

ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES, INC.

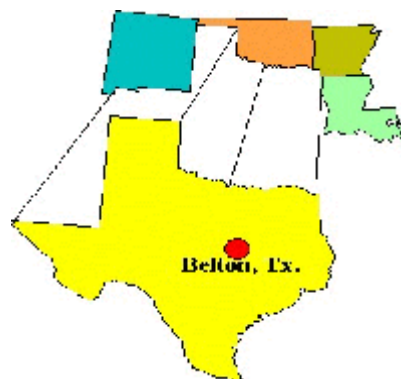
Belton, Bell County, Texas

EPA Region 6

EPA ID# TXD06637964

State Congressional District: 11

Fact Sheet Updated: August 13, 2002



Site Description

Location: The Rockwool site is an approximately 100 acre tract of land located at 1741 Taylors Valley Road, 1/4 mile east of Interstate Highway 35, and 1 ½ miles east of downtown Belton, Bell County, Texas. The city of Belton is located in central Texas, between Waco and Austin.

Setting: The area surrounding the site is primarily industrial. There are several businesses, a gas station, a fast food restaurant, and 2 residences within 1/4 mile of the site. Approximately 3,000 citizens live within a one mile radius of the site.

The Rockwool facility operated as a mineral wool insulation manufacturing plant from mid-1950 until February 1987. The site has been inactive since February 1987.

Population: The population of the city of Belton is an estimated 14,500, and the population of Bell County is approximately 226,000.

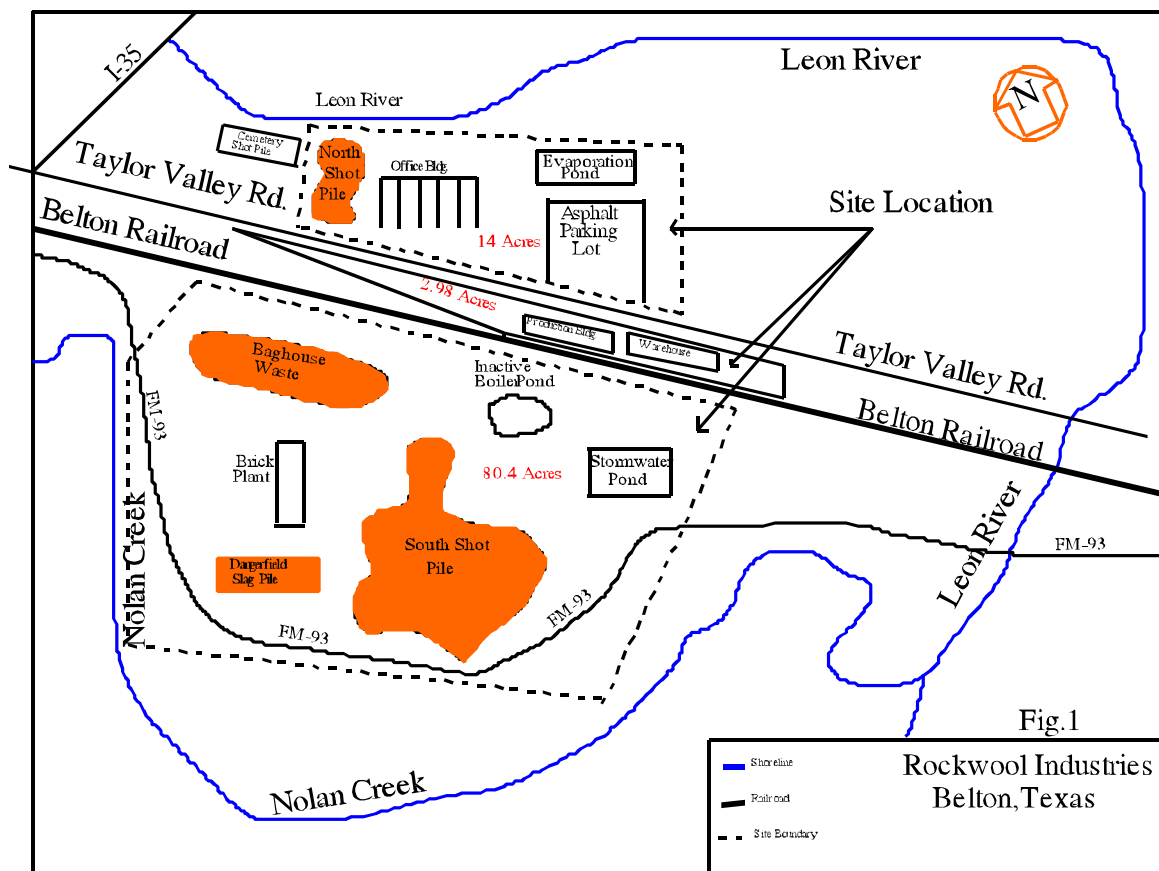
Wastes and Volumes

The main wastes at the Rockwool site are located in the North and South Shot Piles with estimated volumes of 15,000 to 18,000 cubic yards and 20,000 to 30,000 cubic yards respectively of "spent iron shot" as a by product of the manufacture of mineral wool insulation. An undetermined amount of "spent shot" waste is located at the boundary of a cemetery which adjoins the site to the north by the Leon River.

National Priorities List

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| NPL Inclusion Proposal Date: | March 6, 1998 |
| NPL Inclusion Final Date: | September 29, 1998 |
| NPL Deletion Proposal Date: | n/a |
| NPL Final Deletion Date: | n/a |

Site Map



Site History

The Rockwool Industries, Inc. (Rockwool) manufactured mineral wool insulation from mid-1950s until February 1987. From 1984 to 1987, Rockwool operated under a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit. The facility manufactured two types of mineral wool insulation: blow wool and batt wool. The mineral wool was manufactured in blast furnaces using raw material such as slags from copper and antimony smelting, waste from limestone mining, as well as coke and basalts. The raw material was melted in a coke-fired furnace and then extruded by blowing air over spinning drums to form fibers. The residue left in the furnace from the heating of the slags was a metal "shot" type material. This "spent iron shot" was the main waste type generated as a part of the rockwool production process.

Present Status and Issues

The US EPA is currently working to complete the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Studies (RI/FS). EPA started sampling and other investigations from the first week of May, 2001. The sampling event was completed on August 31, 2001. Approximately 60 fish samples were collected during the sampling. The following samples were collected:

- 89 surface and subsurface.
- 2 ground water seep samples
- 10 ground water samples
- 4 sediment and 1 surface water sample

In addition 10 lead based paint and 31 asbestos determination samples were collected.

Preliminary data evaluation indicates that contaminants of concern i.e. Arsenic, Antimony and Selenium in Leon River water has the same value upgradient and downgradient of the site i.e. unaffected by the North Shot Pile. Sediment samples from the Leon River show elevated levels of metals i.e. Arsenic adjacent to the North Shot Pile area. Fish samples show low levels of metals in fish tissue but the data is currently being evaluated thus results to date must be considered preliminary. As of April 2002 statistical analysis results are being reviewed. Sediments adjacent to the north shot pile have higher metals values than down gradient samples in the Leon River. Water samples are not significantly different between upgradient , adjacent and downgradient areas in the Leon River.

Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) and the Agency for Toxic substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) evaluated hazard from the site in late 1998 through mid-1999 and determined that Rockwool poses an indeterminate public health hazard. TDH concluded that site contaminants through groundwater posed no public health hazard. Also exposure to site contaminants in other on-site waste sources posed no public health hazard. Contractors for EPA have completed a Technical Activities Work Plan (TAPW) which was approved by EPA by November 2000. Risk Assessment group at EPA has reviewed it and made suggestions on sampling which were incorporated in the final sampling plan for the RI/FS. The Sampling and Analysis Plan was approved by EPA in February 2001. Field Sampling and Analysis took place between July and October 2001. The Data Evaluation and Validation was complete by December 2001. Currently Human Health & Ecological Risk Assessment is being performed. EPA contractors have completed the Human Health Risk Assessment(HHRA). With the results of HHRA the RI and FS report should be available by mid August,2002. The Proposed Plan will be submitted to the public by 3rd week of August.

Record of Decision

An Interim ROD based on the human health risk assessment will be issued after the Proposed Plan is reviewed and public comment is received, anticipated by the 3rd week of September .

Community Involvement

Community Involvement Plan:

A "Draft" Community Involvement Plan to support the "long term" Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the site was prepared by the EPA Region 6 in November 1999.

EPA Hosted Community Meetings

- 9/2/99: Members of the EPA Community Involvement Team conducted community interviews at businesses and residences in the vicinity of the Rockwool site.
- 10/27/99: The EPA briefed City Officials from Belton and Temple on the status of the Rockwool site.
- 12/14/99: The EPA briefed the City of Belton council members and held an Availability Session after the Belton City Council meeting.
- 04/24/01: The EPA Project Manager explained the Superfund Process and upcoming sampling and investigation event at Rockwool at the Belton City Council meeting, and held an Availability Session after the City Council Meeting. Sam Murphy of Rep Chet Edwards office was present urging EPA not to allow any slow down of the cleanup process.
- 08/09/01 The EPA RPM presented preliminary results of sampling to Mayor Holmes and City Manager Sam Listi at the end of sampling and data collection by August 1, 2010
- 10/16/01 RPM and Barbara Greenfield of Superfund Redevelopment visited the site with Mayor Holmes and Manager Sam Listi to facilitate early action for site redevelopment.
- 4/ 2002 Rockwool has been nominated for a \$50,000 Superfund Redevelopment study grant. The applications and other documents have been forwarded to the city of Belton

Public Notice Announcing the Placement of Rockwool on the NPL: 12/2/99

Fact Sheets: 9/2/99, 11/11/99, 4/3/00

Public Meeting: Will be conducted at the conclusion of the RI/FS, tentatively scheduled for early fall of 2002

Constituency Interest: Because the site is mostly removed from downtown Belton and poses no immediate health risks to the community, there is minimal citizen concern for the site. The citizens interviewed did, however, ask to be kept informed of site activities through either mailings or publications in the Belton Journal.

Site Repository:

City of Belton City Hall
333 East Avenue A
Belton, TX 76513
(254) 933-5816

Technical Assistance Grant

Availability Notice: Public Notice on December 2, 1999

Letters of Intent Received: None

“Final” TAG Application received: n/a

Grant Award Date: n/a

Current Status: n/a

Site Contacts

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Remedial Project Manager (Contact for Technical Questions):

Shawn Ghose M.S., P.E, 214-665-6782, Mail Code: 6SF-AP

Community Involvement Staff (Contact for Community Relations Questions):

Vacant at this time

Site Attorney (Contact for Legal Questions):

Mike Barra, 214-665-2143, Mail Code: 6RC-S

State Contact (TNRCC) Robert Wucher (512) 239-2494

Region 6 Ombudsman (Contact for Dispute Resolution):

Arnold Ondarza, 214-665-6790, Mail Code: 6SF-D

Superfund Region 6 Toll Free Number: 1-800-533-3508

Realized Cleanup Benefits

Remediation of the contaminated media will reduce the health and ecological risk associated with the contaminants.