

EPA Region 6 Begins Field Work for Remedial Investigation

**Eldorado Chemical Company, Inc. Superfund Site
Live Oak, Bexar County, Texas**

April 2017

This fact sheet will tell you about:

- Remedial Investigation (RI)/Feasibility Study (FS) Work Plan Approval
- Startup of RI fieldwork
- Site Description and Previous Site Activities
- Community Involvement
- Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)
- Contact Information

Introduction

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6, in cooperation with other Federal, State, and local agencies, has announced the start of the Remedial Investigation (RI)/Feasibility Study (FS) for the Eldorado Chemical Company, Inc., Superfund Site located in Live Oak, Bexar County, Texas. This fact sheet will tell you about activities being undertaken as part of the RI/FS.

RI/FS Work Plan Approval

The first step of the RI/FS process is a work plan that describes the work to be done. The RI is an in-depth study designed to determine the nature and extent of contamination, and the FS evaluates various ways to deal with contamination

problems. The RI/FS Work Plan and support plans describe:

- (1) Sampling activities, including the number and type of samples to be collected
- (2) Sampling procedures;
- (3) Health and safety precautions;
- (4) Community outreach activities;
- (5) Quality assurance procedures.

The RI/FS Work Plan was approved by EPA on March 23, 2017.

Fieldwork Underway

The initial fieldwork is scheduled to begin the week of April 24, 2017. The initial fieldwork will include a geophysical evaluation and sampling of existing site monitor wells and selected onsite and nearby water wells to determine if the Edwards Aquifer is threatened by previous site activities. Subsequent activities will include further definition of remaining contaminant sources on the property using soil, soil gas, and ground water sampling. Delineation of the contamination will continue until the nature and extent is defined. Potential risks to human health and ecological receptors will be evaluated based on the data gathered.

Site Description

The site is located at 14350 Lookout Road in Live Oak. It includes the former Eldorado Chemical Co.,

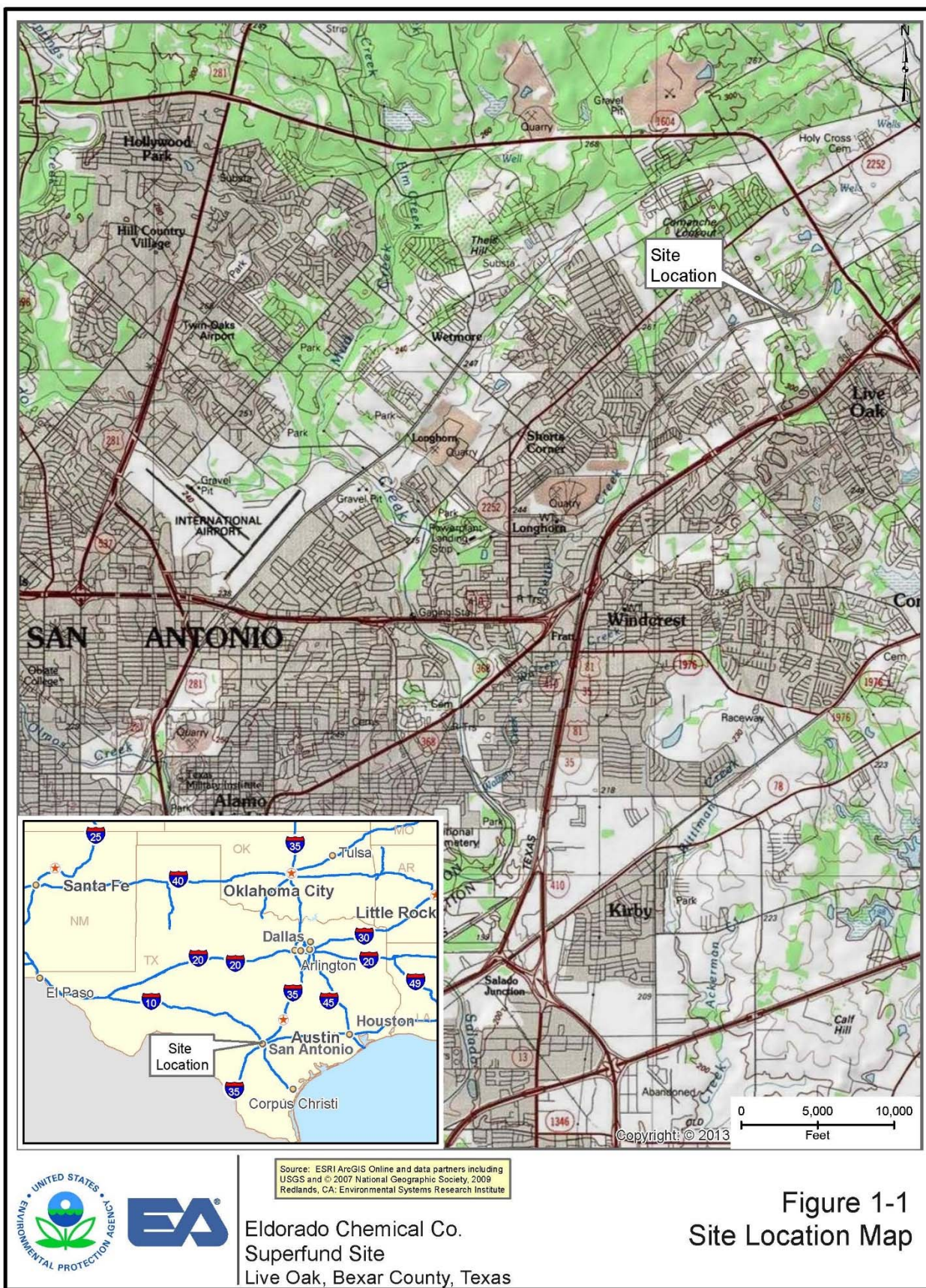
Inc. facility that operated at this location between 1978 and 2007. The location of the site is presented on Figure 1-1.

The property is 4.5 acres and is bordered by wooded undeveloped property to the east, a disposal container fabrication and repair facility to the west, an environmental services company to the north, and cleared undeveloped property to the south.

The facility consists of enclosed buildings that were used as former laboratories, manufacturing and storage warehouses, offices, and bathrooms, as well as both covered and open-air loading docks and product storage areas. All buildings are empty and inactive.

Aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) used to store unknown materials were located formerly in the product storage area but these have been removed. The only two remaining ASTs in this area are empty or part of a rainwater collection and reuse system. The site features are shown on Figure 1-2.

Tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), dichloroethene (DCE), and vinyl chloride (VC) have been found within the alluvial ground water with the potential to release into the underlying Edwards Aquifer. An estimated 215,722 residents in the cities of



Live Oak, Universal City, Selma, Converse, and San Antonio, and Randolph Air Force Base receive drinking water from nearby wells producing from this aquifer.

Previous Site Activities

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) referred the site to EPA due to the chlorinated solvent plume, the potential for contaminant migration in the ground water, and the potential use of ground water for drinking water.

Between 1984 and 1986, the property owner conducted limited cleanup activities, including the removal of soil at visibly contaminated areas.

From July 23-25, 2001, an Initial Phase II Subsurface Investigation was conducted at the facility. Soil boring and ground water samples were collected from 19 locations, including an adjacent water supply well to the south and a monitoring well at the southeast corner. Analyses of these samples indicated subsurface soil and ground water had been impacted by volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs). Compounds detected in the soil samples were consistent with chemicals utilized at the facility.

In February 2006, further assessment activities were conducted at the site on behalf of Eldorado Chemical Co., Inc. including the installation of temporary wells in locations across the site and soil borings near the Powder Room. VOCs were detected in each of the three temporary wells and in the soil borings collected near the Powder Room.

In November 2006, additional soil samples were collected near the tertiary containment valve and from the former location of a storage trailer utilized to store empty chemical bags. SVOCs and total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) were detected at some of the boring locations, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) 8 Metals (arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, selenium, and silver) were detected in each of the soil borings.

On March 6, 2009, a pre-Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System site inspection was conducted by TCEQ. Chemical dye and paint staining was documented in several of the facility bathrooms and laboratories. Significant staining, corrosion, and erosion of the concrete floor were observed in the Kiln Room, the Pratt and Whitney Room, and the Powder Room. Several of the ASTs in the product storage area had been emptied and removed, and powdery solid waste said to have come from the tanks was contained in a heavy garbage bag and barrel in the Kiln Room. Distressed vegetation was observed downhill from the site in the surface drainage pathway.

On April 4-6, 2011, a second site inspection was conducted by TCEQ. Ground water samples were collected from eight on and offsite monitoring wells, one onsite private water supply well, and five offsite public water supply wells. Surface soil samples were collected from on and offsite soil. VOCs, SVOCs, and cyanide were detected in one or more monitoring wells above their respective maximum

contaminant levels for drinking water. PCE and TCE were detected in the northern- and western-most monitoring wells. Naphthalene was detected in an onsite monitoring well. Cyanide was detected in onsite monitoring wells, as well as the onsite water well (Eldorado Well).

In 2014, TCEQ conducted an expanded site inspection consisting of two sampling events. The first event consisted of a passive soil gas (PSG) survey to evaluate potential VOC impacts to ground water in the vadose zone and upper ground water-bearing zone (WBZ) in the area between the site and the nearby Bridlewood neighborhood. VOCs were detected in one or more of the passive soil gas samplers; however, no VOCs previously observed in the monitoring wells at the site were detected in samplers located adjacent to the neighborhood. For the second event, a private water supply well directly south of the site (Hensley Well) was sampled, but the SVOC concentration was qualified due to laboratory issues.

In September 2016, the site was added to EPA's National Priorities List. The National Priorities List is the list of hazardous waste sites in the United States eligible for cleanup financed under the federal Superfund program.

Community Involvement

EPA is committed to engaging dialogue and collaboration with community members. Our goal for Superfund community involvement is to advocate and strengthen early and meaningful community participation during Superfund cleanups. We strive to encourage and enable



2017-03-29 \\198.212.47.215\Projects\Federal\EA\RAC\1100xx-Eldorado_RIFS\GIS\MXD\Figx_SiteLayout.mxd EA-Dallas jschwartz

community members to get involved. EPA is committed to:

- Encourage and enable community members to get involved;
- Listen carefully to what the community is saying;
- Take the time needed to deal with community concerns;
- Change planned actions where community comments or concerns have merit;
- Keep the community well informed of ongoing and planned activities; and
- Explain to the community what EPA has done and why.

Community Participation - EPA welcomes the opportunity to improve our communication effort by obtaining feedback and suggestions from you. Do you have suggestions

that can improve the exchange of information or ideas that can enhance the implementation of the remediation efforts? If so, we want to hear from you. Your participation can make a difference!

Community Involvement Plan (CIP) - A CIP will be developed to identify the concerns, needs and issues of the community. This document informs the site team about the community and the preferred ways to involve them in the site clean-up. EPA develops this document by visiting the site and community, conducting interviews of community members and other stakeholders, and putting together an analysis of the community needs for communication and involvement with the site.

Technical Assistance Grant

An understanding of the technical issues concerning a hazardous waste site helps citizen provide thoughtful, informed comments to EPA decision-makers considering proposed Superfund actions. Recognizing the importance of community involvement and the need for citizens living near these sites to be well informed, Congress included provisions in the Superfund amendments to establish a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program. The TAG program provides up to \$50,000 per site to a community group affected by the site for the purpose of hiring technical advisors. The group must provide at least 20 percent of the total costs or in-kind services of their project and must budget the expenditure of grant funds to cover the life of the Superfund process at the site

For More Information

For more specific information about the Eldorado Chemical Co., Inc. Superfund Site, please contact:

Stephen Tzhone
EPA Remedial Project Manager
EPA Region 6 (6SF-RA)
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202
(214) 665-8409
tzhone.stephen@epa.gov

Janetta Coats
EPA Community Involvement
EPA Region 6 (6SF-VO)
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202
(214) 665-7308
coats.janetta@epa.gov

John Flores
TCEQ Project Manager
TCEQ Remediation Division
(MC-136)
12100 Park 35 Circle
Austin, Texas 78753
(512) 239-5674
john.flores@tceq.texas.gov

Inquiries from the news media can be directed to the EPA Press Office at (214) 665-2200.

**See inside for information about EPA's upcoming investigation at the
Eldorado Chemical Inc. Superfund Site**

