



CASE STUDY:

Waste-Water Storage Tanks, Petrochemical Company, Houston Ship Channel

The Opportunity

Three open-top waste-water storage tanks at a leading petrochemical company operating on the Houston Ship Channel were severely contaminated and not in compliance with the coating specifications set forth by the asset owner. According to the specifications, no film-formers or inhibitors could be used in the tanks. Multiple abrasive blasts were unsuccessful in removing the contaminants from the substrates, immediately causing the tanks to flash rust. The tanks failed inspection after every cleaning cycle due to multiple environmental issues and extraordinarily high contaminant loads.

The Solution

All three tanks were treated and decontaminated in a single day with CleanWirx. All flash rust was removed, as were the contaminants that had caused the rust. The substrates were immediately returned to a white metal condition and passed inspection. Substrate contaminant testing returned a result of zero detectable contaminants.

The Findings

Before coatings could be applied, two severe rainstorms came through the area back-to-back. Consequently, the tanks could not be coated for another four days. Interestingly, once the substrates dried, they were still in a perfect white metal state and passed inspection once again. The tanks were coated and put back into service without any further delays or problems.

This was a very noteworthy project. We were called out to the site 14 days after the initial sandblasting was completed on the three wastewater tanks, which emphasizes the following incredible benefits:

- CleanWirx gives project managers greater control and flexibility in both project scheduling and execution.
- With CleanWirx, you can schedule and complete all of your cleaning at once, without any additional blasts.
- CleanWirx was applied after 14 days and the substrate was immediately returned to a visual white metal standard. Often, CleanWirx will yield a visual standard that surpasses that of the initial cleaning – even when the substrate has been blasted to the most stringent specification of NACE 1.
- Coating was applied **four** days later due to severe weather without any problems and no coating failures have been found to date.