

Frequently Asked Questions

Does residual oil that has been found in sites along the Old Valley and TAOC Pipelines present a significant health risk?

No. According to analytical testing and human health risk assessments conducted by Chevron, under the direction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, residual oil associated with the former pipeline activities does not present a significant health risk, in most cases.

How do I know if residual oil is present?

In general, soil that contains residual oil can be observed visually and may have a slight odor.

Where did the residual oil come from?

From the early 1900s to the early 1970s Chevron's predecessor companies operated the Old Valley and TAOC Pipelines, which transported crude oil from Bakersfield to Richmond and Bunker "C" fuel from Richmond to Tracy. The residual oil is likely associated with those historic operations, but in some cases may be associated with others' operations.

Who do I contact if I am planning a construction project in a location adjacent to the historic pipeline?

Please contact the Chevron Environmental Management Company (CEMC) at (800) 878-1771, or email contact@hppinfo.com. CEMC will work with you to determine the proper course of action.

Information is also available at www.hppinfo.com

For More Information

Chevron Environmental Management Company

800-878-1771

contact@hppinfo.com

Regional Water Quality Control Board

559-445-5170

Brian Hitz (Region 5)

559-445-5508

Sheldon Gray (Region 5)



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Environmental Management Company



Old Valley and TAOC Pipelines

Fact Sheet



This fact sheet provides information related to historic operations along the former Old Valley and Tidewater Associated Oil Company (TAOC) Pipelines that transported crude oil from Kern County to Richmond. Chevron is providing this information as a resource for use by Regulatory Agencies, Cities, Counties, and the general public.

In the early 1900s, Chevron's predecessors built the Old Valley and TAOC Pipelines to transport oil from the oilfields in Kern County to Richmond refinery where it was turned into gasoline and other fuels. Also, Bunker "C" fuel was transported from Richmond to Tracy. The pipelines were operated until the early 1970s when they were emptied, cleaned and decommissioned. The pipelines are no longer active.

Due to the nature of the historic pipeline operations, small amounts of soil affected by residual oil have been found along the pipelines. Residual oil has occasionally been found while maintaining neighboring underground utilities and during construction in areas adjacent to the former pipeline right-of-way.

Chevron places the highest priority on the protection of the communities and environment where we operate. Chevron, working under the direction of regulatory agencies, including the California Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, has conducted analytical testing and performed human health risk assessments at several known pipeline release sites. The results of that testing and analysis confirmed that the soil is non-hazardous and does not pose a significant health risk. State agencies agree with these conclusions. In addition, it was determined that the residual subsurface oil is relatively immobile due to its heavy and weathered nature, and does not move or migrate far from the former right-of-way.

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Over the years, Chevron has provided guidance to city and county planners, utility companies, and building contractors performing work in areas adjacent to the historic pipelines. In some cases, Chevron assists with the management and testing of soil prior to the start of construction in order to identify whether soil in the area has been impacted by historic pipeline operations. When appropriate, Chevron coordinates the proper handling and disposal of oil affected soil.

