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# **Community Relations Plan**

for

## **Maintech International**

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**May 1999**

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN  
for  
PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION

**MainTech International  
State Superfund Site  
Port Arthur, Texas**

Updated May 1999

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN  
for  
PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION

MainTech International State Superfund Site  
Port Arthur, Jefferson County, Texas

Updated May 1999

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Table of Contents

Overview of Community Relations Plan ..... 1

Site Profile:

    A. Site Description ..... 1

    B. Background and Operating History ..... 2

Community Profile ..... 4

Community Concerns and Involvement ..... 4

Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program ..... 5

Community Relations Techniques ..... 6

Elected Officials Address List ..... 7

Area News Media ..... 8

Key Project Personnel ..... 9

Program Document Repositories ..... 9

APPENDICES

Site Location Map

Site Map

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## **Overview of Community Relations Plan**

This community relations plan (CRP) identifies issues of community concern regarding the MainTech International (MainTech) State Superfund site, in Port Arthur, Jefferson County, Texas. It also outlines the anticipated community relations activities to be conducted during each phase of the cleanup at the MainTech site.

The MainTech 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 MainTech 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 MainTech site.

The information in this plan is based primarily on the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) package. The site background and operating history are taken from the Final Report of the Remedial Investigation for the Maintech site, prepared by Woodward-Clyde for Browning-Ferris Industries Chemical Services, Inc.,.

## **Site Profile**

Lat/Long: 29° 58' 44", 93° 52' 55"

Site Description:

The MainTech International site consists of approximately ten acres of land and is at 8300 Old Ferry Road in Port Arthur, Texas. The site is about one-quarter mile southwest of the point where the Neches River empties into Sabine Lake, on the Texas - Louisiana border. The site property, and all adjoining property, is owned by Marine Fueling Service, Inc.

The site is abandoned and completely fenced. The grounds consist of a truck parking area, truck maintenance facility, offices, hydroblasting and refueling pads, wastewater treatment ponds and empty chemical tanks and stands.

The contaminants of concern are polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's). The PAH's are hydrocarbon wastes remaining after the barge contents were burned. Surface soils, subsurface soils and ground water are contaminated at the site. Ground water at the site is not usable and cannot sustain a high enough yield to be considered a potable source of water and therefore will not be remediated.

The site facilities, as they appeared in 1984, are shown in the site map found in the Appendix of this text. Also shown are features such as ponds, sumps and piping, and their relationship to each other.

## **Background and Operating History:**

The site background and operating history are taken from the Final Report of the Remedial Investigation for the Maintech site, prepared by Woodward-Clyde for Browning-Ferris Industries Chemical Services, Inc.,

Before 1975, the property was used for wastewater disposal from a barge cleaning facility. A bermed area was used as a pit for collected ballast and cleaning water from oil barges.

In 1975, Browning-Ferris Industries Chemical Services, Inc., (BFICSI) leased the property and built facilities there to provide support for chemical cleaning and equipment hydroblasting services to local petrochemical plants and refineries. BFICSI used the facility for: storage of chemicals used to blend solutions (bulk storage); blending of chemicals in blending tanks; hydroblasting and cleaning of heat exchangers; processing of small amounts of industrial waste through American Petroleum Institute (API) separators, polishing, and finishing ponds; operation of a truck maintenance shop; operation of a sewage treatment plant; and, collection in three processing ponds of all rainwater that accumulated in containment areas for the chemical storage tanks, truck wash and hydroblast pad.

BFICSI in 1975 constructed the wastewater collection ponds. The total capacity of these ponds is about two million gallons. They lined the inside walls and pond bottoms with one foot of clay. They constructed these reservoirs as settling ponds for collected rainwater, for the wastewater from on-site sewage treatment facility and for effluent from the truck wash area. They

ultimately discharged the water to the Neches River through a Natural Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) - permitted outfall.

The facility constructed by BFICSI was a truck terminal for vehicles used in support of chemical cleaning services. Detergents and caustics were used in the cleaning operations. Wastewater generated at the site was treated at an on-site plant and discharged into the Neches River under Texas Department of Water Resources (TDWR), predecessor agency to TNRCC, Permit Number 01882 (NPDES Permit Number TX0059544). The wastewater treatment system consisted of: collection systems; an oil-water separator; holding tank for separated oil; pump station; three effluent polishing ponds; and, a laboratory to monitor the wastewater quality.

They used a small package plant for treatment of sanitary sewage generated on site.

In 1981, they transferred the site lease and facilities to CECOS, which continued to conduct similar operations. According to BFICSI and CECOS records, a small caustic spill occurred in 1981 because of a leak in an underground pipeline that was just to the south of the plant shops. The spill was cleaned up and they removed the pipeline.

CECOS continued to conduct these operations until 1985 when the site activities were reduced to: parking of empty tankers and roll-off containers; maintenance of transportation equipment; washing of exteriors of tractor trailers and roll-off trucks; collection of rainwater from containment areas and draining of water into the east pond; and operation of a sewage treatment plant.

Subsequently, MainTech purchased the lease from CECOS in March of 1985. From April 1985 until September 1985, MainTech used the site to support operations at its La Porte facility. According to a report produced for MainTech by ERT in 1986, MainTech used the facility for cleaning the exterior of vehicles and equipment on the hydroblast pad.

BFICSI took back the lease from Maintech in the latter part of 1985. The only activities known to have been conducted at the site since 1986 are the Phase I and II Site Investigations, which were done by Woodward-Clyde Consultants under contract to BFI. The site has remained vacant and inactive since 1986 with all facilities out of service.

An agreed order has not been issued for the Maintech site because of the cooperation of BFI regarding the investigation of the site.

## **Community Profile**

According to the 1998-99 Texas Almanac, the population of the Port Arthur and neighboring towns is: Port Arthur, 58,196; Port Neches, 13,074; Groves, 16,672; Nederland, 16,812.

In 1995 the State Data Center of the Texas Department of Commerce estimated the population of Jefferson County as 245,828, a 2.7% increase from the 1990 U.S. Census estimate. The 1990 ethnicity estimates of Jefferson County by the U.S. Census was: white, 64%; black, 31%, American Indian, 0.2%; Asian, 2%, Hispanic, 5% and other 2%.

This area of Texas is known as the Golden Triangle. The Golden Triangle is the area of a triangle with Beaumont, Orange and Port Arthur serving as the points of the triangle. The Golden Triangle has many petroleum refining and chemical processing facilities. Ship building and port activities are served by the Intracoastal Waterway and the Sabine Pass to the Gulf of Mexico.

## **Community Concerns and Involvement**

On November 12, 1987, a public meeting was held, at the Port Arthur Civic Center, regarding the Texas Water Commission (TWC), predecessor agency to TNRCC, proposal to add the MainTech site to the State Superfund Registry. Three citizens attended the November 1987 public meeting. The Maintech site first appeared on the annual publication of the Texas Registry in the January 22, 1988, edition of the Texas Registry.

## **Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program**

- A. Maintain open communications between the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, City of Port Arthur, Jefferson County and State officials, and concerned citizens.
- B. Continue to expand the mailing list to include additional agencies, organizations, and residents 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 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. Provide all information, especially technical findings, in a language that is understandable to the 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.
- G. Monitor community concerns and information requirements as the project progresses by monitoring the community response to news releases and community meetings.
- H. 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 - 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 D.
- E. State Superfund Quarterly Status Reports - Direct mail to state, local and county officials and interested persons.
- F. 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 OFFICIAL MAILING LIST

## State

The Honorable David Bernsen  
State Senate  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, TX 78711  
Phone - 512/463-0104

P.O. Box 822  
Beaumont, TX 77704  
Phone - 409/839-4540

The Honorable Allan Ritter  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768  
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PO Box 1265  
Nederland, TX 77627  
Phone - 409/729-3228

## County

The Honorable Carl Griffith  
Jefferson County Judge  
Jefferson County Courthouse  
Beaumont, TX 77701  
Phone - 409/983-8340

The Honorable Mark Domingue  
Jefferson County Commissioner, Pct. 2  
Jefferson County Courthouse  
Beaumont, TX 77701  
Phone - 409/727-2173

The Honorable Waymon Hallmark  
Jefferson County Commissioner, Pct. 3  
Jefferson County Courthouse  
Beaumont, TX 77701  
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## Municipal

The Honorable Oscar Ortiz  
Mayor  
City of Port Arthur  
PO Box 1089  
Port Arthur, TX 77641  
Phone - 409/983-8100  
FAX --- 409/983-8291

The Honorable Felix Barker  
Council Member, Dist. 2  
City of Port Arthur  
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The Honorable Rose Mitchell Chiasson  
Council Member, Position 7  
City of Port Arthur  
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The Honorable W.A. Brown  
Council Member, Position 8  
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Port Arthur, TX 77641  
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## AREA NEWS MEDIA

### Beaumont Enterprise

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Beaumont, TX 77704  
Phone - 409/833-3311  
FAX --- 409/838-2857

FAX --- 409/835-1617

KFDM-TV  
ATTN: News, Assignments Editor  
PO Box 7128  
Beaumont, TX 77726  
Phone - 409/892-6622  
FAX --- 409/892-7305

### Orange Leader

ATTN: City Editor  
PO Box 1028  
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Phone - 409/883-3571  
FAX --- 409/883-6342

KJAC-TV  
ATTN: News, Assignments Editor  
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Port Arthur, TX 77643  
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FAX --- 409/982-3747

### Port Arthur News

ATTN: City Editor  
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### KLVI-AM

ATTN: News Director  
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## **KEY PROJECT PERSONNEL**

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512/239-2141

## **PROJECT DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES**

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission  
Central Records

Physical address: 11218 North IH-35  
Building D, Room 190  
Austin, TX 78753  
Phone 512/239-2920

Mailing address: P. O. Box 13087  
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Port Arthur Public Library  
3601 Cultural Center Drive  
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