



# IMPACT Another PSC Success Story

Shell Martinez Oil Refinery — TANK DEGASSING

## Saving Time, Money and Community Goodwill

Shell Oil is an international energy company with hundreds of facilities worldwide. One of these facilities is the Martinez Refinery situated approximately 30 miles north of San Francisco. Established in 1915 and spread over some 1,000 acres, Martinez is one of the most sophisticated refining facilities in the industry, using state-of-the-art technology to convert up to 165,000 barrels of crude oil per day into products ranging from automotive gasoline and jet fuel to liquefied petroleum gas, asphalt and sulfur.

PSC has worked in close partnership with the Martinez staff for years providing daily support for all of the refinery's industrial and tank cleaning needs. In 2011, Shell approached PSC to support the degassing and cleaning of a number of propane and butane storage sphere and bullet tanks with our tank degassing system. Shell could not enter the sphere and bullet tanks to make repairs until the vessels were emptied, and any gasses within were removed in a manner that was environmentally compliant, and that would not negatively impact the neighboring residential communities.

***"I'd like to thank PSC once again for their top notch performance while degassing the Bullet tanks here at Martinez. The work was done on schedule, on budget, and above all safely. I'm very glad to have PSC in the Thermal oxidizing business, it complements the rest of what you do here at Shell well."***

Doug Van Til  
Maintenance Planner/Team Leader  
Shell Martinez Refinery

To accomplish this, PSC used a technique known as thermal oxidation (TO). An expert in this process, PSC was able to perform

a controlled degas of each sphere, with no visible flame, and minimal equipment noise. In other words, because of PSC, the people living around the Martinez refinery were completely unaffected by the degassing activity.

Because of PSC's experience and investment in new, state of the art equipment, the entire degassing process was completed 25 percent faster than previous projects completed by PSC competitors, resulting in 15% overall savings to Shell. Not

only were time and money saved, but the job was done with zero incidents and all well within Bay Area Air Quality Management District (AQMD) guidelines.

***In the demanding world of energy production, everyone wins with the environmental expertise of PSC.***



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