

CASE STUDY #2

Petroleum Storage Tanks, Refinery, Corpus Christi, Texas

The Opportunity

A global refinery company in Corpus Christi, Texas, had four large crude oil storage tanks that were down for maintenance. The customer had cleaned the largest of the four tanks four times with various abrasive blast media and salt-removal products. Unfortunately, the tank was so contaminated that it could not pass inspection. Contaminant levels remained unacceptably high. Even under a controlled environment, the tanks were rusting before a coating could be applied. The air-liquid interface area was highly contaminated. The customer had used HoldTight to try to reduce detectable contaminant levels, but this effort failed to eliminate the contaminants. The project was over budget and falling further behind schedule. The refinery's only option was simply to recoat the tank and return it to service, despite knowing a coating failure was imminent and the tank soon would have to be pulled from service once again for further maintenance.

The Solution

The inspector on site knew of TGS Solutions' decontamination process and asked to see a demonstration of CorrX. A crude demonstration was performed in the parking lot of the refinery. The results surpassed any other cleaning technology the customer had seen and the technology was immediately approved by the refinery. The largest tank was treated, passed inspection and successfully coated within a few days. The three remaining tanks were immediately decontaminated using the same effective technology, coated and returned to service ahead of schedule.

The Findings

The refinery realized it could achieve a result of zero detectable contaminants using this process. The clean substrate resulted in a much improved coating adhesion as a result of the elimination of contaminants that participate in cathodic corrosion.

The client now uses CorrX exclusively to clean its contaminated substrates. CorrX has now become part of the customer's routine specification prior to tank liner installation. The customer's projects are now completed in half the time at a much lower cost. Tanks are returned to service quicker and inspection failures are almost nonexistent.