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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Governor Abbot announced John Sharp as commissioner for the Commission to Rebuild Texas. Commissioner Sharp is also the Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System. Governor Abbott asked that all State and Federal Agencies to work together to expedite cleanup and cut red

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

- The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and EPA have completed surveys of 4,852 drinking water facilities and 2,908 wastewater facilities in the impacted area. Texas thanked EPA for support of ten staff imbedded in TCEQ's organization for this effort. EPA staff are being repositioned to other priority assignments.

- TCEQ will expand to 24-hour operations; Region 6 staff are being added to the State Operations Center.

- EPA concurred on a State of Texas plan to use insecticides containing "Naled" to spray for mosquitos if used according to label directions.

- EPA will publicly release flood water and ASPECT air data from the Arkema fires. No chemicals were found above levels of concern outside the 1.5-mile evacuation area. EPA will also release TAGA air monitoring data from the Manchester neighborhood in Houston. Air monitoring does not show chemicals above the states screening levels. EPA continues to investigate complaints in the area.

- EPA ordered Arkema to provide a detailed timeline of events and to respond within 10 days to questions about the handling of organic peroxides, which are combustible if not kept refrigerated, the amount of chemical materials, and the measures taken in advance to guard against flooding and loss of electricity

- EPA has received notifications from 8 companies covering 12 Louisiana/Texas gulf

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facilities that impending storms may cause a delay or impediment to performance in complying with provisions of their Consent Decrees. We anticipate that the 25-27 refineries in the gulf will be submitting their formal force majeure claims related to Harvey, in addition to the multiple force majeure claims we are anticipating from chemical facilities in the gulf.

- DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) has issued an emergency wavier order to assist EPA's efforts to remove, transport and dispose of hazardous materials as part of its response to Hurricane Harvey. The order will be published in the Federal Register and is effective immediately. PHMSA is available to provide technical assistance.

- The U.S Department of Justice (DOJ) agreed to suspend the end-of-September filing date related to Clean Water Act sanitary sewer violations by the City of Corpus Christi. The City requested that DOJ suspend this September deadline in light of the hurricane. DOJ and the City's Counsel are discussing when to reschedule meetings to complete negotiations of a Consent Decree. DOJ is expected to also provide a similar action for the City of Houston consent decree negotiations.

- Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has requested flexibility in allowances and procedural changes to the State Revolving Loan Fund program so funds can be used to address immediate recovery and future resiliency efforts. TWDB and EPA will meet on Monday to discuss further.

- Texas will likely approve open burning of green or woody debris in all impacted areas including Houston, Corpus Christi and Beaumont/Port Arthur today. This is needed to expedite the recovery, save dollars and to save landfill space. The State may request a no action assurance letter from EPA to address possible violations of national ambient air quality standards under Clean Air Act.

- The National Incident Management Assistance Team (NIMAT) completed its assignment to establish an initial structure to respond to Hurricane Harvey. Eleven key leadership positions were established and are now staffed by other staff allowing initial NIMAT staff to demobilize. This was the first time that the NIMAT concept was used and it proved very successful.

- EPA is on-site to oversee PRP assessment of San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund site. The Dive Team will continue to monitor activities and identify areas of interest until completion, which is estimated completion on September 11, 2017. The Dive Teams plan to begin underwater cap inspection on September 11, 2017.

- The EPA Liaison to the City of Houston Mayor's Office provided an update on EPA operations to Mayor Sylvester Turner at the Emergency Operations Center Senior Leadership meeting on September 7, 2017. The mayor announced that several city departments will resume normal hours and operations. A number of agencies and departments will continue to report to the Emergency Operations Center, including the EPA.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Yesterday EPA briefed the City of Houston Mayor Turner on EPA operations to support their Emergency Operations Center. The mayor announced that several city departments are resuming normal hours and operations. A number of agencies and departments will continue to report to the Emergency Operations Center, including the Houston Health Department, Houston METRO, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and EPA.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee submitted a request for information on Arkema, their Risk Management Plan and inspection history. EPA is compiling a response to the request.

Water sampling kits will be assembled by lab personnel once the materials arrive in Houston. The Community Liaison network will then distribute kits in counties with private residential wells. Testing will be provided to citizens free of charge and will provide screening results on bacterial contamination.

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

DEBRIS RECOVERY

EPA currently has no mission assignment for debris recovery operations.

AIR MONITORING

EPA's TAGA is providing monitoring focused around the neighborhood adjacent to the Valero refinery in southeast Houston. No levels of targeted benzene, toluene, xylene or 1,3-butadiene were detected above the Texas TCEQ Air Monitoring Comparison Values short-term screening levels.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Daily/Cumulative Summary of Hazard Evaluations/Recovery				
Status	**Opened**		**Closed**	
	9/6/2017	**Number of Targets Remaining Open**	**9/6/2017**	**Cumulative**
Corpus Christi Branch	2	32	4	73
Houston Branch	29	193	4	28
Port Arthur/Beaumont Branch	15	34	1	4

NRC Reports	0	3	0	0
TOTALS	**46**	**262**	**9**	**105**
Note: Open means the target is yet to be recovered. Closed means the target was recovered/left in place or access was denied to collect the item.				

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

FIELD RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

CORPUS CHRISTI BRANCH:

Oversight of fuel transfer of the Signet Enterprise continued, with a total of 74,000 gallons being transferred to date. All remaining petrochemical products (lube oil, hydraulic oil) are in the process of being removed from the Signet Enterprise.

The Branch continues to manage the staging area pad. The Orphan Container Recovery Group recovered one 1,000-gallon tank and a 55-gallon drum. The group also recovered three cylinders on land for a total of five items recovered to the staging pad.

The Oil Discharge Recovery Group continues to engage closely with local vessel owners to ensure removal and remediation of displaced vessels.

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

HOUSTON BRANCH:

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

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

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

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

EPA's ASPECT conducted assessments over the Valero Houston Refinery and several sites in Zone 8.

PORT ARTHUR/BEAUMONT BRANCH:

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

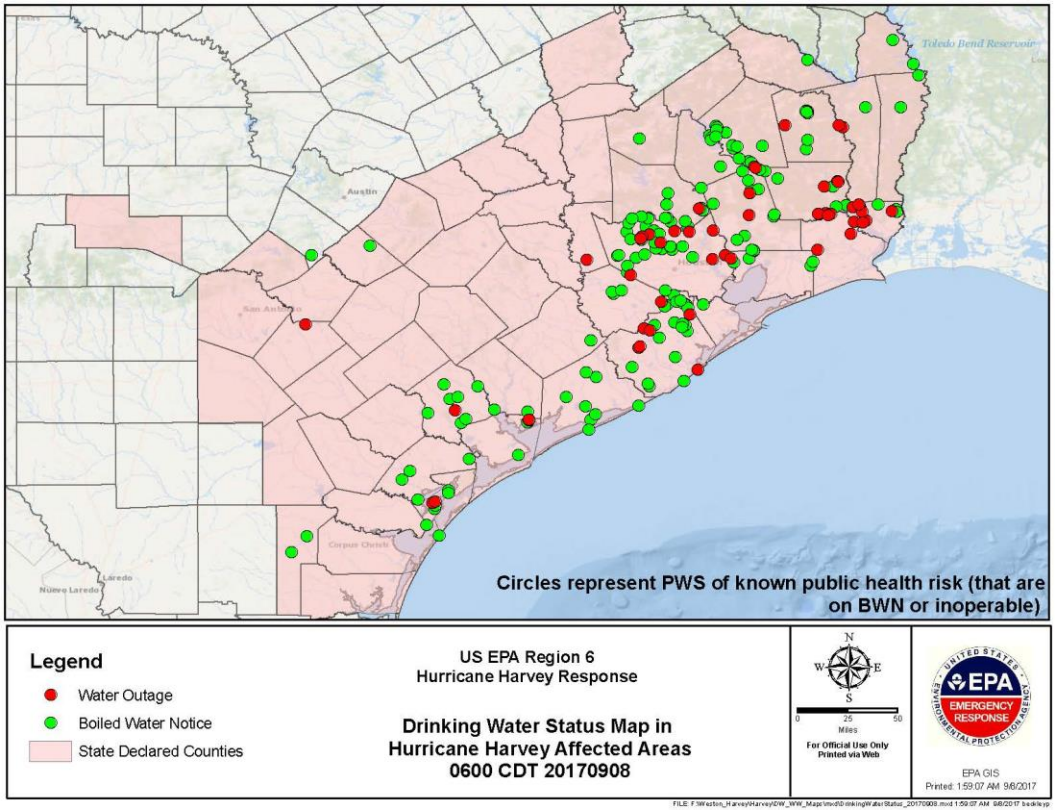
The Inland Task Force, consisting of three Inland Assessment Teams and one boat, and the Coastal Task Force Team, consisting of three Coastal Assessment Teams and one boat, conducted and completed assessments in: Port Orange, West Orange Cove, Highway I-10 from west to east, West Beaumont, East Port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

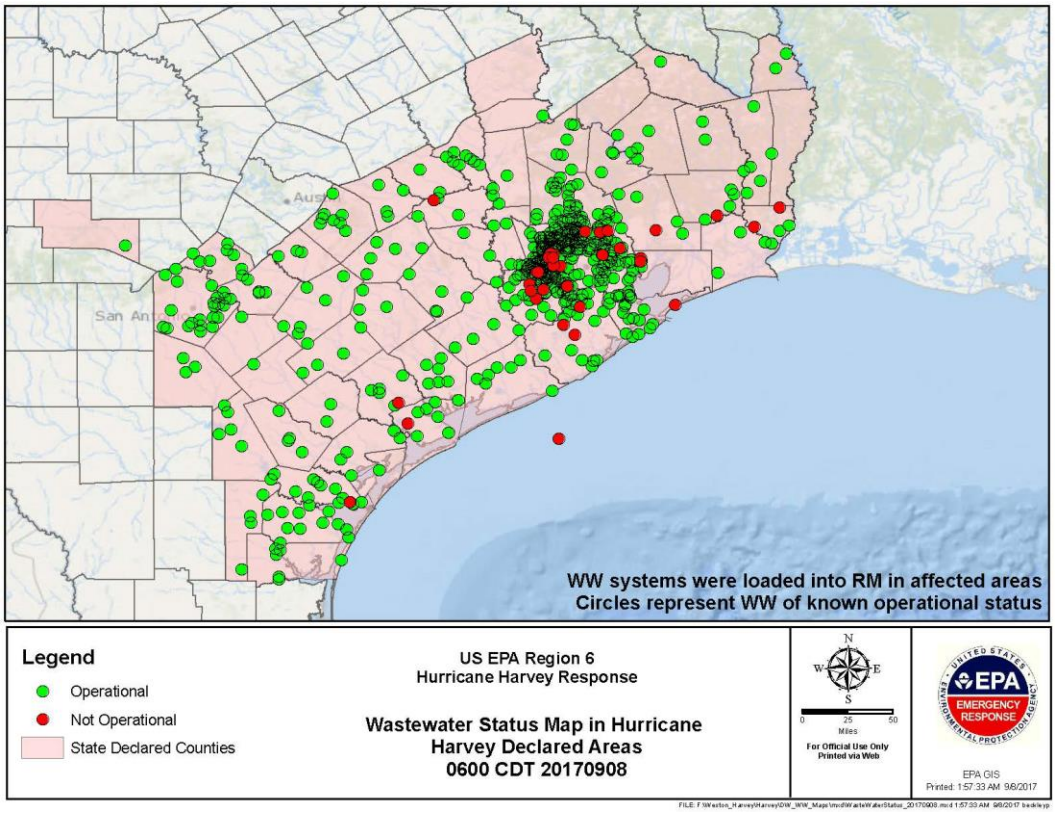
USCG, TCEQ and EPA performed overflights. Although flood waters have receded significantly, targeted areas in Orange County are still inaccessible.

DRINKING WATER / WASTEWATER ASSESSMENTS

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

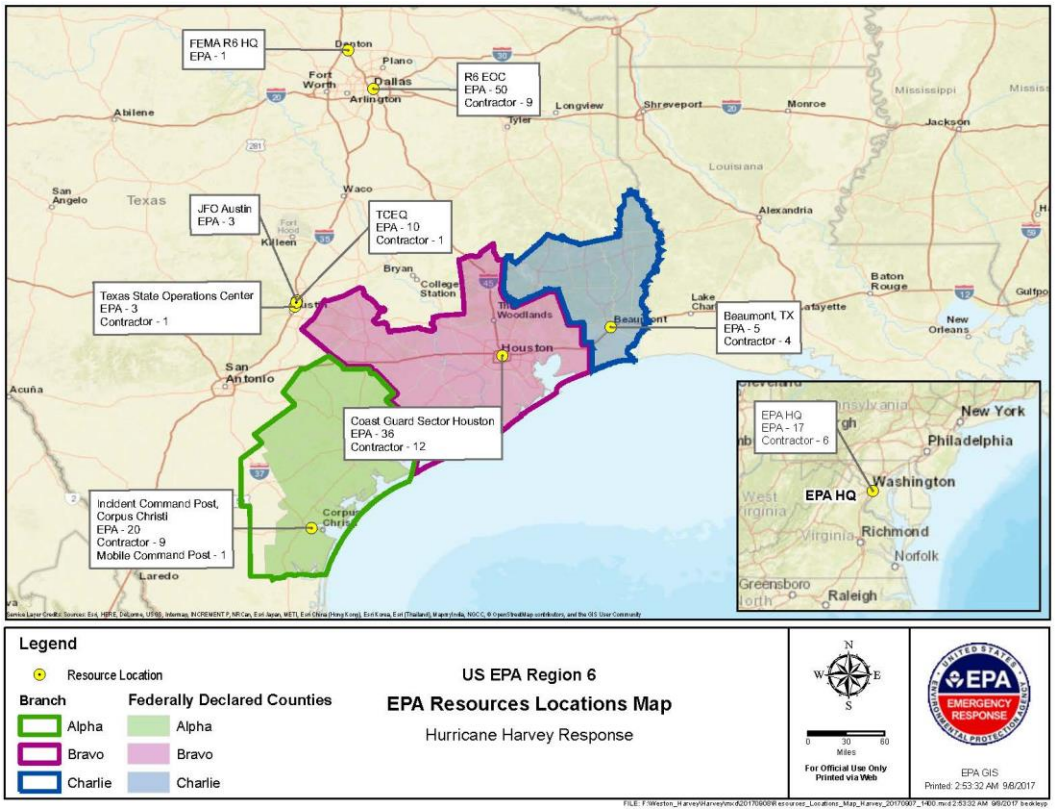
Drinking Water and Wastewater Assessments (September 7, 2017)		
Assessment Types	**Daily Assessments**	**Total Assessments**
On-Site DW Assessments	80	256
On-Site WW Assessments	47	181
Phone DW Assessments	253	4852
Phone WW Assessments	111	2908





EPA RESOURCES

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



FUNDING

September 7, 2017, UPDATED 1300 hours

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

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

REFINERIES/FUEL WAIVERS

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

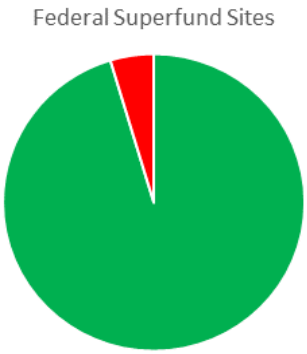
- EPA has granted all open fuel waivers requested to date.

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

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

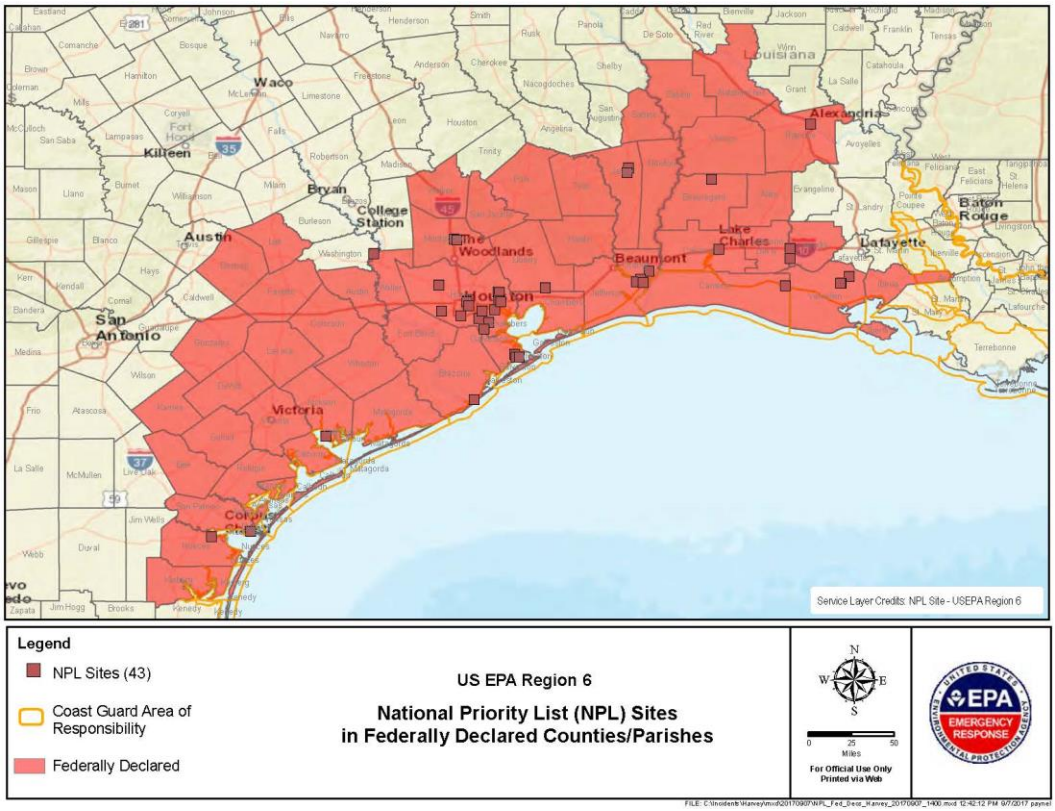
FEDERAL SUPERFUND NPL SITES

- All 43 Federal Superfund NPL Sites in the affected area have been inspected. Of these, 41 sites had no observable releases or damage, and two sites (San Jacinto Pits and US Oil Recovery) require additional follow-up.

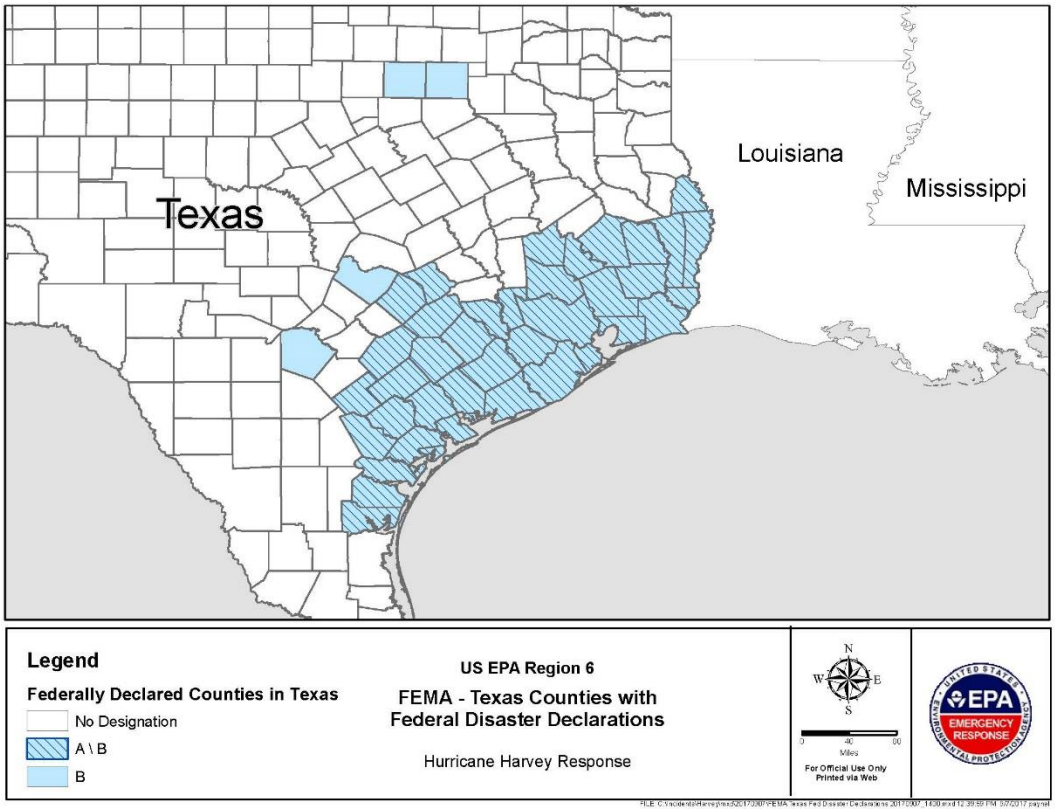


  - US Oil Recovery Update: On September 6th, nine vacuum truckloads (approximately 45,000 gallons of water) were removed and shipped off-site for disposal. On September 7th, pumping equipment and additional personnel addressed overflow problems with the sand filter. No sheen or odor was observed in the overflowing water and an additional tank is being used to maintain freeboard.
  - San Jacinto Update: Cap repairs and underwater cap surveying continues. The EPA dive team is on-site and integrated in the cap survey efforts. Sampling began with the collection of sediment and surface water samples.

- On September 5, 2017, EPA initiated sampling at NPL sites, in Texas. EPA will sample 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



9/7/2017 FIELD ACTIVITIES

PHOTOS

EPA and TCEQ Partnership

Command and General Staff Meeting

Boat Ops in Alpha Branch