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Community Relations Plan

for

Poly-Cycle Industries, Jacksonville

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Jacksonville, Texas

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Austin, Texas

March 2004

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March 2004

Poly-Cycle Jacksonville Proposed State Superfund Site

Community Relations Plan

On the Web:

www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/superfund/polycycl-jack.html

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

for the

Poly-Cycle Industries, Inc. Jacksonville **Proposed State Superfund Site** **Jacksonville, Cherokee County, Texas**

March 2004

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Appendices

Public notice announcing the Poly-Cycle Jacksonville proposal to the state Superfund Registry and land use public meeting; published in the December 5, 2003, *Jacksonville Progress* and *Texas Register*

Site Location Map

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

for the

Poly-Cycle Industries, Inc. Jacksonville Proposed State Superfund Site Jacksonville, Cherokee County, Texas

March 2004

Overview of Community Relations Plan

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

The Poly-Cycle Jacksonville facility CRP has been prepared to aid the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in developing a community relations program tailored to the needs of the community affected by the Poly-Cycle Jacksonville facility. The TCEQ will conduct community relations activities to ensure that the local public has input to decisions and access to information about Superfund activities at the Poly-Cycle Jacksonville site.

The TCEQ has the responsibility for managing the cleanup of this site, and the TCEQ Remediation Division will oversee all community relations activities at the site.

Site Profile

Site Location:

31° 56' 08" North Latitude, 95° 14' 54" West Longitude
2405 South Jackson Street in Jacksonville

Site Background and Operating History:

The Poly-Cycle Jacksonville site is located at 2405 South Jackson Street, on the south side of Jacksonville, Texas. The site is bordered by State Highway 69 to the east and Loop 456 to the south. Nichols Intermediate School is to the west and businesses and residences are located to the north.

Poly-Cycle operated a lead battery recycling operation from 1978 to 1981. The facility first operated under the name Rocky Point International, then changed its name to Poly-Cycle Industries, with no change in operators. The facility recycled lead from lead acid batteries and cases. The sulfuric acid was drained from the batteries and the lead plates were removed. The sulfuric acid was sent to a hazardous waste disposal firm in Dallas, Texas. The lead plates were sold to a lead smelter. The battery cases were ground and washed to remove the lead and lead sulfate. Four unlined surface impoundments were used to skim the plastic and rubber chips from the surface and sold to plastic recyclers. The lead and lead sulfate sediments on the bottom of the impoundments were sold to a lead smelter.

In 1983, the Texas Department of Health (TDH) found levels of lead exceeding 100,000 parts per million (ppm) in the soil. Poly-Cycle Industries moved the contaminated soil from the Jacksonville location to Poly-Cycle's Tecula location. The TDH conducted post removal sampling and accepted clean closure of the Jacksonville site, based on levels of lead concentrations being generally less than 1,000 ppm. Poly-Cycle Industries then sold the site to Texas Farm Products, Inc. (TFPI). TFPI removed all remaining Poly-Cycle structures and built Lone Star Feed Store. Lone Star Feed Store is currently operating at the site. In 1999 TFPI sold a 1.86 acre tract to Dement Fitness Center. Dement Chiropractic and Fitness Center, which includes an outdoor swimming pool and volleyball court, was recently built on-site just north of the feed store. This 1.86 acre tract is included in the Superfund site designation.

Based on the February 24, 2000, soil sample analysis results show lead contaminated soil ranging from 3,100 ppm to 4,800 ppm. Chips of battery casings are visible in the State Highway 69 roadside ditch in front of the feed store.

Community Profile

In 2000 the U.S. Census Bureau estimated the population of Cherokee County at 46,659, a 13.6% increase from the 1990 U.S. Census estimate. The 2000 ethnicity estimates of Cherokee County by the U.S. Census were: white, 69.8%; Black, 16.1%; Hispanic, 13.2%; other 0.8%

The 2000 U.S. Census estimated the population of Jacksonville at 13,868.

Jacksonville's economy relies on varied manufacturing, plastics, agriculture, a hospital and local colleges.

Community Involvement and Concerns

On January 28, 2003, TCEQ staff met with City of Jacksonville, Cherokee County, the Jacksonville ISD superintendent, representatives from the Neches River Authority and representatives from Texas Farm Products/Lone Star Feed and Seed Store to update them on the Poly-Cycle-Tecula and Jacksonville sites.

During this briefing, some participants questioned the listing of the Poly-Cycle-Jacksonville site to the State Superfund registry. Their concern centered on the fact that the Jacksonville site had received a letter from TDH in December 1984 saying that TDH considered the facility properly decontaminated and closed. In addition, participants pointed out that the person responsible for the contamination at the sites had served time in prison for his actions.

On July 25, 2003, the Poly-Cycle Tecula site was proposed to the state Superfund Registry.

On August 28, 2003, the TCEQ conducted a public meeting, in Jacksonville, to proposed the Poly-Cycle Tecula site to the state Superfund registry. The public meeting attendees consisted of representatives for potentially responsible parties, Angelina and Neches River Authority officials, city and county officials. After the Poly-Cycle Tecula public meeting, the TCEQ received a number of inquiries about the Tecula site.

A public meeting was held on January 15, 2004, at the Jacksonville Public Library to propose the Poly-Cycle Jacksonville site to the state Superfund registry. Six people attended the January 2004 public meeting and expressed these concerns:

- Possible exposure of workers digging ditches on highway 69;
- Cost and time involved in the site cleanup;
- Area to be sampled;
- Level of personal protection to be worn by TCEQ contractor's workers;
- Depth of soil samples;
- Level of lead considered "hot";
- Workers driving through the parking lot to get to sample locations?

Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program

- A. Maintain open communications between the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, City of Jacksonville, Cherokee County, 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 community relations 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.
- F. Modify the CRP to address changes in community needs and maintain accuracy during different project phases.
- G. Provide for and attend public meetings.
- H. Respond to telephone inquiries and written correspondence in a timely, accurate manner.

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 ensure effective two-way communication.
- D. Program Document Repository - To maintain an easily accessible repository through which the public may review project outputs.
- E. TCEQ State Superfund Internet Homepage - To provide current, timely information on state Superfund activities on the World Wide Web at: www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/superfund
- F. 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

The Honorable Todd Staples
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Palestine, Texas 75802
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The Honorable Todd Staples
State Senate
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Austin, Texas 78711
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The Honorable Charles Hopson
Texas House of Representatives
1503 S. Jackson, Suite 6
Jacksonville, Texas 75766
Telephone: 903/541-2250
Fax: 903/586-0823

The Honorable Charles Hopson
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910
Telephone 512/463-0592
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County

The Honorable Chris Davis
Cherokee County Judge
502 North Main Street
Rusk, Texas 75785
Telephone: 903/683-2324
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The Honorable Bob Johnson
Cherokee County Commissioner Pct 1 502
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Rusk, Texas 75785
Telephone: 903/683-5060
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City

The Honorable Kenneth Durrett
Mayor
City of Jacksonville
301 East Commerce
Jacksonville, Texas 75766
Telephone: 903/586-3510

Council Members:
Jon Hargett
Hubert Robinson
Jeff Smith
Floyd Stiefer

Area News Media

Jacksonville Progress

Attention: City Editor
P.O. Box 711
Jacksonville, Texas 75766
Telephone: 903/586-2236
Fax: 903/586-0987

La Opinion

Attention: Editor
P.O. Box 8340
Jacksonville, Texas 75766
Telephone: 903/586-0827
Fax: 903/586-7016

KEBE-AM

Attention: News Director
P.O. Box 1648
Jacksonville, Texas 75766
Telephone: 903/586-2527
Fax: 903/586-1394

KTBB-AM, KEES-AM, KYZS-AM

Attention: News Director
928 NNE Loop 323
Tyler, Texas 75708
Telephone: 903/593-2519
Fax: 903/597-8378

KNUE-FM

Attention: News Director
3810 Brookside Drive
Tyler, Texas 75701
Telephone: 903/581-0606
Fax: 903/581-2011

KMHT-AM, KZEY-AM/FM

Attention: News Director
P.O. Box 4248
Tyler, Texas 75712
Telephone: 903/593-1744
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KFXK-TV

Attention: News Director
701 North Access Road
Longview, Texas 75602
Telephone: 903/236-0051
Fax: 903/753-6637

KETK-TV

Attn. News Director
4300 Richmond Road
Tyler, Texas 75703
Telephone: 903/581-5656
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Key Project Personnel

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Project Document Repositories

(Physical Address)

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
Record Management
Building E, North Entrance, First Floor
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Austin, TX 78753
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(Mailing Address)

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
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