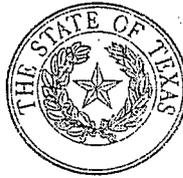


Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., *Chairman*  
Buddy Garcia, *Commissioner*  
Carlos Rubinstein, *Commissioner*  
Mark R. Vickery, P.G., *Executive Director*



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

*Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution*

# West County Road-112 Groundwater Plume Midland County, Texas Site Update September 2009

### Open House Availability Session

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will conduct an Open House Availability Session on:

**Thursday, September 24, 2009  
from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

at the Midland County Horseshoe, 2514  
Arena Trail, Midland, Texas.

The Open House Availability Session will be in an informal come-and-go format that allows for one-on-one questions and answers between residents and staff.

Staff from the TCEQ and Midland County will be available to provide information, on an individual basis during the Open House Availability Session.

### Background

In early April 2009, the TCEQ received a complaint of "yellow water" at a residence on West County Road 112 (WCR 112). Groundwater samples collected by the TCEQ indicated the groundwater was contaminated with hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI)) above the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 100 parts per billion (ppb). The TCEQ immediately mailed letters to the Midland County Judge, Midland County Health Officials and to all property owners within ¼ mile of the residence where the contaminated groundwater was first

identified, notifying them of the groundwater contamination.

The TCEQ also mailed notification letters to the Water Well Drillers and Pump Installers Program of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, the state water well drillers regulatory agency.

The TCEQ contractor immediately started installing anion exchange systems in the WCR 112 area when testing data indicated hexavalent chromium levels were above the MCL of 100 ppb. Groundwater sampling was expanded to include the WCR 110 area and additional anion exchange systems were installed where elevated levels of hexavalent chromium were identified in drinking water wells.

### Current Status

Since April 2009, 140 water wells have been sampled by the TCEQ. Forty (40) of these wells have hexavalent chromium concentrations above the MCL of 100 ppb. In order to protect human health and the environment, the TCEQ has installed anion exchange systems on these wells, coordinating the installations with the well owners.

The TCEQ's contractor, Ultrapure, collected water samples from 10% of the drinking water wells with anion exchange systems to determine the resin canister capacity. Resin capacity varies from well to well according to the minerals and level of chromium found in the water. Based on the resin canister

capacities, the resin canisters will be exchanged every 2 to 5 weeks. Each resident with an anion exchange system received a letter explaining their system capacity and resin canister exchange schedule.

The TCEQ is sampling an area larger than the extent of known contamination in order to determine the boundary of the groundwater contamination. The study (map attached) may fluctuate slightly over time; however the current boundary extends from:

West Industrial Avenue on the north to West County Road 123 on the south, and from South County Road 1205 on the west to South County Road 1193 on the east.

The TCEQ is preparing documentation to have the WCR 112 area reviewed by the EPA for possible acceptance into the Federal Superfund Program. The main goal of the State and Federal Superfund programs is to reduce or eliminate threats to human health and the environment.

### **What is Chromium?**

Chromium is a naturally occurring element found in rocks, animals, plants, and soil. Chromium can exist in several different phases; it can be a liquid, solid, or gas. The most common forms of chromium are chromium (0), chromium (III), and chromium (VI). No taste or odor is associated with chromium compounds. The metal chromium, which is the chromium (0) form, is used for making steel. Chromium (III) and chromium (VI) are used for chrome plating, dyes and pigments, leather tanning, and wood preserving.

### **Map**

A map representing current sample results is attached. Please note the following as you look over the map:

1. The red symbols represent those wells with hexavalent chromium above the MCL of 100 ppb during our sampling. Drinking water

wells have had an anion exchange system installed by the TCEQ's contractor.

2. The yellow symbols represent wells with detections of hexavalent chromium above laboratory detection limits and below the MCL of 100 ppb.

3. The green symbols represent wells with hexavalent chromium concentrations below laboratory detections limits.

### **If You Have Questions**

You may contact the following individuals, toll free at: 1-800- 633-9363 or by mail at:

Texas Commission on  
Environmental Quality  
PO Box 13087 MC-142  
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Ms. Danielle Sattman Soule  
TCEQ Project Manager

Ms. Lindsey Jones  
TCEQ Toxicologist

Mr. Terry Clawson  
TCEQ Media Relations

Mr. John Flores (Bilingual-English/Spanish)  
TCEQ Community Relations Coordinator

**Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre este documento o necesita hablar con alguien en español. Llame al (800) 633-9363 y pida hablar con John Flores, el coordinador de relaciones comunitarias.**