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Community Relations Plan

for

Tucker Oil Refinery

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September 2000

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
for
Tucker Refinery Proposed State Superfund Site

Tucker, Anderson County, Texas

September 2000

Overview of Community Relations Plan

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

The Tucker Refinery 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 Tucker Refinery 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 Tucker Refinery 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:

31E 40' 38" North Latitude, 95E 44' 32" West Longitude

The Tucker Refinery is located along the east side of U.S. Highway 79 in the rural community of Tucker, approximately 9 miles west of Palestine, in Anderson County. There is no physical address given to the former refinery site in Tucker. The land use surrounding the site is a mixture of rural and residential. The site is bounded on the north by a public water supply well, on the east by the Union Pacific Railroad and rural land, on the south by a residential property and on the west by U.S. Highway 79 and rural residential land. Also, on the west side of the site, is the possible location of a former gasoline service station that is not believed to have been associated with the site.

The facility consists of an inactive and dismantled oil refinery situated on an approximate 9.249 acre tract of land. An additional 2.2 acres which housed a small frame office building for the refinery operations is located directly across U.S. Highway 79 to the west. Other tracts of land located adjacent to the 9.249 acre tract may have also been utilized as part of the refinery operations as noted in a review of property ownership records and surface rights.

Background and Operating History:

Oil refinery operations began at the site as early as 1940 by the Phoenix Refining Company, Inc. Various other refining companies also operated at the site after that time. Early operations included a pump house, still, boiler, laboratory, office, loading rack, cooling tower, water box, tetra-ethyl lead plant and dyeing pot, along with 13 storage tanks.

In 1958 Anderson Refining Company, also known as Anderson Refining Corporation, was listed in the Texas Railroad Commission Annual Report of the Oil and Gas Division, as the site operator. The Anderson Refining Company operated at the site under a state Waste Control Order (WCO) No. 01327. On November 20, 1970, WCO 01327 was canceled by the Texas Water Development Board under order number 70-1120-10 and temporarily ceased operations.

In 1973, after three years of inactivity, the refinery was sold to J&W Refining, Inc. and began operating as the Tucker Refinery. The Tucker Refinery operations were conducted under WCO 01911 and Texas Air Control Board No. C-1121 until March 25, 1975, when the Texas Department of Water Resources amended the plant's waste permit, WCO 01911, and issued it to conform to the new federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. TXO058297.

On May 8, 1974, an inspection of the active refinery by the Texas Water Quality Board revealed the road-side ditch along U.S. Highway 79 to be in poor condition because of spillages and seepages of oil from the refinery proper. Drainage in the ditch was such that discharges from the refinery could have flowed both east and west along the roadside ditch, depending upon the point of discharge. The grass had been killed and there was standing water in the ditch. Some attempts had been made to cover the oil with dirt and to absorb it with hay. No samples were collected during this inspection.

On December 9, 1976, J & W Refining Inc., was found to be in violation of Texas Water Quality Board Permit No.01911 (citation no.578) for their wastewater discharge in the following manner:

Part I, A. Effluent Limitations and Monitoring - A grab sample collected on December 9, 1976, showed a pH value of 9.6 standard units.

Part II, A. Management Requirements, 2. Noncompliance Notification - On December 9, 1976, a review of refinery monitoring data on effluent revealed some maximum daily limitations had been violated. Notifications of such noncompliance discharges were not received from the facility as required.

Part III, Other Requirements - On December 9, 1976, a sample collected from outfall No.001 revealed violations for biological oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD), total suspended solids (TSS), and oil & grease parameters.

On February 21, 1979, after ownership of the refinery was transferred from J & W Refining, Inc., to Sector Refining, Inc., the federal (NPDES) permit was transferred to Sector Refining, Inc.

On November 4, 1981, an application for permit renewal was submitted for the refinery under the name Clinton Manges Oil and Refining Company. The permit renewal carried an

expiration date of June 30, 1982, however the refinery never operated under the permit renewal, having last processed crude oil in July of 1981. On February 4, 1983, the refinery NPDES permit was terminated at the request of Clinton Manges Oil and Refining Company.

The inactive refinery was purchased by Funderburk Salvage, Inc. in July 1994 in order to salvage the site for scrap metal. Following the purchase by Funderburk Salvage, Inc., the site was partial dismantled, leaving many of the ground storage tanks ruptured and leaking refinery wastes throughout the site.

On April 12, 1995 during a TNRCC Region 5 inspection of the refinery, large areas of oil stained soils and discharges of oily tank bottoms were documented at the facility.

On December 19, 1995, the TNRCC Superfund Site Discovery & Assessment Program (SSDAP) conducted a site status inspection. Upon arrival to the site, the TNRCC inspectors observed an active tank salvage operation in progress. The TNRCC inspectors also observed waste management practices which had occurred since the last Region 5 inspection, conducted on October 25, 1995. The waste management practices observed included a bermed storage area along Highway 79 where possible tank bottoms generated during the salvage operations had been placed. Leakage around the bermed storage area was documented during the inspection. Discussions with the site operator, Scott Davis of Western Environmental, Inc. revealed that his company has been salvaging scrape metal from the site, including refinery product and crude oil storage tanks, since November 6, 1995. The refinery salvage operations were completed in late December 1995.

During the week of April 27 through 29, 1998, TNRCC SSDAP conducted a U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Screening Site Inspection (SSI) at the Clinton Manges Oil and Refinery Company site. The purpose of this investigation was to document the release(s) or potential release(s) of hazardous substances from the site as part of a federal Superfund program evaluation. Surface soil samples were collected from on-site areas documenting organic and inorganic concentrations at greater than three times the associated background levels or greater than or equal to the background sample quantitation limit, if not detected in background.

On March 28, 2000, the EPA issued a "No Further Remedial Action Planned" designation for the Clinton Manges Oil and Refinery Company site under the federal Superfund program with a referral recommendation to the State of Texas for any future actions.

On April 18, 2000, TNRCC SSDAP initiated immediate removal actions on-site to secure the site with high level security fence. The fence installation was completed and the front gate was locked on June 20, 2000.

During the week of June 12 through 14, 2000, TNRCC SSDAP conducted a Hazard Ranking System (HRS) Site Sampling Event at the Clinton Manges Oil and Refinery Company site. The primary objective of this event was to document the release(s) or potential release(s) of hazardous substances from the site to the shallow ground water beneath the site. Ground water samples were collected from on-site monitoring wells, documenting organic and inorganic concentrations at greater than three times the associated background levels or greater than or equal to the background sample quantitation limit, if not detected in background.

The nearest well is a Tucker Water Supply Corporation well (GO010029A) for the rural community of Tucker. The well is part of a two well blended system that serves approximately 1296 persons. The well has a total depth of 578 feet and is screened from 526 to 576 feet.

Previous ground water samples collected from this well on June 14, 1995, by the TNRCC, indicated low levels of two volatile organic compounds (ethyl benzene and xylene) were detected below their maximum contaminant level (MCL). The levels of volatile organics detected were below the TNRCC water program's levels of concern. A subsequent sampling event by TNRCC on March 27, 1996 did not detect any volatile organic compounds.

The chemical analyses of drinking water samples collected by TNRCC SSDAP during the week of June 12 through 14, 2000 did not reveal the presence of contaminants at concentrations that meet the observed release criteria.

Releases of hazardous substances to the ground water pathway are the major concern for this site. Hazardous substances have been documented in the subsurface soils and shallow ground water beneath the site. The Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer, which is the major aquifer in the area, is hydrologically inter-connected with the overlying Recklaw Formation and Queen City Aquifer. The Ground Water Pathway is being scored based on the threat of potential contamination to area drinking water wells within this aquifer.

Community Profile

Anderson County, located in northeast Texas, has an economy supported by manufacturing, distribution, agribusiness, tourism, hunting and fishing leases and prison units.

The Tucker Refinery is located on U.S. Highway 79 in the unincorporated community of Tucker in southwest Anderson County, Texas.

In 1998 the State Data Center of the Texas Department of Commerce estimated the population of Anderson County at 53,424, an 11.2% increase from the 1990 U.S. Census estimate.

The U.S. Census 1996 ethnicity estimates for Anderson County were: white, 73.4%; black, 25.7%; Hispanic (may be of any race), 10%; American Indian, 0.4%; Asian, 0.5%.

Community Involvement and Concerns

There have been no inquiries by the public regarding the proposal to list the Tucker Refinery site to the state Superfund Registry.

Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program

- A. Maintain open communications between the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Anderson 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/permitting/remed/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

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Project Document Repositories

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