



Region 6

**Community Relations Plan
Oklahoma Refining Company Site
Cyril, Oklahoma**

December 1989

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Section 1 INTRODUCTION

This Community Relations Plan (CRP) was prepared for the Oklahoma Refining Company (ORC) Superfund site in Cyril, Oklahoma. The purpose of the CRP is to identify issues of community concern and provide a basis for establishing two-way communication between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), and the community during the Superfund study process. EPA has authorized the state to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS), and the state and EPA will jointly develop and implement the community relations program.

The CRP consists of four sections:

- o Section 1 - Introduction
- o Section 2 - Site Background and Status
- o Section 3 - Community Relations Background
- o Section 4 - Proposed Community Relations Program

The activities described in this Community Relations Plan fulfill the public involvement requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986. The CRP also includes additional activities tailored to meet the unique public involvement needs of those who live near the Oklahoma Refining Company site. It has been developed in accordance with EPA guidance for conducting public involvement programs for Superfund sites.

In-depth personal or telephone interviews with residents, community leaders, and local officials who are interested in site activities form the basis for the Oklahoma Refining CRP. In addition, background information for the plan was obtained through file research and discussions with EPA and State technical staff. As work progresses at the site, the plan will be reviewed and revised if necessary to reflect the community's changing public involvement needs.

Congress passed CERCLA in 1980 to correct the problems of abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites that threaten public health or the environment. CERCLA created a tax on chemical industries, which goes into a trust fund called Superfund. Under the Superfund program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency can pay for investigating and remedying problems at hazardous waste sites if those responsible cannot be found or they are unwilling or unable to pay. The law also permits EPA and states to require those responsible for the

contamination to investigate and conduct remedial activities at their sites or reimburse EPA for doing the work.

Section 2
SITE BACKGROUND AND STATUS

SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

The Oklahoma Refining Company (ORC) Superfund site is located in Cyril, Oklahoma, approximately 75 miles southwest of Oklahoma City. The 220-acre site is located on the east side of town south of U.S. 277. Highway 277 borders the site on the north, and Gladys Creek flows along the eastern boundary of the site. (See the site map at the end of this section.)

The site originated in 1920, when two oil men from Oklahoma City, Steve Anderson and Lev Pritchard, purchased a small gasoline stripper plant in Cyril, Oklahoma. The plant was called the Anderson-Pritchard (APCO) Refinery until 1978 when it became known as Oklahoma Refining Company.

During the site's 70 year history, crude oil was processed into a variety of products including gasoline, a variety of naphtha solvents, emulsions, roofing asphalt, and road oil. A number of these products were developed as a result of work conducted at a research and development lab built at the site by the company's founders in 1940. In 1983, production at the ORC plant peaked at 15,000 barrels of crude oil processed daily.

However, ORC soon fell victim to the economic troubles affecting the domestic oil industry. In September 1984, ORC declared bankruptcy, and one month later, began laying off employees. By the end of December 1984, 200 employees had been terminated. In 1986, a portion of the property was abandoned. In 1987, Cyril Petrochemical Corporation purchased a portion of the refinery in hopes of reactivating it to produce naphtha solvents and diesel fuel. The Cyril Petrochemical Corporation is under a consent order with the Oklahoma State Department of Health to begin cleanup of their portion of the site once it is activated. At this time, EPA and OSDH are proceeding with an investigation of the entire site under the Superfund program.

STATUS OF SUPERFUND ACTIVITIES

Throughout the plant's history, it appears that the contents of crude oil and product tanks may have leaked into the ground water that flows beneath the site. In addition, the company placed process wastes in several impoundments, many of them unlined. Some process wastes also were treated or tilled into the soil in a land farming operation.

According to EPA tests conducted in 1986, a well on the site used to monitor the quality of ground water was contaminated with heavy solvents and metals including arsenic, lead, chromium, cobalt, beryllium, nickel and xylene. In addition, oily wastes have been observed in Gladys Creek.

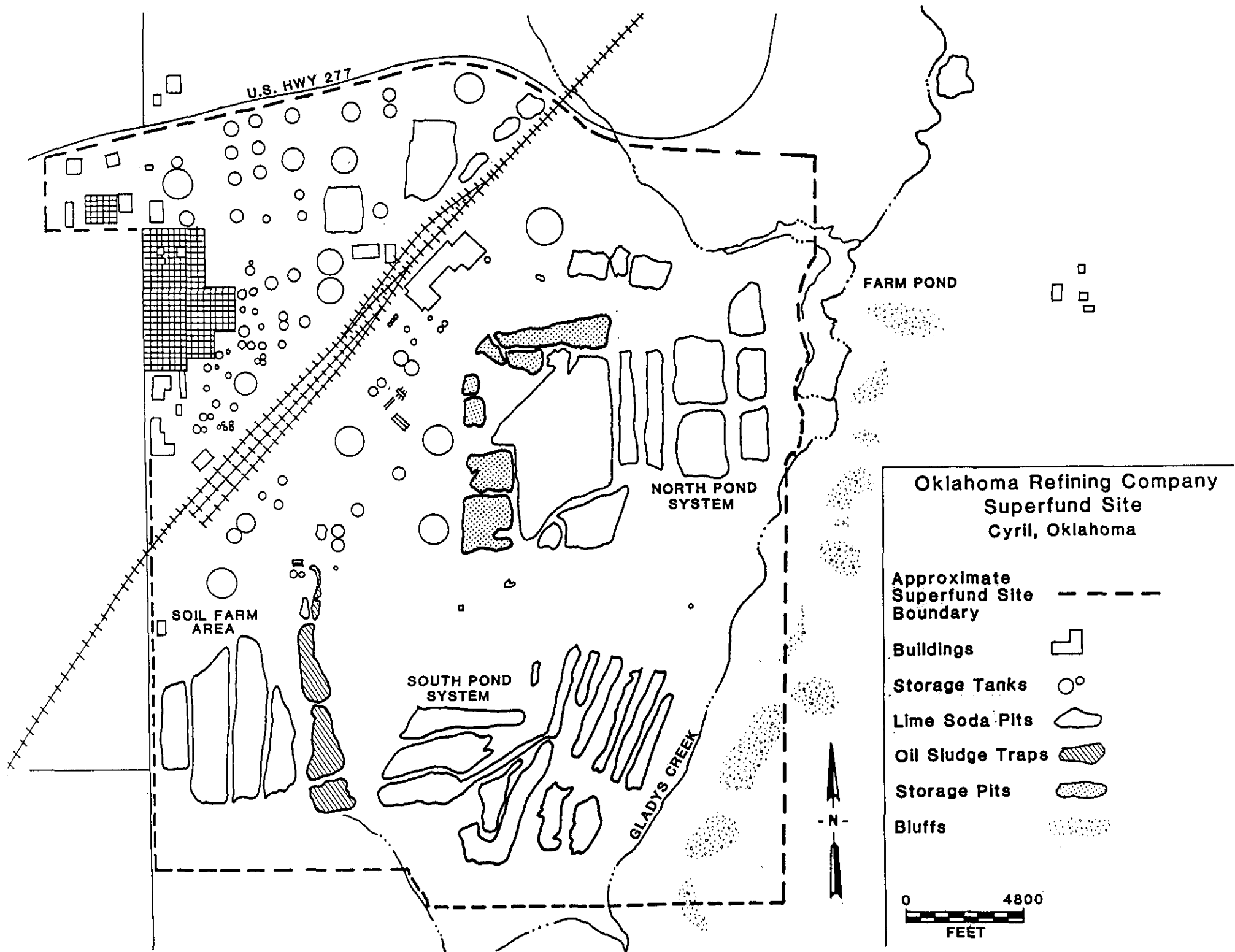
Because of the potential threat to surface water and ground water, the ORC site was proposed for placement on the National Priorities List (NPL) of hazardous waste sites in June 1988. Inclusion on the NPL makes a site eligible for remedial action under the Superfund program.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION AND FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Oklahoma State Department of Health is the lead agency responsible for addressing contamination at the ORC site, and OSDH will conduct a Remedial Investigation (RI) for the site under EPA oversight. The contractor began work on the RI in October 1989, however, RI field work will not begin until February 1990. The RI report will be completed in July 1991. The RI will determine the types and amounts of contaminants present at the site, delineate the extent of contamination, and evaluate the possible risk to the public from site waste.

Based on the results of the RI, a Feasibility Study will be developed. In the FS, EPA and OSDH will evaluate a range of alternatives, including one in which no action is taken, and propose a plan to deal with any problems at the site. Upon completion of the FS, EPA and the State will announce a 30-day public comment period and hold a public meeting to provide citizens with an opportunity to comment on the proposed remedial alternatives.

After considering all public comments, EPA will select an appropriate plan of action to protect people and the environment.



Oklahoma Refining Company
Superfund Site
Cyril, Oklahoma

- Approximate Superfund Site Boundary
- Buildings
- Storage Tanks
- Lime Soda Pits
- Oil Sludge Traps
- Storage Pits
- Bluffs

0 4800
FEET

Section 3
COMMUNITY RELATIONS BACKGROUND

COMMUNITY PROFILE

The ORC site is located in the center of Cyril, a community of 1,200 people. Residents of Cyril depend on agriculture and the oil industry for their livelihoods, and the bankruptcy of ORC was a major economic blow to the city. When ORC closed in 1984, about 200 people were laid off, most of whom lived in and around Cyril.

HISTORY OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Cyril is a small, rural community in Caddo County located nearly 75 miles from Oklahoma City and approximately 25 miles from Lawton. When it was proposed to the NPL, the site received some news coverage that discussed the potential effect site contaminants might have on ground water in the area.

Community members are knowledgeable about the site and the Superfund program. EPA and OSDH conducted an informational meeting for city officials and residents in August 1988, soon after the site was included on the NPL. Officials from both agencies discussed the Superfund process and what would follow as a result of ORC being named a Superfund site. During this meeting, citizens expressed concern that drinking water supplies might be affected by site contaminants. OSDH explained that the municipal wells that supply Cyril's drinking water are upgradient of both the ORC site and the ground water that flows under the site.

COMMUNITY ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Community issues and concerns related specifically to the ORC site were discussed recently in interviews with community members, who are eager to have site problems corrected. Their concerns are outlined below. (Appendix A is a list of persons who contributed to this plan. The entire site mailing list is contained in Appendix B).

Water Quality and Availability

- o The possibility that site contamination might affect the city's drinking water supply is the overriding concern of community members. Decades of oil drilling and petrochemical processing have affected the quality and availability of water in the area. Eight municipal wells have been closed,

two because of the presence of sulphur gas, six because of high salt content in the water. Currently, only two city wells are capable of producing potable water. Concern exists that contaminants from the ORC site will further reduce sources of drinking water for Cyril residents.

- o Although the practice is not widespread, some residents are buying bottled water because they worry that city water is not safe to drink. The Mayor of Cyril, who owns a local restaurant, said diners from nearby communities have questioned the safety of the water supply.

Public Health and Safety Issues

- o Caddo County and Cyril City officials interviewed for this plan said that gasoline has been detected in water samples taken from the city sewer system, and they wonder if it could have originated from the ORC plant. If this proves to be true, they are concerned that this might pose a health and safety hazard.
- o Equipment at the ORC plant including pipes, steam lines, boilers, and boiler room equipment, are insulated with asbestos-containing materials. Asbestos is a soft fibrous mineral, and exposure to even small amounts can cause health problems such as asbestosis, a lung disease. Those interviewed for this plan worried that workers or other members of the community might be exposed to asbestos if the final remedial action for the site requires dismantling plant equipment.

Community Image and Development Issues

- o Like many communities in the nation's "Oil Patch" that rely heavily on the petroleum industry, Cyril's economy has suffered due to the changing fortunes of the domestic oil industry. Community leaders are formulating plans that would diversify the city's economic base, and they fear the presence of a Superfund site might delay the commercial and industrial development of the area.

The Mayor of Cyril said he would like to see remedial action at the site take place as quickly as possible, although he realizes that it takes a long time. He thought that perhaps the site can be developed as an industrial park once it has been cleaned up.

- o The ORC plant, which has been out of business for five years, is deteriorating. Weeds are sprouting between cracks in the pavement, and piping systems and other metal fixtures are rusting. Residents complain

that the site is an eyesore that detracts from the positive image of their community they are trying to maintain.

- o A large part of the city's drainage system passes through the ORC property. One drainage ditch is frequently clogged with underbrush, oil, trash and other debris. During heavy rains this past spring, the blocked drainage ditch caused streets and a grocery store located about one block from the site to flood.

According to Porter Morphis, Water, Street, and Sewer Superintendent, the clogged ditch causes runoff to be diverted into a car wash drain which then causes problems with the sewage lagoons.

Section 4
PROPOSED COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM

The Superfund program emphasizes the importance of community involvement, and during the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study phases of the Superfund process at the ORC site, EPA and OSDH will conduct a community relations program that addresses the concerns and issues of importance to community members.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the community relations program are to:

- o Maintain open communication among EPA, OSDH, and those who live near the site, as well as local, state and federal government agencies and officials, community leaders and other interested individuals or groups. This will ensure that community members have ample opportunity to voice opinions and receive answers to their questions.
- o Provide residents, state and local government officials, civic leaders, and media with accurate, timely information about the Superfund process, progress of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, and other crucial technical and administrative matters.
- o Monitor changes in community concerns as remedial activities progress, and revise the community relations plan to reflect these changes.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

The following community relations activities are required for the ORC site.

FACT SHEETS

A minimum of two fact sheets will be prepared during the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. The first will provide information about the Superfund program, the Remedial Investigation, and opportunities for public input into the decisionmaking process. The second will provide detailed information about the alternatives evaluated to correct site problems and EPA's proposed plan of action. In addition, the fact sheet will announce the date, time and location of the public meeting, and offer other opportunities for the public to become involved in the

Superfund process. Fact sheets will contain clear, accurate descriptions of technical information prepared in a style and format that will encourage use and understanding. They will be filed at the information repositories, distributed to persons on the mailing list, and made available at the public meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

EPA and OSDH will announce a 30-day public comment period upon completion of the remedial investigation and feasibility study to enable citizens to review and comment on the agency's proposed plan of action.

PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting is an effective way to give the general public an opportunity to give and receive feedback regarding site activities. A general public meeting will be planned to coincide with completion of the Feasibility Study and announcement of the proposed plan and accompanying public comment period. A news release and a Fact Sheet seeking comments from interested parties and inviting the community to the public meeting will be distributed immediately prior to the beginning of the comment period. The public meeting will be held at a convenient location in the community, such as Cyril City Hall.

RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY

This document is required as part of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the site. It is a summary of the written and oral comments made by the public concerning the RI/FS and State and federal responses to those comments.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN REVISIONS

The CRP will be revised during the RI/FS if the focus or intensity of community concerns change. This will ensure that OSDH and EPA continue to maintain effective two-way communication with the community about issues involving the site. After a site remedy is selected, the CRP will be revised to address community involvement needs during remedial design and remedial action.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The information repositories, which are listed in Appendix C, are a valuable source of technical information about the site and the Superfund process in general. They will be updated as necessary with the most current information about site activities.

ONGOING CONTACTS WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS

While remedial activities at the site progress, OSDH and EPA staff will maintain regular contact with members of the community either by phone or in person. When appropriate, informal briefings can be held for elected officials and other community and civic leaders to keep them abreast of activity at the site.

NEWS RELEASES

News releases that provide important information about site-related activities will be issued to the Daily Oklahoman for its regional edition, the Cyril News, a weekly paper, the Lawton Constitution, and to radio and television stations that serve the area. A news release will be prepared to announce the beginning of the public comment period for the proposed plan. Others will be issued as needed during the course of the work.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM TIMEFRAME

Community relations activities are timed to coincide with technical milestones in the Superfund process or on an as-needed basis. The following is a schedule for Community Relations activities.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Timing</u>
Contacts with Community Members	Ongoing as Needed
News Releases	To Announce Public Comment Period, and As Needed
Fact Sheets	1. Open House 2. Public Comment Period 3. As Needed
Update Information Repositories	As Needed
Public Comment Period	End of RI/FS

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Timing</u>
Public Meeting	During Public Comment Period for Proposed Plan
Responsiveness Summary	After Public Comment Period, Public Meeting
CRP Revisions	As Needed

Appendix A
CONTRIBUTORS TO THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

The following people assisted in the development of this Community Relations Plan by providing background information about site history and technical activities, or by sharing their concerns about the site with OSDH and EPA contractor staff responsible for researching and writing this plan.

Lisa Lyhane
Environmental Engineer - Superfund Program
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Oklahoma City, OK 73152

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Cyril, OK 73029

Porter Morphis
Water, Street and Sewer Superintendent
City of Cyril
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Cyril, OK 73029

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Lawton, OK 73501

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Cyril City Clerk
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Cyril, OK 73501

**Appendix B
SITE MAILING LIST**

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Cyril, OK 73029

Robert Griggs
Registered Sanitarian
Caddo County Health Department
1010 South Sheridan Road
Lawton, OK 73501

Judy Bates
Cyril City Clerk
Box J
Cyril, OK 73501

Senator Cliff Marshall
Box 149
Cyril, OK 73029

Representative Tom Maynor
Box 317
Apache, OK 73006

Jim Pittinger
Cyril Petrochemical Corporation
5805 Grand Boulevard, Suite A
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Sher M. Atigi
Bechtel Environmental, Inc.
P.O. Box 2166
Houston, TX 77252-2166

Resident
121 First
Cyril, OK 73029

Resident
105 Idaho
Cyril, OK 73029

Resident
111 Idaho
Cyril, OK 73029

Resident
110 Kansas
Cyril, OK 73029

Butler Residence
112 Kansas
Cyril, OK

Resident
106 Texas
Cyril, OK 73029

Oklahoma Public Service Bldg.
118 W. Main
P.O. Box 69
Cyril, OK 73029

Resident
108 Idaho
Cyril, OK 73029

Resident
104 Idaho
Cyril, OK 73029

Resident
22 Nebraska
Cyril, OK 73029

Resident
226 First
Cyril, OK 73029

Resident
224 First
Cyril, OK 73029

Resident
209 First
Cyril, OK 73029

Resident
227 First
Cyril, OK 73029

Appendix C
INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

U.S. EPA Library
12th Floor
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Monday through Friday
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Cyril City Hall
202 W. Main
Cyril, OK 73029

Monday through Friday
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

State Department of Health
Solid Waste Division
1000 NE 10th St.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73152

Monday through Friday
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue ♣ Dallas, Texas 75202