Hurricane Harvey 2017
9/8/2017 – 0700 CDT Update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Based on the current burn rate, it is estimated that EPA has 8.76 days of funding remaining.

- Texas Governor Greg Abbott and EPA Acting Regional Administrator Sam Coleman traveled to Corpus Christi and Fort Bend County ~~today~~on Sepptember 7, 2017. EPA is working with the State on two issues ~~with the State~~: ~~to~~ allowing the burning of woody or green debris and ~~continued~~ continuing to work with TCEQ on drinking water and wastewater issues.

- Texas Governor Abbott is traveling to Victoria and Houston today, September 8, 2017, and Beaumont on Saturday. He will be accompanied by EPA Acting Regional Administrator Sam Coleman today and Senior Advisor to the Administrator, Kell Kelly on Saturday.

- EPA Remedial Project Manager and the EPA Region 6 Dive Team are on-site and overseeing the assessment at San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund site. ~~Yesterday, more than one area of interest was identified.~~ The Region 6 Dive Team will continue to monitor activities and identify areas of interest until completion, which is estimated ~~completion onto~~ be September 11, 2017. ~~9/11. The~~ Dive Teams are expected to begin underwater cap inspection as early as the afternoon of September 11, 2017~~9/11~~.

- As a Vector Control Workgroup member, FEMA solicited EPA's assistance in identifying the appropriate mechanism for purchasing "Naled" insecticide for mosquito control in Hurricane Harvey impacted areas. Options being considered are for FEMA or the Department of Defense to purchase the "Naled".

- ~~The EPA Liaison to the City of Houston Mayor's Office provided an update on EPA operations to Mayor Turner at the Emergency Operations Center Senior Leadership meeting today. The~~ On September 7, 2017, Houston M~~m~~ayor Sylvester Turner announced that ~~today's~~ yesterday's Senior Leadership meeting ~~will~~ would be the last one, as several city departments are resuming normal hours and operations. A number of agencies and departments will continue to report to the Emergency Operations Center, including the Houston Health Department, Houston METRO, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and EPA.

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- The TCEQ Austin Phone Bank is beginning to reduce its operations. EPA personnel are demobilizing today. One person will move to the Houston Branch to provide ~~Quality Control~~ assistance to the water and wastewater assessment teams and another moved to the Texas State Operations Center.

- EPA is planning to issue the data and findings for the Arkema effort today. Surface water runoff results were less than the screening levels that would warrant further investigation. ASPECT found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values. TCEQ has an open investigation into the incident.

- EPA has provided additional staffing to the Texas State Operations Center to ~~There will now be~~ 24-hour coverage. ~~at the Texas State Operations Center~~.

- The National Incident Management Assistance Team has demobilized from ~~Corpus Christi~~the Hurricane Response.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The EPA Liaison to the City of Houston Mayor's Office provided an update on EPA operations to Mayor Turner at the Emergency Operations Center Senior Leadership meeting today. The mayor announced that today's Senior Leadership meeting will be the last one, as several city departments are resuming normal hours and operations. A number of agencies and departments will continue to report to the Emergency Operations Center, including the Houston Health Department, Houston METRO, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and EPA.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee submitted a request for information on Arkema, ~~and~~ their Risk Management Plan and inspection history. ~~Some information, because of its age, may be in archive records. A~~ EPA is compiling a response ~~is being compiled~~to the request.

~~Instructions for how to submit official photos was provided for dissemination to field personnel. Photos and videos will be submitted to the R6HarveySITL mailbox as well as a Flickr site. The photos will be vetted and approved before further dissemination or use in social media or publications. Instructions on labeling of photos was provided as well.~~

In support of EPA's plan to provide sampling kits for private water wells, ~~Instruction for assembling water sampling kits was drafted for field personnel once the materials arrive at the lab in Houston. The REOC will work through the~~EPA will utilize the Community Liaison network to distribute kits in counties with private residential wells. Testing will be provided to citizens free of charge and will provide results on bacterial contamination.

~~The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry – Region 6 activated the Texas Poison Control Center Network (six call centers) to address chemical and toxic exposure questions from the public. A daily situation report is produced through the collaboration of multi-state and federal environmental and health agencies and is shared by the Poison Control Center. The Poison Control Center Network also provides direct patient care, providing free medical advice to those exposed to oil, gas, peroxides, benzene or other health concerns.~~

DEBRIS RECOVERY

EPA currently has no mission assignment for debris recovery operations.

AIR MONITORING

~~The~~ EPA's TAGA bus ~~extensively monitored~~is providing monitoring focused around ~~-~~the neighborhood adjacent to ~~the~~ Valero's Houston refinery ~~in southeast Houston~~. No levels of targeted analytes were detected above the Texas TCEQ Air Monitoring Comparison Values short-term screening levels.

EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) ~~Arkema: ASPECT~~aircraft found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values. ASPECT conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Arkema Plant in Crosby, Texas from August 30, 2017 through September 7, 2017. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of TCEQ short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs. In addition, ASPECT was requested to monitor for peroxide which was the source material for the fire.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Daily/Cumulative Summary of Hazard Evaluations/Recovery				
Status	**Opened**		**Closed**	
	9/6/2017	**Number of Targets Remaining Open**	**9/6/2017**	**Cumulative**
Corpus Christi Branch	2	32	4	73
Houston Branch	29	193	4	28
Port Arthur/Beaumont Branch	15	34	1	4
NRC Reports	0	3	0	0
TOTALS	**46**	**262**	**9**	**105**
Note: Open means the target is yet to be recovered. Closed means the target was recovered/left in place or access was denied to collect the item.				

Daily/Cumulative Summary of Spills/Discharges				
Status	**Opened**		**Closed**	
	9/6/2017	**Cumulative**	**9/6/2017**	**Cumulative**
Corpus Christi Branch	34	425	30	99
Houston Branch	8	59	2	14
Port Arthur/Beaumont Branch	1	11	10	10
NRC Reports	53	82	3	20
TOTALS	**96**	**577**	**45**	**143**

FIELD RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

CORPUS CHRISTI BRANCH:

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~~The backlog list of NRC reports compared to Response Manager targets continued to be reviewed.~~ Oversight of fuel transfer of the Signet Enterprise continuesd, with a total of 74,000 gallons being transferred to date. All remaining petrochemical products (lube oil, hydraulic oil) are in the process of being removed ~~to complete the removal process of oil or hazardous substances~~ from the Signet Enterprise.

The Branch continues to manage the staging area pad. ~~All boats and trailers were fully operational and t~~The Orphan Container Recovery Group recovered one 1,000-gallon tank and a 55-gallon drum. The group also recovered three cylinders on land to total five items recovered to the staging pad.

~~Members of the Emergency and Rapid Response Services~~EPA contractors ~~group~~ responded to and recovered orphan containers from Port Aransas to Rockport. The Oil Discharge Recovery group continues to engage closely with local vessel owners to ensure removal and remediation of displaced vessels.

	CONTAINERS				TOTAL
	Drums [55 gals]	**Large Containers [<55 gals]**	**Large Containers [>55 gals]**	**Cylinders**	
9/7/2017	1	0	1	3	5
Total to date	51	35	7	10	106

HOUSTON BRANCH:

Twenty-six Hazard Evaluation Teams ~~conducted and~~ completed assessments in Montgomery, Waller, Austin, Fort Bend, Colorado and Wharton Counties. Thirty ~~targets~~ sites were identified for follow-up.

Hazard Evaluation Assessment status: 100% complete in Liberty, Austin, Waller, Chambers, Montgomery, Fort Bend and Walker Counties; 90% complete in Colorado County; 80% complete in Wharton County; 40% complete in Brazoria County; 20% complete in Matagorda County; and 10% complete in Fort Bend County.

The Air Recon Team conducted a reassessment of the Brazos River with no flooding or targets to report. The team continued overflight in the vicinity of Brazoria County and identified one ~~target~~site for follow-up.

Six Discharge Assessment Teams reevaluated 24 ~~targets~~ sites throughout the Houston area of responsibility. Eleven ~~targets~~ sites were deleted due to duplicity of the report. The teams changed the status of four ~~targets~~ sites to "clean-up in progress" and changed the status of five ~~targets~~ sites to clean-up complete-closed.

~~The staging pad was set up yesterday.~~

EPA's ASPECT aircraft conducted ~~to flights. The first consisted of a specialized small target deck~~assessments over the Valero Houston Refinery~~. The second consisted of the target deck for~~several sites in Zone 8.

PORT ARTHUR/BEAUMONT BRANCH:

Four Hazard Evaluation Teams conducted assessments. One ~~HE~~ Team, utilizing an air boat, conducted assessments throughout the Port Arthur area of responsibility. The team identified four new targets with unknown content. Other significant activities/observations by the ~~HE~~ teams included: ~~A partial hull was discovered on the bank of Cow Bayou that was determined to present no risk.~~ A spill check was performed at the Motiva facility and identified no discharges. A heavy oil sheen was discovered near Gulfway Drive. The USCG contacted the Port Arthur Fire Department and a USCG contractor. The contractor responded to the spill. ~~A team followed up on a residential call in Orange and no oil or hazardous materials were found.~~

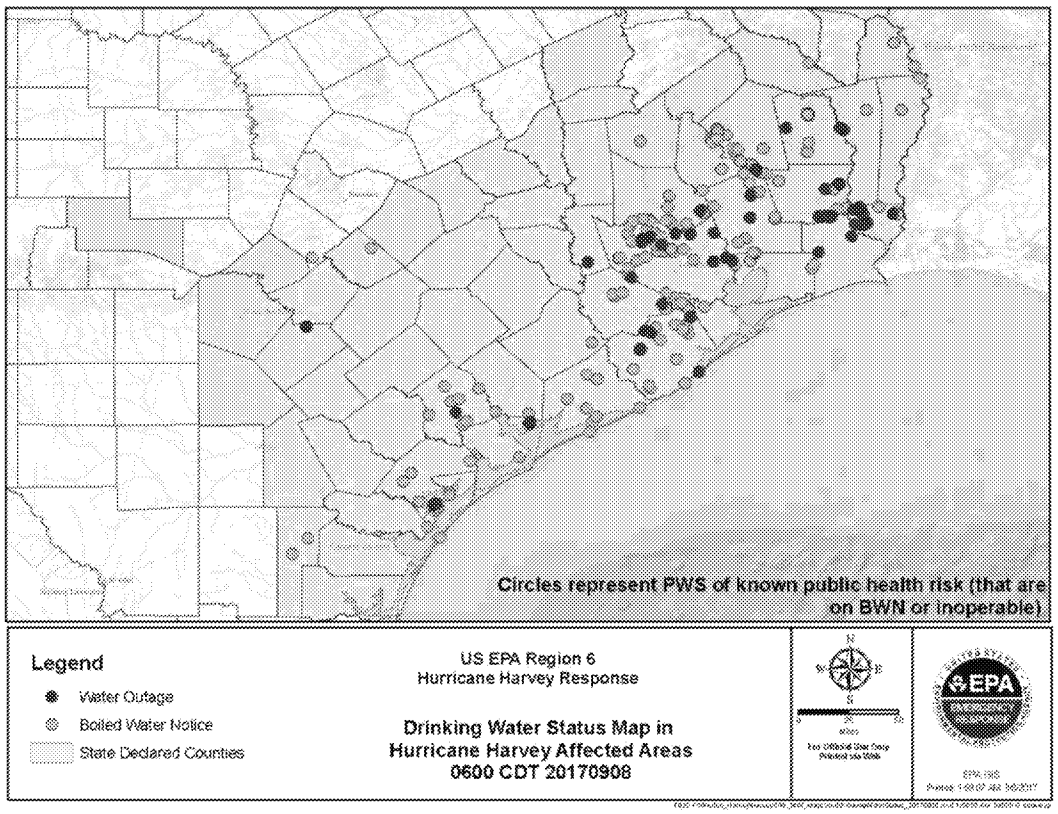
The Inland Task Force, consisting of three Inland Assessment Teams and one boat, and the Coastal Task Force Team, consisting of three Coastal Assessment Teams and one boat, conducted and completed assessments~~. Areas assessed included in~~ Port Orange, West Orange Cove, Peggy's on the Bayou, Highway I-10 from west to east, West Beaumont, East Port Arthur, Motiva Industrial Island, Taylor Bayou, Adam Bayou Canal, Sabine River, Port Arthur South and Pleasure Island.

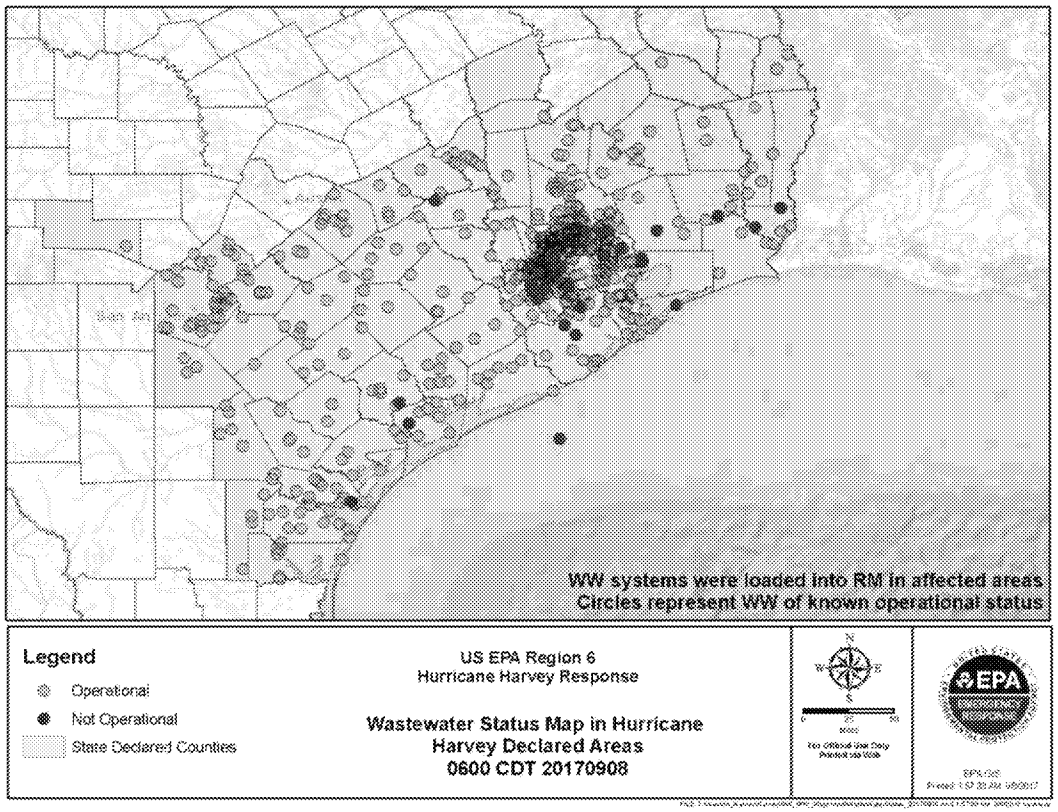
USCG, TCEQ and EPA performed overflights. The targeted areas in Orange County are still inaccessible, however, flood waters have decreased significantly.

DRINKING WATER / WASTEWATER ASSESSMENTS

EPA is providing support to TCEQ for drinking water and wastewater system assessments. Today, EPA staff working the Austin Phone Bank will be demobilized. In addition, drinking water and wastewater assessment teams are currently established in Houston. Current Houston response activities consist of 14 EPA personnel conducting drinking water and wastewater assessments in the Harris County area.

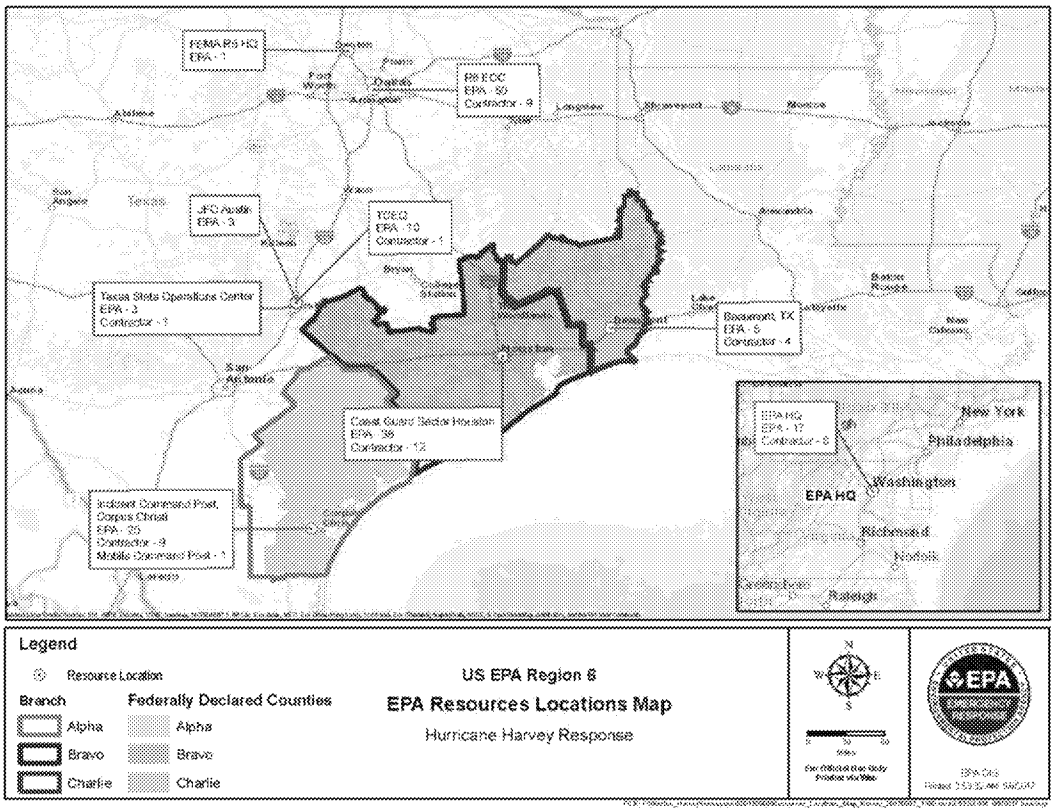
Drinking Water and Wastewater Assessments (September 7, 2017)		
Assessment Types	**Daily Assessments**	**Total Assessments**
On-Site DW Assessments	80	256
On-Site WW Assessments	47	181
Phone DW Assessments	253	4852
Phone WW Assessments	111	2908





EPA RESOURCES

Personnel	EPA Dallas, TX	FEMA Denton, TX	Texas JFO Austin, TX	Texas SOC Austin, TX	TCEQ Austin, TX	Houston, TX	Corpus Christi, TX	Beaumont, TX	HQ EOC, Wash, DC	TOTAL
EPA	50	1	3	3	10	36	21	5	17	146
START	9			1	1	12	9	4		36
ERRS						4	9	3		16
Other Contractors	1								6	7
TOTAL	60	1	3	4	11	52	39	12	23	198



FUNDING

September 7, 2017, UPDATED 1300 hours

Funding Sources	Funding Ceiling	Funding Ceiling Less Indirect	Spent to Date	Remaining Balance	Daily Burn Rate	Days Remaining
Non Mission Assignment	N/A		$64,200.00	$0.00		
MA 4332DR-TX-EPA-01	$275,000.00	$242,741.00	$21,968.00	$220,773.00	$2,848.00	77.52
MA 4332DR-TX-EPA-03	$8,592,000.00	$7,584,077.00	$5,124,799.68	$2,459,277.32	$280,658.98	8.76
Totals:	$8,867,000.00	$7,826,818.00	$5,210,967.68	$2,680,050.32		

** Indirect costs represent the money the Cincinnati Shared Service Center takes off the top to manage the Mission Assignments

REFINERIES/FUEL WAIVERS

- EPA is reaching out to the states to see if there is agreement about extending the current multi-state fuel waiver beyond September 15th. EPA is in the process of evaluating the responses and no final decision has been made yet.

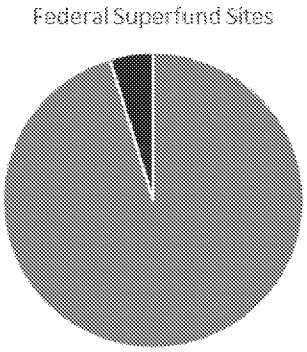
- EPA has granted all open fuel waivers requested to date.

- EPA has issued a No Action Assurance for the Use of Vapor Recovery Systems in Texas Related to Hurricane Harvey (September 1, 2017). EPA will exercise its discretion not to pursue enforcement for violations of the vapor recovery requirements for fuel loading and unloading under 40 CFR Part 60 Subpart XX and Part 63 Subparts, R, Y, CC, BBBBBB, and 30 Texas Administrative Code sections 115.212, .214.

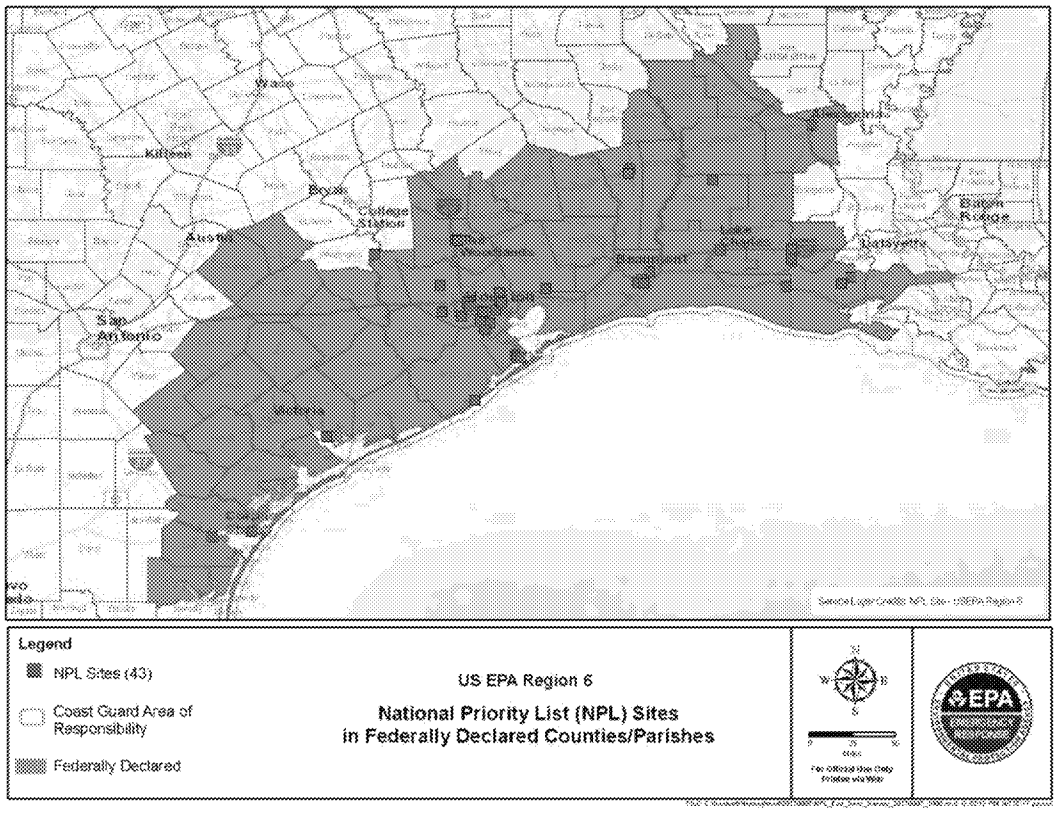
- The Internal Revenue Service expanded the red dye fuel waiver to cover the entire state of Texas, not just the 110 counties as before.

FEDERAL SUPERFUND NPL SITES

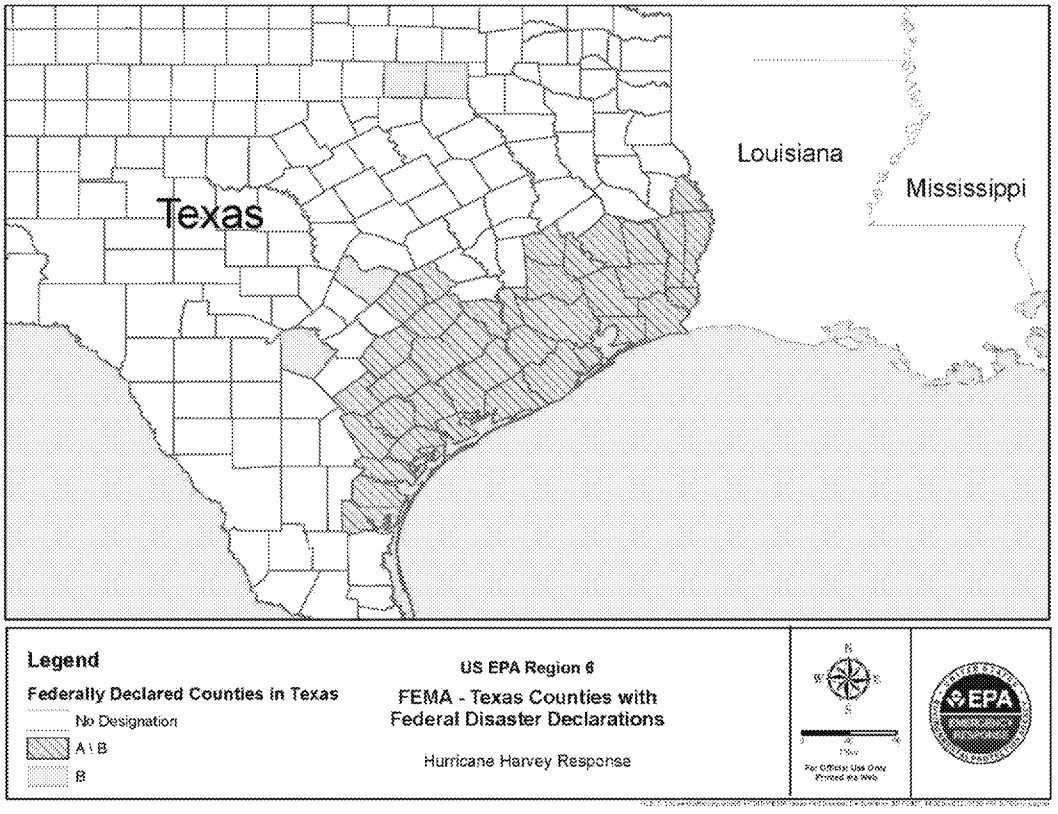
- All 43 Federal Superfund NPL Sites in the affected area have been assessed. Of these, 41 sites have been cleared, and two sites (San Jacinto Pits and US Oil Recovery) require additional follow-up.
    - US Oil Update: Pumping equipment and a storage tank are being utilized at the site to maintain overflow control. No sheen or odor has been observed.
    - San Jacinto Update: Cap repairs and underwater cap surveying continues. The EPA dive team is on-site and integrated in the cap survey efforts. Sampling began with the collection of sediment and surface water samples.



- On September 5, 2017, EPA initiated sampling at NPL sites in Texas. EPA will sample 34 NPL sites to confirm no releases. To date, sampling has been completed at two sites. Eight sites are scheduled to be sampled today, with the remainder planned for completion by September 11, 2017. The sampling is part of a longer-term assessment that will be used to transition sites to their normal cleanup operations. A schedule for conducting the sampling at all the Texas NPL sites has been prepared. EPA will task its contractors and direct Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs), where appropriate.



FEMA – TEXAS COUNTIES WITH DISASTER DECLARATIONS

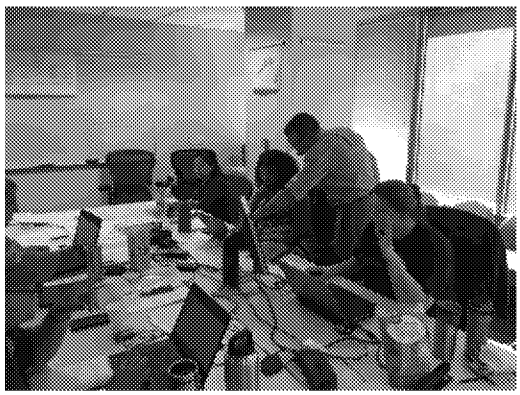


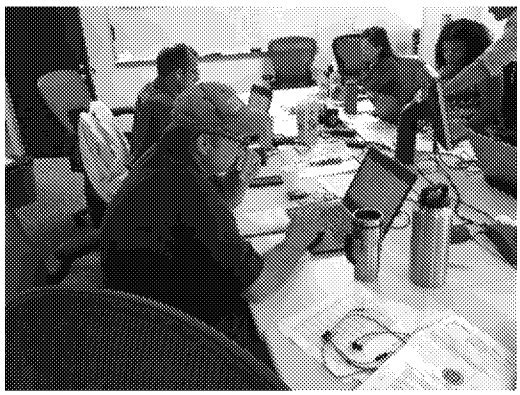
9/7/2017 FIELD ACTIVITIES

PHOTOS

EPA and TCEQ Partnership

Command and General Staff Meeting





Planning Section at Dallas REOC