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Community Relations Plan

for

Crim-Hammett

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106 E. Main Street

Henderson, Texas

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Austin, Texas

September 2000

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
for
Crim-Hammett Site Proposed State Superfund Site

Henderson, Rusk County, Texas

July 2000

Overview of Community Relations Plan

This community relations plan (CRP) identifies issues of community concern regarding the Crim-Hammett Site Proposed State Superfund Site (Crim-Hammett) located in the city of Henderson in Rusk County, Texas. This CRP also outlines the anticipated community relations activities to be conducted during each phase of the cleanup at the Crim-Hammett site.

The Crim-Hammett 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 Crim-Hammett 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 Crim-Hammett site.

The TNRCC has the responsibility for managing 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:

32E 10' 03" North Latitude, 94E 48' 01" West Longitude

Background and Operating History:

The site is located at 801 Highway 64, Henderson, Rusk County, Texas.

The Crim-Hammett site (site) occupies approximately 3.6 acres south of Highway 64, in north Henderson, Texas. The site was owned by members of the Crim family from September 21, 1928 until April 18, 1990. An International Harvester franchise was documented in Articles of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation, to begin operations at the site on August 14, 1961. The franchise was dissolved on March 5, 1986. On April 18, 1990, the site was purchased by Scott Hammett from the Crim family.

On April 13, 1993, Richard Cain, an interested purchaser, initiated a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for the site. However, after receiving a verbal report of the assessment findings by Ana-Lab Corp, Mr. Cain stopped the assessment before the final report was prepared. On March 6, 1994, Mr. Hammett notified the TNRCC of contamination buried at the Crim-Hammett site.

During the Crim family's ownership of the site, an alleged landfill was used for the burial of

waste oil, oil filters, fuel tanks, tires, wood chips, drums, and battery chips. Previous excavations on-site to identify the landfill materials may have resulted in hazardous substances being left on the site's surface. A comparison of aerial photographs from 1939 and 1960 show the area of the alleged landfill located on the northwest corner of Thompson Lake had been converted to land.

The alleged landfill and contaminated soil are located at the west and southwest areas of the site. Sample analysis results from a TNRCC Screening Site Inspection (SSI) conducted in February 1996 indicated the following contaminants detected in on-site soils: antimony (31.1 parts per million), barium (161 parts per million), cadmium (9.3 parts per million), copper (1,135 parts per million), lead (17,900 parts per million), zinc (137 parts per million), heptachlor (14.0 parts per billion), 4,4'-DDD (110.0 parts per billion), and aroclor-1260 (2,600 parts per billion).

The February 1996 SSI sampling event also documented hazardous substances in Thompson Lake and Hardy Creek wetlands sediment located downstream from the site. Observed releases of arsenic (19.3 parts per million), chromium (58.0 parts per million), lead (123 parts per million), vanadium (78.4 parts per million), 4,4'-DDD (30 parts per billion), and chrysene (620 parts per billion) were detected in the sediment samples. No drinking water intakes are located within the 15-mile target distance limit (TDL). Neither Thompson Lake, nor the remainder of the 15-mile TDL are considered fisheries. Thompson Lake is classified as a Palustrine/Open Water/Diked/impounded (POWHh) wetland. However, the Thompson Lake wetland is a deepwater wetland which does not qualify as an Hazard Ranking System eligible wetland. Hardy Creek is classified as a Palustrine/Forested/Broad-Leaved Deciduous/Temporary Water Regime wetlands (PFO1A) which is eligible to be used as an HRS wetland area. The PFO1A wetland begins at the Thompson Lake spillway and extends 1.2 miles along Hardy Creek to a point just south of Main Street. Sediment sample location SE-02 was the furthest downstream point that lead was detected (see Figure 3, Sample Location Map).

Threatened and endangered species which may use habitat within a 4-mile radius of the site are the red-cockaded woodpecker, bald eagle, Louisiana pine snake, alligator snapping turtle, and the southern redback salamander.

Community Profile

Rusk County, located in northeast Texas, has an economy supported by oil, lumbering, agriculture and tourism.

The Crim-Hammet site is located in the northwest quadrant of the city of Henderson. Henderson is the county seat of Rusk County.

In 1995 the State Data Center of the Texas Department of Commerce estimated the population of Rusk County at 45,563, a 4.2% increase from the 1990 U.S. Census estimate. The 1990 ethnicity estimates of Rusk County by the U.S. Census were: white, 77.1%; black, 20.5%; Hispanic, 4.0%; American Indian, 0.3%; Asian, 0.1% and other 1.9%.

Community Involvement and Concerns

There have been no inquiries by the public regarding the proposal to list the Crim-Hammett site to the state Superfund Registry.

Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program

- A. Maintain open communications between the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, City of Henderson, Rusk County and State 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 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/permitting/remed/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

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State Senate
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Telephone: 903/572-1887

The Honorable Bill Ratliff
State Senate
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Austin, Texas 78711
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The Honorable Paul Sadler
Texas House of Representatives
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Telephone: 903/657-1433

The Honorable Paul Sadler
Texas House of Representatives
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Austin, Texas 78768-2910
Telephone 512/463-0626

City

The Honorable Wallace Read
Mayor
City of Henderson
400 West Main Street
Henderson, Texas 75652
Telephone: 903/657-6551

The Honorable Jere Culp
City Council Member, District 1
City of Henderson
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Area News Media

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KYKX-FM, KFRO-AM, KOOL-FM
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Longview News-Journal
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Fax: 903/757-3742

KFXK-TV
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701 North Access Road
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Project Personnel

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Project Document Repositories

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