Dear Parents/Teachers

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed an evaluation of the former F.J. Doyle Salvage facility located at 905 N. Poplar as well as adjoining properties, alleyway, and drainage ditches. The F.J. Doyle Salvage facility began operation in the mid-1970's and operated until approximately August 1999. The facility was primarily a transformer recycling facility. The primary contaminant of concern associated with the site is polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) as well as various metals associated with metal recycling (ie. arsenic, cobalt, copper, lead, and manganese). PCBs were used as coolants and lubricants in electrical equipment (ie. transformers, capacitors, and other electrical equipment). The metals were components of the steel, wiring, or circuits.

The results of the sampling have revealed elevated levels of PCBs and co-located metal contamination as would be anticipated with spillage of transformer oil and recycling of metals. The highest concentration of contaminants are located on the facility property or immediately adjacent. Contamination in other areas of the site are likely associated with erosion as PCBs tend to attach to soil particles. Other uses such as the use as a weed killer have also been reported.

Based upon the EPA investigation, PCBs were detected on school property at the Leonard ISD Daycare and in a drainage ditch along N. Poplar Street although the levels were below EPA cleanup levels. The EPA risk-based cleanup level for PCBs is 1 mg/kg.

The EPA anticipates starting its cleanup work in early November. The cleanup will involve the demolition of the on-site building and concrete structures followed by excavation of soils from the impacted residential properties, alleyway, and industrial property. The EPA will be using a water fog as a dust suppression method. The effectiveness of dust suppression activities will be evaluated based upon particulate air monitoring. If dust is visible from the EPA cleanup activities, it will be discontinued until water suppression is performed.

If you have any questions, you can reach out to EPA or the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) relative to cleanup activities/issues or to the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) for general health related questions/issues. The EPA contacts are:

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