

# OLD INGER OIL REFINERY (Darrow Oil) ASCENSION PARISH LOUISIANA

**EPA REGION 6**  
**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 03**

Contact:  
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Updated: July, 2015

Other Names: Darrow Oil

EPA ID# LAD980745533  
Site ID: 0600572



## Current Status

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- The State evaluated current ground water conditions after the removal of the original lagoons, the construction of the LTU, excavation and treatment of contaminated soils, and site backfilling with the treated soils (current closure). These studies required the installation of monitoring wells and several rounds of sampling to establish if further action is needed.
- Results of the ground water evaluation support issuing an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) and a Final Close out Report (FCOR) on September 12, 2006. The site moves now to the construction completion list.
- In 2007, the EPA completed a Five-Year remedy review and found the remedy protective of public health and the environment. A public notice was published in a local newspaper and a fact sheet was mailed in March 2007.
- During 2008 the EPA prepared a deletion package for this site. A Notice of Intent to Delete was published in the Federal Register on June 13, 2008. The public comment period closed July 14, 2008. No adverse comments were received; deletion became effective August 12, 2008.
- EPA initiated the second Five-Year review in January 2012. This was completed in August 28, 2012.
- Photos: [Before and After](#) [1990](#) [1998](#) [2002](#)

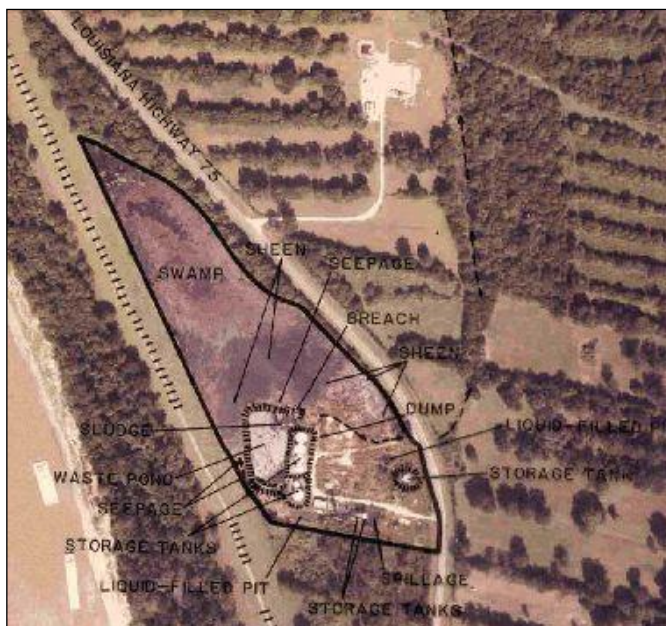


## Background

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The Old Inger Oil Refinery site is located on a 19-acre site located approximately 4.5 miles north of Darrow, Ascension Parish, and Louisiana. The site is bordered by Louisiana State Highway 75 on the north and the Mississippi River on the south. The site is located within the Mississippi River floodplain but is protected by the levee system in place for the river.

The Old Inger site was a former oil refinery and waste oil reclamation facility that began operation in 1967. The four primary areas of the site included the surface tankage, the waste lagoons, the swamp, and the buried waste area. The facility was purchased by Old Inger Oil Refinery in 1976 and operated until March 1978. When the site was active, waste oils were brought to the facility by truck and by barge. The waste oils were processed in the cracking tower and stored onsite. Final products were generally shipped from the site by truck. The lagoons were used for disposal of waste sludge, oils, and surface water. Liquid would occasionally be siphoned from one of the lagoons to the swamp to maintain storage capacity in the lagoon. The siphoning process resulted in the discharge of oily materials into the swamp. Contamination at the site resulted from tanks being overfilled, discharges to the lagoons and swamps, and drums and construction debris being buried in lagoons. A large spill occurred in March 1978 that resulted in the discharge of used oil into the swamp. After the spill occurred in 1978, ownership of the property changed. The new owners intended to cleanup the site. However, the new property owners found the cleanup to be uneconomical and abandoned the site in 1980. The Louisiana Environmental Control Commission formally declared the site abandoned in 1981.



The site was found to be contaminated with a wide variety of organic and inorganic compounds in sludge, soil, sediments, ground water, and surface water. Surface water in the swamp and the lagoons were also determined to be impacted by site contamination. The site was placed on the NPL in September 1983.

Between April 1983 and August 1988, five emergency removal actions were conducted at the site. These removal actions involved providing site security, providing control of migration of onsite contamination, excavation, consolidation, and containment of soils, and sampling and analysis.

The contaminants of concern included heavy metals, phenols, benzene, naphthalene, benzo (a) pyrene, and benzo (a) anthracene.

The site is located in a rural area. Land use around the site is predominantly agricultural. The nearest residence to the site is located on the east side of Louisiana State Highway 75 approximately 0.3 miles south of the site. Approximately 200 people lived within a one-mile radius of the site during the 1980s.

The ROD for the site was signed on September 25, 1984. The EPA has also signed two Explanations of Significant Differences (ESDs) to the ROD. The first ESD was signed on September 22, 1993. The second ESD was signed on September 12, 2006. The remedy selected in the 1984 ROD included the closing and sealing of an onsite ungrouted well; carbon adsorption treatment; in situ treatment, containment, and capping of heavily contaminated soils; land use restrictions; and ground water monitoring.

The site is currently vacant. The only features remaining at the site related to the remedy are the

protective clay cap and a perimeter security fence. Since completion of the remedy, vegetation has become reestablished. A wildlife conservation area has been established to the north of the site on the east side of Louisiana State Highway 75.

## Benefits

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The immediate removal actions taken to reduce the contamination in the pits and lagoons and to limit site access reduced the potential for contact with site contamination and the further spread of contaminated materials. These initial cleanup actions reduced possible exposure pathways and further environmental impact while long-term cleanup remedial activities proceeded.

Approximately 63,398 tons of contaminated material was treated, some 218,088 gallons of tank oils were properly disposed and approximately 30 million gallons of water were treated and discharged.

## National Priorities Listing (NPL) History

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Proposed Date: December 30, 1982  
Final Date: September 8, 1983

Location: Between Highway 75 and the Mississippi River, Ascension Parish, midway between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. 4.5 miles north of Darrow.

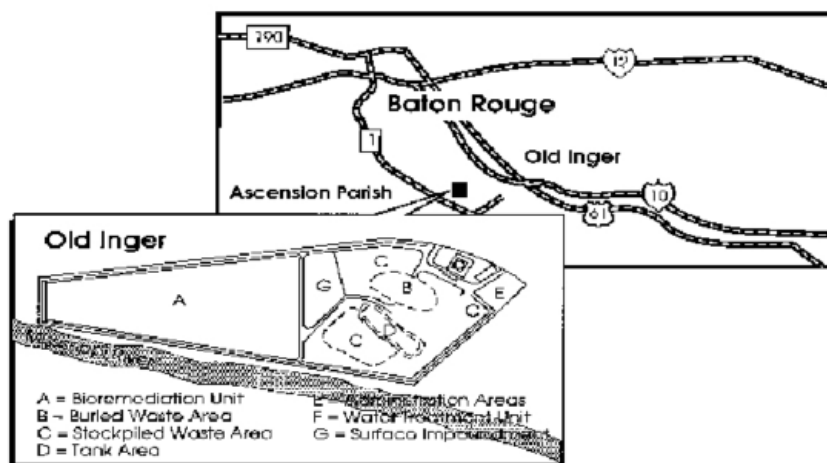
Population: 367 people live with 2 miles of the site.  
19,500 people live within 10 miles of site.

Setting: Rural, adjacent to the Mississippi River levee.  
Nearest residence is 0.3 miles south of the site.  
Nearest drinking water well is 0.5 miles south of the site.  
Area is generally flat and subject to water-ponding during heavy rains.

Principal Pollutants: Polynuclear aromatic compounds (ex; 49,000 parts per billion (ppb) phenanthrene in sediment). Heavy metals (ex; 130 ppm zinc - sediment).

## Site Map

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## Health Considerations

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- Ground water in area used for drinking.
- Surface water used for irrigation.

## Record of Decision (ROD)

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Signed: September 25, 1984

The original remedy included the following:

- Close and seal an ungrouted on site well. \*
- Pump and treat shallow ground water via carbon absorption. \*
- Carbon adsorption treatment and discharge off site of contaminated surface waters on site.
- In situ containment and capping of slightly contaminated soils & sludge.
- On site land treatment of contaminated soils and sludge Treatment will include synthetic liner (per 10-29-87 HQ decision).
- Disposal of contaminated wood.
- Land Use Restrictions

\* The Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD), signed on September 12, 2006, documents that these actions are not required after implementation of other elements of the remedy.

<u>Other Remedies Considered</u>	<u>Reason Not Chosen</u>
1. Deep well disposal of Contaminated fluids	Cost
2. Off site disposal	Cost; non-permanent remedy
3. On site landfill	Possibility of major release if levee fails
4. No action	Poses threat to public health and the environment

## Site Contacts

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