UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 – 2733

Office of the Regional Administrator

The Honorable Gene Green
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Green:

Thank you for your letter of June 10, 2014, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Administrator Gina McCarthy regarding the San Jacinto Waste Pits Site in Harris County, Texas. Your letter was forwarded to me for reply because Texas falls within the jurisdiction of Region 6.

Your letter recommends that the EPA select Alternative 6N from the Draft Feasibility Study as the final remedy for the site. Alternative 6N includes full removal of the contaminated material above the cleanup level. The EPA shares your concerns regarding the public health threat posed by the site and will consider the issues you have raised as it evaluates the alternatives and makes the remedy selection.

The selection of the remedial action will be made by the EPA and documented in the Record of Decision. The selection will be based on the EPA's consideration of the nine Superfund criteria, including overall protection of human health and the environment; compliance with applicable or relevant and appropriate standards; long-term effectiveness and permanence; reduction of toxicity, mobility or volume; short-term effectiveness; implementability; cost; state acceptance; and community acceptance. The EPA selects the remedy decision in consultation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and public comments received on the proposed remedial action.

Currently, the EPA is conducting a technical analysis of the alternatives. Our expectation was to consult with the EPA's National Remedy Review Board in July; however, we have determined that additional information is needed prior to our recommendation of an alternative. Once this process is complete, the EPA will announce the proposed alternative in a Proposed Plan that will be available for public comment. The EPA will also host a public meeting during the comment period to allow public participation in the remedy selection process. We have not established a timeline for this process, but we will continue to coordinate with your office and the public to communicate our progress.

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We appreciate your interest in the site, and hope that this letter helps to address your concerns. If you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 665-2100, or your staff may contact Mr. Austin Vela, Congressional Liaison, at (214) 665-9792.

Sincerely,

Ron Curry
Regional Administrator

cc: Ms. Amy Legare
Chair, National Remedy Review Board