

CONVENTIONAL SLUDGE REMOVAL & TANK CLEANING METHODS Vs. BLABO TECHNOLOGY

Criterion	Conventional Methods	BLABO Technology
Time for Preparation	Preparatory works such as tank opening, freeing of Gases, ventilation etc. require long time.	Lower preparation time since gas freeing, ventilation etc. are not required.
Cleaning Time	Could take anywhere between 3 to 6 months.	Very short (about 20 days)
Safety of Personnel	Highly hazardous since cleaning personnel have to work inside the tank and are therefore exposed to lethal gases and even carcinogenic substances. Personnel require breathing apparatus.	Mechanized cleaning - process doesn't require personnel to work inside the tanks. No health hazards. Breathing apparatus not required.
Environmental Pollution	Escape of VOC causes air pollution.	Eco-friendly system; No air pollution.
Fire Wall Cutting	Necessary.	Not necessary.
Sludge Disposal	Problematic since large quantities of hydrocarbons need to be disposed off in a safe manner.	A small quantity of inorganic residue (typically 5% of total sludge) needs to be disposed off.
Recovery of Hydrocarbons	Maximum 30%	Typically 98% - 99%
House Keeping	A serious issue for refinery management.	Closed circuit mechanized operation requires little house keeping.
End Use of Recovered Oil	Blended with FO / IFO.	Recovered as crude oil enabling further processing & value addition.
Recovery of Light Hydrocarbons	Entirely lost into the atmosphere.	No loss of light hydrocarbons.
Cleaning Cost	Apparently less (without consideration to outage time, recovery losses and environmental effects)	Economical considering the lower outage time, higher recovery of crude oil & light hydrocarbons and environment protection aspects.

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