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**CASE STUDY REPORT**

**Incident 3: August 2005- Petroplus, Milford Haven**

In August 2005, a significant environmental incident occurred at the Petroplus fuel storage facility (now operated by SemLogistics Milford Haven Ltd) in Milford Haven, Wales. Approximately 650 tonnes of kerosene leaked from one of the storage tanks at the facility specifically in the base of tank T115, raising serious concerns about safety and environmental protection in the region. This case study examines the events surrounding the incident, its impacts, and the subsequent responses from authorities and the company.

The Petroplus facility is located on the Milford Haven waterway in the west coast of Wales. It is a COMAH top tier oil/fuel storage establishment, and it plays a crucial role in maritime trade and they can store gasoline, gasoline blendstocks, naphtha, jet fuel, gas oil and diesel, as well as crude oil.

On August 2005, a substantial leak of approximately 650 tonnes of kerosene occurred at the Petroplus facility. The contamination was found in gardens, farmland, and on the shoreline, and hydrocarbon fumes were present in local houses, necessitating ongoing cleanup operations. The incident prompted immediate action from local authorities and emergency services. According to article in Environmental Agency the reason for this incident was the corrosion within the sump of tank T115 which resulted in the leakage of kerosene from the base of the tank. Despite the tank being internally lined in 2001, it is suspected that the corrosion occurred either due to the erosion of the lining or more likely because there was no lining present as there was no access for painting with the pipes in place. Petroplus faced legal action and admitted to committing several environmental violations.

The incident highlighted several important issues. It raised questions about the safety of fuel storage facilities near residential areas and the effectiveness of safety measures implemented by companies like Petroplus. It also underscored the need for clear communication between facility operators and nearby communities, safety measures and regular inspections of fuel storage facilities, Stricter regulations and enforcement regarding industrial operations in sensitive locations, as well as the importance of effective emergency response planning and execution.

The August 2005 Petroplus incident in Milford Haven underscores the importance of prioritizing safety and environmental protection in industrial operations, particularly those located near residential areas. As the sector’s continues to evolve, it becomes increasingly crucial to learn from past incidents and implement preventive measures to minimize the risk of similar occurrences in the future. The case also emphasizes the importance of balancing economic development with environmental and public safety concerns, particularly in coastal regions with significant industrial activities.