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# **Community Relations Plan**

for

## **Old Lufkin Creosoting**

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**June 2002**

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

for

Old Lufkin Creosoting Proposed State Superfund Site  
Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas

Updated June 2002

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission  
Remediation Division  
12100 Park 35 Circle  
Building D  
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Updated June 2002

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Table of Contents

Overview of Community Relations Plan ..... 1

Site Profile:

Site Location and Description ..... 1

Background and Operating History ..... 2

Community Profile ..... 5

Community Involvement and Concerns ..... 5

Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program ..... 6

Community Relations Techniques ..... 7

Elected Officials Address List ..... 8

Area News Media ..... 9

Key Project Personnel ..... 10

Program Document Repositories ..... 10

Appendix

Site Location Map

Site Area Diagram – Showing Sample and Well Locations

Public Notice, published in the *Texas Register*, announcing the proposal to the Registry of State Superfund Sites public meeting for Old Lufkin Creosoting

Annual *Texas Register* publications of the Registry of State Superfund Sites that have included Old Lufkin Creosoting

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Overview of Community Relations Plan

This community relations plan (CRP) identifies issues of community concern regarding the Old Lufkin Creosoting Proposed State Superfund Site (Old Lufkin) Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas. This CRP also outlines the anticipated community relations activities to be conducted during each phase of the cleanup at the Old Lufkin site.

The Old Lufkin 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 Old Lufkin 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 Old Lufkin site.

The information in this plan is based primarily on the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) package for the Old Lufkin site. Other references include the *Texas Almanac* and the *Texas State Directory*. The TNRCC has the responsibility for overseeing the cleanup of this site, and the TNRCC Remediation Division will oversee all community relations activities at the site.

## Site Profile

### **Site Location and Description:**

Latitude 31° 20' 10" N, Longitude 94° 43' 00" W

The Old Lufkin Creosoting Proposed State Superfund site is a former wood treating facility located at 1411 East Lufkin Avenue in Lufkin, Texas. The 8 acre site is approximately 2.5 miles west of East Loop 287. Immediately north of the Old Lufkin site is the Higgins Wood Preserving Proposed State Superfund Site. A residential area, consisting primarily of single family homes lies adjacent to the northeast corner of the site. The east side and southwest and northwest corners of the site are bounded by commercial/industrial properties. A thick wooded area lies to the west of the site.

### **Background and Operating History:**

The Old Lufkin Creosoting facility began the treatment of poles, posts, and dimensionalized lumber under the name Lufkin Creosoting Company, Inc. in 1946. The business was owned by 12 partners. Prior to 1946, a Southern Bell Lumber Company sawmill occupied the site.

Another State Superfund site, Higgins (Higgins) Wood Treating Company, is located adjacent to the northeast corner of the site. Higgins operated from 1930 to 1973. This site was owned by Texas Electric Co-Op until 1962, when the Higgins brothers bought it and changed the name to Higgins Wood Treating Company. The facility was closed and all equipment removed from the site in 1974. Currently, a warehouse and a shopping center are located on part of the Higgins site.

The Lufkin Creosoting Company was operated at the Lufkin Avenue location until 1979 when all operations were moved to a larger site located on Highway 69 in Lufkin. Equipment that had been located at the Lufkin Avenue facility included four treatment cylinders, three work tanks, three to four treatment tanks and two boilers. There were also two surface impoundments which were used as oxidation ponds. When the facility was closed, the cylinders and some of the tanks were sold, and the work tanks were moved to the new Lufkin Creosoting Site on Highway 69. The two oxidation ponds (north and south) were closed. The Old Lufkin Creosoting Site is currently vacant.

The north oxidation pond was excavated to the top of an in-situ clay unit and operated from 1974 to 1979. The south oxidation pond was also excavated to the top of the same clay unit and operated from approximately 1946 to 1979. The two oxidation ponds were closed by first de-watering and treating the water through the on-site wastewater treatment system. As much of the sediment and sludge as possible was removed and transported

offsite for disposal. The remaining sediment was allowed to dry and the impoundments were backfilled with clean soil.

Review of historical information reveals that the treatment chemical used at the site was predominately creosote, and to a much lesser extent, pentachlorophenol (PCP). PCP was only used for a brief period during the early 1970's. The volume of creosote used was reported to be about 6,000 gallons/week with a maximum of 18,000 gallons stored on site during peak operations. The Lufkin Creosoting Company used city water for the closed steaming process to pre-treat the wood. The surface impoundment was once used to hold blowdown water from the treatment process, but this was discontinued when a recycling system using above-ground tanks was incorporated into the treatment process. The aboveground tanks were equipped with bottom skimmers to recover the creosote. The cylinders and tanks were cleaned once every four or five years.

Following identification of the Old Lufkin Creosoting Site as a potential hazardous waste site through review of state agency records, the Texas Department of Water Resources (TDWR), a predecessor agency of the TNRCC, conducted a preliminary site assessment. The assessment, conducted on December 20, 1984, consisted of a review of file information, discussions with state agency personnel, and a site reconnaissance. TDWR concluded that insufficient information had been gathered to make a hazard determination. In addition, an oily sheen was observed on the ditch water surface during the site reconnaissance. On this basis TDWR decided that a site inspection be conducted.

During an inspection on July 22, 1986 an employee of Lufkin Creosoting Company was interviewed; a site reconnaissance was conducted; and soil samples were collected from the drainage ditch and the closed surface impoundment. In addition to the two ditch sediment samples and one surface impoundment soil sample, a soil sample representative of background conditions was collected across Lufkin Avenue south of the site. The samples were analyzed for creosote constituents and PCP. All of the samples, including the background sample, contained creosote constituents, but PCP was not detected in any of the samples. Because of the concentration of the creosote constituents measured in the background sample collected off-site, the site was given a medium hazard ranking.

Following the site inspection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) representatives conducted additional inquiries regarding the closure of the former operating units at the facility and the uses of surface and groundwater in the vicinity of the site. Based on the information obtained, the EPA issued a final strategy determination for the Old Lufkin Creosoting site on March 27, 1988. The EPA concluded that the site was not a candidate for the National Priority List and no further investigative activity was required under federal authority.

On September 17, 1990, a Texas Water Commission, (TWC), a predecessor agency to the current TNRCC, representative collected two soil samples from the drainage ditch on the Old Lufkin Creosoting Site. One of the samples was collected at the east-west

property line, the other sample was collected below the bridge which crosses the drainage ditch. Sampling records noted the apparent presence, based on visual observation, of creosote at both sampling locations. The soil samples were submitted to the Texas Department of Health laboratory for analysis of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), and pesticides. Results of these analyses found various VOC and SVOC creosote constituents to be present in the soil samples. No pesticides were reported at levels exceeding the method detection limit.

A TWC representative revisited the site and further examined the condition of the ditch traversing the Old Lufkin Creosoting Site on October 13, 1990. Apparent creosote contamination was discovered in various locations within the ditch, but no samples were collected for laboratory analysis at that time.

On January 24, 1991, representatives of Lufkin Creosoting Company, Inc. (Lufkin Creosoting) agreed, in a good faith offer to the TWC, to conduct a Remedial Investigation (RI) at the Old Lufkin Creosoting Site.

The TWC issued an Agreed Order in August 1992 to the Lufkin Creosoting Company to implement a RI at the site of the Old Lufkin Creosoting facility. The RI was to be conducted in phases, as necessary. The objectives of the initial Phase I investigation of the RI were two-fold: (1) to characterize the hydrogeology and geologic site conditions, and (2) to evaluate the potential for impacts on the site resulting from past facility operations. The Agreed Order stated that a Phase II of the RI would be implemented, as needed, to further determine the extent of contamination in the groundwater, surface sediment and soils.

The Phase I RI field program was begun at the Old Lufkin Creosoting site in October 1992, suspended, and resumed again between January and June 1993. A series of shallow soil borings, deep soil borings and groundwater monitoring wells were installed to evaluate the site conditions and potential impacts. Additionally, sediment and surface water samples were obtained from a drainage ditch in the southern portion of the site and submitted for analysis.

The Phase I RI was completed in November 1994 and the Phase II RI began. Phase II was completed in October 1998.

The Phase III RI, to determine the extent of ground water contamination began in October 1998.

In July 1999, TNRCC approved Lufkin Creosoting's work plan to begin the final phase of the remedial investigation of the site. Sampling of ground water and soil was completed on August 6, 1999 with a final report pending to date.

The final Remedial Investigation Report was approved by TNRCC on November 23, 1999.

The Protective Concentration Levels (PCL) Development document was approved by TNRCC on August 23, 2000.

The Response Action Plan was approved by TNRCC on April 26, 2002, thereby allowing the potentially responsible party to apply to TNRCC's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP), under which the PRP's intend to complete site remediation.

## **Community Profile**

The Old Lufkin Creosoting Proposed State Superfund Site is located at 1411 East Lufkin Avenue. Immediately north of the Old Lufkin site is the Higgins Wood Preserving Proposed State Superfund Site. A residential area, consisting primarily of single family homes lies adjacent to the northeast corner of the site. The east side and southwest and northwest corners of the site are bounded by commercial/industrial properties. A thick wooded area lies to the west of the site.

Lufkin is the county seat of Angelina County. The 2000 U.S. Census lists the population of Lufkin as 32,706.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census Statistics Angelina County ethnicity is: white, 75.1%; black, 14.7%; Hispanic, 14.3%; Native American 0.3%, Asian, 0.7%.

Lufkin has an economy based on oil and gas production, the lumber industry and manufacturing. Lufkin is the home of Angelina College and offices of the U.S. Forestry Service and Texas Forestry Service.

## **Community Involvement and Concerns**

A public meeting was held October 24, 1990, in council chambers of Lufkin City Hall to receive information about the Old Lufkin Creosoting site and to propose the listing of the site to the State Registry of Superfund Sites. Between 20 and 30 people attended the public meeting.

The TNRCC scheduled a public meeting to receive public comment regarding the proposed future land use for the Old Lufkin Creosoting State Superfund site on August 24, 1999 in council chambers of Lufkin City Hall. A public notice was printed in the legal notice section of the July 15, 1999, edition of the Lufkin Daily News and a display ad was run in the body of the August 11, 1999, edition of the Lufkin Daily News.

A letter informing Lufkin mayor Louis Bronaugh of the upcoming meeting was mailed August 10, 1999.

No one other than TNRCC staff attended the August 1999 public meeting.

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

- A. Maintain open communications between the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, City of Lufkin, Angelina County, State officials and concerned citizens.
- B. Continue to expand the TNRCC's mailing list to include additional agencies, organizations, and residents that are interested in the project.
- C. Provide a central information 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 by monitoring the community response to news releases and community meetings.
- F. Modify the community relations plan as changes in community attitudes and needs occur and maintain accuracy 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 insure effective two-way communication.
- D. Program Document Repositories - To maintain easily accessible repositories through which the public may review project outputs. The public will be periodically informed of the availability of project documents and the location of repositories via techniques A through C.
- E. TNRCC State Superfund Internet Homepage - provide current, timely information on state Superfund activities on the World Wide Web at the following web address: [www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/waste/superfund](http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/waste/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 Todd Staples  
Texas Senate  
P.O. Box 2208  
Palestine, Texas 75802  
Telephone: 903/729-7717

The Honorable Todd Staples  
Texas Senate  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711  
Telephone: 512/463-0103

The Honorable Jim McReynolds  
Texas House of Representatives  
210 South First Street  
Lufkin, Texas 75901  
Telephone: 936/634-9786

The Honorable Jim McReynolds  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768  
Telephone: 512/463-0490

**County**

The Honorable Joe Berry  
Angelina County Judge  
P.O. Box 908  
Lufkin, Texas 75901  
Telephone: 936/634-5413

The Honorable Rick Harrison  
Angelina County Commissioner  
Precinct 1  
P.O. Box 908  
Lufkin, Texas 75901  
Telephone: 936/632-5531

**City**

The Honorable Louis Bronaugh  
Mayor  
City of Lufkin  
P.O. Drawer 190  
Lufkin, Texas 75902  
Telephone: 936/634-8881

The Honorable Rose Boyd  
Council Member, Ward 2  
City of Lufkin  
P.O. Drawer 190  
Lufkin, Texas 75902  
Telephone: 936/634-8881

## Area News Media

Lufkin Daily News  
Attn: City Editor  
P.O. Box 1089  
Lufkin, Texas 75902  
Telephone: 936/632-6631

El Sol of East Texas  
Attn: Editor  
104 Lakewind Drive  
Lufkin, Texas 75901  
Telephone: 936/637-3052

La Lengua  
Attn: Editor  
P.O. Box 151355  
Lufkin, Texas 75915  
Telephone: 936/632-8444

KSFA-AM/KYKS-FM  
Attn: News Director  
P.O. Box 2209  
Lufkin, Texas 75902  
Telephone: 936/634-5596

KSML-AM  
Attn: News Director  
P.O. Box 1345  
Lufkin, Texas 75904  
Telephone: 936/634-6661

KLUF-TV  
Attn: News Director  
2601 E. Lufkin Avenue  
Lufkin, Texas 75901  
Telephone: 936/632-5000

KTRE-TV  
Attn: News Dept.  
P.O. Box 729  
Lufkin, Texas 75902  
Telephone: 936/853-5873

### **Key Project Personnel**

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Austin, Texas 78711-3087  
Telephone: 1-800-633-9363

Bruce McAnally  
Community Relations Assistant  
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission  
MC-225  
PO Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087  
Telephone: 1-800-633-9363

### **Project Document Repositories**

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission  
Central Records  
Building D, Room 190  
12100 Park 35 Circle  
Austin, Texas 78753  
Telephone: 512/239-2920

Kurth Memorial Library  
706 S. Raguet Street  
Lufkin TX 75901  
Telephone: 936/634-7617

## **Appendix**

Site Location Map

Site Area Diagram – Showing Sample and Well Locations

Public Notice, published in the *Texas Register*, announcing the proposal to the Registry of State Superfund Sites public meeting for Old Lufkin Creosoting

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