequent fire. START tasks included post-fire perimeter air monitoring, assessment of the remaining tanker contents and the fuel release on the Site, oversight of cleanup activities, and documentation of ER activities. Additionally, START was tasked with a limited assessment of the impacts from the release to surface soil at the adjacent property located at 216 West Slauson Avenue. The Emergency Response (ER) was initiated on March 17, 2019 and continued through March 19, 2019.

This letter report presents a summary of the ER site activities. Attachment A provides figures for the ER and Attachment B provides a photographic log of Site conditions during the ER.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Site is located in at 210 West Slauson Avenue in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California. It is an approximately 0.15 acre asphalt lot previously utilized as a recycling center and vehicle storage area. The Site was fenced in on all sides by a mix of sheet-metal barrier and chain link fence, with a sliding gate adjacent to West Slauson Avenue. There were no permanent structures built on the property at the time of the fire. The Site is situated in a mixed commercial/residential area and is bounded by West Slauson Avenue to the north, a commercial property to the east, and residential properties to the west and south.

The Site was comprised of the remnants of the fuel tanker, the remnants of a tractor truck, and the remnants of a trailer loaded with car/truck wheels, all consumed during the fire. The

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remnants of the fuel tanker were located on the southeast portion of the Site. The Site is an almost uniformly asphalted surface. A Site Layout is presented in Figure 2.

BACKGROUND

On March, 17, 2019, the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) responded to a report of gasoline smell in the area near the Site. Upon arrival, LAFD observed gasoline from an approximately 9,000 gallon tanker drain off the property. LAFD personnel utilized a rotary saw to enter the property. The gasoline vapor encountered sparks from the rotary saw and the leaking tanker exploded, resulting in a fire on the property and a subsequent release of the tanker materials. The nearby storm water sewer was impacted by gasoline and the manhole covers were damaged in the explosion.

LAFD immediately conducted fire suppression activities and the fire was extinguished within two hours of the explosion. An unknown amount of fire suppression water and gasoline ran off-site and into a nearby storm sewer as a result of fire suppression activities. Additionally, an unknown amount of gasoline and fire suppression liquid remained in the remnants of the tanker and pooled on the Site.

The explosion and resulting fire damaged the tanker and destroyed a tractor truck as well as a trailer containing car/truck wheels which was staged on the property. A residence on the adjacent property, 216 West Slauson Avenue, was also damaged in the fire. Two individuals were injured in the explosion and required medical attention.

RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

Initial Assessment Activities

On March 17, 2019, the EPA requested that START mobilize to the Site to assess the situation and provide technical assistance. Agencies responding to the incident included EPA, LAFD, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Los Angeles City Sanitation Watershed Protection (Watershed Protection), Los Angeles City Department of Public Works, Los Angeles City Police Department, City of Los Angeles Code Enforcement, City of Los Angeles – Bureau of Engineering, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). At the time of the response, LAFD had ordered a mandatory evacuation of the properties immediately adjacent to the Site due to gasoline vapor.

START, in conjunction with AQMD, conducted air monitoring in the vicinity of the Site with a TVA 2020 Toxic Vapor Analyzer (TVA) and MultiRAE Pro 5-gas meter equipped with a photoionization detector (PID) for measuring volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon monoxide (CO) sensor, hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) sensor, lower explosive limit (LEL) sensor, and oxygen (O_2) sensor. Elevated PID readings, in excess of 1,000 parts per million (ppm) for VOCs were observed at the entrance of the Site. Additionally, START observed elevated PID readings on the TVA near a residential apartment building on the corner of Inskeep Avenue and West Slauson Avenue. START reported these numbers to LAFD and the evacuation order was expanded to include that building.

Watershed Protection assessed the impacted storm water sewers near the Site and determined that gasoline and fire-suppression runoff was restricted to the catch basins near the Site.

Watershed Protection mobilized Clean Harbors, an emergency response contractor, to the Site to conduct removal of the gasoline and fire-suppression runoff from the storm water catch basins.

EPA utilized their Civil Investigation Unit to identify and contact the property owner. The property is owned by a commercial real estate company. A representative for the real estate company arrived on the Site and entered an agreement with Clean Harbors to conduct emergency removal activities on the Site.

Emergency Removal Activities

START deployed a real-time perimeter air monitoring network around the Site using Honeywell AreaRAE Pro units equipped with sensors for VOCs, CO, H_2S, LEL, and O_2. The AreaRAEs were deployed at off-site locations to determine if vapors were migrating off site (Figure 3). AreaRAE readings did not exceed the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) time weighted average (TWA) permissible exposure limit (PEL) at any of the off-site locations during the removal activities.

On March 17, 2019, at approximately 1900, Clean Harbors mobilized a vacuum truck to the Site to remove pooled gasoline and fire suppression runoff from the Site. Donning Level C personal protective equipment (PPE), Clean Harbors crews removed all the accessible pooled liquid from the Site. Clean Harbors then mobilized a Frac Tank to the Site to transfer and store the removed liquid.

Clean Harbors utilized a trash pump and hosing to begin the transfer of the remaining material from the damaged trailer into the Frac Tank. START donned level C PPE and conducted work zone air monitoring with the TVA and the MultiRAE Pro throughout the pumping operations. Air monitoring readings never exceeded the OSHA PEL of 300 ppm or the OSHA short term exposure limit (STEL) of 500 ppm.

On March 18, 2019, Clean Harbors removed the fire damaged tanker, the fire damaged trailer, and the fire damaged tractor trucks from the Site. An absorbent material was then placed on the Site surface to contain any remaining liquid. The absorbent material was swept up and placed into 55-gallon drums for eventual disposal.

On March 19, 2019, START was tasked to conduct a limited soil assessment of the adjacent property (216 West Slauson Avenue) to help determine the lateral and vertical extent of contamination related to the tanker release. Utilizing a hand auger, START collected soil samples from nine locations (STR-001 through STR-009) along the fence line between 210 and 216 West Slauson (Figure 4). The samples ranged in depth between the surface and at 5 feet below ground surface (bgs). Soil samples were field screened utilizing the TVA 2020 for VOCs. Readings were observed to range from 43 ppm to 260,000 ppm in the surface soil with the highest reading detected from the surface soil at STR-001 (Table 1).

SUMMARY

EPA requested that START provide technical support for the Slauson Tanker Response Site in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California. A tanker containing unknown volume of gasoline was found to be leaking, a subsequent explosion and fire occurred. The explosion and fire

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damaged a nearby residence, injured two people, and resulted in a release of fire suppression water and gasoline into a nearby storm sewer.

EPA tasked START with conducting documentation, work zone air monitoring with the TVA and MultiRAE Pro, perimeter air monitoring with an AreaRAE network, oversight of the removal of pooled liquid and remaining liquid in the tanker, as well as a limited soil assessment on the neighboring property (216 West Slauson Avenue). The response was initiated on March 17, 2019, and concluded operations on March 19, 2019. EPA has requested that the property owner conduct a further assessment of the soil on the Site and on the neighboring property and to conduct a removal of impacted soils.

Respectfully,

WESTON SOLUTIONS, Inc.

Rick Mehl
START Project Manager

Attachments:
A – Figures
B - Photographic Documentation

cc: WESTON START DCN File

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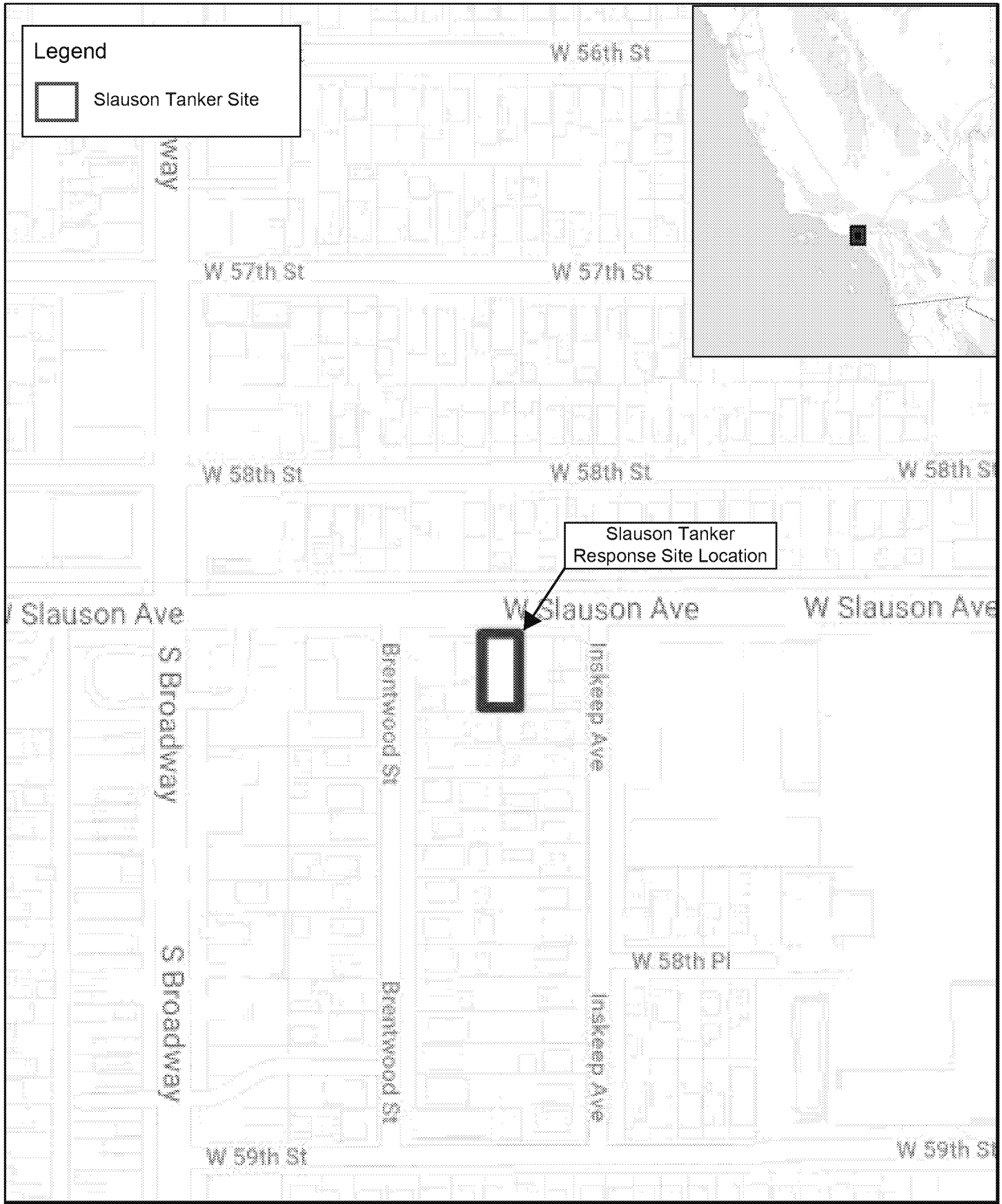
Table 1
VOC Measurements in Soil Borings
Slauson Tanker ER
210 West Slauson Ave, Los Angeles

Samples	0.5 ft (ppm)	1 ft (ppm)	3 ft (ppm)	5 ft (ppm)
STR-001	260,000	NA	1,584	472
STR-002	332	NA	NA	NA
STR-003	505	63.3	43.4	NA
STR-004	126	NA	NA	NA
STR-005	720	NA	NA	NA
STR-006	159	NA	NA	NA
STR-007	NA	176	NA	NA
STR-008	NA	NA	1650	250
STR-009	NA	NA	NA	2401

Notes:
NA = Not Analyzed
VOC measurements with a TVA 2020 in Headspace
ppm = parts per million

ATTACHMENT A
FIGURES



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Region 9, START
Weston Solutions, Inc.
2300 Clayton Rd, Ste 900
Concord, CA 94520

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FIGURE 1

SITE LOCATION MAP

Slauson Tanker Response

210 West Slauson Avenue,
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California

Contract: EP-S5-13-02; TDD: 1302-T2-R9-17-04-0002

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FIGURE 2

SITE LAYOUT

Slauson Tanker Response
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FIGURE 3

AREARAE LOCATION MAP

Slauson Tanker Response
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FIGURE 4

SOIL SAMPLE LOCATIONS

Slauson Tanker Response
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ATTACHMENT B
PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Project Name: Slauson Tanker Response	Site Location: Los Angeles, CA	TDD No.: 0002/1302-T2-R9-17-04-0002

Photo No.	Date:
1	March 17, 2019

Direction Photo Taken:

South

Description:

Los Angeles City Fire Department suppressing gasoline odors from damaged Tanker.

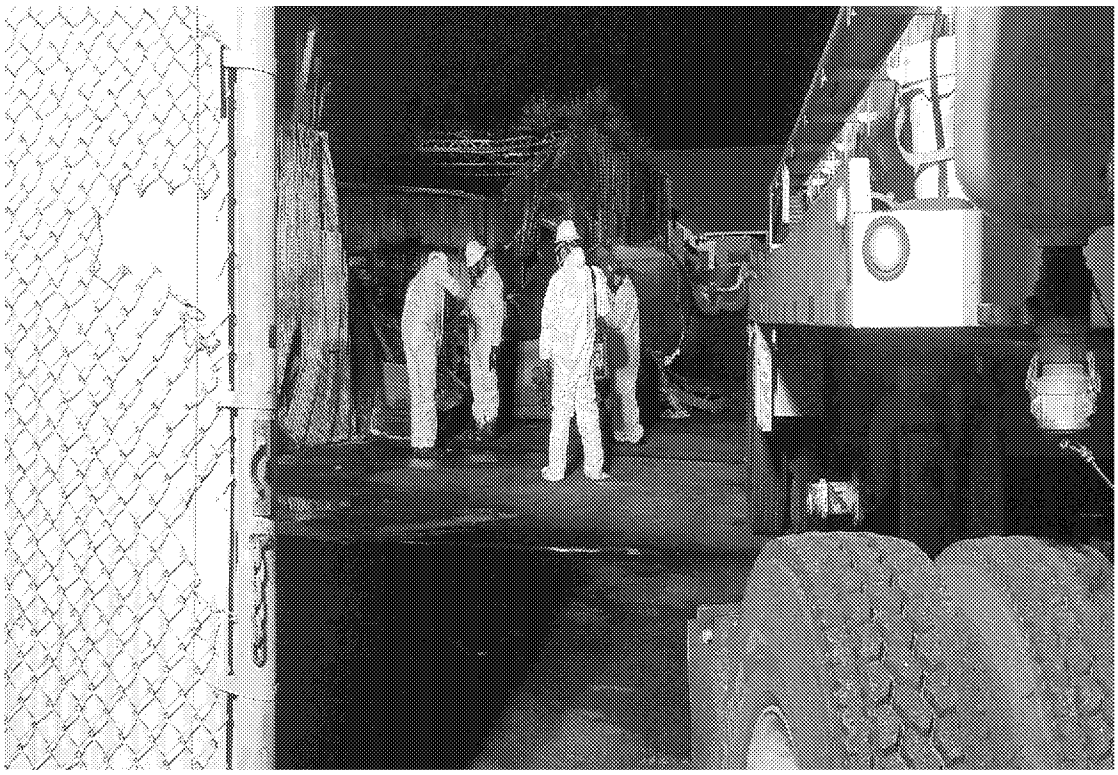
Photo No.	Date:
2	March 17, 2019

Direction Photo Taken:

South

Description:

Air monitoring during the pumping off of gasoline from Tanker.



PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Project Name: Slauson Tanker Response	Site Location: Los Angeles, CA	TDD No.: 0002/1302-T2-R9-17-04-0002

Photo No.	Date:
3	March 18, 2019

Direction Photo Taken:

North

Description:

Tanker shell being removed from the site.

Photo No.	Date:
4	March 18, 2019

Direction Photo Taken:

Southwest

Description:

216 W. Slauson Ave. adjacent property damaged during the incident.

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Project Name: Slauson Tanker Response	Site Location: Los Angeles CA	TDD No.: 0002/1302-T2-R9-17-04-0002

Photo No.	Date:
5	March 17, 2019

Direction Photo Taken:

West

Description:

Perimeter air monitoring during clean up.

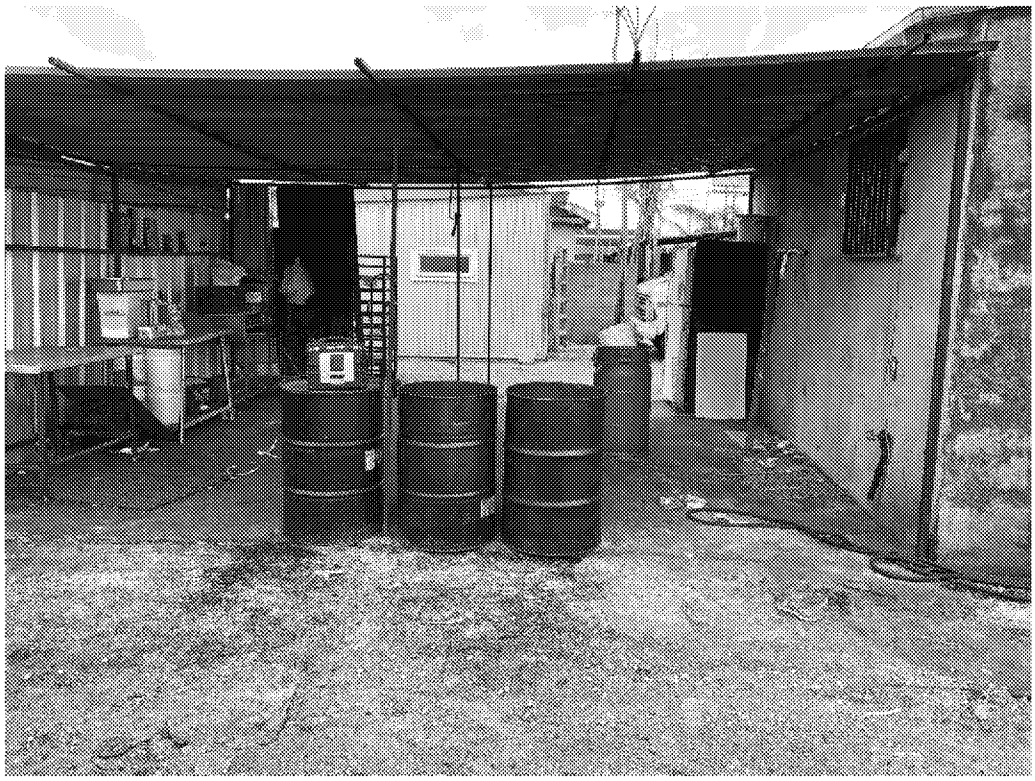


Photo No.	Date:
6	March 18, 2019

Direction Photo Taken:

Southwest

Description:

Impacted soil on adjacent property.