Short-Term | Primary Media Statements

San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site

Location: The western bank of the San Jacinto River, just north of Interstate 10. Houston, Texas.

- Superfund is the federal program that works to clean up hazardous waste sites. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) directs all Superfund activities.

- The first stage of cleaning up the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site is set to begin in late April [*TBD*].
  - It is important to clean up the Site because it contains dangerous waste that has been leaking into the river over the last 40 years.
  - A team of engineering and environmental professionals are working on this project.
  - Two companies under the direction of U.S. EPA are paying for this work. These companies are McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation (MIMC) and International Paper.

- Your safety is important. As of the end of April, the Site will be closed to the public.
  - Fences and other barriers will be put up soon to help keep people away from danger.
  - Signs will also be posted around the Site to tell everyone that:
    - people are not allowed on the Site;
    - the area is dangerous; and,
    - people should not eat fish or crab from the San Jacinto River, the Houston Ship Channel, Tabbs Bay and Upper Galveston Bay north of Red Bluff Point to Five Mile Cut Marker to Houston Point.
  - Even if you have eaten fish and crab from these waters before you should NOT eat any more. Fish and crabs from these waters may have dangerous chemicals in them.

- Many community organizations, government agencies, and federal, state and local elected officials are working to tell people about the actions being taken to make this Site safe.

- More work is planned for areas next to the Site. Water and sediment will be tested to find out if they are safe.

For more information about this Superfund site, please visit
[http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/pdffiles/0606611.pdf or call EPA toll–free no. 1-800-533-3508.

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