

A DIFFERENT SLANT ON FUEL STORAGE - A CASE STUDY

A major customer of BP's was having problems with water and black sediment blocking filters on storage tanks. The BP delivery vehicles also had particulate matter and slime over the inside of the tanker after delivery. These fuel quality problems have been a major source of annoyance and discontent for the customer and for BP. A considerable amount of time and therefore cost was involved in trying to find the source of the problems.

Investigation eventually showed that the tank drain on a BP bulk storage tank was not at the lowest point of the tank. This meant that regular draining of water and sediment would have been ineffective. The question arose as to why such a condition existed. Was the tank designed that way? Was it installed incorrectly?

Further investigation revealed that whilst the tank had been designed and installed correctly, subsidence of one end of the tank had resulted in a change in orientation. The story does have a satisfactory ending - the slant of the tank has been corrected resulting in clean product and a satisfied customer.

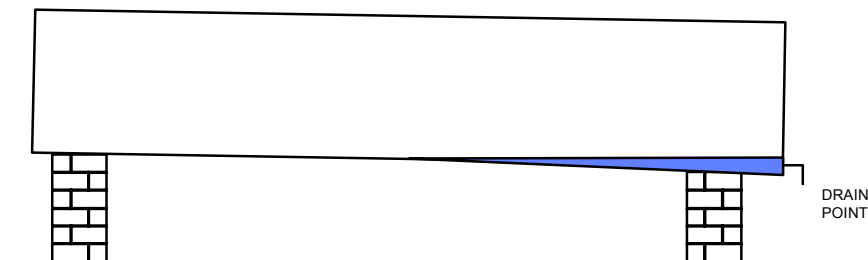


Figure 1 : Water and sediment can be drained



Figure 2 : Water and sediment cannot be drained

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