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Community Relations Plan

for

Spector Salvage Yard

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

for

Spector Salvage Yard Proposed State Superfund Site
Orange, Orange County, Texas

July 1999

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
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July 1999

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Site Location Map

1969 Aerial Photograph

Site Detail Map

Text of Public Notice of TNRCC Proposal to the State Superfund Registry
Published in the July 16, 1999, *Texas Register* and *Orange Leader*

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for
Spector Salvage Yard
Proposed State Superfund Site

Orange, Orange County, Texas

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Overview of Community Relations Plan

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

The Spector 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 Spector 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 Spector 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:

Latitude 30E 05' 13" N, Longitude 93E 44' 22" W

Spector Salvage Yard is an inactive salvage yard located in the southern portion of the city of Orange, Texas. The property covers approximately 4 acres situated south of Polk Street and north of Jackson Street. The north and east side of the site is bordered by Union Pacific Railroad tracks. The City of Orange sewage treatment plant is located adjacent to the west boundary of the site. A cemetery is located to the south of the site. Tenth Street divides the site into a western third (lot #1) and an eastern two-thirds portion (lot #2). Both lots are heavily overgrown with trees and vines.

Lot #1 is a triangular piece of property approximately .75 acres in area. The lot contains several rusted vehicles and a one-story brick building located on the north portion of the lot.

Lot #2 covers approximately 3 acres and contains several wood/metal warehouse

structures as well as numerous vehicles including a tank truck, a semi-truck van, and military half-track vehicles. Stockpiles of drums and crates are scattered around lot #2 along with miscellaneous mechanical parts and scrap metal.

Surrounding land use includes residential housing north, east, and southwest of the subject site. A cemetery is situated to the south across Jackson Street with the City of Orange sewage treatment plant located adjacent and to the west of the site. Union Pacific Railroad tracks extend from west to east between the northern boundary of the site and Polk Street.

The major concerns for this site are releases of hazardous substances from the salvage yard source areas to surrounding surface water bodies.

Background and Operating History:

The property was purchased by Joe Spector from Lutchter & Moore Lumber Co. in February 1944. Spector Salvage Yard operated at the site for an unknown period of time before ceasing operations in 1971. In addition to general salvage, the facility functioned as a repository for military surplus equipment and supplies purchased from military, industrial, and chemical facilities by Joe Spector and his sons Sammie, Murray, and Toby. Joe Spector is still shown on county tax records as the current owner of the property although his sons are acknowledged as the current owners of the property and on-site facilities.

TNRCC Region 10 received a request for assistance in May 1993 from the City of Orange Fire Marshall after several unmarked drums were discovered during site clearing activities at the property. One of the drums was labeled as hydrofluoric acid and appeared to be leaking. TNRCC initially inspected the site on May 26, 1993, and noted several unmarked drums, used oil drums, and a large assortment of solid waste material stockpiled on the property. Several drums at the site appeared to be leaking and piles of burned materials including insulated electrical wire were noted on the ground.

On June 2, 1993, TNRCC Region 10 notified Sammie Spector by letter regarding the violations observed during the May 1993 inspection. The letter indicated the potential for enforcement action and requested action to determine the extent of contamination and dispose of all industrial wastes and drums on the site. The letter requested a response by June 12, 1993.

TNRCC Region 10 personnel conducted a follow-up investigation at the site on June 29, 1993. Soil samples collected on both lots indicated elevated levels of Barium (1020 and 2540 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg)), Cadmium (78 and 201 mg/kg), Chromium (99.3 and 64.5 mg/kg), and Lead (4230 and 4720 mg/kg). Toxicity Leachability Characteristics

Procedure (TCLP) concentrations for cadmium were reported at 0.44 and 4.82 mg/kg with lead reported at concentrations of 21.8 and 54.4 mg/kg (Ref. 9).

On September 20, 1993 Sammie Spector responded to the June 2, 1993, TNRCC letter which indicated that several environmental response/remediation firms had been contacted to bid on site cleanup activities.

TNRCC notified Sammie Spector on October 19, 1993 that enforcement action was being instituted for alleged violations concerning unauthorized discharges, failure to follow spill notification requirements, failure to abate and remove spilled or discharged material, and failure to notify TNRCC of storage, disposal, and processing of industrial solid waste. The letter requested a response by October 29, 1993.

On October 22, 1993, Sammie Spector replied by letter to the October 19, 1993 TNRCC letter and indicated that the delay in conducting the TNRCC-requested actions was due to late bid responses from contractors.

TNRCC issued a letter dated November 16, 1993 to Sammie Spector indicating that the information that had been provided to TNRCC as of the date of the letter was deemed to be inadequate to resolve the alleged violations. The letter contained corrective action directives for Spector to use as guidance in preparing a site investigation plan that was required to be submitted to TNRCC within 60 days of the date of the letter.

On December 1, 1993, Sammie Spector replied by letter to the November 16, 1993 TNRCC letter and requested a meeting with TNRCC officials in Austin.

A meeting was held on December 16, 1993, and documented in a TNRCC letter dated December 28, 1993. The letter indicated that an Executive Director's Preliminary Report would be forthcoming which detailed the alleged violations, technical requirements for addressing the violations and associated penalties. Also mentioned in the letter was a request for financial information that would be sent to the Sectors in order to determine their financial conditions.

On January 3, 1994, the TNRCC sent a letter to Russell G. Little, attorney for the Spector brothers, requesting financial information to determine the Sectors' ability to pay administrative penalties.

Also on January 3, 1994, Texas Environmental Resources, Inc., a disposal subcontractor, notified Managers of the South, the prime contractor conducting cleanup activities at the site, that waste materials that had been removed from the Spector site would be returned to the site for failure to pay.

In January 1994 the facility owners submitted financial information to the TNRCC that the

company had liquidated through Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code in 1987 and that the property owners had no ability to conduct corrective actions at the site.

The Notice of Executive Director's Preliminary Report and Petition was issued by the TNRCC on February 4, 1994 and detailed actions to bring the subject site into compliance to the Solid Waste Disposal Act and TNRCC rules.

The TNRCC notified Sammie Spector by letter on March 15, 1994 that the site had been referred to the TNRCC Superfund cleanup program. The referral was based upon the TNRCC determination that the Spector brothers were unable to finance a cleanup of the site.

Based upon the available information at the time, a preliminary site screening was performed by TNRCC staff in September 1994 to determine the initial hazards involved with the contamination at the subject site. The site was found to be eligible for State Superfund due to the site's inactive status and the financial inability of the owners. The site was recommended for prioritization for Hazard Ranking System package preparation.

In February 1996 vandals sabotaged nearby roadways by spreading carpet tacks obtained from a large supply of tacks stored at the Spector property. Damage to car tires affected by the tacks was estimated at between 20 to 30 thousand dollars. City of Orange officials requested assistance from the TNRCC to address site security at the property to decrease the amount of vandalism associated with the site.

The TNRCC investigated the site in February 1996 and found that site security was unrestricted and conditions still existed which were deemed to present a potential for exposure of the public and environment to the hazardous substances remaining at the site. TNRCC requested assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); however, EPA responded that their resources were fully committed and could not respond in a timely manner. TNRCC then accepted bids from various contractors to secure the site.

Chain-link fences were installed around both lots in April 1996 to restrict access to the property by the public.

In April 1997 TNRCC staff collected soil and sediment samples from suspected source areas on site as well as from adjacent bar ditches and nearby streambeds situated along the overland migration pathway. Source area soil samples indicated releases of the following: Arsenic, Barium, Cadmium, Chromium, Lead, Mercury, Silver, total PCBs, 4,4'-DDD, 4,4'-DDE, Methylene Chloride, Ethyl benzene, Toluene, Xylenes, Acetone, Phenanthrene, Fluoranthene, 2 Methylnaphthalene, Naphthalene, Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, Benzo(b)fluoranthene, Benzo(a)anthracene, Benzo(a)pyrene, Benzo(g,h,i)perylene, Benzo(k)fluoranthene, Chrysene, Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene, Pyrene,

and Hexachlorobenzene.

Analysis of the April 1997 sediment samples revealed the presence of the following contaminants attributable to site sources: Arsenic, Barium, Cadmium, Chromium, Lead, Mercury, Selenium, and Silver.

Community Profile

Orange County, located in southeast Texas, has an economy supported by the petrochemical industry, shipping, lumber processing and agriculture.

In 1995 the State Data Center of the Texas Department of Commerce estimated the population of Orange County at 85,087, a 5.7% increase from the 1990 U.S. Census estimate. The 1990 ethnicity estimates of Orange County by the U.S. Census were: white, 90%; black, 8%, American Indian, 0.2%; Asian, 0.6%, Hispanic, 2.4% and other 0.6%. The *1998-99 Texas Almanac* lists the population of the city of Orange as 20,508.

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 Involvement and Concerns

At this time (July 1999) there have been no inquiries by the public regarding the Spector site.

Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program

- A. Maintain open communications between the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, City of Orange, Orange 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/waste/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

The Honorable David Bernsen
State Senate
P.O. Box 822
Beaumont, Texas 77704
Telephone: 409/839-4444

The Honorable David Bernsen
State Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711
Telephone: 512/463-0104

The Honorable Ron Lewis
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 119
Mauriceville, Texas 77626
Telephone: 409/745-3644

The Honorable Ron Lewis
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910
512/463-0716

County

The Honorable Carl Thibodeaux
Orange County Judge
801 Division
Orange, Texas 77630
Phone - 409/882-7070

The Honorable Don Cole
Cass County Commissioner, Pct. 3
801 Division
Orange, Texas 77630
Phone - 409/882-7905

City

The Honorable Essie Bellfield
Mayor
P.O. Box 520
Orange, Texas 77631
Telephone: 409/886-3611

The Honorable Kevin Jordan
Mayor Pro Tem
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The Honorable Bill Klein
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The Honorable Ben Culpepper
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Orange Leader

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Orange, TX 77631
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FAX --- 409/883-6342

Beaumont Enterprise

ATTN: City Editor
PO Box 3071
Beaumont, TX 77704
Phone - 409/833-3311
FAX --- 409/838-2857

Port Arthur News

ATTN: City Editor
PO Box 1116
Port Arthur, TX 77640
Phone - 409/985-5541
FAX --- 409/982-4903

KLVI-AM

ATTN: News Director
PO Box 5488
Beaumont, TX 77726
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FAX --- 409/838-3233

KAYC-AM/KAYD-FM

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Beaumont, TX 77704
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FAX --- 409/833-9296

KBMT-TV

ATTN: News, Assignments Editor
525 I-10 South
Beaumont, TX 77704
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FAX --- 409/835-1617

KFDM-TV

ATTN: News, Assignments Editor
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Project Document Repositories

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