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Community Relations Plan

for

Federated Metals

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February 1995

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
for
REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION AND FEASIBILITY STUDY

Federated Metals State Superfund Site
Houston, Harris, Texas

February, 1995

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Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
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Overview of Community Relations Plan

This community relations plan (CRP) identifies issues of community concern regarding the Federated Metals State Superfund site, in Houston, Harris County, Texas. It also outlines the anticipated community relations activities to be conducted during each phase of the cleanup at the Federated Metals site.

The Federated Metals 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 Federated Metals 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 Federated Metals 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 Federated Metals site.

Site Profile

1. Site Location and Description:

The inactive landfill, formerly used by Federated Metals Corporation, for disposal of magnesium dross, is located in east Houston at 9200 Market Street. The site is immediately south of the Federated Metals Plant at the intersection of Market Street and Loop 610, at Latitude 29°46'00"N and Longitude 95°15'45"W.

The landfill is bound on the north by the Missouri Pacific Railroad, on the west by Loop 610 and on the south by a diked area formerly used for disposal of channel dredgings.

Media affected: soil

Contaminants: lead, magnesium, barium

2. Background and Operating History:

Federated Metals Corp. is a nonferrous metal alloy producer with 50 percent of the raw material derived from recovered scrap. Scrap and ingot material are charged to smelters, flux is added to remove impurities and the metal is cast or molded into the desired forms. The dregs from the kettle, referred to as magnesium dross or sludge, are removed and disposed. The site now reuses or sells all dregs and scraps except for the magnesium sludge.

Federated Metal Corp. previously owned a 14.7-acre section of land south of the railroad tracks that was used to dispose of the magnesium sludge between 1945 and 1979. Dregs from magnesium melts (sludge) were trucked to the back end of the site and dumped. Magnesium concentration in the sludge was so high that the field area caught fire spontaneously on several occasions. In addition to the very high magnesium concentration, the sludge also had a high barium concentration from the use of a barium flux.

The sludge material was neither buried nor placed in a trench. Once a large pile had collected, private contractors were hired to smooth the area and the piling process was repeated. No effort was made to create a uniform layer over the site. Several piles are still visible in the inactive landfill, although the landfill is well-vegetated with scrub brush.

According to Federated Metals, Lone Star Lead, a totally owned subsidiary of Federated Metals, also occupied the plant facility. During the 1960's, Lone Star recovered lead from gaskets associated with rubber rings called Murray rings. The Murray rings were placed in the Federated Metals landfill.

During the 1970's, Lone Star rebuilt electrolytic chlorine cells for the Champion Paper Company, now called Simpson Paper Company. The cells contained graphite anodes mounted in an asphalt tar material, lead gaskets, copper bars and asbestos material contained in a concrete outer shell. During the rebuilding process, the contents were chipped out and the lead and copper were recovered. The other non-recoverable material, referred to as breakout material, was placed in the landfill.

The bulk of the wastes disposed of at the landfill include magnesium sludge, breakout material (including pieces of graphite and asbestos), refractory brick, empty/rusty drums, and Murray rings. Based upon visual observation, by the contractor preparing the remedial investigation, the breakout material, refractory brick and empty drums were concentrated toward the north end of the site. While the magnesium sludge was placed throughout the site, the largest volumes were apparently located in the central and southern portions of the site.

After the passage of RCRA, the plant conducted a sampling and analytical program to evaluate the material and its leaching characteristics. Analytical results indicated a large reduction in barium when compared to the original sludge concentrations, but build ups of lead and zinc in

the soil. However, both were within RCRA leachate limits. Soil analytical results did indicate high total lead and barium concentrations.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Federated Metals State Superfund site is located in far east Houston at 9200 Market Street, approximately one-half mile west of the town of Jacinto City. The site is located to the east of Loop 610 across from a low income residential area located west of Loop 610. The site is approximately 200 yards from the nearest homes. This proximity is perhaps the result of there being no zoning restrictions within the city of Houston.

The area to the east of Loop 610 is industrial.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

There have been no community meetings regarding the Federated Metals site since the initial meeting regarding the site's proposed listing on the State Registry held in Houston on August 21, 1986.

There have been no inquiries by area residents or elected officials to the TNRCC regarding the Federated Metals site.

Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program

- A.** Maintain open communications between the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Harris County, City of Houston, City of Jacinto City, State and Federal 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 (see Appendix C) 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.** By telephone, written correspondence and attending public meetings, interested parties can make inquiries to insure communication.
- F.** Brief field teams on community relations issues before performing on-site investigations.
- G.** 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.
- H.** Monitor community concerns and information requirements as the project progresses by monitoring the community response to news releases and community meetings.
- I.** 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 State and Local officials- To periodically inform, State and Local officials of project developments over the course of the program during the investigations, findings and as project developments occur.
- B.** 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.
- C.** 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.
- D.** 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.
- E.** 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.

F. 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** thru **D**.

G. State Superfund Quarterly Status Reports - Direct mail to state, local and county officials and interested persons.

H. Revise CRP - To reflect changes in site activities or local concerns. After the Remedy Selection Document (RSD) has been issued, the CRP will be revised to address implementation of the selected remedial action alternative.

ELECTED OFFICIALS ADDRESSES

State

The Honorable John Whitmire
State Senate
District Office
724 W 19th Street
Houston TX 77008
Phone: 713/864-8701

The Honorable John Whitmire
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The Honorable Senfronia Thompson
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Austin TX 78768
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County

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Harris County Judge
Harris County Courthouse
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Houston, TX 77002
Phone: 713/755-6666

The Honorable Jim Fonteno

Harris County Commissioner, Pct. 2
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Mayor, City of Houston
PO Box 1562
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PROGRAM DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES

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