

SARNIA, ONTARIO

Dustless blasting decontaminates units faster without scaffolding or hoarding



“Veolia’s dustless blasting services minimized containment costs and eliminated scaffolding requirements, saving the customer time and money.”

– Tom Fitzpatrick, Account Manager, Veolia North America





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Contract Facts

1 week

duration of project

\$52,000

in hard cost savings

5-7 days

saved vs. sandblasting

4

Veolia operators

zero

accidents or injuries

Contact

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Scope

Traditional sandblasting methods for removing lead paint on a refinery storage tank require setting up scaffolding around and across the top of the tank roof. Hoarding is also required, which involves wrapping polyethylene plastic around the scaffolding to contain the high volume of sand used for blasting as well as the toxic paint particles.

Challenge

Sandblasting produces high volumes of dust that spreads sand and contaminated paint far from the cleaning area without proper containment. Veolia was challenged to safely and more efficiently remove the lead-based paint from the exterior of a refinery tank without releasing paint and media particles into the atmosphere while eliminating the need for scaffolding and hoarding and minimizing clean up time and disposal costs.

Solution

Veolia used their dustless blasting method from the ground and an aerial platform to attack the lead paint with a mixture of water and finely ground recycled bottle glass. The abrasive was trapped in water and is grounded, eliminating the plume of dust created by sandblasting. The need for the scaffolding and hoarding was eliminated since there was no dust cloud produced while cleaning. The toxic paint and wastewater was contained in a berm located at the base of the tank. Veolia was then able to vacuum the residuals and properly dispose of the hazardous waste.



The dustless blasting technology uses water and finely ground glass

Result

Veolia completed the cleaning job on time, without any need for scaffolding and hoarding that would have been required if they had used traditional sandblasting. Post blasting clean up was minimized as most of the media dissipated when it hit the tank surfaces being cleaned.

Veolia's dustless blasting improved worker safety and reduced the amount of containment needed around the work site. This method produced minimal dust and

lowered abrasive consumption compared to traditional blasting. Additionally, Veolia sprayed on a rust inhibitor that lasted 72 hours. The chemical decontaminated the tank's blasted surfaces, leaving them clean, chloride-free and ready to paint.

The customer saved 5 to 7 days in labor compared to sandblasting, \$50,000 by the elimination of scaffolding and hoarding requirements, and another \$2,000 in reduced disposal costs.

