

October 3, 2017

International Creosoting

Sampling

On September 13, 2017, soil and groundwater were collected and analyzed for metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) associated with the site to evaluate potential effects from Hurricane Harvey. Metals and SVOCs were not detected in soil at concentrations that present a risk to human health. Detections of metals and SVOCs in the groundwater are consistent with historical conditions and the groundwater will continue to be monitored as the site clean-up progresses.

On September 18, 2017, the TCEQ regional office responded to an incident report of a sheen on Brakes Bayou and observed small patches of oil on the eastern bank of Brakes Bayou and a sheen in the water just downstream from the International Creosote Superfund site. The PRP sent their contractor on September 19 to investigate and determine if this is related to the site. The PRP collected samples and placed containment booms around the area of sheen.

Site Background

The International Creosoting site is a former wood treatment facility in Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas. From 1898 through 1973 the facility used creosote preservative in producing treated wood products, including pressure-treated railroad cross-ties and other railroad wood products. In 1973 the wood treatment operation was dismantled and replaced with a facility that produced asphaltic ready-mix concrete until 1987.

In the 1980s the TCEQ and private entities established that surface soils, subsurface soils, and groundwater had been impacted by creosote and asphalt constituents. Brakes Bayou is also contaminated from historical activities. A 50-foot-deep slurry wall and recovery system were installed to isolate and extract the affected on-site groundwater and free-phase creosote constituents.

Next steps

The recovery system shut down during the storm and the PRPs are working to bring it back online and continue to monitor the site and bayou.