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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Texas Governor Greg Abbott is traveling to Beaumont today, September 9, 2017. He will be accompanied by EPA Senior Advisor to the Administrator Kell Kelly.

- The Texas Department of Agriculture signed pesticide applicator certification waivers on September 8, 2017 for Department of Defense (DOD) certified applicators that will be conducting aerial applications as soon as the evening of September 9, 2017

- The Texas Department of State Health Services (TX DSHS) requested that FEMA coordinate with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a rapid response for messaging to Certified Organic Farmers that may be affected by aerial spray operations. TX DSHS is concerned that this unresolved issue will result in some counties electing not to have aerial spray operations conducted. There are reports from the State Operations Center that Certified Organic Farmers are concerned that the spraying could cause them to lose their certification, and are therefore threatening to seek legal action to halt spraying activities.

- EPA issued a press release on the events at the Arkema Plant in Crosby, Texas. EPA and TCEQ provided direct support to the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department and the Harris County Fire Marshall's Office who led the coordinated effort. The ASPECT aircraft and TAGA mobile laboratory monitored in the facility and found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values. The State still has an open investigation into the Arkema incident and will evaluate any impact due to the fires at the site. EPA directed Arkema to provide a detailed timeline of events and to respond to several questions.

- There has been significant focus on air quality monitoring in certain areas in Houston near the Valero Houston Refinery and in the Manchester neighborhood. EPA issued a press release on real-time air monitoring data results collected by the TAGA mobile laboratory. A leak at the facility was confirmed and the company took action to respond and repair the leak. No levels of concern were indicated. Data results have been posted online.

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's Senior Leadership meeting Friday September 8, 2017. This was the final Senior Leadership meeting, as several city departments will be returning

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to normal hours and operations. The remaining agencies and departments are expected to conclude operations at the Emergency Operations Center on Sunday September 10, 2017. The EPA Liaison will demobilize on Monday September 11, 2017.

Community Liaisons (CLs) continue to be deployed to impacted areas. Tasks will include touching base with various response organizations in the 39 declared counties and providing information for use in the recovery process. By September 10, 2017, a total of 39 CLs will be in the community.

DEBRIS RECOVERY

EPA currently has no mission assignment for debris recovery operations.

AIR MONITORING

EPA deployed four air quality technical specialists to Houston on September 8, 2017. The specialists will conduct surveillance in the Manchester area to evaluate potential sources of volatile organic compounds and benzene that have been detected in the area recently. They will perform air monitoring, evaluate data and conduct facility assessments, as appropriate. This activity is being conducted in partnership with TCEQ.

EPA's TAGA mobile laboratory is currently non-operational due to a technical malfunction. A second EPA TAGA is enroute from Las Vegas, Nevada.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Daily/Cumulative Summary of Hazard Evaluations/Recovery				
Status	**Opened**		**Closed**	
	9/7/2017	**Number of Targets Remaining Open**	**9/7/2017**	**Cumulative**
Corpus Christi Branch	1	28	9	86
Houston Branch	41	234	0	27
Port Arthur/Beaumont Branch	13	48	1	7
NRC Reports	0	3	0	0
TOTALS	**55**	**313**	**10**	**120**
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**	
	9/7/2017	**Cumulative**	**9/7/2017**	**Cumulative**
Corpus Christi Branch	15	449	24	140
Houston Branch	4	97	3	36
Port Arthur/Beaumont Branch	3	23	0	9
NRC Reports	3	99	4	36
TOTALS	**25**	**668**	**31**	**221**

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FIELD RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

FIELD TEAMS ON 9/8/2017				
Teams	**Alpha**	**Bravo**	**Charlie**	**TOTAL**
Hazard Evaluation	3	24	8	35
Oil Discharge Assessment	1	6	0	7
ER/Orphan Container Recovery	2	1	1	4
Oil/Vessel Recovery	5	0	0	5
Staging Areas	1	1	0	2
Air Operations	0	1	0	1
Air Monitoring	0	3	0	3
Water Infrastructure Assessment – Drinking Water	0	10	1	11
Water Infrastructure Assessment – Wastewater	0	5	0	5
TOTAL	12	51	10	73

CORPUS CHRISTI BRANCH:

Oversight of fuel transfer of Signet Enterprise continued, with a total of 79,000 gallons being transferred to date. The Oil Discharge Assessment Team will be on the scene tomorrow to oversee the removal process of all waste oil and to complete a final assessment.

Five Oil Discharge Recovery Teams coordinated and monitored responsible-party-led operations in Island Moorings, Rattle Snake Point, Ingleside, Seadrift, Harbor of Refuge, and Holiday Beach. In preparation of the signing of the Unified Command Approved Vessel Removal Protocols, the teams within the Oil Discharge Recovery Group prioritized sites for removal.

Three Hazard Evaluation (HE) Teams conducted assessments in the Rockport area. HE Teams traveled by boat to the Voestalpine facility in San Patricio County and assessed the drainage area behind the Voestalpine unloading dock. Soil/sediment samples were collected at three locations at the site and one location in the Corpus Christi Bay near a storm drain that discharges into the bay. An HE Team assessed the Copano Bay area for orphan containers.

An inventory of all 113 recovered items was completed on the staging pad in preparation for field screening.

	CONTAINERS				**TOTAL**
	Drums [55 gals]	**Small Containers [<55 gals]**	**Large Containers [>55 gals]**	**Cylinders**	
9/7/2017	4	0	1	5	10
TOTAL TO DATE	57	31	8	17	113

HOUSTON BRANCH:

Four EPA Region 6 air quality technical specialists deployed to Houston on September 8, 2017. Two air quality technical specialists teamed up with TCEQ investigators and made entry to the Valero Houston Refinery. They viewed Tank 3 with the failed roof and Tank 228 with the pinhole leak in the drain line. Valero estimates that Tank 228 will be emptied and degassed by next week.

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Tank 3 is the more problematic of the tanks as liquid has collected on the crumpled roof. The tank is still unsafe to empty and inspect. There is no estimate yet as to when that tank will be emptied and inspected. EPA and TCEQ recommended that Valero conduct perimeter monitoring in the interim.

The Air Recon Team conducted an aerial overflight of Bastrop, Lee and Fayette Counties, and the Brazos River in Fort Bend County with nothing significant to report. They did identify three sunken sailing vessels with no evidence of a discharge near Galveston Island. The Air Recon Team also assessed a reported sheen. It did not appear to be an ongoing discharge; however, the site will not be closed until further assessment can be conducted. The area is currently inaccessible except by boat or aircraft.

Twenty-four HE Teams conducted and completed assessments in Brazoria, Matagorda, Harris, and Galveston Counties. There were no emergent or substantial risks posed by identified sites.

HE Assessment Status: 100% complete in Liberty, Austin, Waller, Chambers, Montgomery, Fort Bend, Galveston, Bastrop, Lee, Fayette, Colorado and Walker Counties; 90% complete in Brazoria County; 80% complete in Wharton County; 60% complete in Harris County; and 30% complete in Matagorda County.

During the day's assessment it was observed that the Matagorda and Brazos Rivers had finally crested.

EPA's ASPECT aircraft conducted assessments over the Beaumont area and the State's special site list.

PORT ARTHUR/BEAUMONT BRANCH:

Eight HE Teams conducted assessments in Pleasure Island, China, Nome, Beaumont, the Neches River, Sour Lake, the Sabine River and Taylor Bayou. No emergent or substantial risks were posed from identified sites.

The Discharge Assessment Team reported 125 gallons of diesel fuel was discharged at the maintenance facility outside of the Beaumont Federal Prison. The source was secured and the spill removed by an Oil Spill Removal Organization.

A Hazard Evaluation Team reported a natural gas leak in Vidor, Texas. The responsible party was identified as PRO Gas. EPA oversaw the securing of the leak by a PRO Gas technician.

DRINKING WATER / WASTEWATER ASSESSMENTS

EPA is providing support to TCEQ for drinking water and wastewater system assessments. Ten EPA personnel are conducting drinking water assessments in the Houston Branch, five personnel are conducting wastewater assessments in the Houston Branch and one person is conducting drinking water assessments in the Port Arthur/Beaumont Branch.

Drinking Water and Wastewater Assessments (September 8, 2017)		
Assessment Types	**Daily Assessments**	**Total Assessments**
On-Site DW Assessments	53	295

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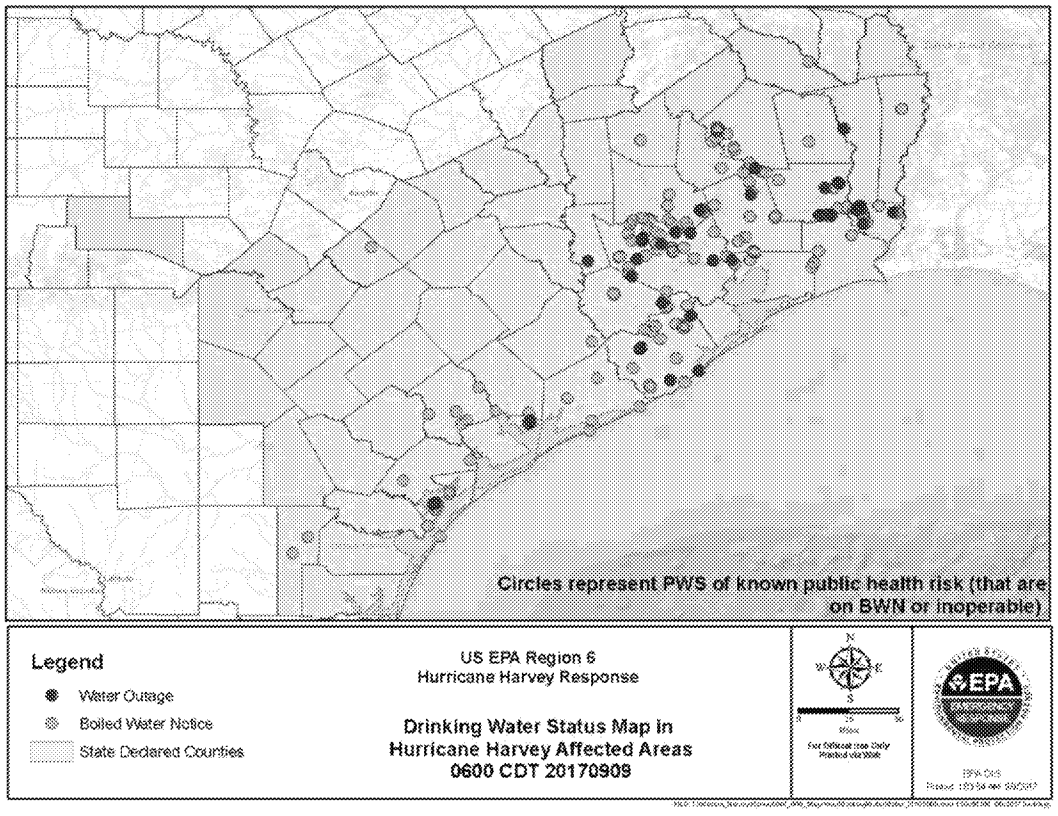
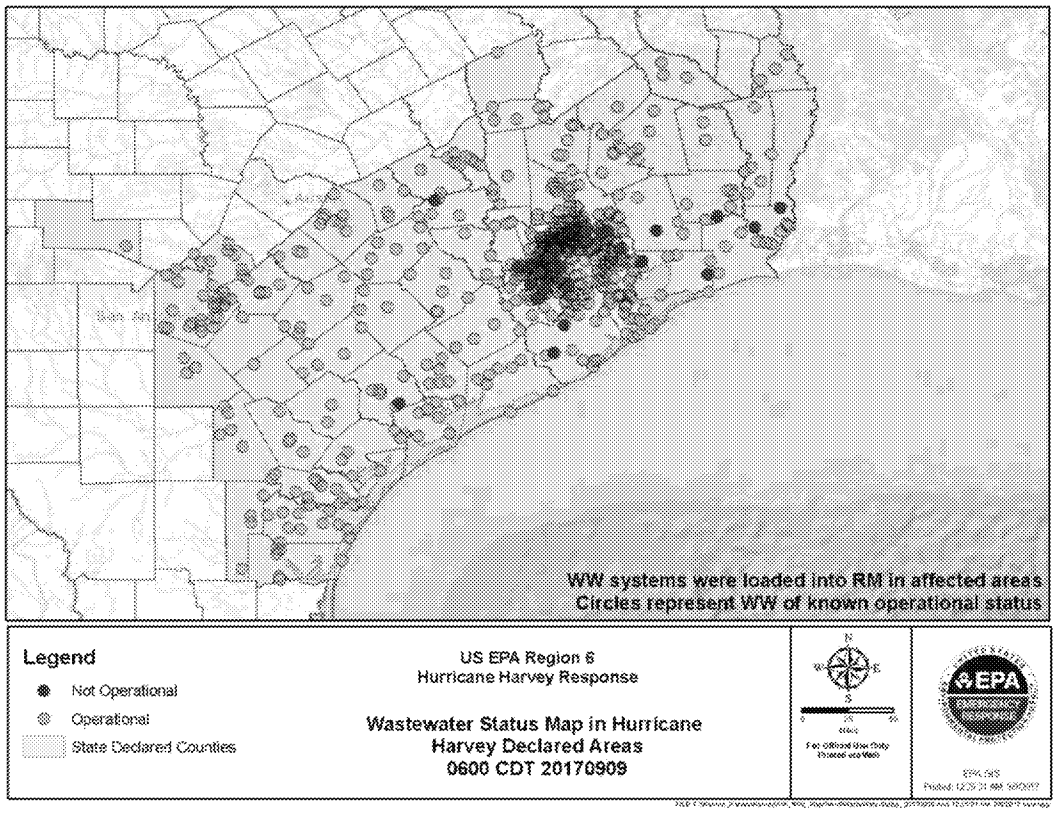
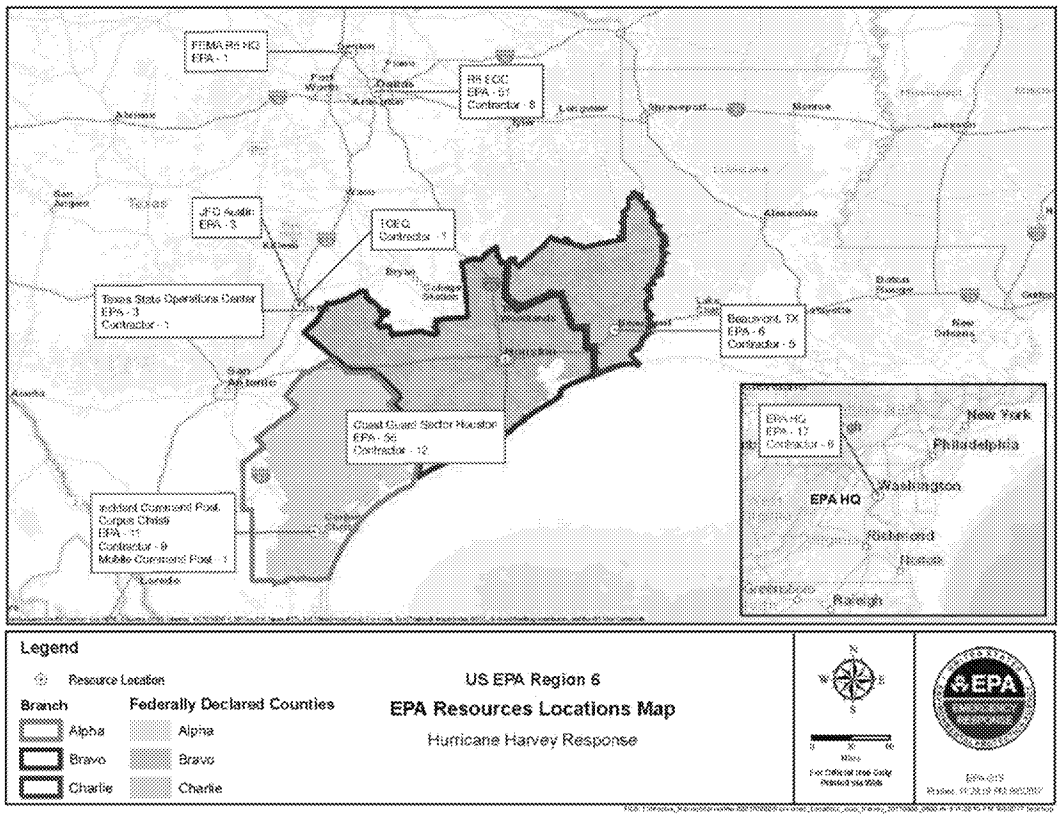
On-Site WW Assessments	26	193
Phone DW Assessments	331	4969
Phone WW Assessments	82	3017





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	51	1	3	3	0	56	12	6	17	149
START	8			1	1	12	9	5		36
ERRS						16	8	3		27
Other Contractors	1								6	7
TOTAL	60	1	3	4	1	84	29	14	23	198



FUNDING

September 8, 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	$24,816.00	$217,925.00	$2,848.00	76.52
MA 4332DR-TX-EPA-03	$8,592,000.00	$7,584,077.00	$5,248,884.21	$2,335,192.79	$282,745.51	8.26
Totals:	$8,867,000.00	$7,826,818.00	$5,337,900.21	$2,553,117.79		

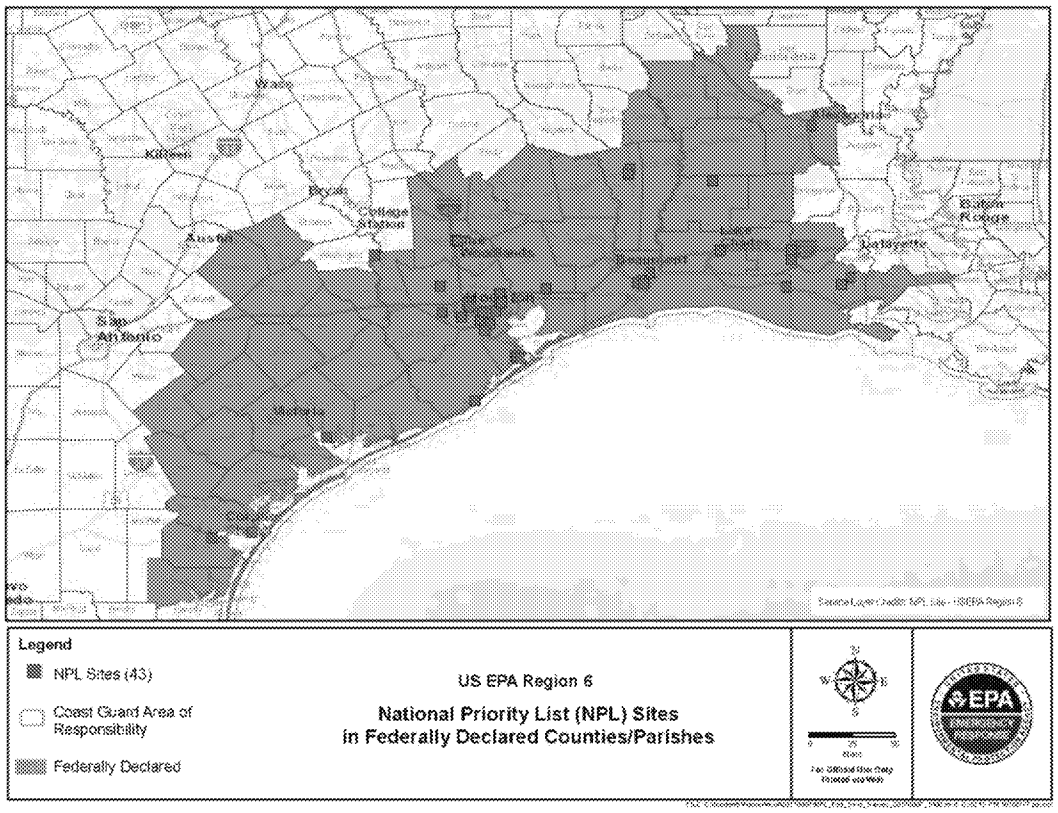
Indirect costs represent the money the Cincinnati Shared Service Center takes off the top to manage the Mission Assignments

REFINERIES/FUEL WAIVERS

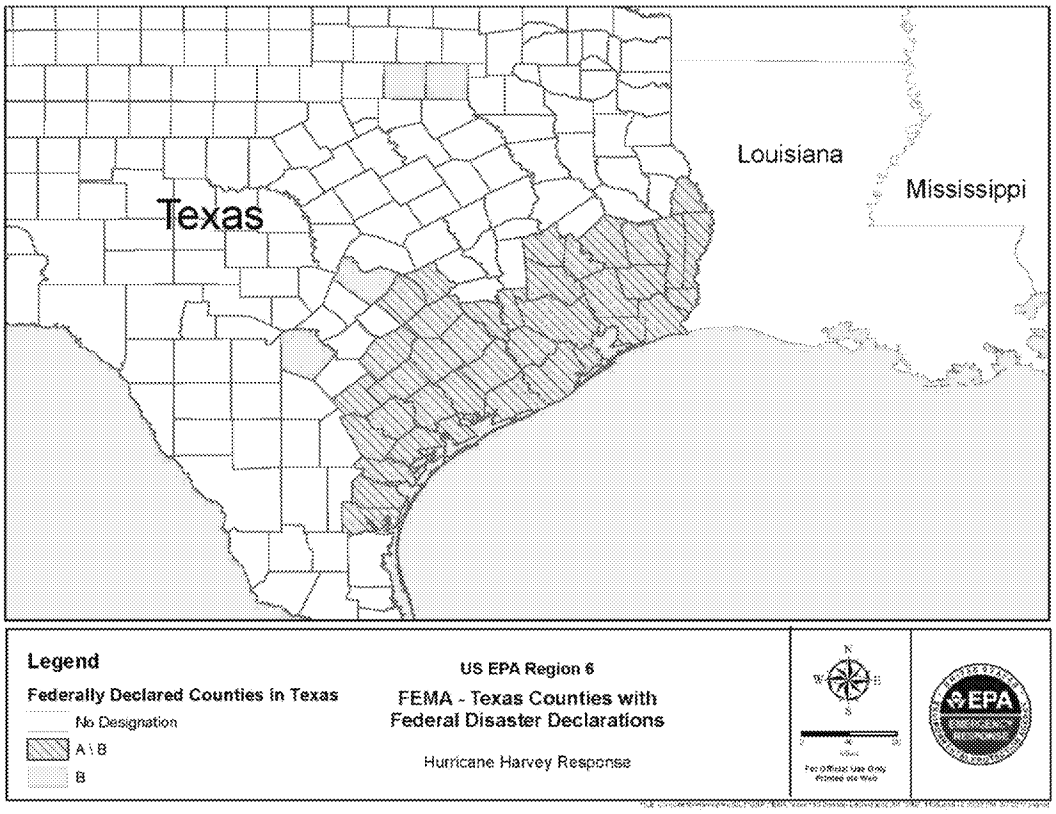
- EPA has extended the current multi-state fuel waiver to September 26, 2017.
- EPA has granted all open fuel waivers requested to date.
- EPA has issued a No Action Assurance for the Use of Vapor Recovery Systems in Texas Related to Hurricane Harvey (September 1, 2017). EPA will exercise its discretion 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.
    - U.S. Oil Recovery Update: On September 7, 2017, a total of 16 vacuum truckloads of water (approximately 80,000 gallons) were removed and shipped off-site for disposal. The potentially responsible party continues operating pumping equipment and a storage tank to maintain and control overflow. Sampling of the lift station water continues. In addition, soil and ground water samples were collected on September 8, 2017. No sheen or odor was observed in the overflowing water.
    - San Jacinto Waste Pits Update: Cap repairs and underwater cap surveying continues at the San Jacinto Superfund Site. The EPA dive team is on-site and integrated in the cap survey efforts. Sampling of sediment and surface water was completed on September 7, 2017.
- On September 5, 2017, EPA initiated sampling at NPL sites in Texas. EPA will sample all 34 Texas NPL sites to confirm no releases. Sampling will be completed by September 11, 2017. Results will be delivered to the Region by September 14, 2017.

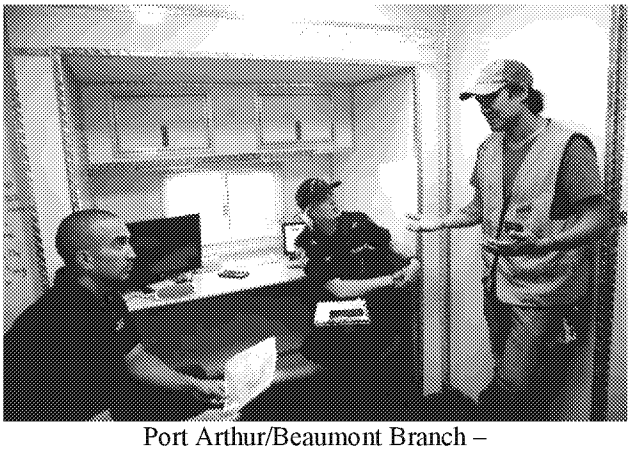


FEMA – TEXAS COUNTIES WITH DISASTER DECLARATIONS



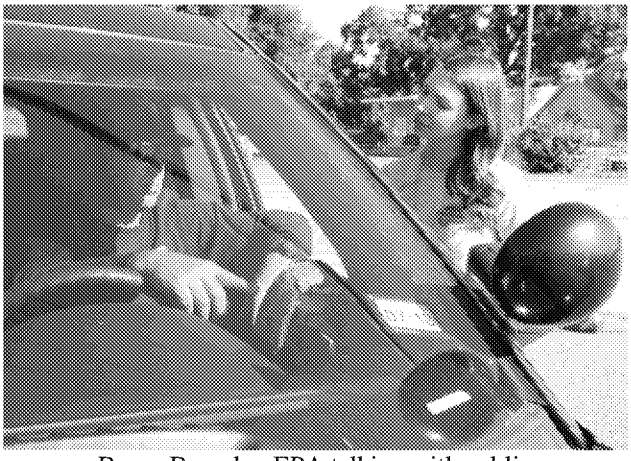
9/8/2017 FIELD ACTIVITIES

PHOTOS



Port Arthur/Beaumont Branch –
EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) discusses operations with members of the U.S. Coast Guard

Bravo Branch – EPA preparing waste pad



Bravo Branch – EPA talking with public