

Celebrating Success: Chemical Recycling Inc. Wylie, Texas



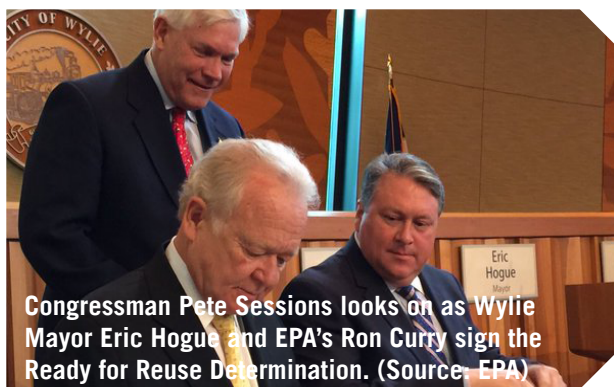
Superfund
Redevelopment
Initiative



Land available for redevelopment.
(Source: Imagery © 2016 Image Landsat, Map data © 2016 Google)

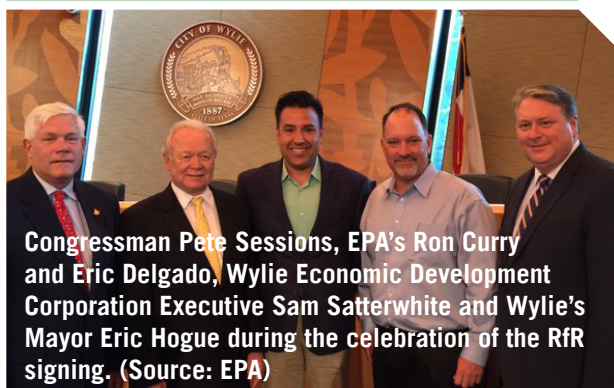
“The economy and environment can work hand in hand.”

– Ron Curry, EPA Region 6 Administrator



Congressman Pete Sessions looks on as Wylie Mayor Eric Hogue and EPA's Ron Curry sign the Ready for Reuse Determination. (Source: EPA)

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Congressman Pete Sessions, EPA's Ron Curry and Eric Delgado, Wylie Economic Development Corporation Executive Sam Satterwhite and Wylie's Mayor Eric Hogue during the celebration of the RfR signing. (Source: EPA)

The completion of cleanup efforts at the former Chemical Recycling Inc. site in Wylie, Texas, has opened the door to new opportunities for job creation and economic development. As a result of the successful collaboration and partnership between the City of Wylie, EPA and U.S. Representative Pete Sessions' office, the 5-acre site now has new prospects for industrial and commercial use.

Lease Back Corporation manufactured and stored ceramic tile at the site until 1975 when Chemical Recycling, Inc. (CRI) acquired the property. From 1975 through the late 1970s, CRI recycled paint by reprocessing inks and paint solvents. CRI disposed of some waste materials off site. However, waste materials stored in tanks and drums or in concrete drying beds on site resulted in soil contamination with heavy metals, including lead and chromium. In August 1989, EPA ordered the responsible parties to begin preliminary cleanup activities, which included removing contaminated soil to a depth of two feet and removing a strip of asphalt previously used for product demonstration. In 2015, after the PRPs filed for bankruptcy and the City of Wylie acquired the property, EPA removed 4,229 tons of lead- and chromium-contaminated soil and fifty-three 55-gallon empty drums which still remained on site.

Wylie City Manager Mindy Manson indicated “that piece of property is a prime piece of real estate on one of our main thoroughfares,” highlighting its potential for economic opportunity. Site reuse discussions began when Wylie Economic Development Corporation Executive Sam Satterwhite asked Congressman Sessions for assistance in cleaning up remaining contamination on the site so that it could be reused for future business development. The congressman worked with EPA Region 6 Administrator Ron Curry to find a way for EPA and the City to join forces in accomplishing this goal.

These efforts paved the way to a successful cleanup, building a strong partnership between EPA and the City along the way. EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) began additional removal work in December 2015. In 2016, upon completion of the cleanup, EPA determined that the site is protective and ready for industrial and commercial use.

To support reuse plans at the site, EPA developed a Ready for Reuse Determination (RfR) indicating that the property is ready to support industrial and commercial land uses. Wylie Mayor Eric Hogue and EPA Administrator Curry signed the RfR on June 2, 2016, at Wylie City Hall. Congressman Sessions, who was instrumental in forging this partnership, oversaw the signing ceremony and called the project “a huge milestone for the City of Wylie, that will foster job creation and spur economic development.” The City is now exploring a new chapter of reuse and revitalization at this site.