



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Site Update

San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site

Harris County, Texas

May 2017

This fact sheet will tell you about:

- **Current Status/Recent Activities**
- **Community Engagement**
- **What's Next**
- **For More Information**

Current Status

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in cooperation with the State of Texas, is continuing to review, assess, and develop responses to an extremely large number of public comments received during the public comment period, which ended on January 12, 2017, in order to select a comprehensive remedy for the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site (site). The selected remedy will be contained in a Record of Decision to be finalized in late 2017.

To support the final remedy, an investigation and assessment of cleanup alternatives was conducted, and the EPA issued a proposed plan of action in September 2016 for public comment. The proposed plan recommended removal of the waste material and disposal at an off-site disposal facility. Other cleanup alternatives include capping and solidification in place. The 60-day comment period was extended 45 days by request to allow more time to consider the complex site issues.

The EPA received a large number of public comments, including over 6,000 written comments, 48,000 signatures on petitions, and approximately 2,800 pages of detailed technical comments. The comments from local residents generally supported removal and off-site disposal. Other stakeholders, including some downstream residents, support capping in place. The EPA is required to respond to all public comments prior to selection of the final remedy.

After the Record of Decision is signed, the EPA will provide the potentially responsible parties

(PRPs) the opportunity to carry out the design and construction of the remedy.

Recent Activities

The EPA, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and contractors for the PRPs completed a visual inspection of the site in late April 2017. Topographic and bathymetric surveys were also completed. Brush control of the area was also undertaken.

The inspection and surveys are part of the regular quarterly inspections. No above-water cap defects were seen during the inspection; although some of the warning signs around the site were faded and will be replaced. The survey results are not available at this time and will be reported in a future publication. The next quarterly cap inspection will occur in July 2017.

Site signs that are weathering and fading on the armored cap and fencing will be replaced. This will include Danger, No Trespassing, and several EPA Public Notice signs for a total of 69 signs in the area.

Community Engagement

The EPA, in cooperation with site partners and other state and federal agencies, will continue to provide information on the status of the site, community concerns, and site repairs and maintenance. The EPA will update elected officials and community groups as needed, and will provide a website update as new information becomes available.

What's Next

The EPA in 2017 will also keep the public, partner agencies, and media informed on the status of site-related decisions such as Record of Decision and other events that may develop.

For More Information

If you would like more information about the site, visit our website, www.epa.gov/tx/sjrwp, or contact the following resources:

U.S. EPA:

Gary Miller
Superfund Remedial Project Manager
214.665.8318 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)

D. R. Walters
EPA Community Involvement
214.665.6483 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)

Superfund Regional Counsel
214.665.2157 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality:

TCEQ Superfund Project Manager
Katie Delbecq
512.239.2505

TCEQ Superfund Community Relations Liaison
Crystal Taylor
512.239.3844

Texas Department of State Health Services:

Tina Walker
Tina.Walker@dshs.state.tx.us
512.776.2932 or 1.800.588.1248 x2932

Site Repository:

Stratford Branch Library
509 Stratford Street
Highlands, Texas 77562

All inquiries from the news media should be directed to the Region 6 Press Office at 214.665.2200.

To receive a Spanish translation of this fact sheet, call the EPA at 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free).

Para recibir una traducción en español de esta hoja de datos, comuníquese con la Agencia de Protección del Medio Ambiente de los EEUU (la EPA) al número de teléfono 1.800.533.3508 (llamada gratis)

