UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

September 16, 2015

The Honorable Bill John Baker
Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Re: Wilcox Oil Company Superfund Site (OK0001010917) Update and Information

Dear Principal Chief Baker:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 is beginning work on a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Wilcox Oil Company Superfund Site (Site). The RI/FS process is a long process taking multiple years to complete. Identifying concerns the Nation may have as early as possible in the investigation process will allow EPA to address potential impacts to resources and practices. The EPA has been and will continue to work closely with tribal technical staff through meetings that will be used to discuss Site issues, provide Site activity updates, report progress towards completion, and share or exchange Site data and information. Our most recent meeting was held on August 26, 2015, to discuss field screening activities and cultural and historical resources within the area.

This Site was placed on the National Priorities List on December 12, 2013. Since that time, EPA completed two searches to find potentially responsible parties to do the work. No potentially responsible parties were identified, and as a result, EPA received funding to begin the RI/FS for the Site. The RI/FS identifies the type and extent of contamination, and it evaluates if there is a health risk for humans and wildlife. It identifies a list of clean up options that can be used to clean up the contamination at the Site, and provides the cost estimates for each clean up option. Based on results of the RI/FS phase, a Proposed Plan is written. The Proposed Plan identifies the preferred clean up option and the cost, and is provided to the public for review and comment.

The Site includes the inactive and abandoned Lorraine and Wilcox Oil refineries and is located in Bristow, Creek County, Oklahoma. The property was utilized as a crude oil refinery from the mid-1920s to the mid-1960s and is approximately 125 acres. The refinery-waste source areas of concern include waste ponds and pits, a number of former tank storage areas, and the process areas. The potential contaminants of concern include lead and organic compounds [Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)]. These potential contaminants of concern are found in soil, sediment, and waste material. A short fact sheet and a Site map are enclosed for further reference.

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Thank you for your continued interest, and we look forward to working with you on this Site. Should you have questions, concerns or wish to discuss this action or the Superfund program, please contact me at (214) 665-6701, or your staff may contact Katrina Higgins-Coltrain of my staff at (214) 665-8143.

Sincerely,

Pam Phillips, Acting

Carl E. Edlund, P.E.
Director
Superfund Division

Enclosures (6)

Cc: Tom Elkins, Administrator for Environmental Programs
Nancy John, Environmental Director

WILCOX OIL COMPANY SUPERFUND SITE

May 2015

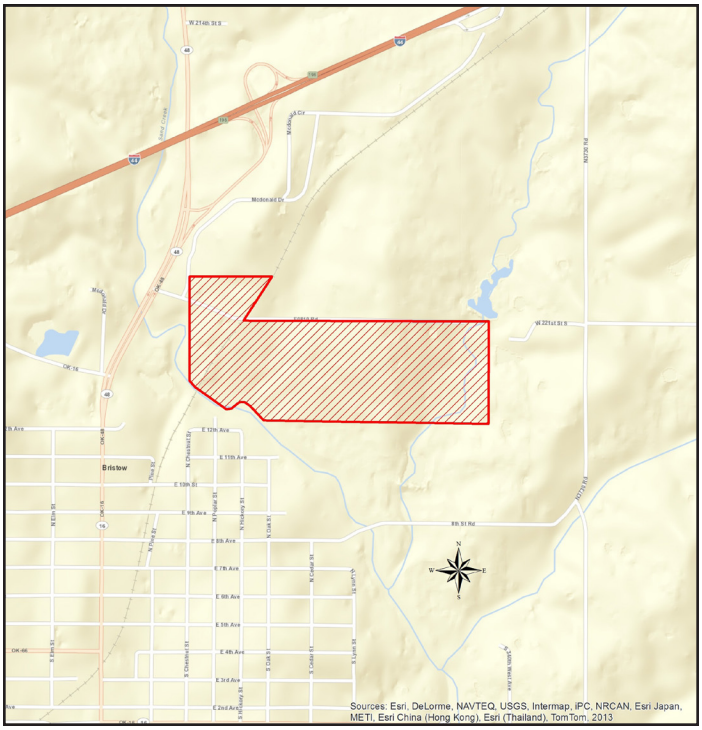
BRISTOW, CREEK COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

Under the federal Superfund program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are working to address contamination at the Wilcox Refinery Superfund site in Bristow, Oklahoma. This is one in a series of site updates you will receive from EPA and DEQ as cleanup efforts progress.

SITE LOCATION AND HISTORY

The site consists of the former Lorraine/Wilcox Refinery located near Bristow, Oklahoma. The site was utilized by two different refineries with overlapping boundaries from 1915 to 1965. Wilcox operated as a crude oil refinery from the 1920s until 1963. A skimming and cracking plant was constructed in 1929. The main components of the plant consisted of skimming plant, cracking unit, and re-distillation battery with vapor recovery system and treatment equipment.

Wilcox expanded when it acquired the Lorraine Refinery in 1937, which was located adjacent to Wilcox. The two refineries compromise approximately 125 acres. The site includes remnants of former oil refining operations and tank farms.



Wilcox Superfund Site boundry

Multiple sampling events have been conducted by DEQ at the request of EPA Region 6. Preliminary Assessment (PA), Site Inspection (SI), and Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) have been performed at both facilities, along with other investigations performed by EPA.

On May 24, 2013, EPA proposed the Wilcox Oil Company site to the National Priorities List (NPL a.k.a Superfund Sites) list.

On December 12, 2013, The Wilcox Oil Company site officially became a Superfund Site (EPA ID# OK0001010917), when it was added to the NPL.

WHAT IS SUPERFUND?

Superfund is the federal government's program to clean up the nation's uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.

- The Superfund Program was established by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980. CERCLA was amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) in 1986 and the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002.
- CERCLA is the law that allows EPA to clean up contaminated sites and to compel responsible parties to perform cleanups or reimburse the government for EPA-funded cleanups.

NEXT STEPS

After a site is listed on the NPL, a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is performed at the site.

The Remedial Investigation (RI) involves collecting environmental samples from the site to determine the extent of contamination. The RI report includes Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments. The risk assessments evaluate potential risks to people and the environment from exposure to contaminants at the site.

Once the site is understood in terms of contamination and the risks posed, the next step is to evaluate technologies to clean-up the site. This step is called the Feasibility Study (FS). This study considers available clean-up technologies and then uses a detailed analysis to decide the best way to address the risks and clean-up the site. The best approach will then be assembled in a draft Proposed Plan which will be available for public review and comment. This will be followed by the selection of a remedy for the site. Once funded, the process will take 2 to 3 years to complete.

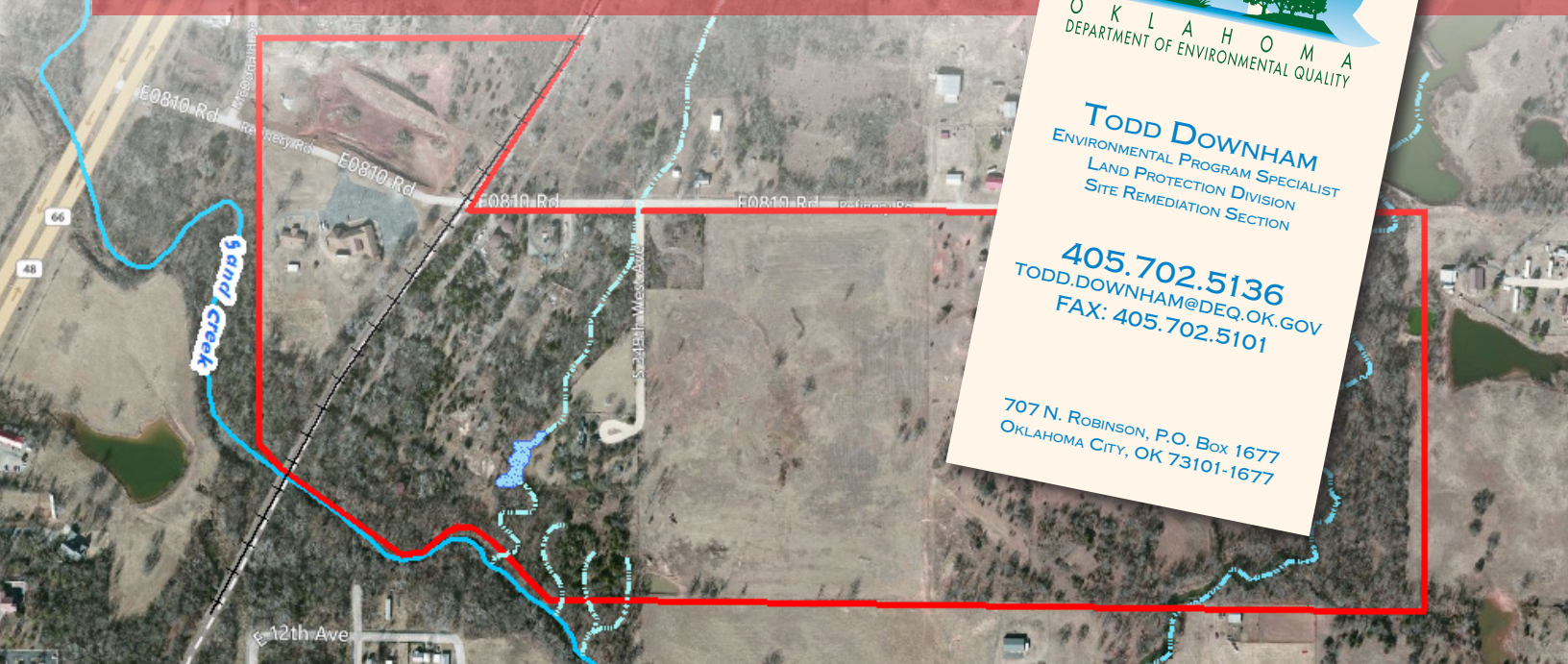
STEPS TO PREVENT EXPOSURE TO CONTAMINATION ON THE SITE

For those people living, working or visiting the site, it is important not to introduce contamination into homes. If you have reason to be on the Wilcox site, the following are some recommendations to limit/reduce exposure to contamination on the site. The concern about exposure is limited to the areas on the site where contamination is present:

- Ensure proper hygiene, especially frequent hand washing and rinsing outside toys
- Avoid/restrict access to exposed areas of visible oily waste
- Reduce exposure to bare soil in accessible areas
- Plant ground cover or shrubbery to reduce exposure to bare soil
- Keep fruit and vegetable gardens away from oily sludge areas
- Use gloves to avoid direct contact with soils
- Soil should be thoroughly shaken off clothes and footwear, before entering homes
- Keep and use a doormat or brush for footwear outside outer doors
- Construct raised beds filled with purchased soil for vegetable gardening
- Rinse and launder gardening clothing promptly to avoid bringing contaminated soil into the home
- Wash floors and vacuum carpets regularly
- Test home for lead paint
- Participate in child blood lead test programs with the county Health Department

If you have any health concerns related to the Wilcox Oil Company Superfund Site, contact Monty Elder at the DEQ at (405) 702-9132. Please reference the Wilcox Oil Company Superfund site when calling.

If you would like to be placed on a mailing list for site updates, please contact:



DEQ
OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

TODD DOWNHAM
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM SPECIALIST
LAND PROTECTION DIVISION
SITE REMEDIATION SECTION

405.702.5136
TODD.DOWNHAM@DEQ.OK.GOV
FAX: 405.702.5101

707 N. ROBINSON, P.O. BOX 1677
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73101-1677

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

One of DEQ's and EPA's goals for site cleanup is to continue reaching out to the citizens of Bristow and ensuring opportunities for public involvement in the decision making process. Your input is important to us. We will continue to update you about each step in the Superfund process through periodic fact sheets and informational open houses.

DEQ and EPA will write a Community Involvement Plan (CIP) which will be made available at the site information repository in the Bristow Library. Project documents will be placed in the Bristow library and on the DEQ website throughout the Superfund process.

SITE INFORMATION RESOURCES

SKYLAR MCELHANEY, PUBLIC INFORMAITON OFFICER
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
707 N. Robinson, PO Box 1677
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-1677
(405) 702-7167
E-Mail: Skylar.McElhaney@deq.ok.gov

TODD DOWNHAM, PROJECT MANAGER
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
707 N. Robinson, PO Box 1677
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-1677
(405) 702-5136
E-Mail: Todd.Downham@deq.ok.gov

MONTY ELDER, INFORMATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
707 N. Robinson, PO Box 1677
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-1677
(405) 702-9132
E-Mail: Monty.Elder@deq.ok.gov

KATRINA HIGGINS-COLTRAIN,
REMEDIAL PROJECT MANAGER
U.S. EPA Region 6, LA/OK/NM Section
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733
(214) 665-8143
E-Mail: Coltrain.Katrina@epa.gov

BILL LITTLE, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COORDINATOR
U.S. EPA Region 6 (6SF-VO)
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733
(214) 665-8131
E-Mail: Little.Bill@epa.gov

The Administrative Record file for the Wilcox Refinery site will be available for public review at these locations:

BRISTOW PUBLIC LIBRARY
111 West 7th Avenue
Bristow, Oklahoma 74010
(918) 367-6562
Mon. through Thurs. 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sat. 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Closed Friday and Sunday

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY:
Central Records
707 N. Robinson – 2nd Floor
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102
(405) 702-1188
E-Mail: centralrecords@deq.ok.gov
Mon. through Fri. 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

U.S. EPA REGION 6
7th Floor Library
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 12D13
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733
(214) 665-2792 or 1-800-533-3508 (Toll Free)
Mon. through Fri. 7:30 am – 4:30 pm

ON THE INTERNET:
DEQ HOMPAGE, LAND PROTECTION DIVISION
www.deq.state.ok.us/lpdnew/index.htm
(Scroll down to Wilcox Refinery)

U.S. EPA HOMPAGE:
www.epa.gov

U.S. EPA REGION 6 SUPERFUND DIVISION:
www.epa.gov/region6/superfund

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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United States Environmental Protection Agency

Current Information on the Wilcox Oil Superfund Site and Open House Meeting

Bristow, Oklahoma **May, 2015**

This fact sheet will tell you about:

- **Open House Meeting**
- **Current Actions at the Wilcox Oil Superfund Site (Site)**
- **The National Priorities List**
- **The Superfund Process**
- **Site History**
- **Contacts and More Information**

Open House Meeting

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) will host an Open House. This Open House will provide an opportunity for you to get up to date information about the site and planned activities, meet one-on-one with Agency staff, and discuss your questions or concerns.

This is a come-and-go event that will last from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. You can spend as little or as much time as you wish at the Open House. There will be no "sit-down" formal technical presentations or group question and answer period. Posters, maps, handouts, and interactive computer information will be available.

OPEN HOUSE MEETING
May 19, 2015 4 to 6 PM
Bristow-Public Library
111 West 7th Street
Bristow, Oklahoma 74010

Current Actions at the Site

The EPA and ODEQ met with residents on March 24 and 25, 2015, to talk about the Wilcox Oil Superfund Site. During these meetings, residents expressed interest in having their properties sampled. As a result, the EPA and ODEQ will be in the area sampling residential properties in May 2015 and fencing additional areas of concern.

The residential sampling is being done to compliment other activities that have been taken.

- In July 2014, the EPA installed a cap on the drinking water well near the Church on the Site and put up a fence with signs around an area of concern.
- In November 2014, ODEQ informed EPA that there was a potential elevated level of lead in the blood of a child living on the Site. The EPA developed a sampling plan and sampled the property in December 2014. A small area near a former pit was identified as a concern and will be fenced in May 2015.
- Currently ODEQ is preforming quarterly testing of drinking water wells for residents in and around this Site and nothing was found above the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs).

The National Priorities List

The National Priorities List, or NPL, is a list of top priority sites to be addressed through the Superfund Law. Initially, 406 sites were

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listed when established in 1983; currently more than 1,685 sites are identified.

The EPA and the states continue to evaluate potential future sites. With the current rulemaking announcement, the EPA added the Site to the NPL on December 12, 2013.

The Superfund Process

The Superfund cleanup process begins with site discovery or notification to EPA of possible releases of hazardous substances. Sites are discovered by various parties, including citizens, State agencies, and EPA Regional offices. EPA then evaluates the potential for a release of hazardous substances from the site through a step-by-step process that includes site assessment, site inspections, and a ranking process to determine whether the site should be added to the NPL. Once on this list, EPA determines the best way to clean up the site to protect human health and the environment. Opportunities for community involvement occur throughout the process.

Site History

The Site is an inactive and abandoned oil refinery located in Bristow, Creek County, Oklahoma. Wilcox Oil Company operated the oil refinery from the 1920s until the mid-1960s. The area of the former refinery is approximately 125 acres.

Contacts and More Information

Repository
City of Bristow Public Library
111 West 7th Street
Bristow, OK 74010

Mark Hayes
EPA Removal On-Scene Coordinator
214.665.2705 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)
Hayes.Mark@epa.gov

Katrina Higgins-Coltrain
EPA Remedial Project Manager
214.665.8143 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll free)
coltrain.katrina@epa.gov

Bill Little
EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
214.665.8131 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll free)
Little.Bill@epa.gov

Janetta Coats
TAG Coordinator
214.665.7308 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll free)
Coats.Janetta@epa.gov

Captain Patrick Young
U.S. Public Health Service
ATSDR Regional Representative
214.665.8562 or 1.888.422.8737 (toll free)
Young.patrick@epa.gov

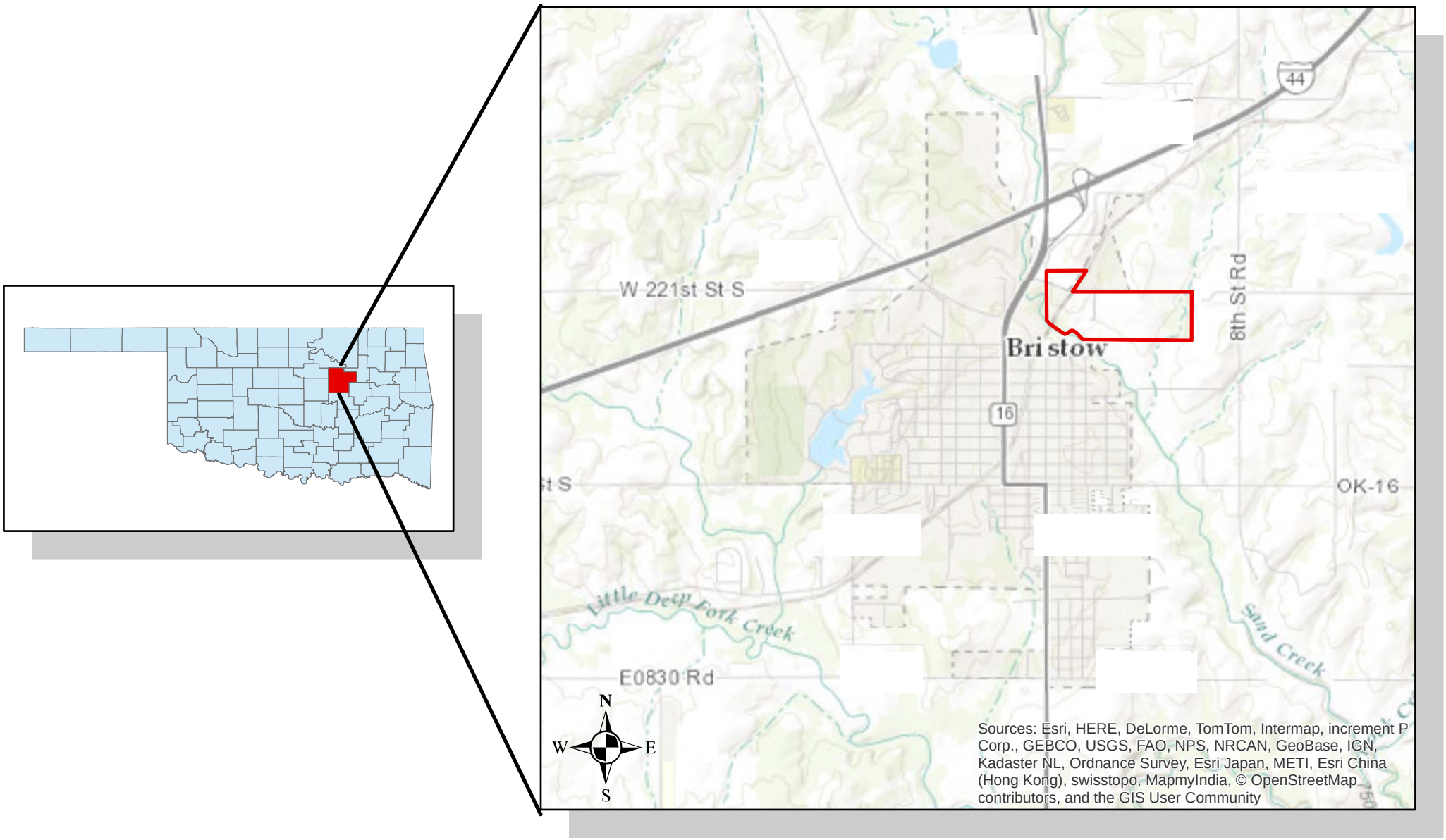
Todd Downham
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
405.702.5136
Todd.Downham@deq.ok.gov

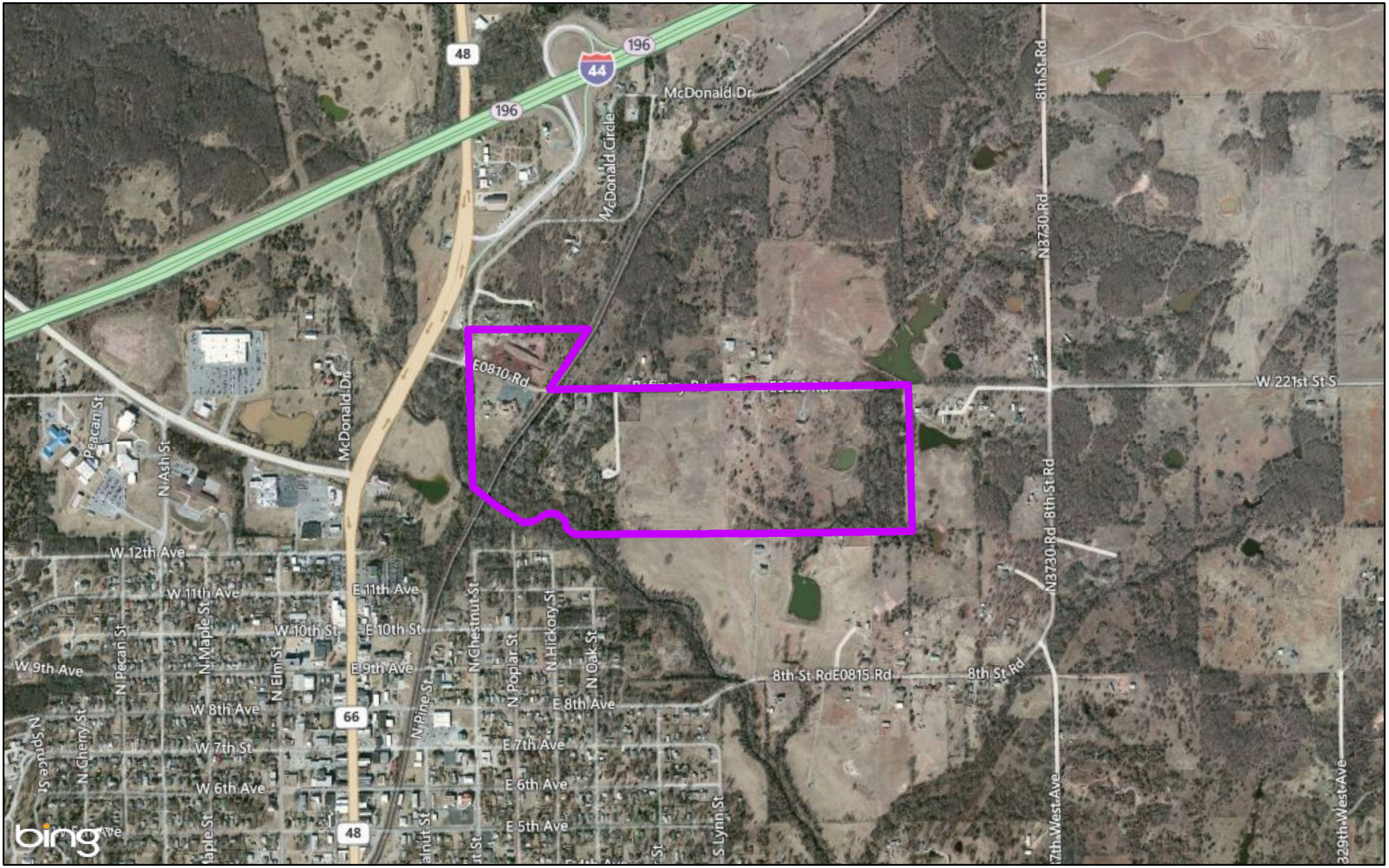
Amy Brittain
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
405.702.5157
Amy.Brittain@deq.ok.gov

For additional information, please consult the EPA Region 6 website: http://www.epa.gov/region6/6sf/6sf-ok.htm.

All inquiries from the news media should be directed to: EPA Region 6 Press Office at 214.665.2200.

Wilcox Oil Company Superfund Site
Bristow, OK





Legend

Site Boundary

Wilcox Oil
Site Boundary

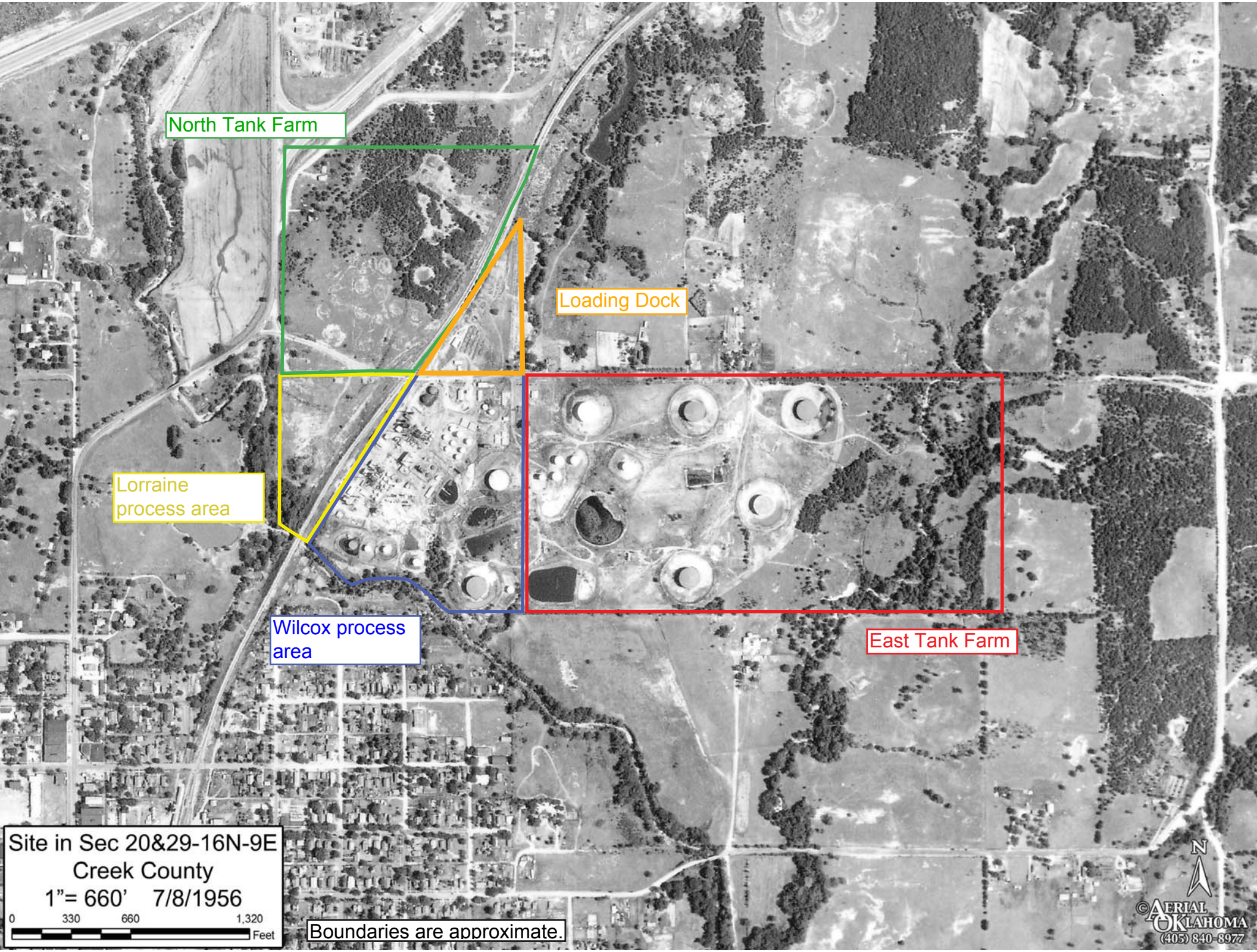
Bristow, OK

0 300 600 1,200 1,800 2,400
Feet

20140210JD06

EPA Region 6
GIS Support Team
Superfund Division
Dallas, TX

Data Sources: EPA Region 6 and Esri


North Tank Farm
Loading Dock
Lorraine
process area
Wilcox process
area
East Tank Farm
Site in Sec 20&29-16N-9E
Creek County
1"= 660' 7/8/1956
0
330
660
1,320
Feet
Boundaries are approximate.
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(405) 840-8977

Wilcox Operating Facility (aproximate date 1950s)