



DEVILS SWAMP LAKE SITE

Alsen, Louisiana

April 2009

This Fact Sheet will tell you about.....

- **Current Activities**
- **What's next?**
- **History**
- **Where to get more information**

Current activities

In March of 2009 the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality returned to the site and conducted warning sign maintenance. They replaced the missing or damaged signs.

The EPA is currently in negotiations with the Potentially Responsible Parties to conduct a remedial investigation/feasibility study. These studies are intended to:

1. Gather the data necessary to access the type and extent of contamination at a Superfund Site;
2. Establish criteria for cleaning up the site;
3. Identify and screen cleanup alternatives for remedial action;
4. Analyze in detail the technology and cost of the alternatives.

EPA continues to evaluate Potentially Responsible Parties as part of the enforcement process.

What's next?

An Alsen Community Meeting is planned for April 23, 2009, to update the Community and address any concerns about the site. The meeting will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 at the:

Alsen Recreation Center
601 Old Rafe Meyer Road
Baton Rouge, LA. 70807

History

Devil's Swamp is in a large flood plain area which consists of Devil's Swamp Lake and areas of Devil's Swamp immediately adjoining the lake. The site is near Alsen, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, about ten miles north of the City of Baton Rouge. The Devil's Swamp flood plain is a freshwater wetland covering approximately 12 square miles of land along the east side of the Mississippi River. Devil's Swamp Lake is characterized as a man-made lake, resulting from the construction of Baton Rouge Harbor in 1973.

Prior to the 1950s, uses of the area around Devil's Swamp and Devil's Swamp Lake consisted of farming, grazing, and some logging. Rapid industrialization throughout the 1960s and 1970s resulted in numerous waste storage sites and subsequent releases of hazardous substances in areas surrounding Devil's Swamp. The sites were used as depositories for various organic wastes from petrochemical processes and refining industries, landfills and receiving basins.

The Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc. formerly Rollins Environmental Services of Louisiana, Inc. is located north of the Baton Rouge Harbor and west of Scenic Highway. Rollins began operating a hazardous chemical disposal facility in 1971. Most of the landfill cells and receiving basins were below grade and used the natural clay soils for liners. In 1980, Rollins initiated improvements to the facility which included excavation of previous disposal units, the construction of new landfills with liners (clay and synthetic), and implementation of a groundwater monitoring and recovery program.

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) confirmed the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in sediments from Devil's Lake and along the wastewater ditch from the former Rollins facility.

In October 1987, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), issued a fish-consumption advisory for Devil's Swamp Lake. The perimeter of the advisory was expanded through an advisory update to include Devil's Swamp and Bayou Baton Rouge in July 1993. The current advisory recommends that fish not be consumed more than two meals per month, taken in the areas of Devil's Swamp, Devil's Swamp Lake, and Bayou Baton Rouge.

Baton Rouge, LA 70807
(225) 354-3172
Mon.to Thurs. 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Fri. and Sat. 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 P.M.
Sunday 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

News media inquiries should be directed to the Region 6 Press Office at 214-665-2208 or (214) 665-2261

You can find more information about the Region 6 Superfund program on EPA's Region 6 website:
<http://www.epa.gov/region6/superfund>

To receive a Spanish translation of this fact sheet call EPA at 1-800-553-3508 (toll free)

Where to get more information.....

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Site Repository
Scotlandville Branch Library

7373 Scenic Highway

