

October 2, 2017

Ballard Pits

Sampling

On September 12, 2017, soil and groundwater samples were collected and analyzed for chemicals of concern (COCs) associated with the site to evaluate potential effects from Hurricane Harvey. COCs at the site include total petroleum hydrocarbons for soils and metals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) for groundwater. The soil sample results were below applicable protective concentration levels. The groundwater sample results showed no VOC detections and metal levels that were consistent with previous concentrations.

Site Background

The Ballard Pits site occupies 297 acres north of Robstown in rural Nueces County, Texas. The Ballard Sand and Gravel Company had formerly operated a sand and gravel mining operation at the site and had dug several large pits. In the 1960s (and possibly later), Brine Service Company (and possibly other oil services companies) picked up oil-field drilling mud and refinery waste from companies/facilities in the Corpus Christi area and brought it to the Ballard property for disposal in the unlined pits.

The TCEQ is currently conducting a remedial investigation at the site. The TCEQ conducted several removal actions to remediate adjacent utility easement and affected residential properties and excavate and properly dispose of contaminated waste material in three large pits at the site. The investigation has not found any impacts from the site to the nearby Nueces River or nearby private water wells.

Next steps

The TCEQ will be conducting a feasibility study during this fiscal year to evaluate potential remedial actions for the site, and will continue to monitor groundwater quality at the site.