100016246

San Jacinto River Waste Pits

Superfund Site

2019 Community Involvement Plan

AllenCenter Parking

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Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promotes fair and meaningful public involvement so that all people enjoy equal access to the decision-making process and the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards regardless of race, color, national origin or income level.

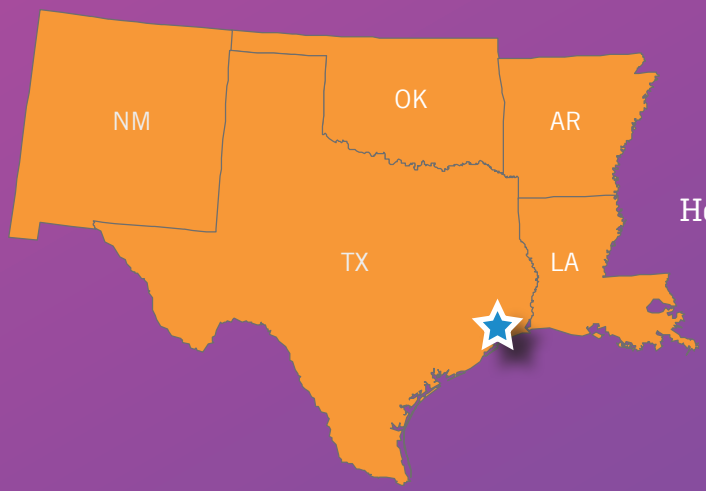
To do this in the EPA Superfund program, EPA staff works with the community and partners to conduct community outreach activities in areas affected by the Superfund designation. EPA staff develops a community involvement plan (CIP) that summarizes public concerns about the site and outlines how people can engage throughout the Superfund process.

Community involvement activities at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site are designed to:

- Inform and update the public about the site and the cleanup process.
- Engage the public to provide meaningful input into the Superfund process and site cleanup decisions.
- Sustain public engagement throughout the Superfund timeline.

This community involvement plan provides links and contact information for people and resources so that you can learn more about the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site and identify ways to be involved.

Site Synopsis



The site is located in EPA's Region 6 in Harris County, east of Houston, Texas, between Channelview and Highlands.

To protect human health and the environment, EPA placed the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site on the Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL) in 2008, making it eligible for additional study and cleanup resources under EPA's Superfund program.

EPA selected the site's final remedy in the October 2017 Record of Decision (ROD). The remedy permanently addresses the site's dioxin waste materials, meets the federal regulatory requirements of the National Contingency Plan for cleanup of hazardous sites, and is protective of public health and the environment.

HISTORY

mid-1960s

A set of impoundments were built for the disposal of solid and liquid pulp and paper mill wastes.

1965-1966

Pulp and paper mill wastes were transported by barge from the Champion Papers, Inc. paper mill in Pasadena, Texas, and deposited in the impoundments.

TODAY

The northern impoundments, about 14 acres in size, are located on the western bank of the San Jacinto River, immediately north of the Interstate-10 bridge. The eastern cell of the impoundments is submerged under water; the western cell is not. The southern impoundment, less than 20 acres in size, is located on a small peninsula that extends south of Interstate 10.

Superfund is the federal program that investigates and cleans up the country's most complex, uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites to protect public health and the environment. The program was established by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA).

Site Surroundings

Texas Fish Consumption Advisories

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has issued Texas Fish Consumption Advisories for dioxin and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination in the San Jacinto River and Galveston Bay. DSHS issues these advisories when tests on fish and shellfish indicate there is an increased risk to human health from the presence of toxic pollutants. To see a map showing the advisories currently in place in the Galveston Bay system and its tributaries, visit: https://galvbay.org/how-we-protect-the-bay/taking-action/seafood-consumption-advisories.

Partners

EPA is working closely with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Harris County, the Port of Houston, the site's Community Awareness Committee and the site's potentially responsible parties (PRPs) on cleanup efforts at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site.

THE PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY: The Port manages the Houston Ship Channel. Along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Port also manages Lost Lake, a confined disposal facility for sediments from the Houston Ship Channel maintenance dredging program.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES (DSHS): This state agency department prepared a public health assessment for the site in 2012 and serves as a public health and review resource at the site. DSHS also monitors fish for the presence of environmental contaminants and alerts the public through bans (closures) and advisories when a threat to human health may occur from the consumption of contaminated fish.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (TCEQ): This state agency is the site's support agency. With EPA, TCEQ has conducted site assessment activities, conducted community meetings, reviewed site decision documents and provides oversight of the site's ongoing remedial design activities.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS: This federal agency provides technical expertise and guidance at the site. For example, the Corps reviewed the site's cleanup alternatives and provides guidance for the site's remedial design.

HARRIS COUNTY: The local government receives regular site updates and coordinates with EPA and TCEQ on site-related activities and helps ensure that the relevant agencies take community concerns and priorities into account during every step of the Superfund process.

GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION: The mission of the Galveston Bay Foundation is to preserve and enhance Galveston Bay as a healthy and productive place for generations to come. To learn more: https://galvbay.org/about/about-the-bay/overview.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE: This group has met regularly since 2010 to frequently assess and give voice to ongoing community interests in connection with the site. It includes representatives from the community as well as state agencies, local governments, environmental organizations and the PRPs.

TEXAS HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE (THEA): The mission of THEA is to protect water resources, public health and ecosystems such as Galveston Bay's estuary from the harmful effects of toxic waste. THEA endeavors to establish an informed and engaged public movement to restore and protect the lower portion of the San Jacinto River's Watershed and Galveston Bay from toxic pollution. THEA envisions a watershed with pristine water, a healthy fishery and surrounding communities free from toxic contamination. To learn more: https://txhea.org.

SITE POTENTIALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES (PRPS): International Paper and McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation are responsible for conducting the site's cleanup, under EPA and TCEQ oversight.

Timeline

The Superfund timeline can take many years. This infographic shows the major steps in the Superfund process and where the site is in the process.

DISCOVERY
A potentially contaminated site is reported to EPA or a state or local agency.

2005

SITE INVESTIGATION
Further analysis of air, water and soil at the site to determine what hazardous substances are present and whether they are being released into the environment and are a threat to human health.

2005-2006

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/FEASIBILITY STUDY (RI/FS)
Collection of data to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the site. The FS identifies technologies capable of treating the contamination, and evaluates the cost and performance of different cleanup approaches.

2009-2016

ROD
Documentation and description of the site's remedy.

2017

REMEDIAL ACTION
This step involves the actual construction or implementation of the cleanup.

FUTURE

POST-CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION
Includes activities that follow construction completion, such as operation and maintenance and long-term response actions, institutional controls, five-year reviews and optimization of remedies. The goal is to ensure the long-term protection of human health and the environment.

FUTURE

2005-2006 PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
EPA gathers information about site conditions to evaluate whether the site poses a threat to human health and the environment and whether further investigation is needed. It also helps identify sites that may need immediate or short-term response actions.

2007-2008 NPL SITE LISTING
EPA evaluates site risks using the Hazard Ranking System. Sites that score at or above an established level qualify for cleanup under Superfund and are proposed for listing on the NPL, a list of the most serious sites identified for long-term cleanup.

2016-2017 PROPOSED PLAN
Summarizes RI/FS findings and identifies cleanup alternatives and a preferred approach to addressing site risks. Public comments are considered.

2018 REMEDIAL DESIGN
EPA works with the state and PRPs on technical specifications for cleanup remedies and technologies. Remedial Design started in 2018 and is anticipated to take approximately two to two-and-a-half years years to complete.

FUTURE CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION
Physical construction of all cleanup remedies is complete, all immediate threats have been addressed and all long-term threats are under control. Though long-term cleanup actions may still be operating, the site is often ready for reuse.

FUTURE NPL DELETION
The final stage of the Superfund process. EPA may delete a site from the NPL if the Agency determines no further response is required to protect human health or the environment.

Screening	Investigation	Decision	Cleanup	Post-Cleanup

COMPLETED	ONGOING	FUTURE

Community involvement is essential throughout the Superfund process to ensure people can share information about the site and participate in the decision-making process – from initial investigations to final cleanup and potential future use of the site. Community involvement activities have been ongoing and will continue at the site in order to identify and respond to community concerns, engage people in the Superfund process, and develop the community involvement plan.

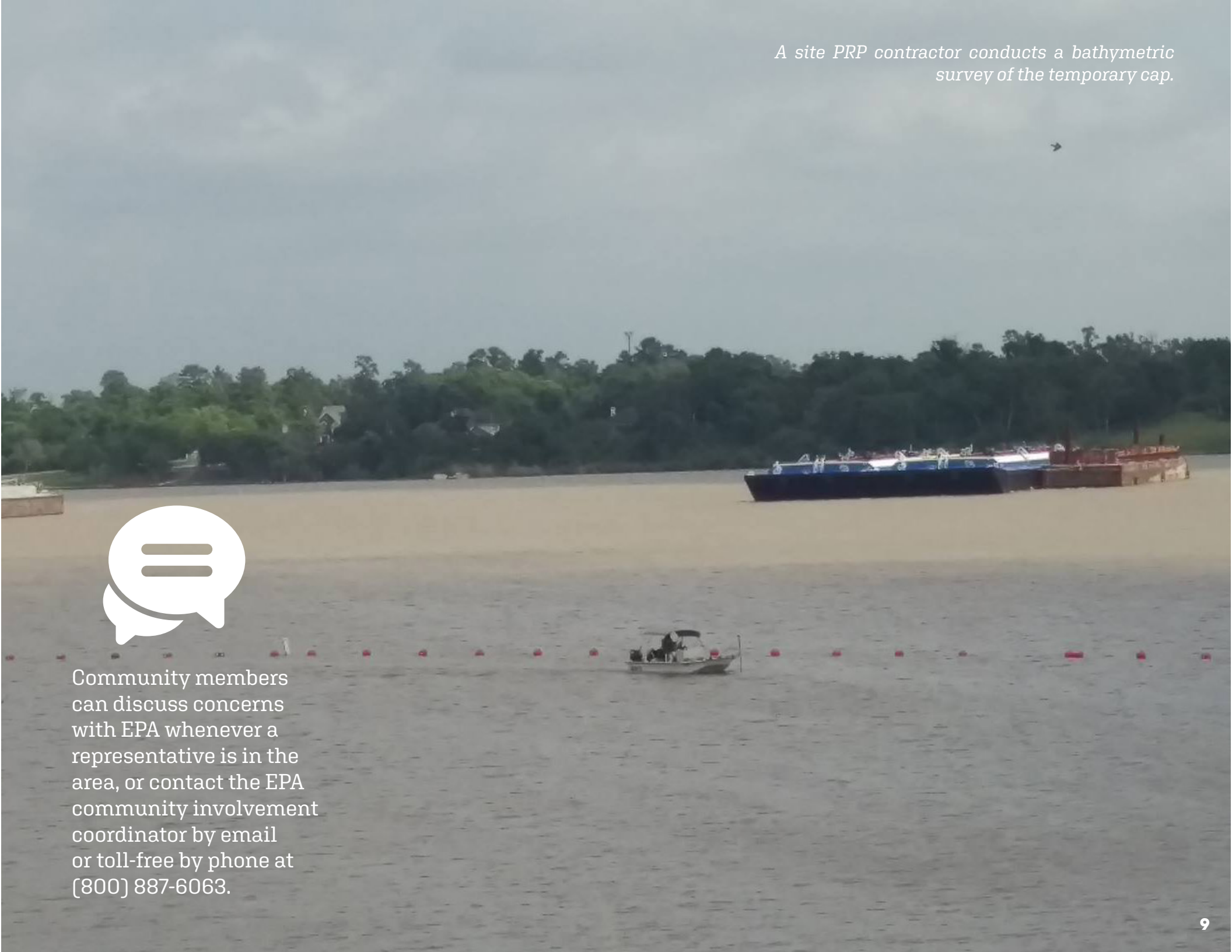
At the site, these activities have included:

- Researching community documents and considering public comments.
- Meeting with local residents and community groups.
- Working with elected officials and government partners at the local, state and national level.
- Cooperating with local news media.
- Conducting community interviews.

Community interviews are an important part of EPA's public engagement program. EPA will continue to conduct community interviews to identify community concerns about the site and ensure effective community engagement throughout the Superfund process.

In August and September 2018, EPA conducted interviews with nearby residents, local business owners, government officials and other local stakeholders as well as staff from TCEQ and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to inform this community involvement plan. All of the people interviewed were familiar with the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site. Recent community meetings hosted by EPA to discuss the site were held in October 2016, December 2017, January 2018 and June 2018. Earlier community meetings took place in July and December 2010, May and September 2011, January 2014, April 2015, and February and May 2016. A draft of the previous version of this CIP was provided to the community for comment in 2016. EPA received no public comments on the 2016 draft CIP.

EPA strongly believes that public engagement makes for better-informed decisions for both EPA and the community. EPA remains committed to keeping local officials and the community involved and informed during the cleanup of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site.



A site PRP contractor conducts a bathymetric survey of the temporary cap.

Community members can discuss concerns with EPA whenever a representative is in the area, or contact the EPA community involvement coordinator by email or toll-free by phone at (800) 887-6063.

Community Concerns

Review of information gathered during community interviews and other outreach activities has identified several community concerns about the site.

HUMAN HEALTH

Community members are concerned about remaining site contamination and how it may affect people's health. People discussed several concerns about potential health impacts. They included cancer, autism, rashes, skin burning, endometriosis, and nodules on people's hands. These concerns extend to river-based recreation, fishing and wells, with people not eating local fish and limiting well use.

People would like educational materials about site conditions to better understand any risks associated with drinking water and living, working and playing in the area. People would also like to know about ways to minimize potential contact with site contamination, and the toxicity and health effects of dioxins. Interviewees also requested sampling and health studies in Channelview, Texas, and the neighborhood around River Terrace Park to help address the community's public health concerns. Everyone interviewed is aware of the state fish consumption advisory at the site. Interviewees noted that some community members catch and eat the fish instead of releasing them. They requested more frequent fish tissue sampling.

CLEANUP

People want the cleanup to be thorough, protective, lasting and timely. Care should be taken especially when considering placement of groundwater monitoring wells and the final disposal of site waste. People are concerned that flood events, other weather events such as Hurricane Harvey, and barge activity and dredging may stir up and move contaminated sediments. Several interviewees requested that EPA establish a Community Health and Safety Plan and phone line for community members to call in case of site emergencies, such as a barge hitting the waste pits. Interviewees also requested more signs to inform people about the state fish consumption advisory.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

People want to be more informed and engaged in the Superfund process, and asked that local governments, community organizations and area schools receive timely updates. By being well informed about the site, interviewees noted that they can then participate more effectively in meetings and discussions. People want to know more about the site's status and upcoming cleanup design and implementation activities and timeframes as well as the roles and responsibilities of site agencies and PRPs moving forward. People expressed particular interest in EPA sharing information with residents in Channelview, Texas.

WILDLIFE

People are concerned about the site's potential health impacts on fish and other wildlife.

WATERSHED

People are concerned about potential migration of site contamination that could have broader downstream watershed impacts. These impacts could affect wildlife, water supplies and the general health of area communities.

Communication Preferences

The community expects EPA Region 6 to be transparent about its work and to strive to include all community members and stakeholders in the Superfund process. During past outreach activities, EPA identified several methods the community prefers for engagement and being kept informed about the Superfund cleanup of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site.

Information Sharing

People said that EPA should use several methods to keep the community, Harris County officials and area organizations updated. EPA should share information in printed materials that include graphics, pictures and maps. They should be easy to understand and in plain language. Information should be distributed often. Recommended outreach methods include regular mailings, Internet and social media updates, articles in local media, flyer postings, postcards and emailed newsletters. The best places to post notices about the site include area community centers, restaurants, parks, gas stations, grocery stores, schools, Baytown Nature Center, Marcelous-Williams Resource Center, post offices, libraries and service clubs (Rotary clubs, Lions clubs, Kiwanis clubs). People also asked for online information resources via the EPA, Texas Health and Environmental Alliance (THEA), and Galveston Bay Foundation websites.

Public Meetings

People agreed that meeting in person works well and that EPA should share information regularly at community meetings and other events. The Highlands/ San Jacinto Community Center was recommended as a good place for meetings.

Notification & Discussion of Upcoming Cleanup Activities

Following community meetings in December 2017, January 2018 and June 2018, people are generally aware of the site's 2017 Record of Decision and 2018 Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for Remedial Design. People want to make sure they are kept up to date as the cleanup work outlined in these decision documents moves forward. These updates can take place during meetings or via the outreach methods listed above.

Review of Documents

People emphasized the importance of community access to site documents via the site's information repositories, mailings, community meetings, online resources, email lists and other means. THEA staff requested an opportunity to review the site's treatability study and second phase design plan.

The Community Involvement Plan

EPA's community involvement plan for the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site outlines how EPA will work with others to address community concerns with consideration for the community's preferred communication methods. To ensure fair and meaningful public involvement in the investigation and cleanup at the site, EPA will:

1. Promote community awareness and understanding of the site and Superfund process by collecting and making information available and accessible to the public in a timely and non-technical manner.

2. Encourage and publicize opportunities for community engagement and public comment throughout the Superfund process.

3. Sustain long-term public engagement and maintain two-way communication with the community, partners and stakeholders to make sure that people have equal access to the Superfund decision-making process and the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards regardless of race, color, national origin or income.

Community Engagement Tools and Activities

EPA will continue to work with the community and all parties interested in remedial activities. To achieve these public engagement goals, EPA has identified and developed a variety of community involvement tools and activities:

In this section, look for icons for ways you can engage with EPA.

WEBPAGE

EPA will continue to maintain a webpage for the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site: https://www.epa.gov/tx/sjrwp.

The webpage will:

- Provide an overview and history of the site and EPA's involvement.
- Post updated information about the Superfund cleanup process to the public.
- Publish reports and documents related to the site as they become available to the public.
- Provide links to additional resources related to the site.

EPA also has other webpages available for information about the Superfund program and Region 6:

- National Superfund program: http://www.epa.gov/Superfund
- EPA Region 6: https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-6-south-central
- Superfund Community Involvement: https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement

Other organizations with webpages that provide information about the site include:

- Galveston Bay Foundation: https://galvbay.org/how-we-protect-the-bay/taking-action/sjrwp
- Texas Health and Environmental Alliance: https://txhea.org

Please learn more about the Superfund process and the site by visiting these online resources. Consider linking to these resources and sharing the information on social media. Let EPA staff know how the site webpage can be improved.

PERIODIC UPDATES

EPA will develop and distribute information about the site on a quarterly and as-needed basis. These updates will:

- Provide regular updates about the Superfund process.
- Notify the public about public meetings and availability sessions and public comment periods.
- Distribute information and educational materials about areas of community concern.
- Provide links to publicly available documents and other resources.
- Reach a broad audience representative of the community and diverse stakeholders.

EPA will maintain and continue to build the mailing list. If you would like to be on EPA's distribution list for the site, please contact EPA's community involvement coordinator. Updates will be available at the site's information repositories.

Please contact EPA staff to add your name and preferred contact information to the mailing list. Consider relaying these updates and information to others and encourage them to sign up for updates if interested. Doing this helps make sure that everyone in the community has access to accurate and up-to-date site information.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

To help address community concerns about the site, EPA will collect, prepare and distribute user-friendly documents to help people understand site conditions. EPA will use maps, photographs and other visual aids in these materials to help people understand the site. Materials will be available, upon request, in both English and Spanish. Potential fact sheets include:

- *San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Overview:* would provide a general description of the site and cleanup actions to date, site agency responsibilities, and the timeline for upcoming Superfund activities.
- *Remedial Design, Remedial Action and Institutional Controls:* would discuss ongoing and upcoming parts of the Superfund process at the site in greater detail, including timeframes and project outcomes.
- *Reusing Superfund Sites:* would discuss EPA's approach to supporting the beneficial reuse of Superfund sites and share success stories.

Updated fact sheets, brochures and other educational materials will be shared with all parties on the site distribution list, will be available at the site's information repositories, and will be shared during public events and with other organizations for broad distribution.

Please read and share site-related educational materials with others. If you know of other resources and publications that relate to the site, please share them with EPA. Similarly, if there is a need for new or expanded information resources, let EPA know.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Based upon availability, EPA will attend meetings held by community groups, the local government and other organizations upon request to share information about the site and address community questions, concerns, ideas and comments. To identify appropriate opportunities and venues to deliver information about the site, EPA will coordinate with Harris County, local schools and civic groups such as Rotary clubs, Lions clubs and Kiwanis clubs, the site's Community Awareness Committee, and local community organizations such as the Texas Health and Environmental Alliance (THEA).

EPA will also hold separate public meetings for key Superfund milestones and decisions. EPA will ask for community feedback at these meetings. Notice for EPA-hosted public meetings will be provided in advance and EPA will coordinate with Harris County and TCEQ to schedule them.

Different formats may be used for public meetings, depending on the topic and situation. EPA may host public meetings, open houses, informal gatherings focused on topics of interest, and informal availability and listening sessions so that community members can share their thoughts with EPA staff.

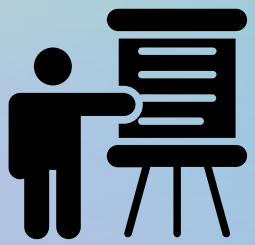
Potential meeting locations include Highlands Community Center, the Martin L. Flukinger Community Center and the J.D. Walker Community Center.

OUTREACH AT SCHOOLS

During the CIP interviews, participants expressed interest in the availability of EPA to coordinate with area schools, school board members, teachers and parents upon request to explore opportunities to share site information as part of school events and curricula. The focus will be on environmental education opportunities as well as public health and safety.

PRESENTATIONS AND OUTREACH AT EXISTING COMMUNITY EVENTS

EPA will attend community events and share outreach materials and presentations to help ensure that information is widely available for community members.



Consider inviting EPA staff to speak at a meeting or event. Please also attend EPA public meetings to share your thoughts, concerns and questions. Let EPA staff know about other organizations or events that could be a good fit for EPA to coordinate with or attend.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)

A CAG is an independent group made up of members of the community and is designed to serve as the focal point for the exchange of information among the local community and EPA, the state regulatory agency, and other agencies, stakeholders and people involved and interested in the Superfund cleanup.

In 2010, EPA initiated a CAG for the site known as the Community Awareness Committee. The 16-member group, which includes representatives from the community as well as state agencies, local governments, environmental organizations and the PRPs, meets regularly to identify and discuss community interests related to the site.

FORMAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS

During the Superfund process, EPA announces and opens public comment periods and encourages people to submit information. EPA accepts formal comments on several types of documents, including Proposed Plans, as well as when a site is proposed for listing on or deletion from the NPL. EPA considers all public comments in the Superfund decision-making process. The last formal public comment period for the site opened in September 2016, when EPA solicited public comments on the site's draft Proposed Plan.

Please share your thoughts with EPA during public comment periods.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

EPA will continue to maintain a physical place for the collection of information and documents related to the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site. Physical copies of documents are available for review or photocopying at the site's information repositories:

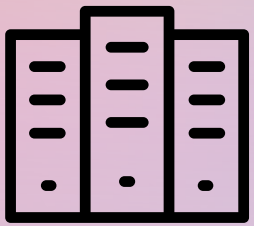
Stratford Branch Library
509 Stratford Street
Highlands, TX 77562
(832) 927-5400

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
7th Floor Reception Area
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 12D13
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733
(800) 887-6063

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Building E, Records Management
12100 Park 35 Circle
Austin, Texas 78753
(800) 633-9363

Some of the materials available at the repositories include:

- 2018 Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for Remedial Design
- 2017 Record of Decision (ROD)
- 2016 Proposed Plan
- April 2010 Action Memorandum for Time-Critical Removal Action
- Site update fact sheets



Please visit one of the site's information repositories and tell other people about their locations. Consider reviewing technical documents and providing feedback and comments to EPA staff. If you have feedback on the repositories and how to make them more accessible to the public, please let EPA know.

NEWS MEDIA

EPA Region 6 will provide updates and information to local newspapers and radio and television stations and ask them to report on site-related issues. EPA staff will be available for interviews and will respond to media inquiries in a timely fashion. Inquiries from the news media should be directed to EPA Region 6's External Affairs Office at (214) 665-2200 or R6press@epa.gov.

EPA will publish public notices about meetings and other events in local newspapers and send the notices to other local news outlets. EPA Region 6 will include the following media outlets as part of outreach and information delivery efforts.

Community Media: Baytown Sun, Highland Star/Crosby Courier, Lake Houston Observer, Houston Chronicle, "Gill's" Newspaper

Metropolitan Houston and Harris County Media:

Associated Press Houston – http://www.ap.org

Enfoque Deportivo* – https://www.enfoquedeportivo.com

Free Press Houston – http://www.freepresshouston.com

Houston Business Journal - https://www.bizjournals.com/houston/

Houston Chronicle – https://www.chron.com/

Channel 2 - KPRC (NBC) – http://www.click2houston.com

Channel 8 - KUHT (PBS) – http://www.houstonpbs.org

Channel 11 - KHOU (CBS) – http://www.khou.com

Channel 13 - KTRK (ABC) – http://www.ktrk.com

Channel 26 - KRIV (FOX) – http://www.myfoxhouston.com

Channel 39 - KIAH (CW) – http://www.39online.com

Channel 45 - KXLN (Univision) – http://www.univision.com

* Enfoque Deportivo is a Spanish language newspaper reporting national, international and local news special reports. Free to the public, the newspaper is distributed to major restaurants and markets in the Hispanic population. The bi-weekly publication has a circulation of 20,000 in the Houston metropolitan area.

Please read, watch and listen to local news media reports about the site and share that information with others. Keep an eye out for notices for public meetings or other events in local media.

COORDINATION WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS

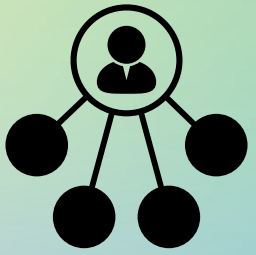
EPA Region 6 will continue to coordinate with TCEQ, DSHS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Harris County, the Port of Houston, the site's Community Awareness Committee and other relevant organizations on the implementation of site investigation and cleanup activities. EPA will also respond in a timely manner to inquiries from local, state and national elected officials, and meet with them regularly to ensure they are kept informed of site updates and milestones.

Please talk with local, state and federal public service personnel and elected officials and share your comments, concerns and questions.

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

EPA will share site updates through Facebook, Twitter and other social media:

- EPA Region 6 Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/eparegion6
- EPA Region 6 Twitter - https://twitter.com/eparegion6
- EPA Region 6 News and Events Web Page - https://www.epa.gov/tx/public-meetings-and-events-texas



Consider sharing information about the site on social media and following, relaying information and linking to EPA social media posts related to the site.

INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS

EPA Region 6 will continue to maintain a presence in the community through informal visits and discussions with residents and stakeholders. EPA staff will also be responsive to emails, phone calls, in-person discussions and written inquiries from the public.

Please contact EPA staff for more information about the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site.

Janetta Coats,
Community Involvement Coordinator
(214) 665-7308 or (800) 533-3508
coats.janetta@epa.gov
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200,
Dallas, TX 75202

Gary Baumgarten
Remedial Project Manager
(214) 665-6749 or (800) 533-3508
baumgarten.gary@epa.gov
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200,
Dallas, TX 75202

Please see the Appendix for additional contacts for the site.

JUSTICE
AMANDA CENAC
AMANDA CENAC

Additional EPA Resources

EPA has other resources available that people can access depending on specific community needs and priorities.

Technical Assistance Programs:

Technical assistance refers to the provision of services focused on increasing community understanding of the science, regulations and policy related to environmental issues and EPA actions. To support healthy communities and strengthen environmental protection, EPA works closely with communities to make sure they have the technical help they need.

- Technical Assistance Needs Assessment (TANA) Tool: This is a process to identify additional support that a community may require in order to understand technical information and participate meaningfully in the Superfund decision-making process. A TANA helps EPA determine what technical assistance resources and information the Agency can provide to meet community needs.
- Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Program: This program provides services through a national EPA contract. Under the contract, a contractor provides scientists, engineers and other professionals to review and explain information to communities. TASC services are determined on a project-specific basis and provided at no cost to communities.
- Partners in Technical Assistance Program (PTAP): Colleges and universities provide voluntary technical assistance to communities through this program.
- Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program: TAGs are awarded to non-profit incorporated community groups. With TAG funding, community groups can contract with independent technical advisors to interpret and help the community understand technical information about their site. The TAG recipient group is responsible for managing their grant funds and contributing a 20 percent award match. Most groups meet this requirement through in-kind contributions such as volunteer hours toward grant-related activities.

Environmental Justice Resources

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income, with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

EPA Region 6 programs collaborate closely to make sure underserved, low income and tribal communities facing disproportionate environmental risks have opportunities for meaningful participation in environmental decision-making. Region 6 also coordinates closely with EPA Headquarters and states to support initiatives that provide all people living near Superfund sites with technical assistance, training opportunities and other services. EPA has a variety of environmental justice resources available:

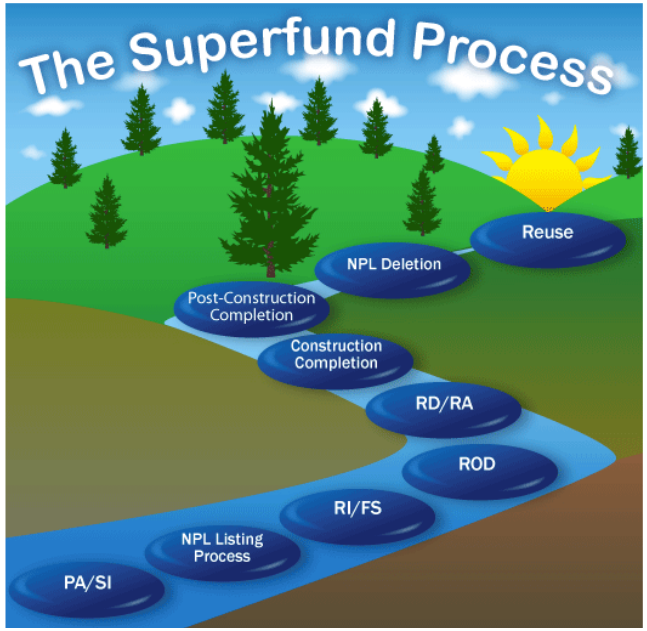
- Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Cooperative Agreement Program: The CPS program provides funding for eligible applicants for projects that address local environmental and public health issues within an affected community. The program assists recipients in building collaborative partnerships to help them understand and address environmental and public health concerns in their communities.
- Environmental Justice Small Grants Program: EPA's Environmental Justice Small Grants Program supports and empowers communities working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues. The program is designed to help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks.
- Other Environmental Justice-Related Funding Opportunities

EPA Community Technical Assistance Resources

TASC WORKSHOP:

DONNA RESERVOIR AND CANAL SYSTEM SUPERFUND SITE (DONNA, TEXAS)

In 2016, EPA's Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program provided a community workshop for the Donna Reservoir and Canal System Superfund site in Donna, Texas. EPA's TASC program provides unbiased technical expertise to communities living near Superfund sites. The community requested the workshop to help prepare people to fully engage in the Superfund process, including reviewing and commenting on EPA's upcoming proposed remedial action plan for the site.



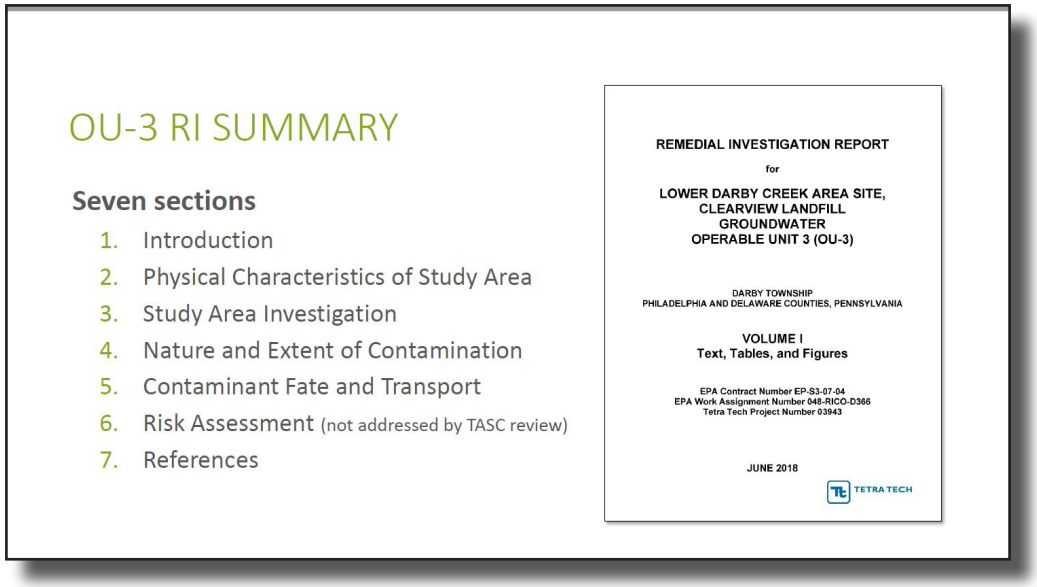
The full-day workshop began with an overview of the TASC program and the Superfund process, provided information on the public comment process, and included time for discussion. The second half of the workshop covered the site's feasibility study, the site's upcoming proposed plan and tips on sharing effective public comments. The workshop was provided in Spanish with support from a technical assistance expert in English. The slide presentation included bilingual text as well as visual elements such as infographics and tables. The workshop concluded with a next-steps discussion for community members and planning for additional EPA technical assistance support. To learn more about EPA's TASC program, visit: https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program.

TASC TECHNICAL DOCUMENT REVIEW:

LOWER DARBY CREEK AREA SUPERFUND SITE (DARBY TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA)

In 2018, EPA's TASC program provided a technical document review for people living near the Lower Darby Creek Area Superfund site. TASC staff reviewed the site's June 2018 Remedial Investigation Report, provided comments on the report to the community, and technical experts provided an in-person presentation. The community requested the technical document review and presentation to help people understand the information in the Remedial Investigation Report and its implications for next steps at the site so they could better participate in the Superfund cleanup process.

For the technical document review, a hydrogeologist reviewed the Remedial Investigation Report as well as related documents. The technical expert then developed a written summary of the report's main topics in a brief, plain language document for non-technical readers. The summary included comments on specific report items of potential interest to the community. For the in-person presentation, the hydrogeologist and a second technical expert attended the meeting, discussed the document review and findings with community members, and were available to answer questions. To learn more about TASC program services, visit: https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program.



OU-3 RI SUMMARY

Seven sections

1. Introduction
2. Physical Characteristics of Study Area
3. Study Area Investigation
4. Nature and Extent of Contamination
5. Contaminant Fate and Transport
6. Risk Assessment (not addressed by TASC review)
7. References

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT
for
LOWER DARBY CREEK AREA SITE,
CLEARVIEW LANDFILL
GROUNDWATER
OPERABLE UNIT 3 (OU-3)

DARBY TOWNSHIP
PHILADELPHIA AND DELAWARE COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA

VOLUME I
Text, Tables, and Figures

EPA Contract Number EP-S3-07-04
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Tetra Tech Project Number 03943

JUNE 2018

TETRA TECH

EPA'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT GRANT:

SUBSISTENCE FISHING HAZARDS FROM POLLUTION AND WATER QUALITY (WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA)

The Cape Fear River is an important natural and cultural resource for the residents of New Hanover and Pender counties in North Carolina. The Cape Fear River watershed covers much of eastern North Carolina and flows into the Atlantic just south of Wilmington at Cape Fear. Fish tissue samples from the Northeast Cape Fear River contain high levels of mercury. Community members and area organizations are concerned about health risks to subsistence fishers and their families.

In 2016, Cape Fear River Watch, a local non-profit organization, received an EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Grant to study fish consumption along the Northeast Cape Fear River. The $120,000, two-year award enables Cape Fear River Watch and its partners – the Wake Forest School of Medicine, New Hanover County NAACP and other members of the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network, the New Hanover County Department of Health, Duke University's Superfund Research Center, and Duke University's Environmental Law and Policy Clinic – to study the patterns and impacts of subsistence fishing in a low-income, rural area just outside of Wilmington and to educate and empower people who use the Northeast Cape Fear River as a source of food.

The partnership is collecting data and working on a study that will identify the people most at risk from exposure to contaminants and determine how best to contact them and help them understand the health risks of fish consumption. Area residents were hired to collect data for the study, helping to provide jobs and promote community stewardship. Study results will be shared using tools and language that are rooted in local culture to enable subsistence fishers and their families to protect their health. To learn more about EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program, visit: https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-0.

SITE BACKGROUND

Description

The San Jacinto River Waste Pits site consists of a set of impoundments built in the mid-1960s for the disposal of solid and liquid pulp and paper mill wastes, and the surrounding areas containing sediments and soils impacted by waste materials disposed of in the impoundments. The northern impoundments, which are partially submerged in the San Jacinto River, are about 14 acres in size. The northern impoundments are located on the western bank of the river, north of the Interstate 10 bridge and the sand separation area is located to the northwest of the northern impoundments. The southern impoundment, less than 20 acres in size, is located on a small peninsula that extends south of Interstate 10. The wastes deposited in the impoundments are contaminated with polychlorinated dibenzo p dioxins (dioxins) and polychlorinated dibenzofurans (furans).

Site History

In the 1960s, McGinnes Industrial Management Corporation transported liquid and solid pulp and paper mill waste by barge from the Champion Papers, Inc. paper mill in Pasadena, Texas, to impoundments located north of Interstate 10, next to the San Jacinto

River, where the waste was disposed of. Champion Papers, Inc. business records indicate the paper mill produced pulp and paper using chlorine as a bleaching agent. The pulp bleaching process forms dioxins and furans as a byproduct.

Northern Impoundments

Impoundments were built by constructing berms prior to 1965 within the estuarine marsh to the west of the main channel of the San Jacinto River, just north of what was then Texas State Highway 73 and is now Interstate 10. The impoundments were divided by a central berm running lengthwise (north to south) through the middle, and were connected with a drain

line to allow flow of excess water (including rain water) from the impoundment west of the central berm into the impoundment east of the central berm. The excess water collected in the impoundment located to the east of the central berm was supposed to be pumped back into barges and taken off site.

Physical changes at the site during the 1970s and 1980s, including regional subsidence of land in the area due to large scale groundwater extraction, resulted in partial submergence of the northern impoundments and exposure of the contents in the impoundments to surface water of the San Jacinto River.

The site's final remedy, selected in October 2017, provides a long-term solution by excavation and off-site disposal of waste in the impoundment.

Southern Peninsula

The peninsula south of Interstate 10 has a complicated history that includes evidence of disposal of paper mill waste, disposal of anthropogenic waste and subsequent industrial activities. An impoundment on the southern peninsula was used for disposal of paper mill waste was likely constructed sometime between 1962 and 1964. Ole Peterson Construction Co., Inc. and McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation disposed of paper mill waste from Champion Papers, Inc. at the southern impoundment.

Your input is important. Please contact EPA's community involvement coordinator at any time.

The impoundment on the southern peninsula was also used for dumping of various anthropogenic wastes (e.g., wood, plastic sheeting, paint chips, ceramic shards) since at least the early 1970s. The entire peninsula south of Interstate 10 was subject to continuous and significant modification from the early 1970s through the 1980s. From 1985 to 1998, Southwest Shipyards leased part of the western shoreline of the southern peninsula. Southwest Shipyards conducted sandblasting and painting of barges in this area, and spent blast sand was stockpiled along an unknown portion of the shoreline. Aerial photographs provide evidence of deposition and transport of large volumes of material, significant changes in the form of the landscape, and continuous physical change from at least 1972 to the present.

Site Investigations and Cleanup Plans

A release of the hazardous substances from the northern impoundments was identified through site assessment activities led by EPA and TCEQ in 2005

and 2006. Site assessment activities included surface water and sediment sampling for the presence of dioxins and furans.

A time-critical removal action (TCRA) to temporarily address the hazardous substances associated with the impoundments north of Interstate 10 finished in July 2011. The TCRA included the installation of geotextile and geomembrane underlayments in certain areas and a temporary armored cap. The purpose of the temporary cap was to prevent hazardous substances from washing into the river during the site characterization and remedy selection process and to prevent the recreational use of the northern impoundments that had been occurring.

Based on these findings, EPA proposed the site for listing on the NPL in September 2007 and finalized the site's listing on the NPL in April 2008. EPA selected the site's long-term remedy in the site's October 2017 Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD addresses unacceptable human health risks associated with consumption of fish and direct contact (skin contact and incidental ingestion) with the waste material from the site. It also addresses site-related ecological risks to bottom-dwelling organisms (benthic invertebrates) from exposure to sediment and waste material. The selected remedy will protect human health and the environment by removing highly contaminated material from the site and securing less contaminated areas.

Sample collection during an EPA dive team inspection.

The overall strategy for addressing contamination at the site includes excavating almost 212,000 cubic yards of dioxin-contaminated material from impoundments in and next to the San Jacinto River for off-site disposal. Institutional Controls (ICs) will be used to prevent disturbance of certain areas (e.g., dredging and anchoring in the Sand Separation Area, and construction and excavation in the Southern Impoundment). Monitored natural recovery (MNR) will be used for sediment in the nearby sand separation area. The estimated cost for the remedy is $115 million.

The northern waste pits before installation of the armored cap. The gray material is paper mill waste.

Current Site Status

An agreement has been reached with the PRPs for the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site to perform a remedial design for the site's selected remedy. The agreement is a result of expedited negotiations between EPA and PRPs for design of the cleanup. The remedial design is estimated to take about 29 months to complete. The design work will be performed by the PRPs under the oversight of EPA and TCEQ. The current quarterly cap inspection and maintenance program will continue while the remedial design is being completed. While the remedial design is ongoing, the U.S. Department of Justice and EPA will begin negotiations with the PRPs to enter into a Consent Decree regarding construction of the remedy. Once construction of the site's remedy begins, EPA estimates that it will take about 27 months to complete.

Community Involvement

EPA Region 6, in coordination with TCEQ, Harris County and the site's Community Awareness Committee, has conducted community involvement activities during the course of the Superfund process. These activities have included community meetings as well as the publication of fact sheets detailing site activities since the site's listing on the NPL. The fact sheets are available in the site's Administrative Record.

The Proposed Plan presented EPA's rationale for the Preferred Remedy. A 60-day public comment period for the Proposed Plan opened in early September 2016. EPA held a public meeting on October 20, 2016, where comments, questions and recommendations were recorded. A fact sheet announcing the comment period and meeting was mailed to the contacts included on the site's mailing list. EPA then extended the comment period an additional 45 days. The official public comment period ended on January 12, 2017. Extensive comments were received in varying formats, including mail, online and email, as well as verbal comments during the public meeting. Responses to the Proposed Plan

included over 6,000 individual comments, 48,000 signatures on various petitions and about 2,800 pages of detailed technical comments.

At the community meeting, representatives from EPA provided a presentation on the Proposed Plan and received questions about EPA's Preferred Alternative. Representatives from TCEQ were also present at the meeting. Oral and written comments were accepted at the meeting and a court reporter transcribed the discussions held during the meeting. This transcript is included in the Administrative Record file for the site. EPA's responses to the comments received during the public comment period are included in "Part 3: Responsiveness Summary."

EPA, in cooperation with elected officials and state, county and local agencies, has been providing community outreach and public participation for the site since its listing on the NPL in 2008. EPA's community involvement began with a community meeting in 2010 to provide the public with information regarding the site and share information on the Superfund process, the next steps and how the community could get involved in the process.

In early outreach efforts, some community members voiced concern that they were not receiving sufficient information from EPA. As a result, EPA increased its outreach and community involvement efforts. EPA

identified the site as a Community Engagement Initiative site and in 2010 performed additional outreach planning, such as informational meetings and mail-outs to a large site mailing list. Later that year, EPA initiated a Community Advisory Group for the site known as the Community Awareness Committee. The 16-member group, which includes representatives from the community as well as state agencies, local governments, environmental organizations and the PRPs, began a series of regular

The approximate limit of the armored cap.

meetings at the Harris County Attorney's Office. Other outreach and community involvement efforts include coordinated outreach with the Texas Department of State Health Services to survey nearby communities (door to door) to better understand their health concerns and to provide site information and an Environmental Justice survey. In 2012, EPA provided a Technical Assistance Grant to the Galveston Bay Foundation to hire a technical advisor to provide assistance. In addition, several local online resources keep area citizens updated on site events. EPA will continue to provide community meetings, open houses, elected official briefings, media interviews, public notices and fact sheets to inform the public and keep residents updated on all site developments that affect cleanup actions.

Appendix

COMMUNITY PROFILE

The San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site is located next to commercial and industrial areas fronting the San Jacinto River and bounded by a Texas Department of Transportation right-of-way beneath the Interstate 10 overpass. The closest residential communities include the unincorporated areas known as Channelview, Lynchburg and Highlands.

LAND USE AND DEMOGRAPHICS

77530 (CHANNELVIEW, TX)

Race	
Hispanic/Latino:	60.3%
White*:	22.2%
Black*:	15.3%
Native American*:	0.8%
Asian*:	1.6%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*:	0.1%
Two or More Races*:	3.7%

** Does not include individuals in this racial group who identify as Hispanic/Latino.*

77562 (HIGHLANDS, TX)

Race	
Hispanic/Latino:	24.8%
White*:	84.2%
Black*:	3.1%
Native American*:	0.9%
Asian*:	0.4%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*:	0%
Two or More Races*:	2.3%

** Does not include individuals in this racial group who identify as Hispanic/Latino.*

77520 (BAYTOWN, TX)

Race	
Hispanic/Latino:	43.4%
White*:	62.9%
Black*:	15.5%
Native American*:	0.6%
Asian*:	1.5%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*:	0%
Two or More Races*:	2.7%

** Does not include individuals in this racial group who identify as Hispanic/Latino.*

In terms of gender, demographic reports within these zip codes indicate residents are generally divided 50/50 male/female.

	Baytown	Highlands	Channelview	Averages
Under age 18 and over 65 (%)	47.9	44.3	49.5	47.2
Between ages 18-65 (%)	52.1	55.7	50.5	52.8
Female (%)	51.2	50	49.8	50.3

Source: 2010 United States Census

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OVERVIEW

Harris County (http://www.harriscountytx.gov)

As of the 2010 Census, about 4.1 million people live in Harris County, making it the most populous county in Texas and the third most populous county in the United States. Houston, the largest city in Texas and the fourth-largest city in the United States, is the county seat.

The Harris County Commissioners Court serves as the county's executive and legislative branch. The Court consists of four elected precinct commissioners. In addition, Harris County has seven elected officials representing various branches of government. Elected offices include County Judge, County Attorney, District Attorney, County Clerk, Sheriff, Tax Assessor-Collector and Treasurer.

CONTACTS

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Representative Dan Huberty
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Representative Ana Hernandez
House District 143
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Representative Briscoe Cain
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Austin, TX 78768
(512) 463-0733

Federal Elected Officials

U.S. Senator John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-2934

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-5922

Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia
1620 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-1688

SJRWP COMMUNITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE (IN ADDITION TO EPA REGION 6, TCEQ AND PRPS)

Government Entity or Non-Governmental Organization

Harris County Commissioner – Precinct 2

Harris County Attorney's Office

Harris County Pollution Control Services Department

Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services

Harris County Public Infrastructure Department

Houston-Galveston Area Council

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Texas Department of State Health Services

Texas Department of Transportation

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Port of Houston Authority

Galveston Bay Foundation

San Jacinto River Coalition

GLOSSARY

Administrative Record: A collection of documents that contains information considered by EPA or other lead agency when selecting a response action under CERCLA. The Record is typically made available for public review at an information repository near the site, at the regional EPA office and on an EPA website.

Cleanup: The term used for actions taken to address a release or threat of release of a hazardous substance that could affect humans and/or the environment. The term is sometimes used interchangeably with the terms remedial action, removal action, response action or corrective action.

Community Involvement Plan (CIP): A document that identifies techniques used by EPA to communicate effectively with the public during the Superfund cleanup process at a specific site. This plan describes the site history, nature and history of community involvement, and concerns expressed during community interviews. In addition, the plan outlines methodologies and timing for continued interaction between the agencies and the public at the site.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) (commonly known as Superfund): This law, enacted by Congress on December 11, 1980, created the Superfund program. Specifically, CERCLA established prohibitions and requirements concerning closed and abandoned hazardous waste sites, provided for liability of persons responsible for releases of hazardous waste at these sites, and established a trust fund to provide for cleanup when no responsible party could be identified.

Consent Decree: Legal agreement entered into by the U.S. and a potentially responsible party and lodged with a federal district court. Consent decrees are the only settlement type that EPA can use with a liable party for remedial action at a Superfund site. They may also be used for remedial investigations, removal actions and remedial designs, and to recover cash expended by the U.S. during cleanup-related activities at a site. The U.S. Department of Justice assists EPA in reaching settlement with potentially responsible parties and representing U.S. interests.

Contamination: Introduction into water, air and soil of microorganisms, chemicals, toxic substances, wastes or wastewater in a concentration that makes the medium unfit for its next intended use.

Dioxin and Furans: A group of toxic chemical compounds formed in the production of some chlorinated organic compounds. Dioxins and furans are not made for any specific purpose; however, they are created when products such as herbicides are made. They are also created in the pulp and paper industry, from a process that bleaches the wood pulp. In addition, they can be produced when products are burned. Dioxins and furans are highly toxic and can cause cancer, reproductive and developmental problems, damage to the immune system, and can interfere with hormones.

Feasibility Study (FS): A process followed at most Superfund sites to evaluate potential cleanup alternatives.

Five-Year Review: A periodic review of a Superfund site that is generally required when hazardous substances remain on site above levels that permit unrestricted use and unlimited exposure. The purpose of a five-year review is to evaluate the implementation and performance of a remedy and whether a remedy remains protective of public health and the environment.

Groundwater: The supply of fresh water found beneath the surface of the Earth.

Hazardous Waste: A waste that poses a potential hazard to human health or the environment.

Information Repository: A file containing current information, technical reports and reference documents regarding a Superfund site. The information repository is usually located in a public building that is convenient for local residents, such as a public school, city hall or library.

National Priorities List (NPL): EPA's list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term remedial action under the Superfund program. The NPL, which EPA is required to update at least once a year, is based primarily on the score a site receives from EPA's Hazard Ranking System. A site must be on the NPL to receive money from the Superfund Trust Fund for remedial action.

Potentially Responsible Party (PRP): An individual, company or other entity that is potentially responsible for cleanup of a Superfund site.

Remedial Investigation (RI): An in-depth study designed to gather the data necessary to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a Superfund site and assess risks to human health and the environment.

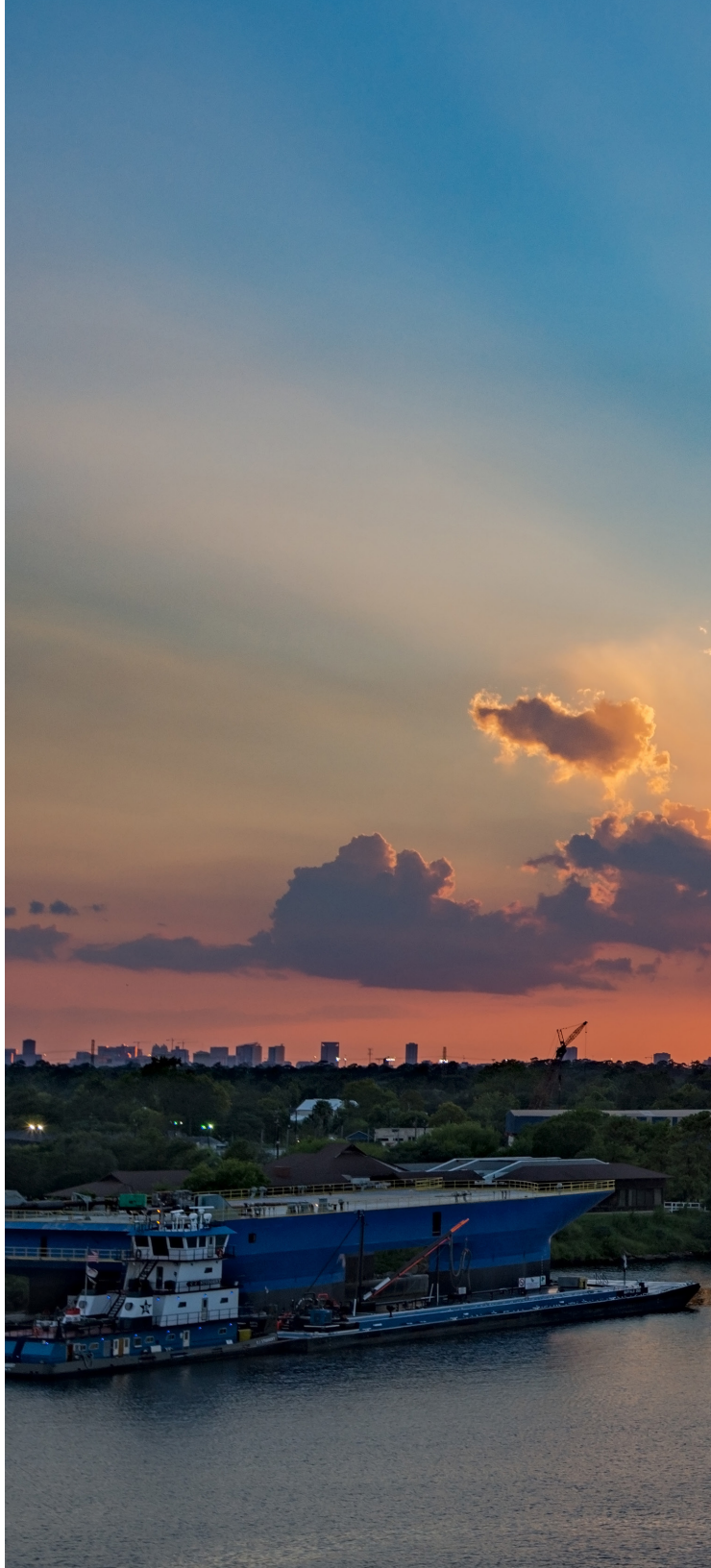
Removal Action: Short-term actions that address releases of hazardous substances that require expedited responses.

Superfund: The common name of the program established by CERCLA. Also refers to government funds used to investigate or clean up a site.

Technical Assistance: The provision of services focused on increasing community understanding of the science, regulations and policy related to environmental issues and EPA actions.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CAG	Community Advisory Group
CPS	Collaborative Problem-Solving
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
DSHS	Texas Department of State Health Services
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
FS	Feasibility Study
NPL	National Priorities List
PA	Preliminary Assessment
PRP	Potentially Responsible Party
PTAP	Partners in Technical Assistance Program
RD/RA	Remedial Design/Remedial Action
RI	Remedial Investigation
ROD	Record of Decision
SI	Site Investigation
Site	San Jacinto River Waste Pits site
TAG	Technical Assistance Grant
TANA	Technical Assistance Needs Assessment
TASC	Technical Assistance Services for Communities
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TCRA	Time-Critical Removal Action



San Jacinto River Waste Pits

Superfund Site

2019 Community Involvement Plan

EPA