Issue: San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site, Harris County, Texas

Background/Status:
The Site includes of a set of impoundments approximately 14 acres in size built in the mid-1960s for disposal of paper mill pulp wastes containing dioxin. On March 19, 2008, the Site was added to the National Priorities List (NPL). In 2009, EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order to International Paper Company and McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation, the Potentially Responsible Parties for the Site. The 2009 Order directs IPC and MIMC to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study for the Site. A Superfund time-critical removal action was completed in July of 2011 to stabilize the pulp waste material and sediments within the impoundments to prevent the further release of dioxins into the environment. The removal included the placement of an armor rock cap over the impoundments. Fish consumption advisories are in place for the San Jacinto River.

Message:
- The EPA and the Texas Department of State Health Services will present a site and fish advisory update at a community meeting on November 15, 2012, in Highlands, Texas.
- The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study are on-going with completion planned in 2013.
- The EPA co-leads a Site Community Advisory Committee, including the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Harris County, the Port of Houston, Houston Galveston Area Council, the Galveston Bay Foundation, and the Potentially Responsible Parties.

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