

# NISTM

National Institute for Storage Tank Management

## How VCI's Can Prevent Corrosion for AST Double-Bottoms and UST System Components

Presented by Kelly Baker, Zerust Oil & Gas  
Efim Lyublinski, Monique Posner, Terry Natale,  
Yefim Vaks, Ronnie Singh

Northern Technologies International Corporation, USA

Marcelo Schultz  
Petrobras, Brazil

Marshall Mott-Smith  
Mott-Smith Consulting



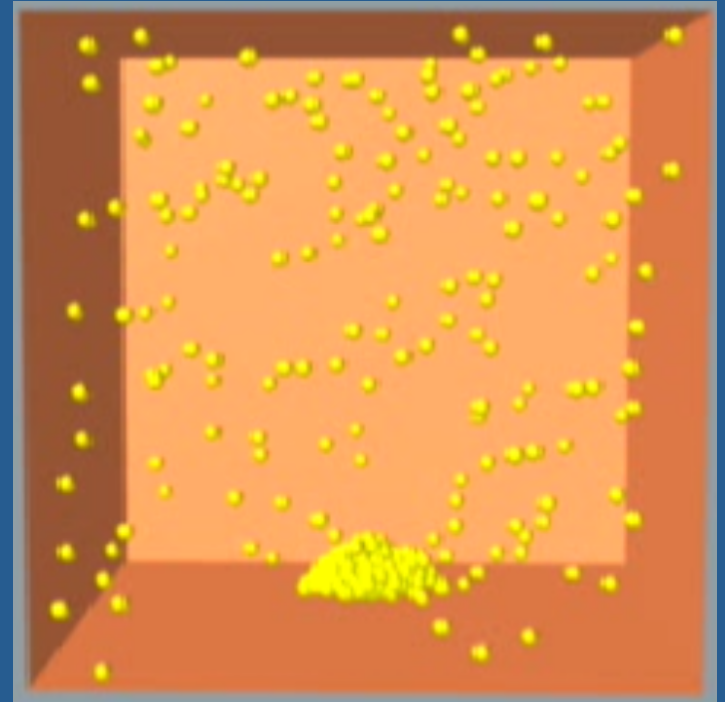
**Zerust**  
OIL & GAS

# Topics For Discussion

1. VCI Background
2. Problem definition
3. Corrosion protection of storage tanks soil side bottom (SSB)
4. Corrosion protection UST Sumps
5. Conclusions

# What are VCIs?

- A class of corrosion inhibiting compounds which have vapor pressures higher than that of air.
- This results in the release of vapor molecules of inhibitor into the air.
- These molecules will adsorb to the surface of steel and block other molecules from coming in contact with the steel.



- Can protect immersed surfaces
- Not a 'coating'
- Does not change metallurgy
- Not permanent
- Can be painted/welded
- Non-toxic
- Can be designed for specific service exposure

# Many forms of VCI

## What's the difference?

1. Self-fogging Flash Corrosion Inhibitor (FCI™) technology
  - High vapor pressure, low vapor density
  - Fast acting flash corrosion inhibitor
  - Fills vapor spaces immediately
  - Highest volume of protection per weight of active ingredient
  - Navigates complex systems
2. Long-term Vapor Corrosion Inhibitor (VCI) protection
  - Slower evolving, long-term vapor corrosion inhibitor
3. Long-term Soluble Corrosion Inhibitor (SCI) protection
  - Contact corrosion inhibitors activated when water present
  - Chloride “neutralizer”

# Automotive industry – 30+ years

## Not “NEW” Technology

- Thousands of machined parts must remain pristine during transport and storage.
- Clean, environmentally friendly, requires no cleaning prior to assembly.



# VCI's have been sold through major retailers for years

Several 'consumer market' products you can try

- Lowes
- Cabellas
- Flambeau
- Kobalt
- ...others



# Long Term Corrosion Protection

## Shipping, Storage, Mothballing



# Low Temperature Flanges

## Flange Savers™

NTIC/Zerust uses a proprietary material impregnated with a Vapor Corrosion Inhibitor (VCI) to enclose the flanges, bolts and weld joints



# Mitigating Corrosion


**Corrosion cannot be eliminated, it's mechanism can only be retarded**

Applications!

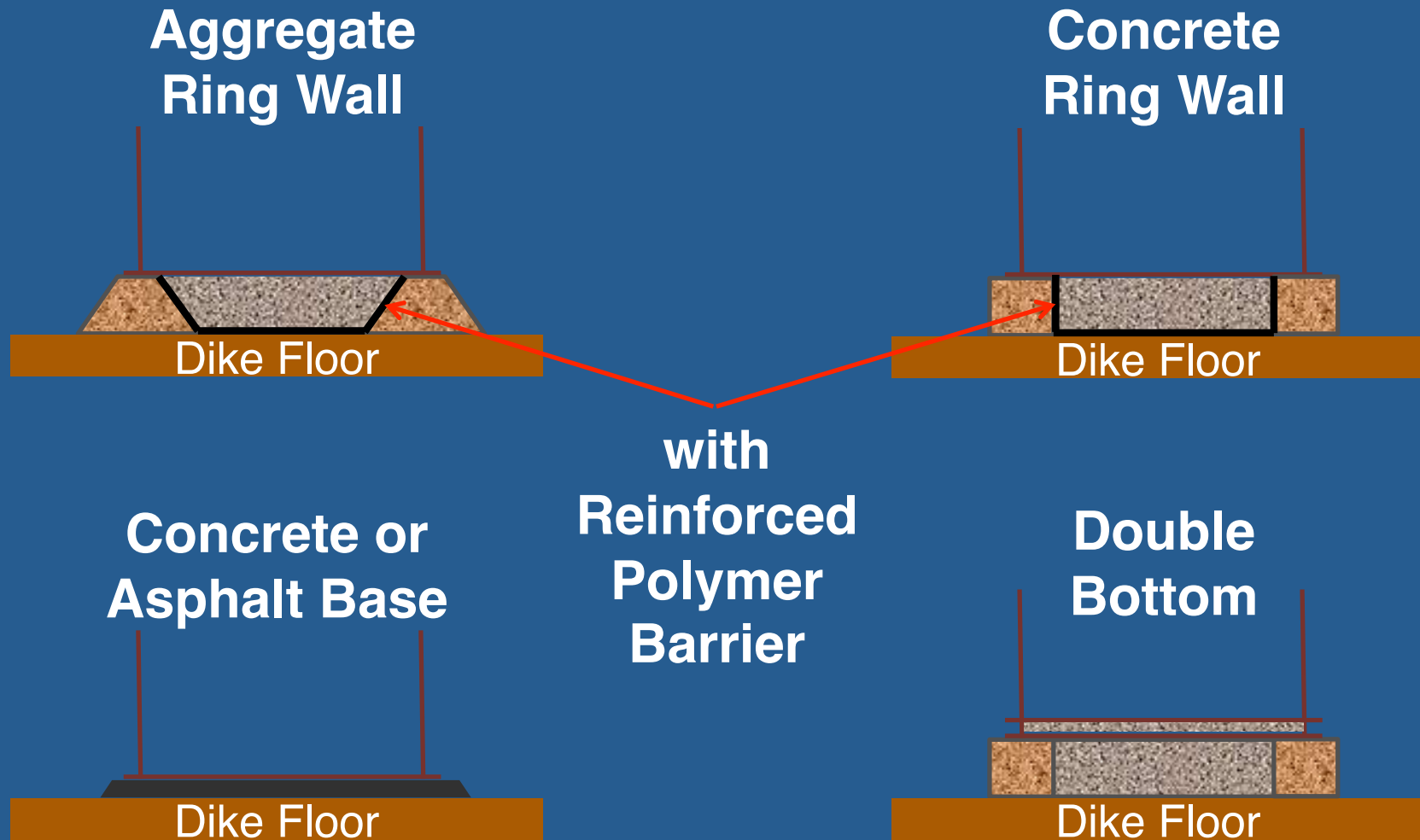
How can VCI be  
used in  
AST's?

# State of Florida

*“ReCAST-SSB System provides environmental protection substantially equivalent to that provided by compliance with the requirements established in Rules 62-762.501(1)(f)4., 62-762.701(1)(b), F.A.C and may be used as a Cathodic protection system... Pursuant to Rule 62-762-851(2), F.A.C. ... is approved in the State of Florida as a corrosion inhibitor system that is applied to the soil filled area between the secondary containment system of an aboveground storage tank.”*

	<b>FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION</b> BOB MARTINEZ CENTER 2800 BLAIRSTONE ROAD TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2400	RICK SCOTT GOVERNOR  HERSCHEL T. VINYARD JR. SECRETARY
September 13, 2013		
<b>Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested</b> <b>Number 7000 0520 0020 9373 6437</b>		
Mr. Marshall T. Mott-Smith Mott-Smith Consulting Group 1933 Commonwealth Lane Tallahassee, FL 32303		
Subject:	Approval of the Northern Technologies International Corporation Zerust® Oil & Gas - ReCAST-SSB System, Amended September 24, 2013. File No. EQ-813	
Dear Mr. Mott-Smith:		
<p>The Office of District and Business Support has concluded its review of the Equipment Approval request dated July 16, 2013 that was submitted for the Northern Technologies International Corporation for their Zerust® Oil &amp; Gas - ReCAST-SSB System, pursuant to Rules 62-762.501(1)(f)4., 62-762.701(1)(b), and 62-762.851(2), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). The Zerust® Oil &amp; Gas - ReCAST-SSB System is a corrosion inhibitor system that is applied to the soil filled area between the secondary containment system of aboveground storage tanks. The inhibitor can be applied in either dry form or a slurry mixture.</p> <p>Based on the information provided by Northern Technologies International Corporation, the Zerust® Oil &amp; Gas - ReCAST-SSB System provides environmental protection substantially equivalent to that provided by compliance with the requirements established in to Rules 62-762.501(1)(f)4., 62-762.701(1)(b), F.A.C. and may be used as a cathodic protection system for the soil filled area between the secondary containment of an aboveground storage tank.</p> <p>Pursuant to Rule 62-762.851(2), F.A.C., the request for the use of the Northern Technologies International Corporation Zerust® Oil &amp; Gas - ReCAST-SSB System is approved in the State of Florida as a corrosion inhibitor system that is applied to the soil filled area between the secondary containment system of an aboveground storage tank. The application system shall be designed by a corrosion professional. The installation, testing and operation shall be made in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.</p>		

# Tank Bottom Geometries

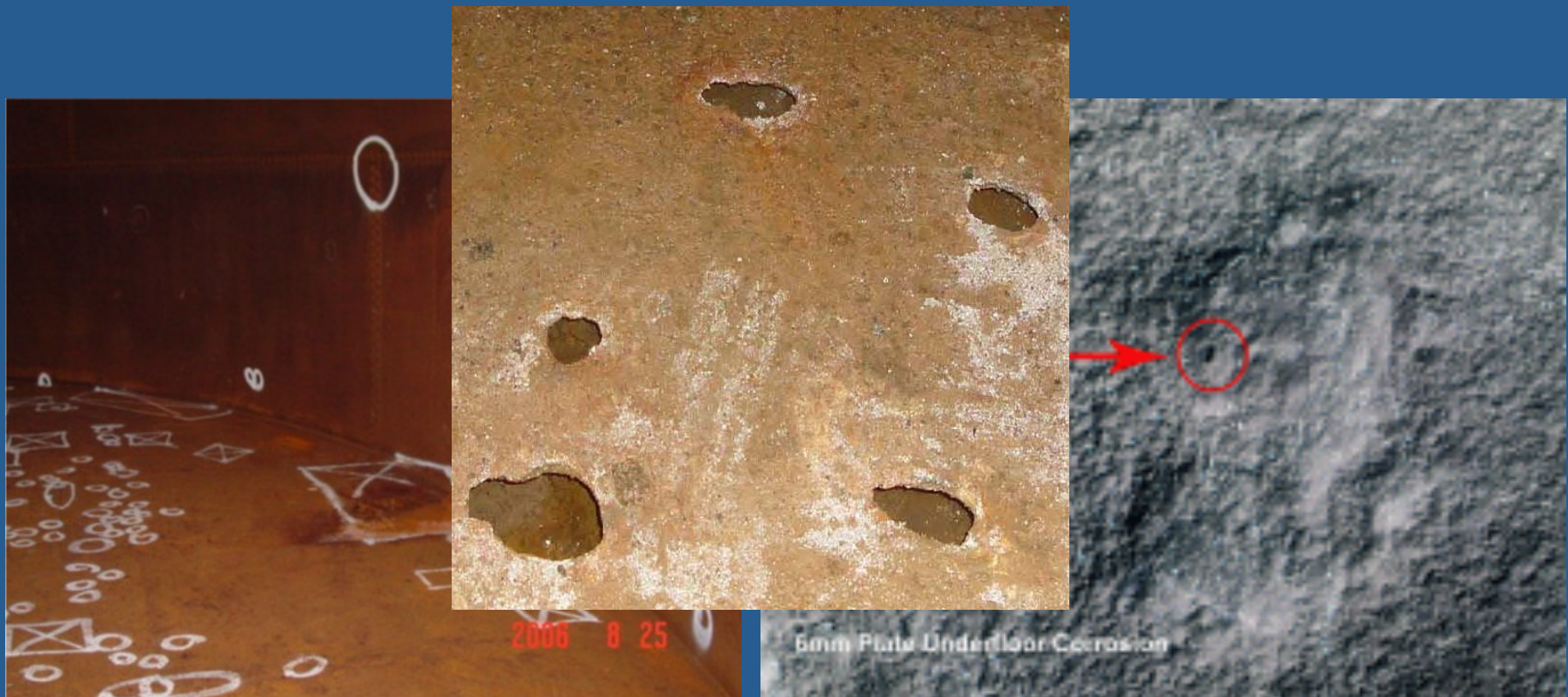


**Cone Up - Flat - Cone Down**

# Examples of Problems

**Penetrations due to tank bottom corrosion**

**Are they from topside or bottomsides?**



# How Do VCIs Work Under Tanks?

Tank Shell

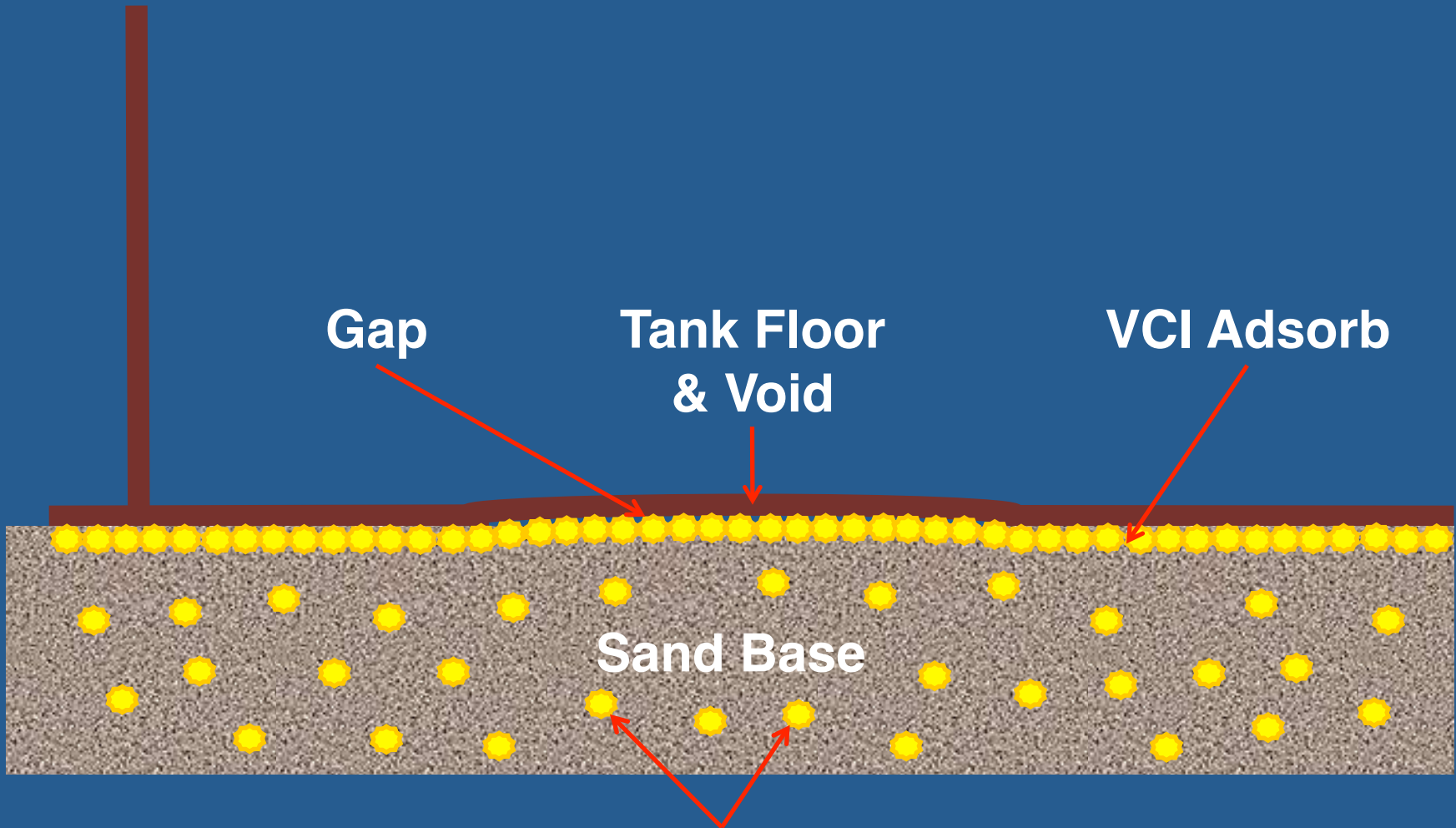
Gap

Tank Floor  
& Void

VCI Adsorb

Sand Base

VCI Molecules



# Case Study – Double Bottom

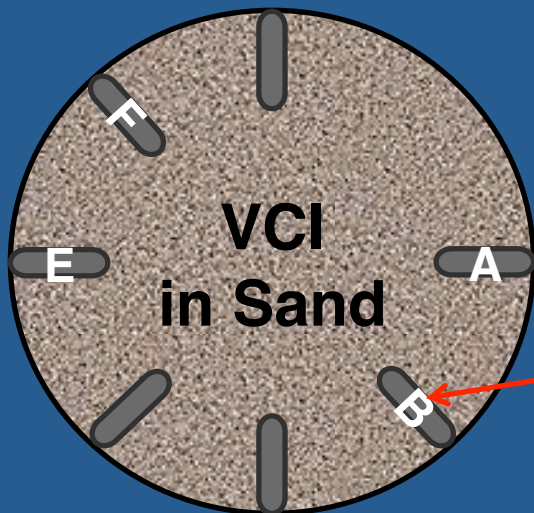
## Soil Side Bottom (SSB) Protection



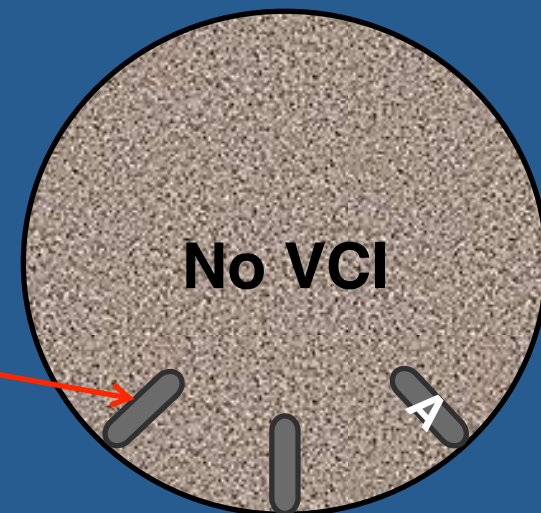
**Test**



**Control**



**Test  
Coupons**



# Coupon Tests



Coupons were removed  
in 2007 and 2011  
for corrosion rate  
evaluation according to  
ASTM G1-03



124-B



124-C



124-D



124-E



124-F



124-G



123-B

1018  
Carbon  
Steel

Test

Control

# Surface Area Results

## Surface Area Affected by Corrosion - 2007 Specimens

Specimen Type	Specimen ID	% Corroded Surface Area	Predominant Type of Corrosion
Test Tank	B	86	Uniform / General
	C	81	
	D	85	
	E	57	
	F	61	
	G	43	
Control Tank	Control	22	Pitting

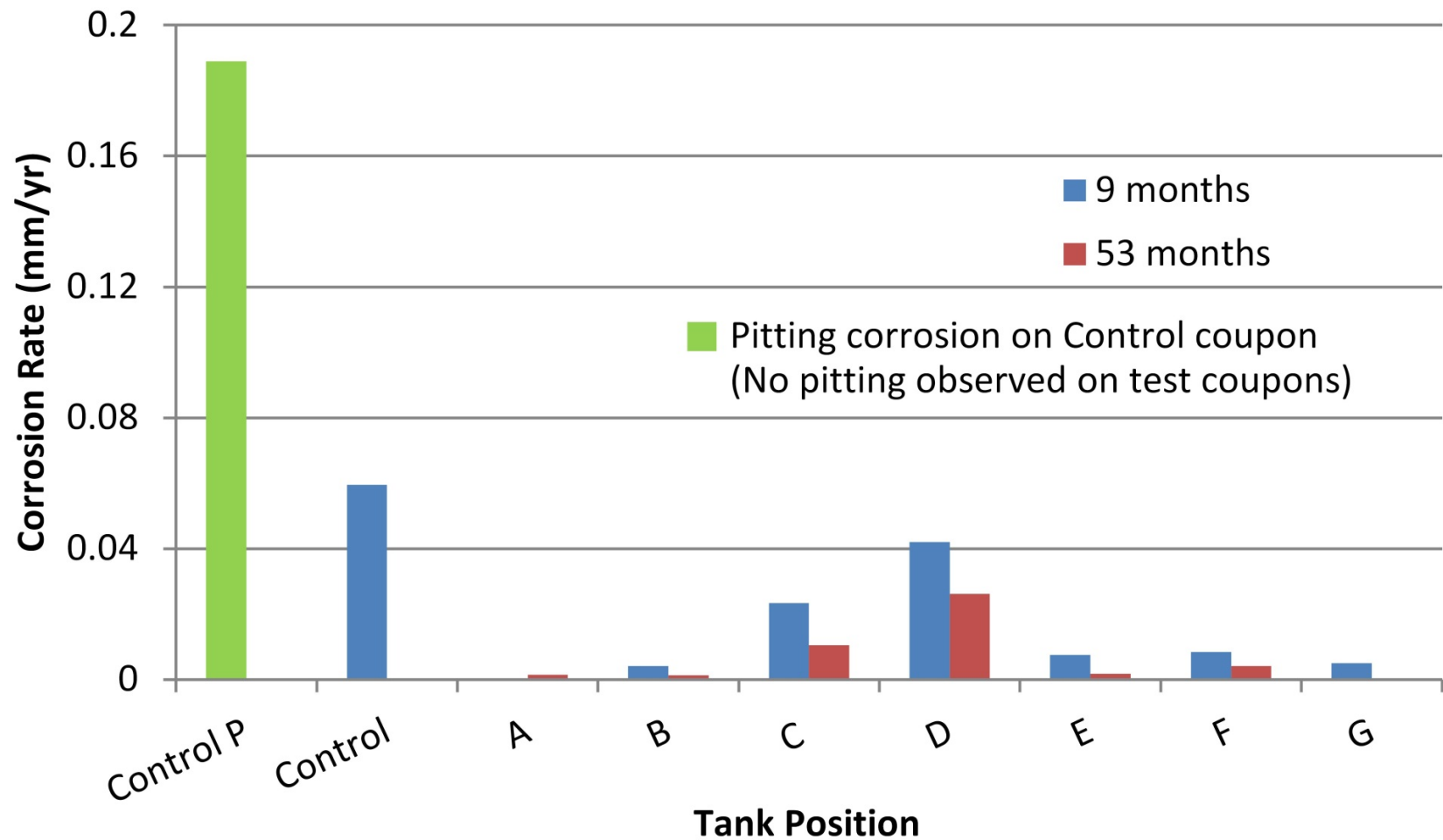
# Corrosion Rate Results

Specimen Type	Specimen ID	Corrosion Rate (mm/year)	
		2007 Specimens	2011 Specimens
Test Tank	A	--	0.0014
	B	0.0041	0.0013
	C	0.023	0.010
	D	0.042	0.026
	E	0.0075	0.0017
	F	0.0085	0.0041
	G	0.0050	--
	ALL (Avg)	0.015	0.0075
Control Tank	Control	0.059	--
	Control P*	0.19	--

\* Control P is the measured maximum pitting depth

# Results Continued

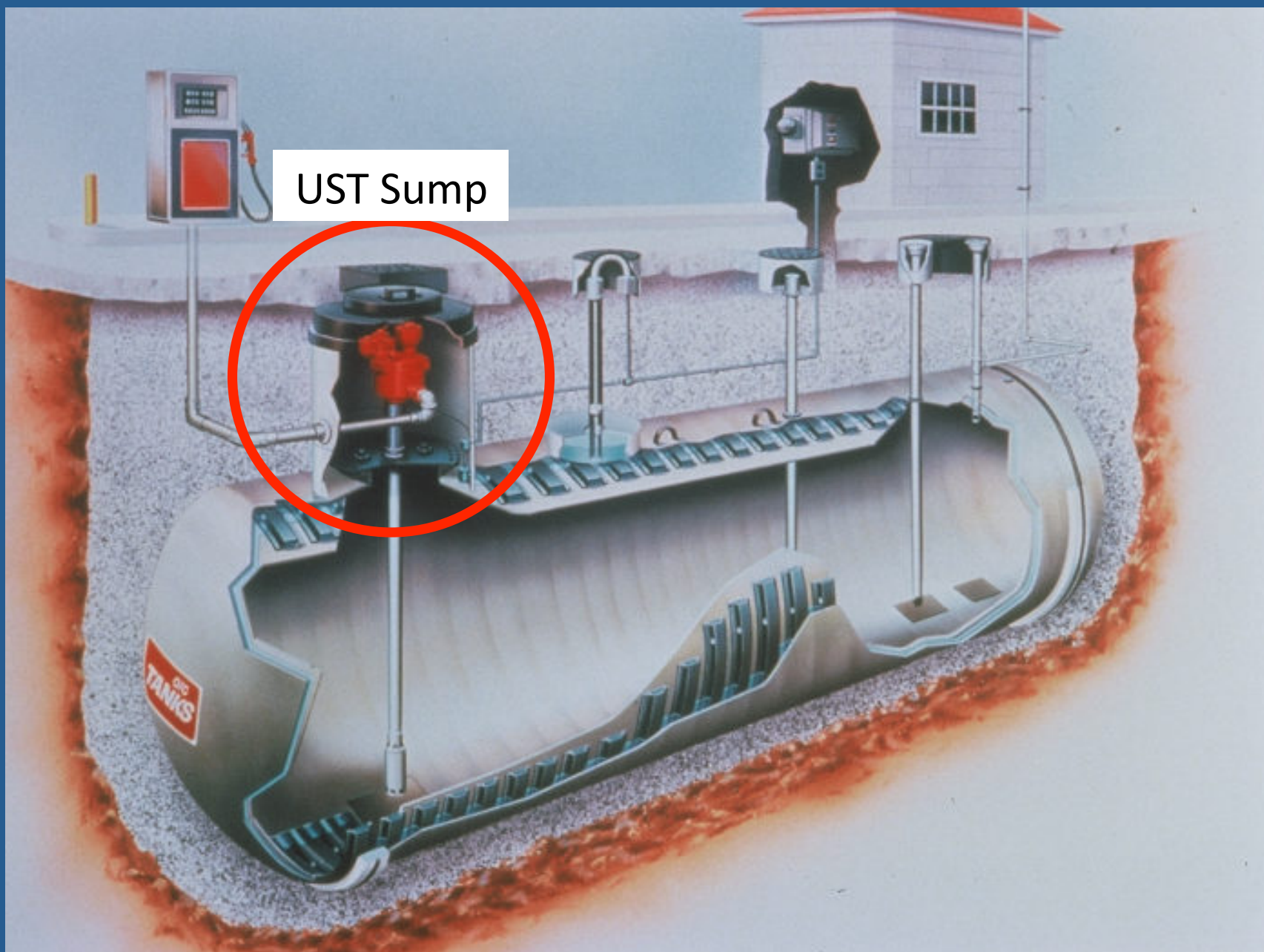
## Corrosion Rate vs. Time Exposed



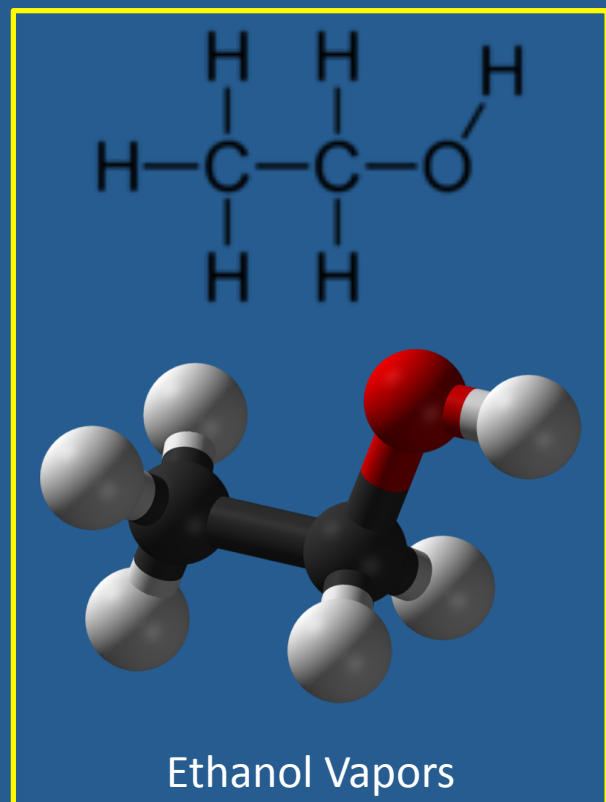
# Soil Side Bottom - Conclusions

1. VCIs can work in conjunction with other forms of corrosion protection or stand-alone.
2. Can be installed under almost any tank pad design.
3. Tank pad design determines whether the original VCI installation can be accomplished while the tank is in service, or if it needs to be out-of-service.
4. VCI can be replenished as needed over time without taking the tank out-of-service, in any of the scenarios mentioned above.
5. Reduction in corrosion rates extend the life of the asset and the maintenance interval.

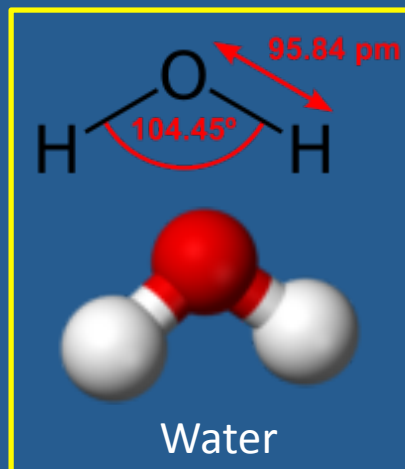
# UST System Components



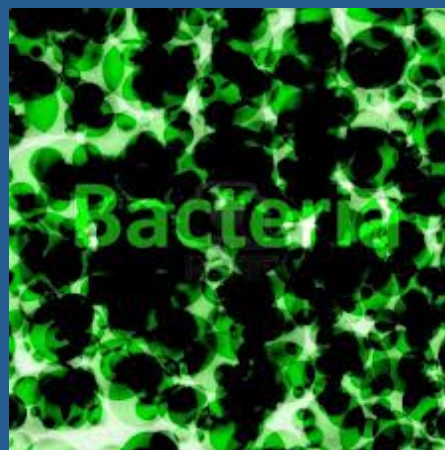
# UST Vapor Space Chemistry



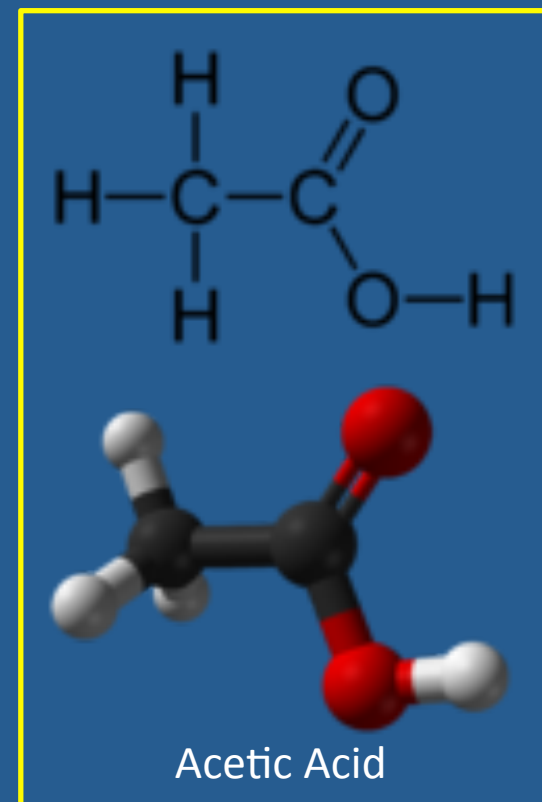
+

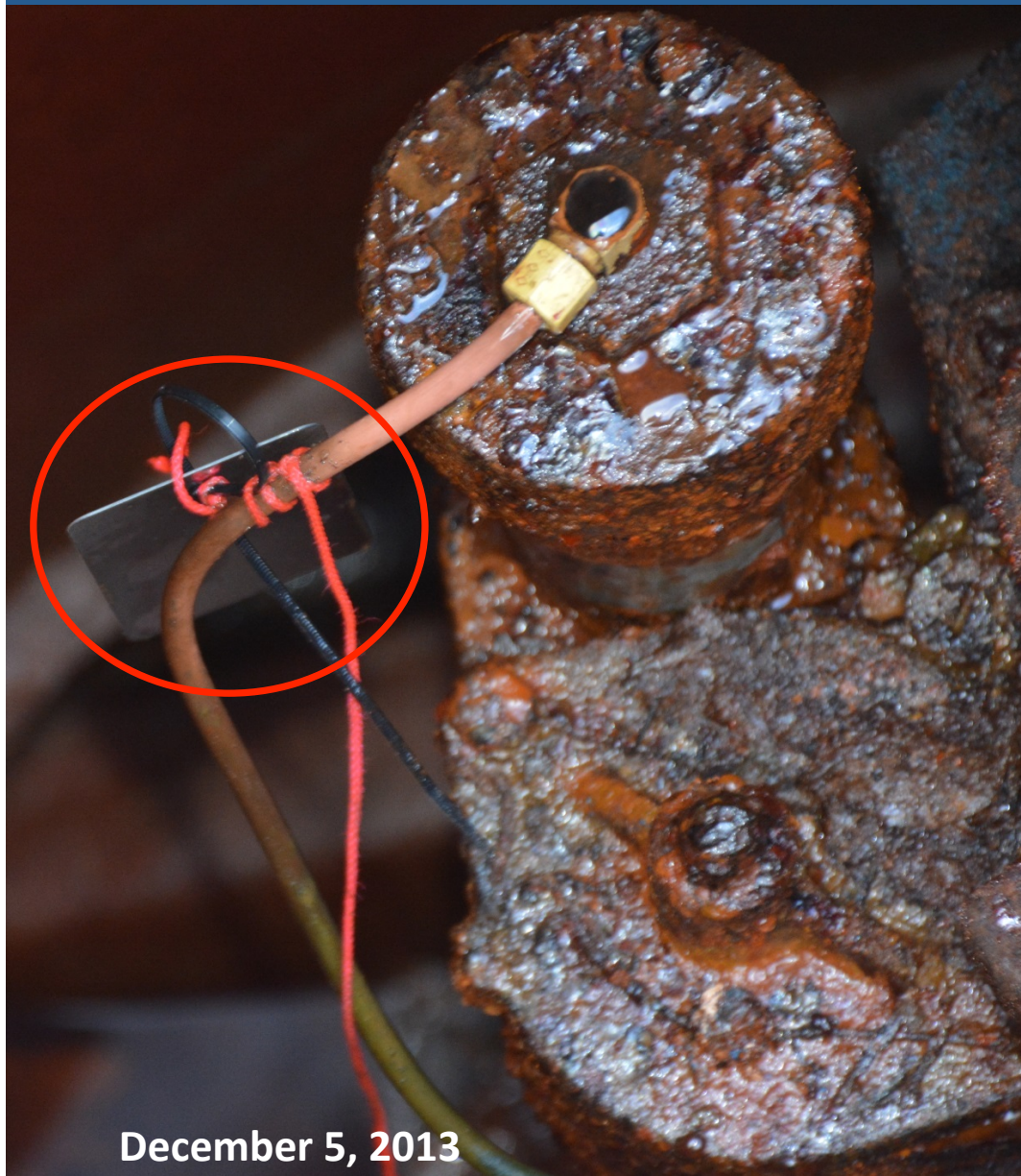


+



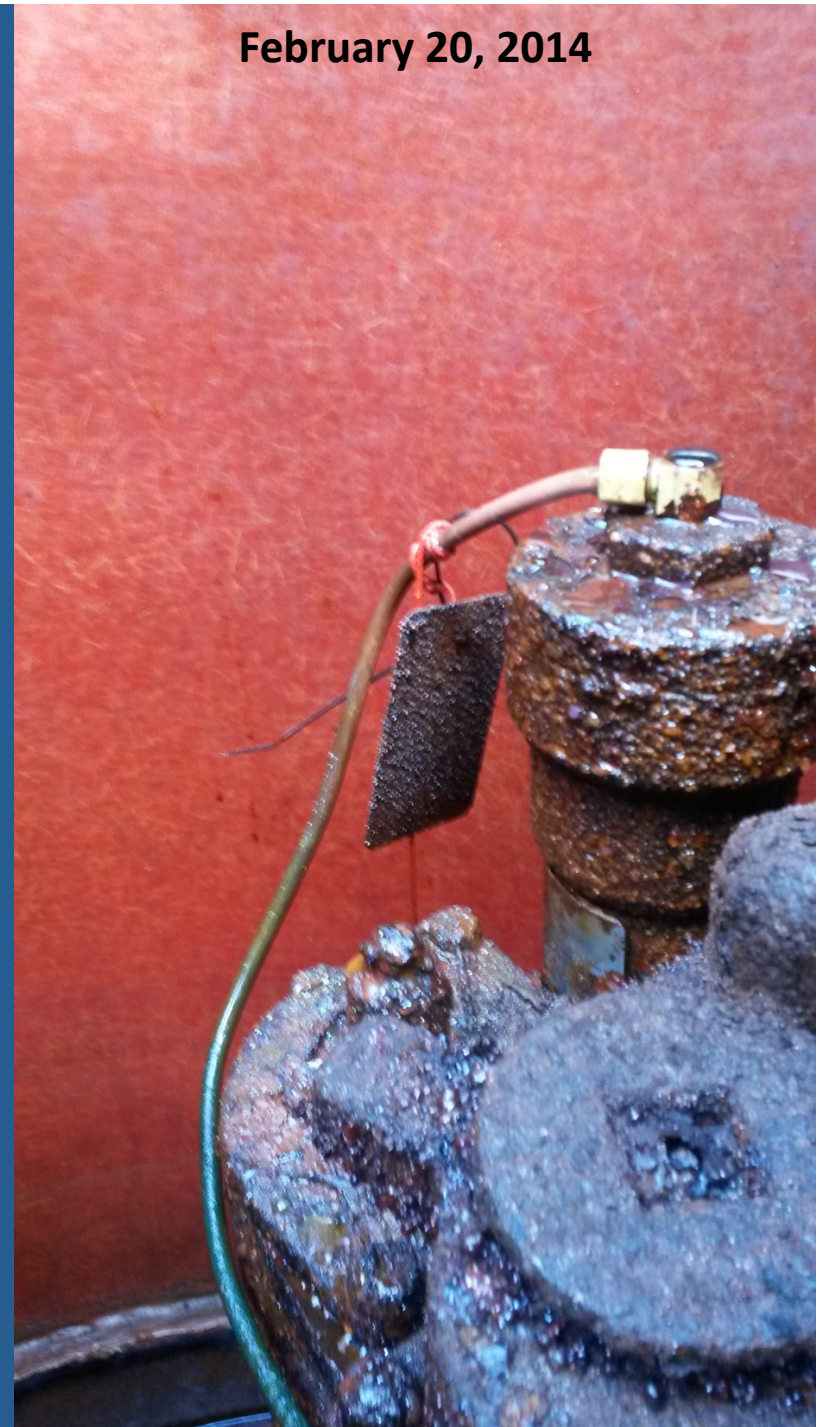
=





December 5, 2013

February 20, 2014



# UST Lab Test

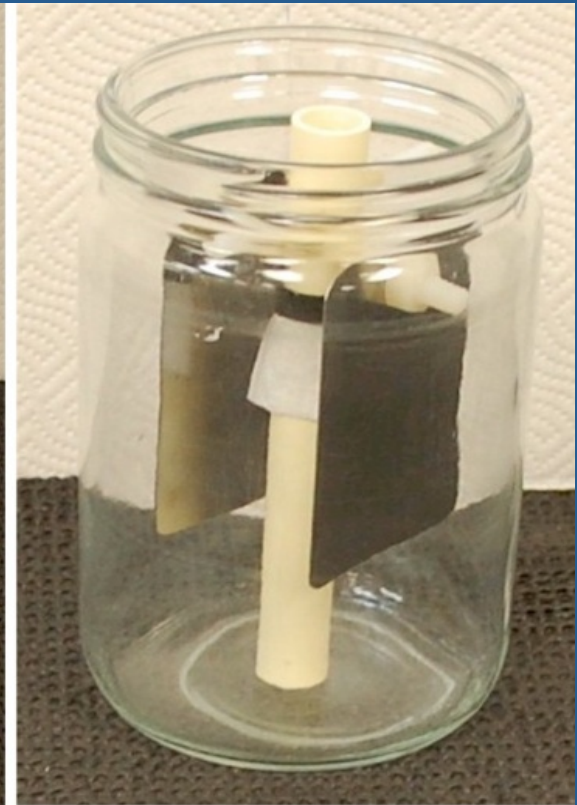


Inhibitor  
Packet

Stand and  
Panels

Jar and Lid

Film Gasket



Stand and Jar

# UST Lab Test

0.05%  
Acetic  
Acid

10 ml

25 ml



Control

25 mg

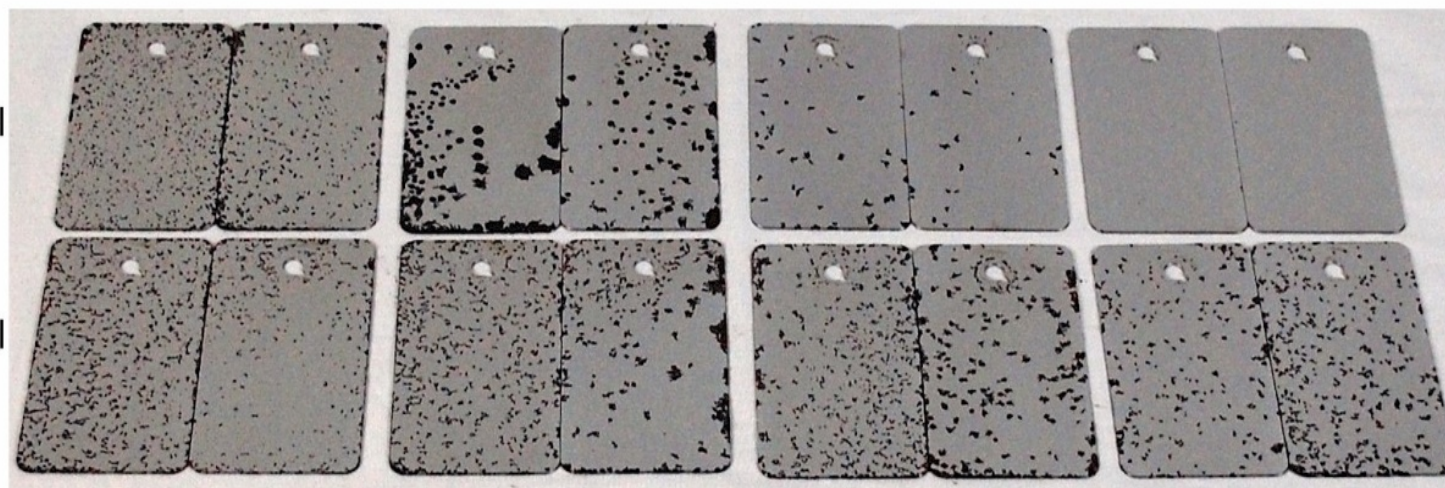
50 mg

100 mg

0.1%  
Acetic  
Acid

10 ml

25 ml



Control

25 mg

50 mg

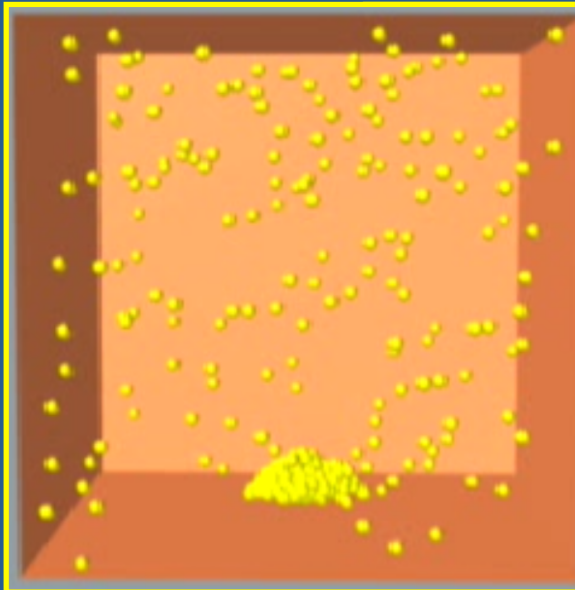
100 mg

mg of Inhibitor

# UST Trial Components



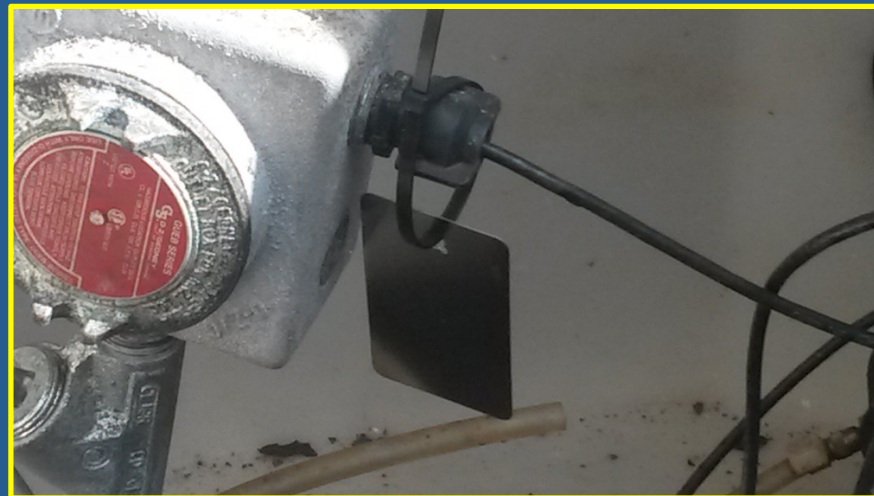
Sample Sump



VCI Volatizes in Enclosure



Packet of VCI



Coupon

Florida (e10)

# UST Test Sites

Install Date: December 5, 2013

## Client Sites in South Florida

Owner	Location	Sump Description	Coupon	VCI
#1	A	RUL - South	Yes	Yes
#1	A	RUL - Middle	Yes	Yes
#1	A	RUL - North	Yes	No
#2	B	RUL - SE	Yes	No
#2	B	PUL - SW	Yes	Yes
#2	C	RUL - SW	Yes	Yes
#2	C	PUL - Middle	Yes	No
#2	C	RUL - NE	Yes	No
#2	D	PUL - NW	Yes	No
#2	D	RUL - NE	Yes	No
#2	D	RUL - SE	Yes	Yes
#2	E	RUL - NW	Yes	Yes
#2	E	PUL - SW	Yes	Yes
#2	E	RUL - NE	Yes	No
#2	F	PUL - NW	Yes	Yes
#2	F	RUL - NE	Yes	Yes
#2	F	RUL - SE	Yes	No
#1	F	RUL	Yes	Yes
		Total	18	10
* RUL	Regular Unleaded			
*PUL	Premium Unleaded			

# UST Control Sump

## Coupon Only



December 5, 2013

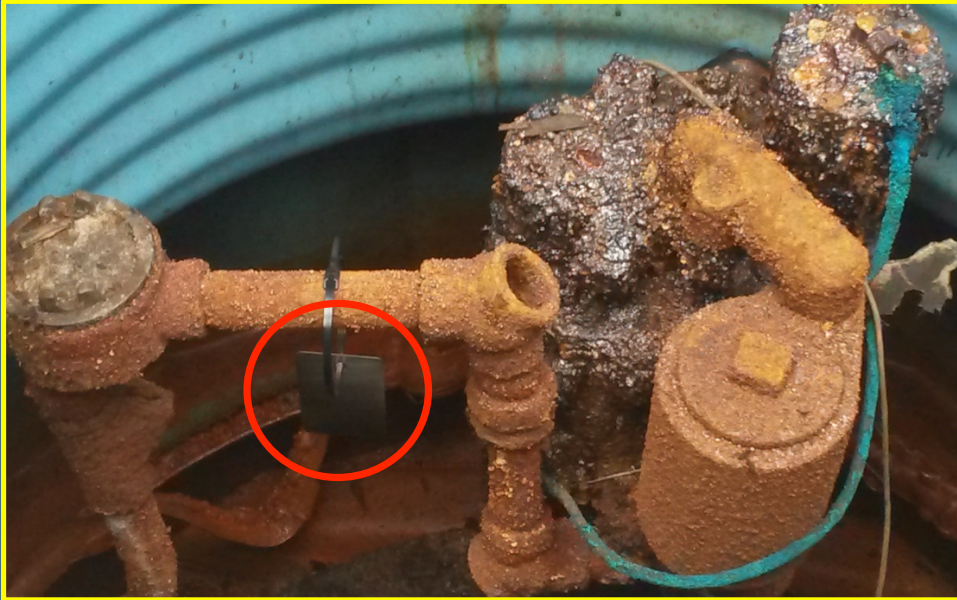


January 16, 2014

Some Visible Surface Corrosion

# UST Control Sump

## Coupon Only



December 5, 2013



January 16, 2014

## Significant Surface Corrosion

# UST Test Sump

## VCI Packet and Coupon



No Visible  
Corrosion



## **UST Sump - Conclusions**

- 1. Acetic Acid can form in the sumps, due to Ethanol vapors, bacteria and moisture.**
- 2. Absence of any of the three seems to result in a much lower corrosion rate.**
- 3. Vapor Corrosion Inhibitors can reduce corrosion rates.**
- 4. Sump condition is a factor in the effectiveness of the VCI.**
- 5. Tests are on-going.**



Thank you for your  
attention😊

Questions?

Kelly Baker  
kbaker@ntic.com  
832-465-5668