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# **Community Relations Plan**

for

# **Wortham Lead Salvage**

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN  
for  
Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study  
Wortham Lead Salvage Superfund Site  
Henderson County, Texas  
May 1990

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## 1. Overview of Community Relations Plan

This community relations plan (CRP) identifies issues of community concern regarding the Wortham Lead Salvage Superfund site, in Henderson County, Texas. It also outlines the anticipated community relations activities to be conducted during the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) stages at the Wortham Lead Salvage site.

The Wortham Lead Salvage community relations plan has been prepared to aid the Texas Water Commission (TWC) in developing a community relations program tailored to the needs of the community affected by the Wortham Lead site. The TWC will conduct community relations activities to ensure that the local public has input to decisions and access to information about Superfund activities at the Wortham Lead site.

The information in this plan is based primarily on the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) 3012 Preliminary Assessment, the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) package, and the Pre-Statement of Work for the Wortham Lead site.

## 2. Site Profile

### ✓ 2.1 Site Location and Description

The Wortham Lead Salvage site covers approximately 1.328 acres and is located on the north side of Highway 175, northwest of Athens, approximately 2.5 miles southeast of Mabank, Henderson County, Texas. Henderson County is in the northeast section of Texas.

The area consists of an automotive maintenance area, and an area left bare by the acid tank and the disassembled batteries. Also, running through the property is a drainage ditch, an electric utility line, the City of Mabank water supply line, a united telephone buried cable, and a transformer.

The Wortham resident lives on the south side of the property, approximately 100 yards from the Wortham Lead site. The Murphy resident is on the north side, adjacent to the Abernathy pond, approximately 50 foot from the Wortham Lead site. One hundred and fifty feet from the site is a well, but no contaminants were detected. The Wortham pond is located southeast of the property and the Abernathy pond is to the northeast, across the street from the site. The Abernathy pond has been contaminated by runoff from Wortham Lead's operations.

### ✓ 2.2 Site Background and History

Wortham Lead Salvage is an abandoned lead salvaging site. The company was in business a very short time in 1980 and was involved with lead extraction from car batteries. The problem began when car batteries were split and the contents allowed to spill on the

ground. The battery acid was dumped into a vat, neutralized and taken to the Athens disposal. The casing was crushed to separate the plastic cover and the lead inner core. The plastic was then discarded on site grounds and the recovered lead was shipped to a Dallas metal smelter for refining.

As a result of a citizen complaint, the site was visited by agency personnel on March of 1980. Further site investigations were conducted by the State and EPA officials and samples revealed extensive lead contamination.

On July 29, 1986, an on-site investigation was conducted, it was determined that Roy Wortham Lead Salvage no longer exists. The site is now owned by Larry and Carla Breeland. The Breelands sell second-hand batteries out of a trailer next to their house, but they do not cut batteries or salvage lead.

Essentially nothing remains on site. To clean up the site, the Breelands sold the metal scrap, burned the wooden structures, battery cases, and other debris. Two six foot deep trenches, one twenty feet long, another eight-ten feet long, were reportedly dug and soil on the site was leveled. Debris remaining after the fire was bulldozed into the trenches, along with soil from the grading work. Only plastic fragments from battery casings were scattered about the site. Buildings, tanks, and other structures have been completely removed. Mr. Breeland has removed the fence line running northeast-southwest along the site, so that grazing cattle would not get close to the site. Several bare patches of soil and sand remain exposed where the acid tank was, and where batteries were disassembled. There was a low-lying area adjacent to and extending outside the fence (east fence) where some material had accumulated and killed the existing vegetation. The area was approximately thirty square feet in size. There was apparently a release of hazardous material to this area.

The Breelands filed a lawsuit in the 173rd State Judicial District Court against Mr. Wortham, attempting to void the purchase they made in April, 1985. In August 1986 the court ruled in favor of the Breelands and the ownership of the property was reverted back to Mr. Wortham.

### ✓ 2.3 Targets

a. Groundwater - The potential for groundwater contamination does exist, due to the nature of a battery recycling operation. The general sandy soil of the area may provide a pathway to shallow aquifers in the area.

b. Surface water - Surface and standing water on and off the property was documented as having contamination of lead and other heavy metals on all sampling inspection dates. Low pH's were observed in standing water samples also.

c. Air - No known air contamination was evident nor does it

appear to be a problem, although possible contaminants with lead may exist on-site. No samples have been taken.

On April 4, 1990, soil samples were sent to Lamar University, at the Grey Institute for testing. The Grey Institute is currently testing soil treatment methods to prevent leaching. The results will be submitted to the TWC.

### 3.0 Community Profile

#### ✓ 3.1 Proximity and Size Affected Population

The Wortham Lead Superfund site is off County Road 2938 and Highway 175, 2.5 miles southeast of Mabank. The City of Mabank has a population of 1,925.

Within a three-mile radius there are a total of 52 wells drawing water from the aquifer of concern. Forty three of these wells are for domestic use, two are for industrial use, one for irrigation, one for the public water supply and five are abandoned domestic wells. Ground water in the three-mile radius serves between one and one hundred people.

#### ✓ 3.2 History of Community Involvement *Austin + local town mtg date*

On August 19, 1986, in Tyler, and on August 28, 1986, in Austin, a public meeting was held for Wortham Leads proposal on the Texas Registry. Approximately 20 people turned out for the meeting in Tyler. Wortham Lead was then included on the Registry January 16, 1987.

#### ✓ 3.3 Key Community Concerns

The property owner across the road expressed concern about runoff from the site into her stock pond. She refused to sign an access agreement for the remedial investigation, conducted by Jones & Neuse, Inc. A letter was sent to her, addressing her major concerns on August 29, 1989. The ground water well was tested and found clean, and so she consented on September 5, 1989. The Highway Department was also interested in the site due to their future expansion plans.

### X 4. Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program

1. Maintain open communications between the Texas Water Commission, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Henderson County Officials, City of Mabank, State and Federal Officials and concerned citizens.
2. Continue to expand the mailing list to include additional agencies, organizations, and residents that are interest in the project.
3. Provide a central information contact (see Appendix C) from

whom interested parties can receive information on site activities, project status, and study results.

4. Provide citizens, involved agencies, elected officials, and the media with accurate, timely information the scope, progress, and findings of site related activities by issuing press releases and community meetings.

5. By telephone, written correspondence and attending public meetings, interested parties can make inquiries into insure communication.

6. Brief field teams on community relations issues before on-site investigations.

7. Provide all information, especially technical findings, in language that is understandable to the general public and in a form useful to interested citizens and elected officials through preparing fact sheets and news releases when major findings are made available during project phases.

8. Monitor community concerns and information requirements as the project progresses by monitoring community response to news releases and community meetings.

9. Modify the Community Relations Plan for changes in community attitudes and needs as necessary to be accurate during different project phases.

## X 5. Community Relations Techniques

The following techniques are not intended to be a chronological listing; please refer to Section "F. Milestone Schedule" for the specific sequence of occurrence.

1. Project Status Briefings for Congressional, State, and Local Officials - To periodically inform Congressional, State, and Local officials of project developments over the course of the program during the investigations, findings and as project developments occur.

2. 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.

3. Press releases/Press conferences - To periodically inform the general community of project status, i.e. significant changes or developments related to schedule, scope, and/or objectives (may be done concurrently with item 2). See F. Milestone Schedule.

4. Project Status Reports: a) Formal program document; b) Texas Water Report; c) Texas Water Commission meetings (if requested) - To formally summarize the status or findings of the project at designated intervals; at a minimum, fact sheets will be prepared at the start and completion of the field work. Each report will include a contact person and telephone number for comments to be distributed to the press and to interested individuals as a source of accurate information.
5. 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.
6. Public Consultation - Conduct informal meetings (if needed) with residents. To provide an opportunity for affected residents to express any concerns and make inquiries to insure effective two-way communication.
7. 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 1 thru 4.
8. Quarterly Status Reports - Direct mail to state, local and county officials and interested persons transmitted every three months from initiation of the project.
9. Revise CRP - To reflect changes in site activities or local concerns. After the Record of Decision (ROD) has been issued, the CRP will be revised to address implementation of the selected remedial action alternative.

#### 6. Budget and Staffing Requirements

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Staffing Responsibility</u>	<u>Hours</u>
News Releases/ Press Conferences	Primary: B. Colbert Coordinate: W. Newberry	
Establish/Provide Information to Repositories	Primary: B. Colbert J. Pingnot	
Public Meetings	Primary: B. Colbert J. Pingnot Coordinate: W. Newberry	
Project Status Briefing	Primary: B. Colbert W. Newberry Coordinate: J. Pingnot	

Public Consultations	Primary:	W. Newberry
	Coordinate:	B. Colbert
		J. Pingenot
Informal Discussions	Primary:	B. Colbert
	Coordinate:	W. Newberry
		J. Pingenot
Prepare CRP	Primary:	J. Pingenot
	Coordinate:	W. Newberry
		B. Colbert
Respond to Comments	Primary:	W. Newberry
Prepare		B. Colbert
Responsiveness	Coordinate:	J. Pingenot
Summaries		
Transmit Responsiveness	Primary:	J. Pingenot
Summaries		
Development and Release	Primary:	J. Pingenot
of a ROD Fact Sheet	Coordinate:	W. Newberry
		B. Colbert
Revise CRP for the	Primary:	J. Pingenot
RD/RA Phase	Coordinate:	W. Newberry
		B. Colbert

APPENDIX A

Interested Groups and Individuals

## Interested Groups and Individuals

### Federal

The Honorable Phil Gramm  
U.S. House of Representatives  
370 Senate Russell Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510-4302

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen  
U.S. Senate  
703 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

### State

The Honorable William P. Clements, Jr.  
Governor of Texas  
Attn: Steven Frishman  
P.O. Box 12428, Capitol Station  
Austin, TX 78711

The Honorable Chet Edwards  
Texas State Senate  
P.O. Box 12068  
Capital Station  
Austin, TX 78711

The Honorable Clyde Alexander  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768-29

The Honorable Tati Santiesteban, Chairman  
Texas Senate Natural Resource Committee  
P.O. Box 12058, Capitol Station  
Austin, TX 78711

The Honorable Terral Smith, Chairman  
Texas House Committee on Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78769

The Honorable Robert Saunders, Chairman  
Texas House Committee on Environmental Affairs  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78769

### Federal Agencies

Ms Ellen Greeney  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Hazardous & Waste Management Div.  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

State Agencies

Mr. William E. Colbert, Director  
Texas Water Commission  
Office of Public Information  
P.O. Box 13087, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

Ms Jeannette Pingetot  
Texas Water Commission  
Office of Public Information  
P.O. Box 13087, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

Mr. Wes Newberry  
Texas Water Commission  
Hazardous & Solid Waste

Austin, Texas 78711

Mr.  
Disaster Emergency Service  
P.O. Box 4087  
Austin, Texas 78733

Dr. Richard A. Beauchamp, M.D.  
Texas Department of Health  
Environmental Epidemiology Division  
1100 West 49th St.  
Austin, TX 78756

Local and County

The Honorable B. G. Autry, Mayor  
City of Mabank  
P.O. Box 293  
Mabank, Texas 75147

The Honorable Alan Allison, Alderman  
City of Mabank  
P.O. Box 293  
Mabank, Texas 75147

The Honorable Tim Johnson, Alderman  
City of Mabank  
P.O. Box 293  
Mabank, Texas 75147

The Honorable Cozell McAfee, Alderman  
City of Mabank  
P.O. Box 293  
Mabank, Texas 75147

The Honorable Roland G. Odom, Alderman  
City of Mabank  
P.O. Box 293  
Mabank, Texas 75147

The Honorable Jack Salter, Alderman  
City of Mabank  
P.O. Box 293  
Mabank, Texas 75147

Wayne Lawrence  
County District Judge  
Henderson County Courthouse  
Athens, TX 75751

Jack Holland  
County District Judge  
Henderson County Courthouse  
Athens, TX 75751

Lelia May Garner  
County District Clerk  
Henderson County Courthouse  
Athens, TX 75751

Billy Bandy  
County District Attorney  
Henderson County Courthouse  
Athens, TX 75751

Jim Blakeney  
County Commissioner  
Henderson County Courthouse  
Athens, TX 75751

Fred Box  
County Commissioner  
Henderson County Courthouse  
Athens, TX 75751

Cleburn Shavar  
County Commissioner  
Henderson County Courthouse  
Athens, TX 75751

Joe Young  
County Commissioner  
Henderson County Courthouse  
Athens, TX 75751

Interested Groups and Individuals

*includes PRPs and people  
who live close to site*

Frank Abernathy  
2021 Robertson Road  
Arlington, TX 76011

Linda C. Manning  
110 Mid Cities Plaza  
Mabank, TX 75147

Roger Robertson  
Route 7, Box 750  
Mabank, TX 75147

Kent Gunderson  
Route 1, Box 244  
Mabank, TX 75147

Carolyn S. Henry  
P.O. Box 426  
Eustace, TX 75214

Charles McDaniel  
P.O. Box 1572, Tara Trace  
Mabank, TX 75147

Laszlo Vadasz  
1220 Juanita  
Mesquite, TX 75149

APPENDIX C

Media

Media

Daily Review  
Box 32  
Athens, TX 75751

News Banner  
Box 48  
Mabank, TX 75147

KBUD  
Box 309  
112 E. Corsicana  
Athens, TX 75751

APPENDIX D

Key Project Personnel

Key Project Personnel

Name: Jeannette Pingenot  
Title: Community Liaison  
Mailing Address: Texas Water Commission  
Public Information  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711  
Phone No.: 512/463-8028

Name: Wes Newberry  
Title: Project Manager  
Mailing Address: Texas Water Commission  
Hazardous & Solid Waste  
Stephen F. Austin Bldg.  
Austin, Texas 78711  
Phone No.: 512/463-8566

APPENDIX E

Site Location Maps

APPENDIX F

Program Document Repositories