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Community Relations Plan

for

Sonics International

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May 1999

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

for

Sonics International State Superfund Site West of Ranger, Eastland County, Texas

Updated May 1999

Remediation Division
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

for

Sonics International State Superfund Site
West of Ranger, Eastland County, Texas

Updated May 1999

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
for
REMEDIAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
**Sonics International
State Superfund Site
Ranger, Eastland County, Texas**

Updated May 1999

OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

This community relations plan (CRP) identifies issues of community concern regarding the Sonics International site located in Ranger, Eastland County, Texas. It also outlines the anticipated community relations activities to be conducted during the Remedial Design and Construction stage at the Sonics site.

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) has responsibility of planning and implementing the required community relations activities at the Sonics site.

The Sonics community relations plan has been prepared to aid the TNRCC in developing a community relations program tailored to the needs of the community affected by the Sonics site. The TNRCC will conduct community relations activities and give the public access to information about State Superfund activities at the Sonics site.

The information in this plan is based primarily on the Hazardous Ranking Package. The information will be updated periodically during the course of the cleanup.

SITE PROFILE

A. Site Profile and Description

The Sonics site is located north of FM 101, approximately two miles west of Ranger, Texas. Two injection wells on this site were used for subsurface disposal of varying organic and inorganic hazardous wastes. Due to surface equipment leaks and at least three separate blowouts of one of the injection wells during work overs, surface soil became contaminated. Records document that the majority of wastes injected were acid solutions and chlorinated solvents.

The immediate area surrounding the site is scrub-brush range land used for livestock grazing and oil fields. There are homes located on ranches in the area of the site.

B. Background and Operating History

Sonics International, Inc. commenced operating hazardous waste disposal wells in February of 1974. These wells are located north of FM 101 approximately 2 miles west of the city of Ranger in Eastland County. WDW-116 and WDW-137 were permitted by the State to receive hazardous wastes in January, 1974 and June, 1977 respectively. According to records, WDW-116 received approximately 25 million gallons of waste, the majority being acid solutions and chlorinated solvents. Operations ceased in June, 1980 and both wells were plugged in April 1982. In December 1980 approximately 2800 cubic feet of contaminated soil was removed from the surface immediately adjacent to these disposal wells. Contamination was the result of unknown quantities of leaks and spills associated with surface equipment and three separate blow-outs from WDW-116 during a work over in August 1979. In August 1986 TWC field personnel responded to a request for assistance from the Railroad Commission and initiated an investigation of nuisance conditions related to the disposal well sites. Very strong chemical odors were present and soil samples revealed heavy metal and chemical contamination.

The contamination appears to be soil contamination with groundwater at risk. The 22.8 Hazardous Ranking System (HRS) score suggests a moderately high degree requirement for cleanup.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Sonics site is located two miles west of Ranger, Eastland County, Texas. Ranger is located about 85 miles southwest of Fort Worth on IH-20.

The 1998-99 edition of the *Texas Almanac* lists the population of Ranger at 2903. In 1995 the State Data Center of the Texas Department of Commerce estimated the population of Eastland County as 19,547, a 5.7% increase from the 1990 U.S. Census estimate. The 1990 ethnicity estimates of Eastland County by the U.S. Census was: white, 94%; black, 2%, American Indian, 0.3%; Asian, 0.2%, Hispanic, 7% and other 3%.

Agriculture, petroleum industries and various manufacturing plants make up the bulk of the area's commerce. Ranger College, a two-year college with an enrollment of 725 is located in Ranger.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND CONCERNS

The Proposal to Registry public meeting for the Sonics site was held in Ranger on February 17, 1987. Thirty-one people attended the February 1987 public meeting.

In 1992 there was an inquiry made to the project manager by a neighboring homeowner. The homeowner was considering a refinance of their mortgage and the mortgage company had questions about the status and proximity of the site. The project manager told the homeowner he would be glad to speak to a mortgage company representative. There was no follow up by the homeowner or the mortgage company after the initial call.

The Sonics site Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP's) were notified of the Selection of Remedy meeting, to be held on August 25, 1994, by Certified Letter on July 8, 1994. A public notice regarding the August 25, 1994 Selection of Remedy public meeting appeared in the July 8, 1994 *Texas Register* (19 TexReg 5390).

The August 25, 1994 Selection of Remedy public meeting for the Sonics site was held at the Ranger College Library. Forty-one people registered at the August 1994 meeting. Questions asked at the meeting were from two distinct groups: residents and other property owners; and local contractors who were interested in bidding the job. (For a transcript of the actual questions, please refer to the Responsiveness Summary for this meeting.)

The residents and other property owners were primarily concerned with the cleanup level of the soil and possible ground water contamination.

The contractors asked questions which the answers could help them determine the size and extent of the remediation job. Questions such as: How much material will need to be removed off-site?; Where is the waste scheduled to be transported?; According to Toxic Waste Laws, can we haul this waste interstate?

Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program

- A. Maintain open communications between the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Eastland County, City of Ranger, State elected 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 central information contact from whom interested parties can receive information on site activities, project status, and study results.
- D. Provide citizens, involved agencies, elected officials, and the media with accurate, timely information concerning the scope, progress, and findings of site-related activities by issuing press releases and conducting community meetings.
- E. Brief field teams on community relations issues before performing on-site investigations.
- F. 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.
- G. Monitor community concerns and information requirements as the project progresses by monitoring the community response to news releases and community meetings.
- H. 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 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.
- B. Public Consultations - 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.
- C. 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 D.
- D. State Superfund Quarterly Status Reports - Direct mail to state, local and county officials and interested persons.
- E. 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 Jane Nelson
State Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711
Phone - 512-463-0109

1500 Cross Timbers
Flower Mound, Texas 75028
214/724-0066

The Honorable Jim Keffer
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768
Phone - 512/463-0656

P.O. Box 857
Eastland, Texas 76448
Phone - 1-800-433-1716

COUNTY

The Honorable Brad Stephenson
County Judge
Eastland County Courthouse
Eastland, Texas 76448
817/629-1263

The Honorable Calvin Ainsworth
County Commissioner, Pct. 2
Eastland County Courthouse
Eastland, Texas 76448
817/647-1463

Ranger Area News Media

Ranger Times

PO Box 118
Ranger, Texas 76470-0118
Phone-817/647-1101
FAX - 817/629-2092

Eastland Telegram

PO Box 29
Eastland, Texas 76448-0029
Phone-817/629-1707
FAX - 817/629-2092

KEAS-AM/FM

PO Box 590
Eastland, Texas 76448
Phone-817/629-2621

Abilene Reporter-News

City Editor
PO Box 30
Abilene, TX 79604-0030
Phone-915/673-4271
FAX - 915/673-1901

KEY PROJECT PERSONNEL

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PROGRAM DOCUMENT REPOSITORY

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