

## **BACKGROUND OF ISLAND VIEW SITE, PORT OF DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA**

Island View is situated in the Port of Durban, Kwazulu-Natal Province, South Africa, and consists of various independently owned companies which lease their sites from Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA). As the landlord, TNPA is the custodian of the land at Island View. The majority of bulk liquids comprise petroleum products and a wide range of commodities and speciality chemicals.

The current Island View site was proclaimed for handling of bulk oil in the early 1900s when dredging on the channel started. The first storage tanks were installed in 1921, with the first record of wharf activities being recorded in 1924. Development on the southern and eastern areas continued and in the late 1950s a further area towards the west was reclaimed. The channel was extended over this period, providing a longer quayside. Extensive development took place in the 1960s and the general layout of the Island View Complex in the late 1960s is broadly comparable to the current layout.

The site is subdivided into the smaller portions which are leased out by different tenants. Island View houses many bulk liquid and solids handling facilities including tank terminals, blending plants, shipping terminals and silos. These businesses are operated by petrochemical and chemical companies with many of their products either imported or exported via chemical berths for ships.

### **Soil and Groundwater Contamination**

During the years of operation, various operations have had an impact on the environment and especially groundwater underlying the sites. These impacts have resulted in free phase hydrocarbons being detected in the existing groundwater monitoring network. In addition, there is also evidence of contamination of the groundwater by soluble inorganic compounds. TNPA and all stakeholder companies have come together and committed to resolve the historical contamination.

The area below the bulk handling facilities at Island View has been systematically monitored for the extent of pollution since the late 1990s. During this time period, significant data volumes were collected, especially in terms of the presence of free phase product, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH). Some sites were also sampled for site specific chemical contaminants. Fortunately site assessments have revealed that quay walls that have been constructed over the years during further extensions of the harbour have provided effective barriers that have prevented migration of contamination into marine environment. To-date processes of remediation by various stakeholders are underway and are expected to continue for some time into the future.