

SUPERFUND SITE UPDATE

DELATTE METALS



Ponchatoula, Louisiana
October 16, 1998



001404

EPA PROPOSES SITE TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST

RECENT ACTIVITIES

On July 28, 1998, the Delatte Metals Site was proposed for addition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) list of hazardous waste sites, otherwise known as the National Priorities List (NPL). Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as Superfund, EPA is responsible for locating, assessing and cleaning up abandoned hazardous waste sites. EPA will be working with support from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) to address contamination at the Delatte Metals site.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

A time critical source control removal action is planned for the site in early Fall of 1998. The action will include stabilizing, removing and disposing of crushed battery casings, slag, ash and containerized waste. Residential activities will include excavation and removal of contaminated soil in active areas of residential properties and prevention of contamination using berms and drainage enhancement.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Delatte Metals site includes the inactive Delatte Metals facility and the inactive Ponchatoula Battery Company (see Figure 1). The site is located on Weinberger Road in Ponchatoula, Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana. The 19-acre site is bound by a tributary of Selsers Creek to the north, private residences to the east and west, and Weinberger Road to the south. The population within 1 mile is approximately 645. The two adjacent sites performed almost identical lead salvage operations, and generated the same

THIS SITE UPDATE WILL TELL YOU ABOUT:

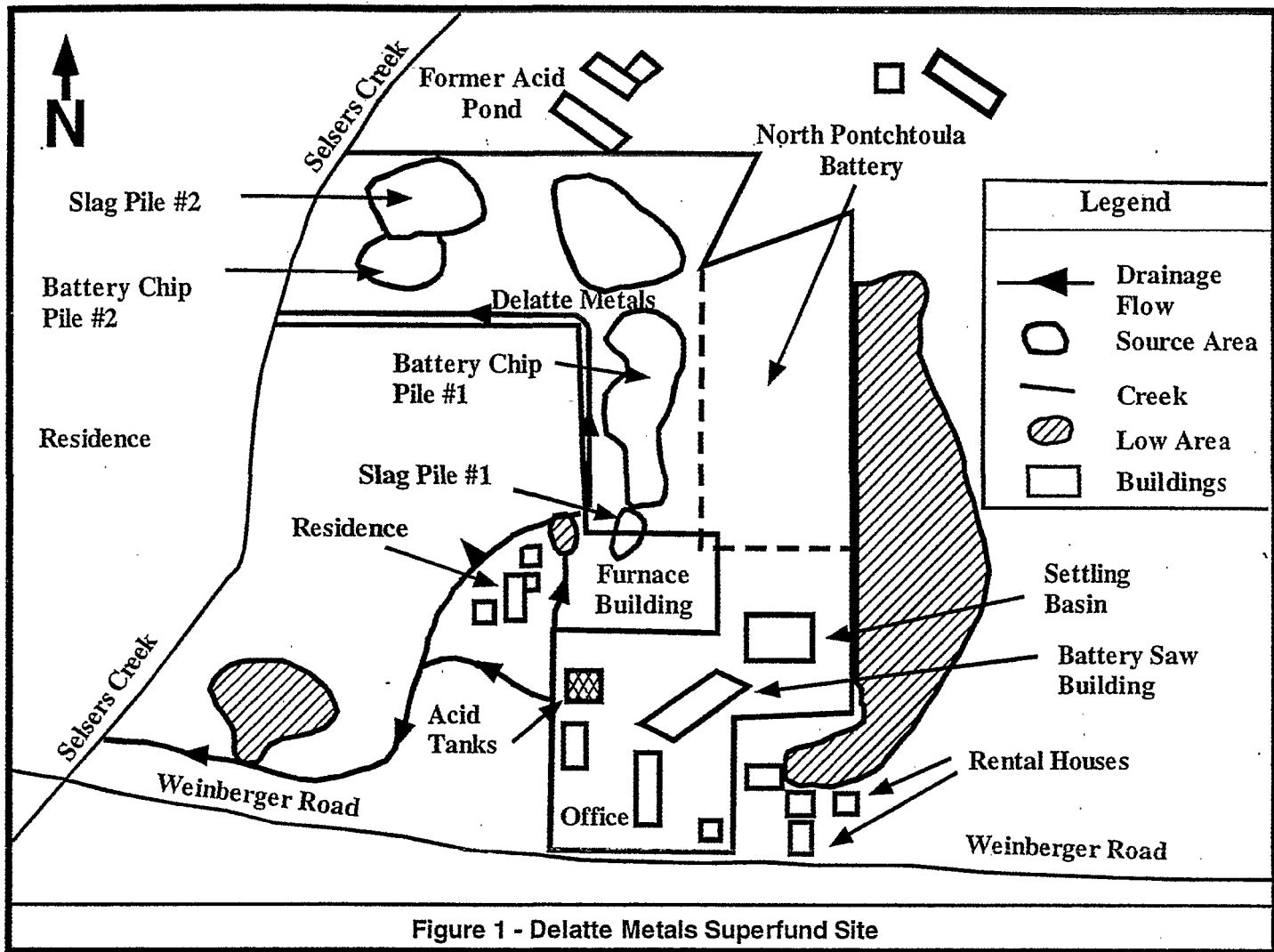
- ✓ Information on site background and recent activities
- ✓ What happens next
- ✓ How to get more information about the Delatte Metals Proposed Superfund Site
- ✓ Information on the Technical Assistance Grant for the site

type of waste material. Delatte Metals also operated a lead smelter to recover additional lead material. The facilities shared a common drainage pathway, the northern tributary of Selsers Creek, and they contributed heavy metal contamination to the tributary and Selsers Creek.

The Delatte Metals facility reportedly began operations in 1970 as the Fuscia Battery Company. The Ponchatoula Battery Company moved its operation to the property north of Weinberger Road and adjacent to the Delatte and Fuscia Battery Company between 1972 and 1978. Operations at the two facilities have been described as follows:

- Spent lead-acid batteries were transported to the site by trucks or railroad cars.
- The batteries were cut open at the battery hammersaw mill. The acid was drained from the batteries and directed into holding ponds at each site. No containment structures have been observed at the holding ponds.
- The battery casings were then stockpiled on site.
- The lead was recovered from the acid and smelted to form lead ingots, which were sold to lead recycling





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facilities located throughout the southern United States and other countries.

Contamination is plainly visible on most of the site. Battery chips cover most areas and are used as road material on most site roadways. Piles of slag, battery chips and other contaminated material are stored throughout the site. Several tanks of sulfuric acid are also located on site.

A site assessment identified soil contaminated with lead, arsenic, and cadmium. Additionally, similar contamination was found in all on-site drainage ditches along site boundaries.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUPS (CAGs) AT SUPERFUND SITES

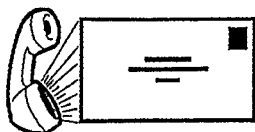
The U. S. EPA is committed to early, direct, and meaningful public involvement in the Superfund process. One of the ways communities can participate in the site cleanup

decisions is by forming a Community Advisory Group (CAG). A CAG is made up of representatives of diverse community interests. Its purpose is to provide a public forum for community members to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process.

A CAG can assist EPA in making better decisions on how to clean up a site. It offers EPA a unique opportunity to hear, and seriously consider, community preferences for site cleanup and remediation. The existence of a CAG does not eliminate the need for the Agency to keep the community informed about plans and decisions throughout the Superfund process.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about CAGs, please call Nancy Stonebarger, Community Involvement Coordinator/S.E.E, Region 6, at (214) 665-6619 or 1-800-533-3508.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



If you have questions about the activities at the Delatte Metals Site, please contact:

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On-Scene Coordinator (6SF-R1)

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Nancy Stonebarger

Community Relations Coordinator/S.E.E. (6SF-PO)

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Kirk David

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Erica Caesar

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New Orleans, Louisiana 70112
(504) 568-3626

Questions from the media should be directed to EPA Region 6 Office of External Affairs at (214) 665-2200.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Information about the Delatte Metals Site is available at the following locations:

Ponchatoula Branch Library

Ms. Lenore Johnson, Manager
380 N. 5th Street
Ponchatoula, LA 70454
(504) 386-6554

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

Inactive and Abandoned Sites
7290 Bluebonnet
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

7th Floor
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202
(214) 665-6548

ON THE WEB...

Information can also be accessed via the USEPA Internet Homepage at:

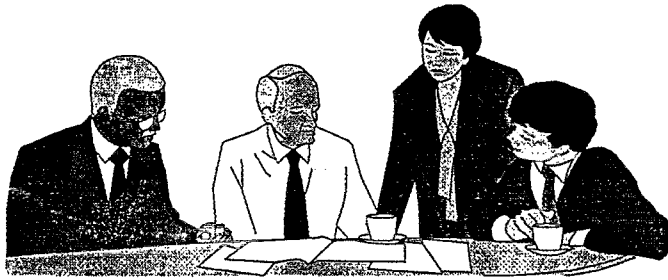
USEPA Headquarters: <http://www.epa.gov>

USEPA Region 6: <http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6>

USEPA Region 6 Superfund Division:
<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/6sf.htm>.



Citizens Grant Available for Delatte Metals Site



for up to \$50,000 may be awarded to a citizens' group at any one Superfund site. To be eligible for a grant, a group must incorporate. Also, the applicant must meet a 20 percent matching requirement, which may be in cash or donated services.

If you are interested in applying for this grant, or if you need additional information, please call or write:

The U. S. EPA is announcing the availability of a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) for the Delatte Metals Site. This TAG is available to a local citizens' group to secure the services of a technical advisor to increase citizen understanding of information that will be developed about the site in the Superfund process. By law, only one grant

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Superfund Open House
October 29, 1998
7-9 p.m.
Ponchatoula Community Center