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# **Community Relations Plan**

for

## **Harkey Road**

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

for the

Harkey Road Proposed State Superfund Site  
Brazoria County, Texas

August 2001

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*Texas Register* publication of the public notice announcing the proposal to the state Superfund public meeting for the Harkey Road site

Legal Notice publication of the public notice announcing the proposal to the state Superfund public meeting for the Harkey Road site:

*Pearland Journal*  
*Pearland Reporter News*

## **Appendices**

Site Location Map

Site Aerial Photograph

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN  
for the  
Harkey Road Proposed State Superfund Site

Brazoria County, Texas

August 2001

**Overview of Community Relations Plan**

This community relations plan (CRP) identifies issues of community concern regarding the Harkey Road Proposed State Superfund Site (Harkey Road site) located south of the city limits of Pearland in Brazoria County, Texas. This CRP also outlines the anticipated community relations activities to be conducted during each phase of the cleanup at the Harkey Road site.

The Harkey Road site community relations plan has been prepared to aid the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) in developing a community relations program tailored to the needs of the community affected by the Harkey Road site. The TNRCC will conduct community relations activities to ensure that the local public has input to decisions and access to information about Superfund activities at the Harkey Road site.

The TNRCC has the responsibility for managing the cleanup of this site, and the TNRCC Remediation Division will oversee all community relations activities at the site.

**Site Location**

29E 31' 20.45" North Latitude, 95E 18' 48.74" West Longitude

The Harkey Road site is located on the northeast corner of Harkey Road (County Road 103) and Bryan (County Road 279A), in an unincorporated area of Brazoria County approximately 2 miles south of the city limits of Pearland. The actual site address is 17111 Harkey Road. The area around the site is residential consisting of manufactured and site-built

**Site Chronology**

08/13/97- The Texas Department of Health and the TNRCC receive information about a child with elevated blood-lead levels and the battery chips as a potential source of the lead.

09/12/97- The TNRCC regional officials collect seven soil samples from the site to test the soil for lead concentrations. Analyses from those soil samples show lead concentrations ranging from 95.5 to 27,100 parts per million (ppm).

11/04/97 -The TNRCC conducts door-to-door interviews with neighbors.

11/07/97- Notice of Enforcement letters from the TNRCC are mailed to the executors of the Hastings Estates.

11/13/97- The Texas Department of Health and Brazoria County Health Department investigate the Hastings Subdivision area for the purpose of obtaining the names and addresses of residents within this area who would not be able to attend a blood screening scheduled at the Pearland Clinic, which was to be held on 11/20/97 in Pearland. They also investigate the interior of the vacant manufactured home at 17111 Harkey Road which was the former residence of the child with elevated blood lead.

11/20/97 - Blood screening clinic held by Brazoria County Health Department. Analytical results indicate the residents' blood-lead levels are within acceptable range.

11/22/97- The TNRCC completes the fence enclosing Lots 4 and 5.

11/24/97 -The TNRCC takes soil samples from 17119 Harkey Road which is located directly across Brian Street from the Harkey Road Site. The lead level concentrations of the samples ranged from 20.5 to 36.2 ppm.

01/14/98- The Texas Department of Health sample results from 11/13/97 from the mini-blinds in the east bedroom show lead levels of health concern.

A water sample taken from one of the other trailers in the same area shows no lead levels of health concern. All the residences in that immediate area are serviced by a single water supplier. Additionally the TNRCC Region 12 Houston Office has established and documented an exterior lead hazard from buried battery chips and casings located on the 17111 Harkey Road property.

03/12/98- TNRCC requests the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 to conduct an EP A removal action at the Harkey Road Site.

01/99- The EPA Region 6 Technical Assessment and Response Team conducts a site reconnaissance to observe site conditions at the Harkey Road site.

05/3/99 -The EP A collects core soil samples to a depth of four feet on the Harkey Road site. A total of 109 core layers from 40 samples were analyzed using an x-ray fluorescent (XRF) unit. Sixty-five percent of the sampled locations were found to have elevated lead concentrations in the top six to 12 inches of soil.

05/18/99 -The EP A collects additional surface soil samples from the Harkey Road site plus properties immediately adjacent to the site. Lead concentrations ranged from 15.0 to 43,100 ppm.

06/4/99 -07/22/99 -The EPA collects additional soil samples.

09/21/99- The EPA files Removal Assessment Report regarding Harkey Road site.

03/2000 -Prior to spending state funds, the TNRCC must seek funding from other outside sources. The EP A could not perform this removal with their current level of funding because of higher ranking sites. Federal funds would not be available during 2001 and 2002 fiscal years.

04/17/2000 -The TNRCC exhausts enforcement options. Site is considered eligible for removal action by the state.

05/25/2000 -The TNRCC staff members from Superfund, Community Relations and Toxicology and Risk Assessment meet with Brazoria County and City of Pearland officials to discuss what the TNRCC is proposing to do at the site.

06/30/2000 -Based on conversations with nearby area residents, additional information regarding the Harkey Road property indicates the possibility of a much greater quantity of buried battery chips than was originally estimated for the site. The TNRCC concludes that an immediate soil removal could not be accomplished with the funds currently allocated for the site's remediation.

07/21/2000 -The TNRCC contracts with URS Dames & Moore to do an assessment of the thickness of lead-battery chips, lead concentrations in soils beneath lead chips, depth to groundwater, and potential contamination.

08/03/2000 -Manufactured home is removed from site by URS Dames & Moore, and site preparation begins.

08/09/2000 -The TNRCC completes sample collection on Lots 4 and 5. URS Dames & Moore breaks a water line while investigating the soil contamination.

09/27/2000 -The TNRCC receives sample results of analyses of City of Pearland public water well approximately three miles north of site and a private water well about 100 feet northwest of the site. All analyses indicated no concentrations of lead above the analytical detection limits.

12/07-08/2000- Additional soil samples are taken for completion of Hazardous Ranking System (HRS) package.

01/10/2001 -Additional water samples are taken from nearby public supply wells --Flora #7 Subdivision, Meadowlark Subdivision, and A Place to Grow Day Care. No contaminants were detected at levels above the drinking water standard.

04/04/2001 -The TNRCC completes HRS package.

04/25/2001 -Notifications of public meeting to be held on June 4, 2001, are published in the *Pearland Journal* and the *Pearland Reporter News* .

04/27/2001 -Notification of public meeting to be held on June 4, 2001, is published in the *Texas Register*.

04/28 to 05/01/2001 -Additional samples are taken from the site and neighbors' yards east and south of the site to further delineate the extent of contamination. A monitor well was installed in lot 5. The groundwater sample collected from the site did not indicate any impact from lead contamination.

06/04/2001 -TNRCC conducts public meeting, in Pearland, to propose the Harkey Road site to the state Superfund Registry.

06/25/2001 - The TNRCC contracted with IT Corporation to excavate and remove the contaminated soil from the site and two neighboring properties. IT Corporation mobilized on-site.

## **Community Profile**

In 2000 the U.S. Census Bureau estimated the population of Brazoria County at 241,767, a 26.1% increase from the 1990 U.S. Census estimate. The 2000 ethnicity estimates of Brazoria County by the U.S. Census were: white, 77.1%; black, 8.5%; Hispanic, 22.8%; American Indian, 0.5%; Asian, 2% and other, 9.6%.

Pearland is located in far north Brazoria County. Pearland is considered part of the Houston metropolitan area. Many Pearland residents commute to jobs in Houston. The area to the south of the Harkey Road site is rural.

## **Community Involvement and Concerns**

Prior to the June 2001 public meeting, residents near the Harkey Road site were concerned about groundwater contamination, the TNRCC contractor rupturing the water supply main, and cleanup liability for off-site contamination.

At the June 2001 public meeting the TNRCC informed the residents:

- ! the Harkey Road Site would be cleaned up by the mid-August, 2001. IT Corporation of Houston has been retained by the TNRCC to conduct the clean-up operations;
- ! off-site sampling revealed elevated lead levels on the property adjacent to the east of the site and the property located diagonally across Brian Street. The TNRCC assured these property owners that the cleanup of their properties would be done at state expense;
- ! water samples from the on-site monitor well, the nearby water supply company well and other area public and private water wells did not indicate any impact from lead contamination.

At the public meeting one area resident asked that his property be sampled for elevated lead levels because sediment from drainage ditches in the Harkey Road area had been spread on his property some years earlier. The TNRCC sampled this property in July 2001 and the analysis revealed that the property has not been adversely impacted by lead contamination.

### **Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program**

- A. Maintain open communications between the TNRCC, City of Pearland, Brazoria County and state officials and concerned citizens.
- B. Continue to expand the mailing list to include additional agencies, organizations, and residents that are interested in the project.
- C. Provide a community relations contact from whom interested parties can receive information on site activities, project status, and study results.
- D. Provide all information, especially technical findings, in a language that is understandable to the general public and in a form useful to interested citizens and elected officials through the preparation of fact sheets and news releases, when major findings become available during project phases.
- E. Monitor community concerns and information requirements as the project progresses.
- F. Respond to telephone inquiries and written correspondence in a timely and accurate manner.
- G. Modify the Community Relations Plan for changes in community needs as necessary to be accurate during different project phases.

## **Community Relations Techniques**

- A. Project Status Briefings for community groups and concerned citizens (may include public meetings, if needed) - To periodically inform the general community of significant project developments and findings; to respond to inquiries accordingly and incorporate local concerns into the decision making process as appropriate.
- B. Project Mailing List - To provide the means through which press releases, project status reports and other significant communications can be distributed to concerned groups and individuals.
- C. Public Consultations - To conduct informal meetings (if needed) with residents. To provide an opportunity for affected residents to express any concerns and to make inquiries to ensure effective two-way communication.
- D. Program Document Repositories - To maintain an easily accessible repository through which the public may review project outputs.
- E. TNRCC State Superfund Internet Homepage - To provide current, timely information on state Superfund activities on the World Wide Web at [www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/superfund](http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/superfund)
- F. Revise CRP - To reflect changes in site activities or local concerns. After the Proposed Remedial Action Document (PRAD) has been issued, the CRP will be revised to address implementation of the selected remedial action alternative.

## Area Elected Officials

### State

The Honorable J.E. Brown  
State Senate  
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Fax: 281/494-7810

The Honorable J.E. Brown  
State Senate  
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Austin, Texas 78711  
Telephone: 512/463-0117  
Fax: 512/463-0639

The Honorable Dennis Bonnen  
Texas House of Representatives  
122 East Myrtle Street  
Angleton, Texas 77515  
Telephone: 979/848-1770  
Fax: 979/849-3169

The Honorable Dennis Bonnen  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910  
Telephone 512/463-0564

### County

The Honorable John Willy  
Brazoria County Judge  
111 Locust  
Angleton, Texas 77515  
Telephone: 979/864-1200  
Fax: 979/849-4655

The Honorable James Clawson  
Brazoria County Commissioner, Pct. 2  
1800 County Road 171, Dept. 3  
Old Armory Building  
Angleton, Texas 77515  
Telephone: 409/388-1548  
Fax: 409/849-4837

## Area News Media

### *Pearland Journal*

Attn. City Editor  
P.O. Box 1830  
Pearland, Texas 77588  
Telephone: 281/485-2785  
Fax: 281/485-4464

### *Pearland Reporter News*

Attn. City Editor  
2404 South Park  
Pearland, Texas 77581  
Telephone: 281/485-7501  
Fax: 281/485-6397

### *Houston Chronicle*

Attn. City Editor  
P.O. Box 4260  
Houston, Texas 77210  
Telephone: 713/220-7491  
Fax: 713/220-6806

### KHOU-TV

ATTN: News, Assignments Editor  
1945 Allen Parkway  
Houston, Texas 77001  
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Fax: 713/521-4326

### KPRC-TV

ATTN: News, Assignments Editor  
8181 Southwest Freeway  
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Fax: 713/270-9334

### KRIV-TV

ATTN: News, Assignments Editor  
3935 Westheimer Road  
Houston, Texas 77227  
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### KTMD-TV

ATTN: News, Assignments Editor  
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### KTRK-TV

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### KXLN-TV

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## **Project Document Repositories**

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Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission  
Records Management  
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12100 Park 35 Circle  
Austin, Texas 78753  
Telephone: 512/239-2920

(Mailing Address)  
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission  
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MC-199  
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