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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Based on the current burn rate, it is estimated that EPA has 8.76 days of funding remaining.

- Texas Governor Greg Abbott and EPA Acting Regional Administrator Sam Coleman traveled to Corpus Christi and Fort Bend County September 7, 2017. EPA is working with the State on allowing burning of woody or green debris and continuing to work with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) on drinking water and wastewater issues.

- 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.

- EPA Remedial Project Manager and the EPA Region 6 Dive Team are on-site and overseeing the assessment at San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund site. The Region 6 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 are expected to begin underwater cap inspection as early as the afternoon of September 11, 2017.

- As a Vector Control Workgroup member, FEMA solicited EPA's assistance in identifying the appropriate mechanism for purchasing "Naled" insecticide for mosquito control in Hurricane Harvey impacted areas. Options being considered are for FEMA or the Department of Defense to purchase the "Naled".

- The EPA Liaison to the City of Houston Mayor's Office provided an update on EPA operations to Mayor Turner at the Emergency Operations Center Senior Leadership meeting today. The mayor announced that today's Senior Leadership meeting would be the last one, as 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 TCEQ Austin Phone Bank is beginning to reduce its operations. The EPA personnel are demobilizing today from the Phone Bank. One person will move to the Houston Branch

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to provide Quality Control assistance and one will move to the Texas State Operations Center. TCEQ thanked EPA for providing a valuable asset in support of their water system call bank.

- EPA is planning to issue the data and findings for the Arkema effort today. Surface water runoff results were less than the screening levels that would warrant further investigation. ASPECT found no exceedances of the Texas Air Monitoring Comparison Values. TCEQ has an open investigation into the incident.

- At TCEQ's request, EPA is providing 24-hour coverage to the SOC.

- The National Incident Management Assistance Team will demobilize by September 12, 2017 from the Hurricane Response.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The EPA Liaison to the City of Houston Mayor's Office provided an update on EPA operations to Mayor Turner at the Emergency Operations Center Senior Leadership meeting today. The mayor announced that today's Senior Leadership meeting will be the last one, as 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 analytes were detected above the Texas TCEQ Air Monitoring Comparison Values short-term screening levels.

Arkema: ASPECT found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values. ASPECT conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Arkema Plant in Crosby, Texas from August 30, 2017 through September 7, 2017. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of TCEQ short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs. In addition, ASPECT was requested to monitor for peroxide which was the source material for the fire.

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.

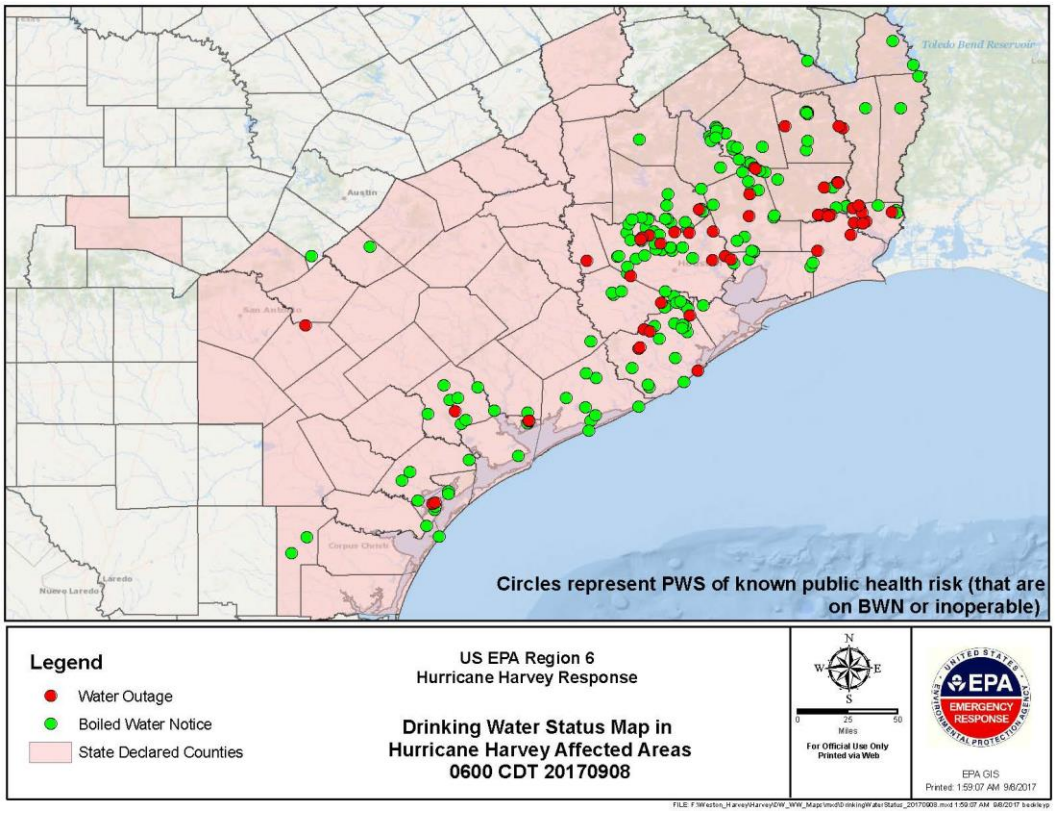
The Inland Task Force, consisting of three Inland Assessment Teams and one boat, and the Coastal Task Force Team, consisting of three Coastal Assessment Teams and one boat, conducted and completed assessments in: Port Orange, West Orange Cove, Highway I-10 from west to east, West Beaumont, East Port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

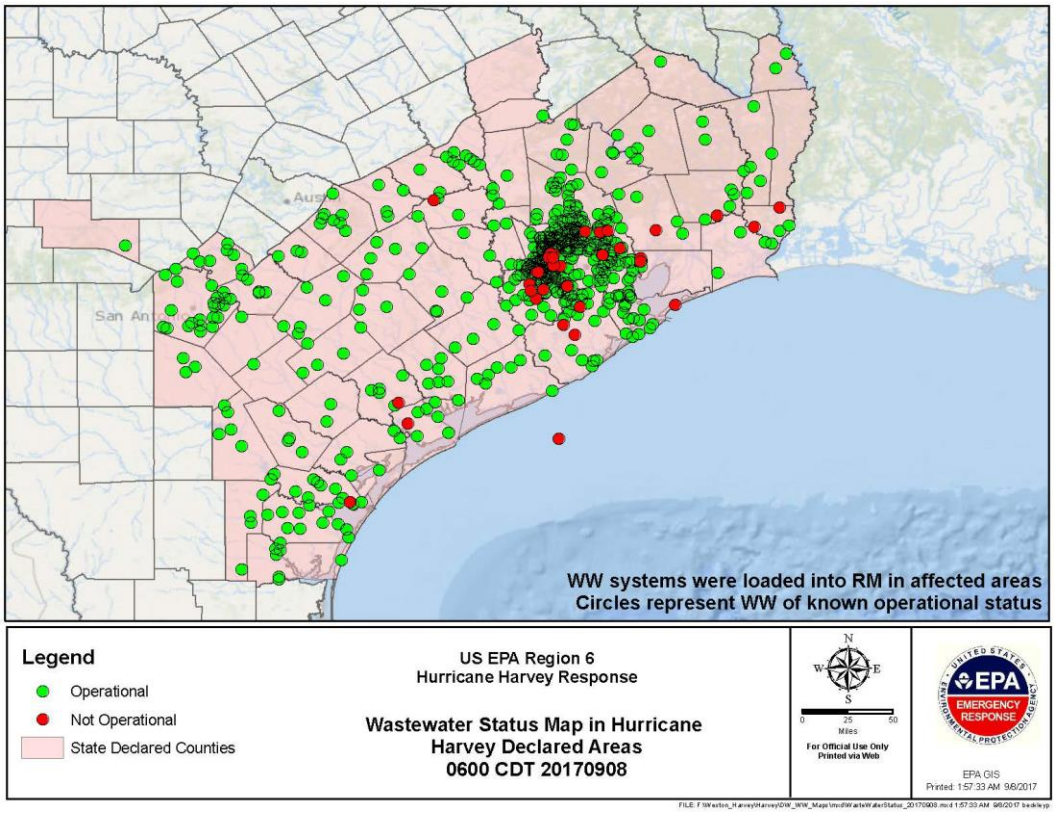
USCG, TCEQ and EPA performed overflights. Although flood waters have recede significantly, targeted areas in Orange County are still inaccessible.

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.

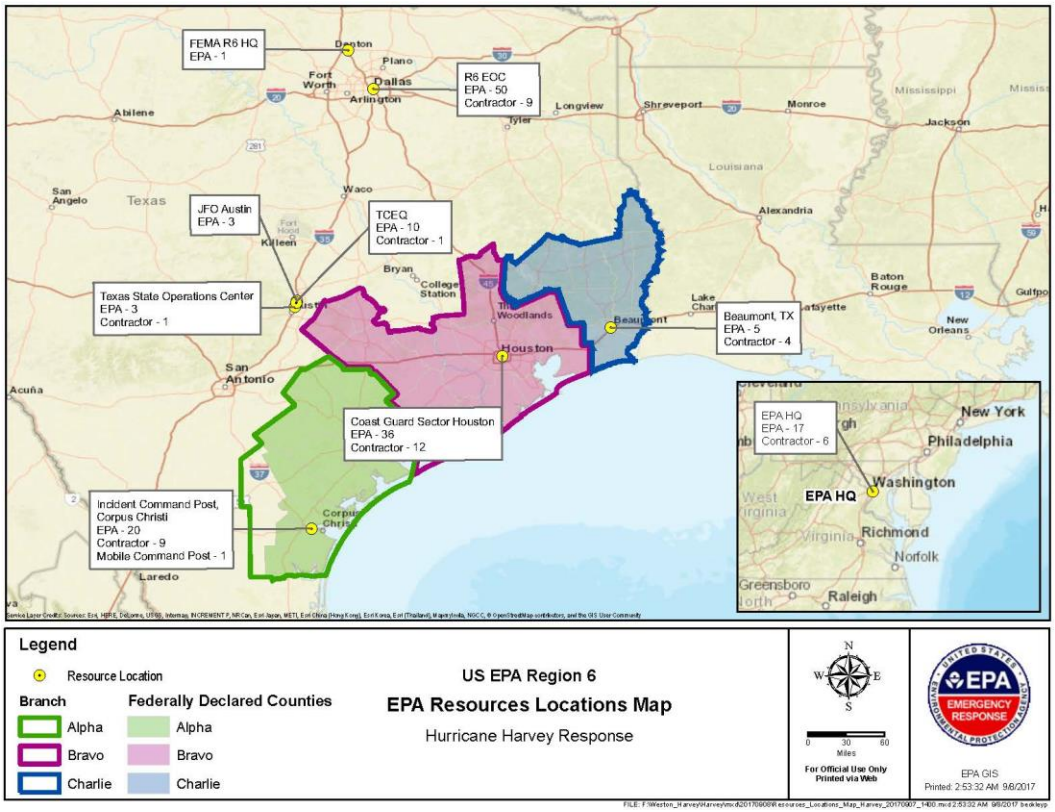
Drinking Water and Wastewater Assessments (September 7, 2017)		
Assessment Types	**Daily Assessments**	**Total Assessments**
On-Site DW Assessments	80	256
On-Site WW Assessments	47	181
Phone DW Assessments	253	4852
Phone WW Assessments	111	2908





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.

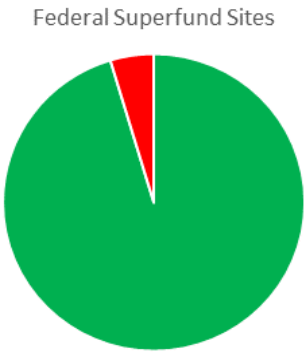
- EPA has granted all open fuel waivers requested to date.

- 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.

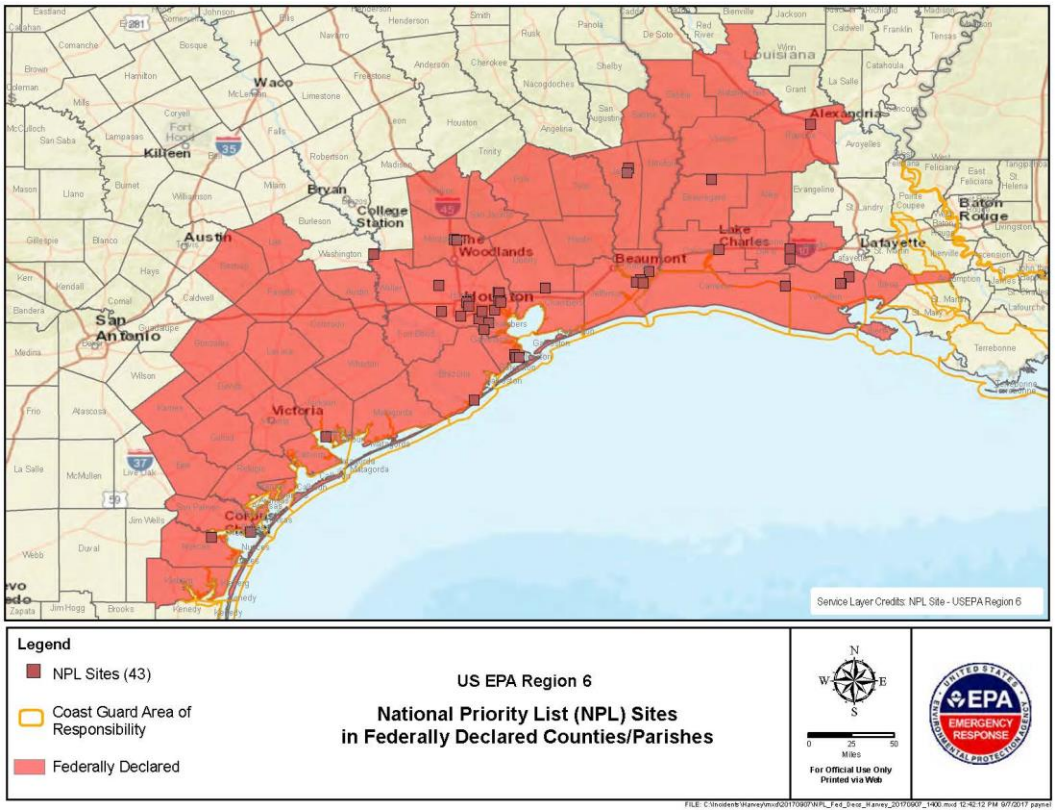
FEDERAL SUPERFUND NPL SITES

- All 43 Federal Superfund NPL Sites in the affected area have been assessed. Of these, 41 sites have been cleared, and two sites (San Jacinto Pits and US Oil Recovery) require additional follow-up.

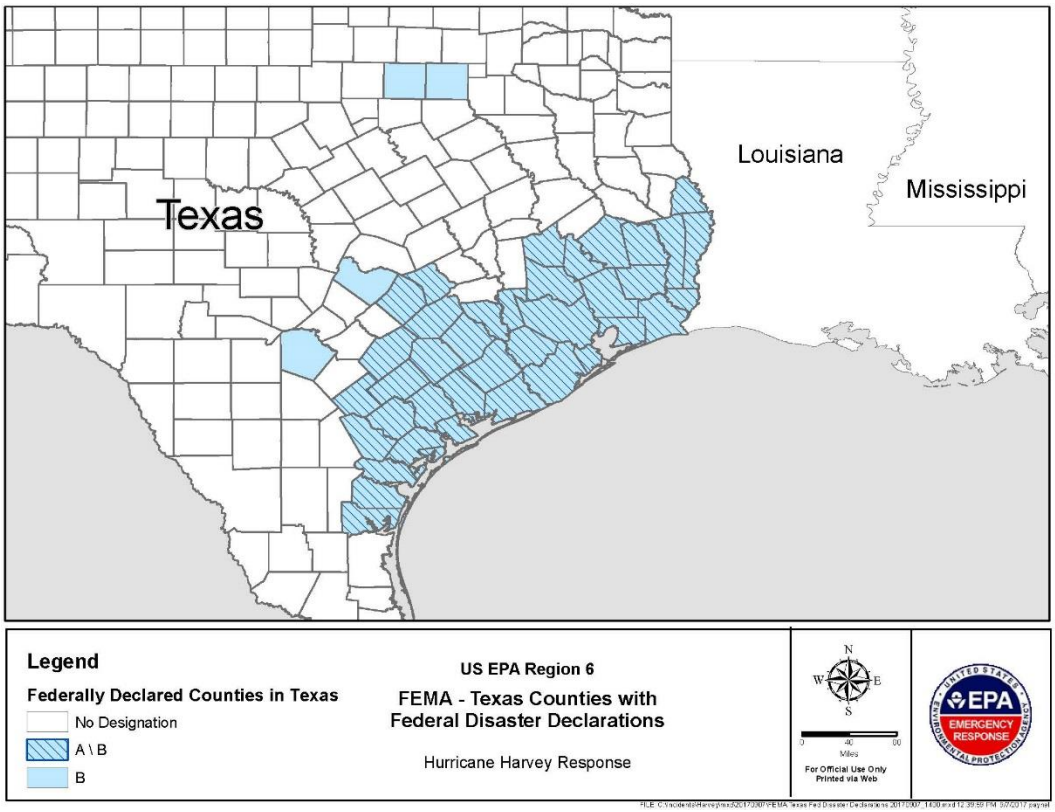


  - US Oil Recovery Update: On September 6th, nine vacuum truckloads (approximately 45,000 gallons of water) were removed and shipped off-site for disposal. On September 7th, pumping equipment and additional personnel addressed overflow problems with the sand filter. No sheen or odor was observed in the 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 34 NPL sites to confirm no releases. To date, sampling has been completed at two sites. Eight sites are scheduled to be sampled today, with the remainder planned for completion by September 11, 2017. The sampling is part of a longer-term assessment that will be used to transition sites to their normal cleanup operations. A schedule for conducting the sampling at all the Texas NPL sites has been prepared. EPA will task its contractors and direct Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs), where appropriate.



FEMA – TEXAS COUNTIES WITH DISASTER DECLARATIONS

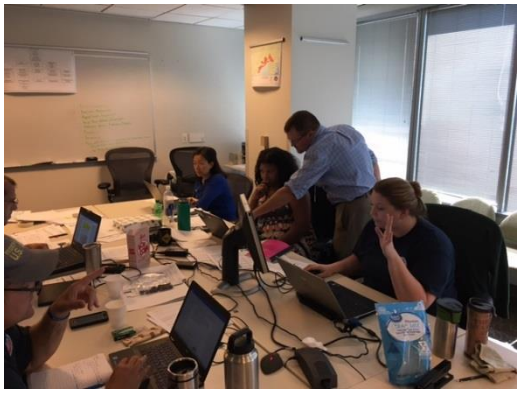


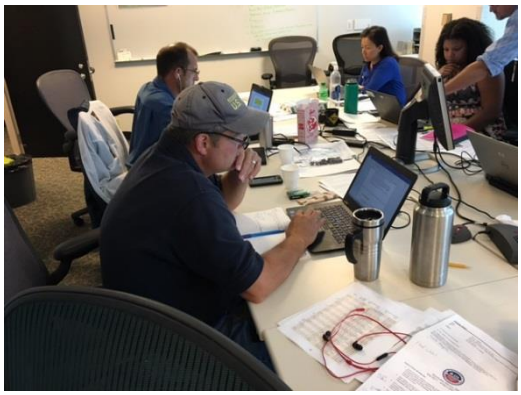
9/7/2017 FIELD ACTIVITIES

PHOTOS

EPA and TCEQ Partnership

Command and General Staff Meeting





Planning Section at Dallas REOC