

Facts on the History

GREENPOINT BROOKLYN REMEDIATION PROJECT

Multiple Causes....Multiple Companies

Unlike oil spills produced by a single event, the plume beneath Greenpoint, a combination of petroleum products and other chemical properties, accumulated over more than 100 years as a result of multiple releases from multiple contributors.

- Fire department records document some tank fires caused by lightning strikes that may have contributed to the plume.
- The plume migrated beyond the immediate area of the former refinery and terminal because of extensive pumping of the water table under Brooklyn for public water supply during the early 20th century. This pumping lowered the water table by approximately 35% drawing the petroleum products on top of it in the direction of the industrial and residential areas of Greenpoint. The pumping for local water supply was stopped prior to 1950 due to salt water intrusion.



Brooklyn Refinery 1939

The Center for American History The University of Texas at Austin.



Downtown Greenpoint Brooklyn 2007

ExxonMobil

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