

## Letter to the Editor, Bucks County Herald

From: Michael McCann  
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2016 3:34 PM  
To: Bridget Wingert, Bucks County Herald  
Subject: Tuscarora Tank Farm

Hey Bridget –

I enjoyed reading about the Solebury tank farms. I commuted down that stretch of 32 for 21 years and was amazed at the petroleum odor - first believing it to be from asphalt making at the quarry across the river, below Stockton: no such plant exists. My job with NJDEP in Trenton was completing environmental due diligence for all the land NJ bought for open space, one component of which was studying aerial photography dating to 1930, with a stereo-microscope. Which was where I first observed the Tuscarora/National Transit site (see attached), along Route 32 and Ely Road. The numerous circular features in the photo are earthen tank dikes, which were situated along Ely Road. In this 1938 photo those dikes no longer contain tanks. Along Route 32 there are six 'square-ish' dikes, and several tanks remaining - as evident by the shadows they casting to the North. The ground in two of the square-ish dikes is darkened - which I believe is indicative of oil releases - possibly the two National Transit tanks that were reportedly struck by lightning in August 1937, resulting in the loss of 1.5 million gallons of crude oil and fireballs that were reportedly visible as far away Philadelphia and Sellersville. I think it is fair to speculate that a plume of oil remains in the area to this day.

Michael McCann

