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Community Relations Plan
for
State Highway 123 PCE Plume

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

for

Proposed State Superfund Site
State Highway 123 PCE Plume
Hays County, Texas
May 2001

Remediation Division
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
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Austin, Texas 78753
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www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/superfund/index.html

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Proposed State Superfund Site
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May 2001

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Table Of Contents

Overview of Community Relations Plan	4
Site Profile:	4
Site Location and Description	
Background	
Site Chronology	5
Community Profile	8
Community Involvement	8
Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program	10
Community Relations Techniques	11
Elected Officials	12
Area News Media	14
Key Project Personnel	15
Program Document Repositories	16

Appendices

- I. *Texas Register* public notice regarding proposal of the State Highway 123 PCE Plume site to the State Superfund registry and land use designation. Published January 26, 2001.
- II. *San Marcos Daily Record* public notice regarding proposal of the State Highway 123 PCE Plume site to the State Superfund registry and land use designation. Published January 26, 2001.
- III. Site Display Advertisement
- IV. Site Location Map

Community Relations Plan

for
Proposed State Superfund Site
State Highway 123 PCE Plume
Hays County, Texas
May 2001

Overview of Community Relations Plan

This community relations plan (CRP) identifies issues of community concern regarding State Highway 123 PCE Plume State Superfund site, located in Hays County, Texas. It also outlines the anticipated community relations activities to be conducted during each phase of the Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study for the State Highway 123 PCE Plume site.

The State Highway 123 PCE Plume site 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 State Highway 123 PCE Plume 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 State Highway 123 PCE Plume site.

This plan is based primarily on the information from the TNRCC hazard ranking package prepared for the site.

Site Profile

Site Location and Description

Latitude 29° 52' 8.54"" North and longitude 97° 56' 7.03" West.

The State Highway 123 PCE plume is the location of a contaminated groundwater plume from an unknown source. The groundwater plume has been documented to extend from the intersection of Interstate Highway 35 access road and State Highway 123 toward Willow Springs Creek. The shallow groundwater emerges through springs that flow into Willow Springs Creek, which is a tributary of the San Marcos River. The creek flows into the river east of Interstate Highway 35. The land use surrounding the site includes agricultural, recreational, residential and commercial.

The springs are located on privately owned land currently used for grazing cattle.

Background

The State Highway 123 PCE plume was first discovered in 1986 during an investigation of a release of gasoline from an underground storage tank at the United Parcel Service (UPS) facility located due east and down-gradient of the Chuck Nash Chevrolet dealership at Hays and McKie Streets in San Marcos, Hays County, Texas. Approximately 3200 gallons of leaded regular gasoline were released from a leaking underground storage tank owned by UPS. Soon after the release, a sheen of hydrocarbon constituents was identified in the springs adjacent to Willow Springs Creek about 300 feet northeast of the UPS.

Site Chronology

(Note: The State predecessor agencies, Texas Water Quality Board (TWQB), Texas Department of Water Resources (TDWR), Texas Water Commission (TWC) and the Texas Air Control Board (TACB) referred to throughout this report are to be known as the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC). The new agency, TNRCC came into being effective September 1, 1993, as mandated under State Senate Bill 2 of the 73rd regular Legislative Session.)

- May 26, 1988 Samples taken by the TWC had detectable levels of chlorinated hydrocarbons and a single gasoline constituent, Methyl-Tertiary-Butyl Ether (MTBE). The solvent constituents included tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trans-1,2-dichloroethylene and trichloroethylene (TCE). This prompted the TWC to require further assessment of the UPS site to determine if UPS was the source of the hydrocarbon constituents in the springs.
- October 31, 1989 Additional groundwater investigations were conducted by UPS and submitted to the TWC, that suggested that the solvents probably originated up-gradient with respect to groundwater flow from the UPS facility.
- November 10, 1989 The TWC District 8 conducted an Underground Storage Tank Removal (USTR) and inspection at the Chuck Nash Chevrolet facility. During the course of the inspection it was observed that the top of the old waste oil tank was not welded onto the tank and there was obvious visual and olfactory evidence of potential contamination present. Chuck Nash Chevrolet was instructed by the TWC that sampling would be necessary to verify whether the clean-up of contaminated soils at the site would be required. Chlorinated hydrocarbons were detected in samples collected from the walls and bottom of the waste oil tank excavation.

- December 11, 1989 The TWC District 8 conducted a state municipal solid waste inspection at the Chuck Nash Chevrolet facility. The solid waste inspection was initiated by a request from the TWC Underground Storage Tank Enforcement Section due to the ongoing investigation at the UPS facility. The TWC had also received an anonymous report that Chuck Nash Chevrolet employees had been observed dumping drums of spent paint and solvents onto the ground in a vacant lot across a gravel road adjacent to the Chuck Nash Chevrolet and UPS facilities. A sample taken from the springs adjacent to the Willow Springs Creek once again indicated the presence of trichloroethylene (TCE), tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and Methyl-Tertiary-Butyl Ether (MTBE).
- June 13, 1990 During over-excavation of the soils at the Chuck Nash Chevrolet facility, groundwater was encountered at 17 feet. All on site activities were halted by the TWC Region 8 inspector because groundwater had been encountered and would require coordination with the TWC central office in Austin.
- August 8, 1990 Chuck Nash Chevrolet was asked to perform a groundwater investigation which included installing three monitor wells to assess the extent of contamination. Results of the groundwater sampling indicated that minor levels of petroleum hydrocarbons were detected. Chlorinated hydrocarbons were also detected in the groundwater but the relative concentrations were not indicative of a source area. An additional well was subsequently installed and quarterly monitoring was implemented. The results of the investigation of potential sources for the PCE plume were inconclusive based on the information available.
- March - May 1993 TWC District 8 office conducted a groundwater investigation in conjunction with the installation of a new 36 inch waste water main by the City of San Marcos in the vicinity of Interstate Highway-35 and State Highway 123. The main was installed to a depth of approximately 12 feet which was within the local perched water table. Groundwater samples were collected at ten locations along the trench excavations and analyzed for the presence of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's). The results of the sampling event documented the presence of VOC's including chlorinated solvents, Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene and Xylenes (BTEX) and Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) approximately 1,000 feet west and up-gradient of the Chuck Nash Chevrolet facility. Based on this information the TNRCC chose to not pursue formal enforcement actions against Chuck Nash Chevrolet or UPS to address the VOC contaminated groundwater in the vicinity of Interstate Highway-35 and State Highway 123.

- December 27, 1994 TNRCC released Chuck Nash Chevrolet of any further corrective actions or monitoring requirements related to the former waste oil tank. On February 2, 1994, Chuck Nash submitted a final groundwater monitoring report that indicated non-detect levels of most all the petroleum hydrocarbons in the groundwater monitoring wells and relatively unchanged concentrations of trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE) compared to past monitoring events.
- April 12, 1996 TNRCC Region 11 waste program manager recommended that the case be referred to the Emergency Response and Assessment Section for further investigation and ranking.
- May 1997 United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Screening Site Inspection (SSI) was conducted by the TNRCC Site Discovery and Assessment Program (SSDAP) staff during which groundwater and sediment samples were taken. The analytical results showed levels of 1,2-dichloroethylene between 14 and 16 Fg/L and levels of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) of 49 Fg/L. The USEPA Region 6 issued a Superfund site strategy recommendation of “No Further Remedial Actions Planned” (NFRAP) due to the lack of drinking water targets in the area and referred the site to the state.
- May 2000 TNRCC SSDAP staff conducted additional sampling. The analytical results from the surface water samples taken near the springs showed detectable levels of cis-1,2 dichloroethylene (9.1 Fg/L and 10.1 Fg/L), tetrachloroethylene (PCE) (59.0 Fg/L and 61.6 Fg/L) and trichloroethylene (TCE) (both samples at 9.7 Fg/L). Surface water intakes were located on the San Marcos River within the 15 mile Target Distance Limit (TDL). The closest intake provides water for the A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery, a Texas Parks and Wildlife facility located approximately 0.5 mile from the entry point of Willow Springs Creek into the San Marcos River. The San Marcos River and its tributary, Willow Springs Creek are critical habitat for two federal designated endangered species, the fountain darter and the San Marcos gambusia. In addition, the river is known to be inhabited by the Comal Springs riffle beetle, a federal proposed endangered species. Wetlands are located within the 15 mile target distance limit, however they have not been mapped at this time and are therefore not included in the score.

Community Profile

This site is located in Hays County near the intersection of Interstate Highway 35 and State Highway 123 which is within the San Marcos city limits. San Marcos (current population 39,871) is the county seat of Hays County. It occupies 18 square miles of land which lies at the southern edge of the Texas Hill Country. San Marcos currently uses a council / manager form of city government. Land use in the site area currently supports: agricultural, recreational, residential and commercial activities.

San Marcos is best known as the home of Southwest Texas State University, and for the San Marcos River which rises from numerous springs in the area. The San Marcos River is home to Southwest Texas State University's Aquarena Center whose goal is education and preservation of aquatic life. The San Marcos River is noted for a diversity of plants and aquatic animals, which includes two federally designated endangered species, the fountain darter and the San Marcos gambusia as well as the Comal Springs Riffle Beetle a federally proposed endangered species .

The City of San Marcos municipal water supply is the source of drinking water for the area residents. The water well field for the city is located 2 to 4 miles north and west of the site which is up gradient from the shallow PCE plume.

The U.S. Census estimates the 1997 population of Hays County at 86,284 with 1996 ethnicity data for the county as follows:

White	94.9 %
Hispanic	32.6 %
Black	3.8 %
American Indian	.5 %
Asian	0.9 %

Community Involvement

On October 9, 2000 an initial meeting was held between TNRCC project manager Ms. Luda Voskov, staff attorney Mr. Ed Wesley, toxicologist Mr. Chuck Wheat, community relations coordinator Ms. Janie Montemayor, San Marcos city manager Mr. Larry Gilley and deputy city manager Ms. Laura Huffman. TNRCC staff informed Mr. Gilley and Ms. Huffman of the site location, its history, and of the upcoming actions that the state would be initiating. These actions include: establishment of a records repository, listing of the site in the *Texas Register* for public notice regarding proposal to the state Superfund registry and land use designation, and publication in the *San Marcos Daily Record* for public notice regarding proposal to the state Superfund registry and land use designation. Mr. Gilley suggested the repository be located in the San Marcos Public Library. In addition Mr. Gilley provided TNRCC personnel with contacts that may be able to help provide historical and research assistance.

On Friday February 23, 2001, TNRCC staff, Ms. Luda Voskov project manager, Ms. Barbara Daywood community relations team leader and Ms. Vickie Reat aquatic biologist, briefed staff with the Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center, Southwest Texas State University, the president of the San Marcos River Foundation, along with two other foundation members, and the City of San Marcos wastewater director. These meetings allowed for an exchange of information and an opportunity for TNRCC to address concerns and answer questions.

On February 27, 2001, TNRCC staff conducted the first public meeting concerning the State Highway 123 PCE Plume site. Twenty two citizens attended the meeting. The purpose of the public meeting, held at the San Marcos Activity Center, was to obtain additional information regarding the site relative to its eligibility for listing on the state Superfund registry, to identify additional potentially responsible parties, and to obtain public input and information regarding the appropriate use of land on which the site is located. The meeting also gave interested citizens an opportunity to ask questions, voice their opinions and concerns about site issues, and learn more about the Superfund program. Following presentations by TNRCC staff members, the meeting was opened to receive public comment and address questions and concerns.

Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program

1. Maintain open and on-going two way communication between the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Hays County, City of San Marcos, state elected officials, as well as area residents.
2. Continue to expand the mailing list and our communications to include additional agencies, organizations, and residents that are interested in the project.
3. Provide a community relations contact from whom interested parties can receive information on site activities, project status, and study results.
4. Provide citizens, involved agencies, elected officials, civic leaders and the media with accurate, timely information about site related activities through newsletters, press releases and community meetings.
5. Respond to telephone inquiries and written correspondence. Attend public meetings.
6. Provide all information, especially technical findings, in 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 are made available during project phases.
7. Monitor community concerns and information requirements as the project progresses.
8. Modify the Community Relations Plan for changes in community needs as necessary to be accurate during different project phases.

Community Relations Techniques

1. Project Status Briefings, for state and local officials - to periodically inform them of project developments over the course of the project.
2. Project Status Briefings for community groups and concerned citizens (may include public meetings, if needed) - to periodically inform the community of significant project developments and findings; to respond to inquiries accordingly and incorporate local concerns into the decision making process as appropriate.
3. 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 ensure effective two-way communication.
4. Program Document Repository - to maintain an easily accessible repository through which the public may review project outputs.
5. Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission State Superfund Internet Homepage - to provide timely, current information on state Superfund activities on the World Wide Web at the following web address:

www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/superfund/index.html

6. Community Relations Plan - to reflect changes in site activities or local concerns. After the Proposed Remedial Action Document has been issued, the Community Relations Plan will be revised to address implementation of the selected remedial action alternative.

Elected Officials

City of San Marcos

The Honorable David Chiu
Mayor City of San Marcos
630 East Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

The Honorable Louis Doiron, Jr.
City Council Place 1
630 East Hopkins
San Marcos TX 78666

The Honorable Earl Moseley, Jr.
City Council Place 2
630 East Hopkins
San Marcos TX 78666

The Honorable Jane Hughson
City Council Place 3
630 East Hopkins
San Marcos TX 78666

The Honorable Joe B. Cox Jr.
City Council Place 4
630 East Hopkins
San Marcos TX 78666

The Honorable Paul Mayhew
City Council Place 5
630 East Hopkins
San Marcos TX 78666

The Honorable Martha Castex Tatum
City Council Place 6
630 East Hopkins
San Marcos TX 78666

Mr. Larry Gilley
City Manager
630 East Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

Ms. Laura Huffman
Deputy City Manager
630 East Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

Mr. Tom Taggart
Wastewater Director
630 East Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

Ms. Janis K. Womack
City Clerk
630 East Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

State

The Honorable Kenneth Armbrister
Texas State Senator, District 18
CAP 1E.12
Austin, TX 78711

District address:
3205 East Mockingbird
Victoria, TX 77904

The Honorable Gonzalo Barrientos
Texas State Senator, District 14
CAP 3E.18
Austin, TX 78711

The Honorable Rick Green
Texas House of Representative, District 46
Ext E2.314
Austin, TX 78701

District address:
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

County

The Honorable Jim Powers
Hay County Judge
111 East San Antonio Street Ste 300
San Marcos, TX 78666

The Honorable Debbie Gonzalez Ingalsbe
Hays County Commissioner Precinct 1
111 East San Antonio Street, Suite 204
San Marcos TX 78666

Area News Media

San Marcos Daily Record

Attn: City Editor
1910 Interstate Highway 35 South
San Marcos, TX 78666

Daily University Star (SWT)

Attn: City Editor
102 Old Main
601 University Drive
San Marcos, TX 78666

KTSM FM 89.9 (SWT)

Attn: News Director
601 University Drive
Old Main 106
San Marcos TX 78666

Austin American Statesman

Attn: City Editor
P.O. Box 670
305 South Congress
Austin, TX 78767

KGNB

Attn: News Director
1540 Loop 337
New Braunfels, TX 78130

KASE FM 101

Attn: News Director
705 North Lamar
Austin, TX 78703

KVET FM 98.1

Attn: News Director
705 North Lamar
Austin, TX 78703

KLBJ FM 93.7

Attn: News Director
8309 North IH35
Austin, TX 78753

KTBC Fox Channel 7

Attn: News Director
119 East 10th Street
Austin, TX 78701

KVUE ABC Channel 24

Attn: News Director
3201 Steck Avenue
Austin, TX 78757

KXAN NBC Channel 36

Attn: News Director
908 West Martin Luther King Blvd
Austin, TX 78701

KEYE CBS Channel 42

Attn: News Director
10700 Metric Blvd
Austin, TX 78758

Key Project Personnel

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Ms. Janie Montemayor, Lead Community Relations Coordinator

Mr. John Flores, Community Relations Coordinator

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Program Document Repositories

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission

Records Management Center

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Austin, TX 78753-3087

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX. 78753-3087

Telephone: 1-800-633-9363 or 1-512-239-2920

San Marcos Public Library

Physical Address: 625 East Hopkins
San Marcos, Texas 78666

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