

NPL Site Narrative for Star Lake Canal

STAR LAKE CANAL Port Neches, Texas

Conditions at Proposal (July 22, 1999): The Star Lake Canal site is located in Port Neches, Texas, an industrial city adjacent to the Neches River in east Texas. The site consists of contaminated surface water sediments in the Jefferson Canal, Star Lake Canal, and Molasses Bayou. The Jefferson and Star Lake canals have received industrial wastewater and stormwater discharges from local chemical and other manufacturing facilities for a number of years. Although these discharges and other waste disposal activities likely account for the contamination found in the surface water sediments, to date, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) has been unable to identify one or more specific sources of the contamination. This site is being added to the NPL based on evidence that hazardous substances, including chromium, copper, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), have migrated or could potentially migrate to Molasses Bayou, Star Lake Canal, Neches River, Sabine Lake and their associated wetlands.

In response to contamination discovered during dredging in the Jefferson Canal, TNRCC collected sediment samples in 1996 and 1998 from the Jefferson Canal, Star Lake Canal, and wetlands bordering the Molasses Bayou. TNRCC found elevated concentrations of chromium, copper, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the canal sediments and elevated concentrations of copper, PAHs, and pesticides in the Molasses Bayou wetlands.

In the absence of a specific source of contamination, the Star Lake Canal site has been identified as an area of contaminated sediments. The contaminated sediments extend more than 2 miles, spanning portions of Jefferson Canal, Star Lake Canal, and the Molasses Bayou to within 1/4-mile of where the Molasses Bayou, Star Lake Canal, and Neches River converge.

More than 3 miles of wetlands front the surface water in which contaminated sediments have been detected. These wetlands are habitats known to be used by the white-faced ibis, a State-designated threatened species. From the confluence of the Molasses Bayou, Star Lake Canal, and Neches River, surface water flows down the Neches River approximately 3 1/2 miles to Sabine Lake. Sabine Lake is used as a fishery and produced more than 1 million pounds of fish and shellfish in 1996.

Status (July 2000): EPA is considering various alternatives for this site.

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at [ATSDR - ToxFAQs](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.