

# ***Ballard Pits State Superfund Site Update***

## ***April 2008***

### **Community Meeting**

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality hosted a Community Meeting on March 27, 2008 in the Calallen High School Auditorium in a continued effort to provide information and answer questions regarding the removal action being conducted at Ballard Pits state Superfund site. The purpose of this removal action is to prevent the spreading of the contaminated waste material from the pits to the surrounding property and the possible infiltration of the waste material into the shallow groundwater which is used by the adjacent residences for their drinking water.

#### ***Commissioners***

Buddy Garcia, Chairman  
Larry R. Soward  
Bryan Shaw, Ph.D.

#### ***Executive Director***

Glenn Shankle



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In addition TCEQ Project Manager, Barry Lands, briefed the Nueces County Commissioners about the project at the April 2, 2008 Nueces County Commissioners meeting.

### **Site Activities**

Onsite road construction activities were completed in late March. Following the installation of a temporary onsite security fence and warning signs and mobilization of equipment, TCEQ contractors began excavating waste material from the west pit on March 31, 2008.

Hazardous and non-hazardous waste are separated and handled differently by waste disposal facilities. Therefore, additional testing is conducted on the waste as it is excavated from the pits to characterize the waste. The information is used to determine whether the waste must be disposed of as non-hazardous waste or the more costly hazardous waste. The vast majority of the waste coming from the pits, approximately 90% of the waste excavated and disposed of to date, has been hazardous waste.

As excavation and disposal activities have occurred, TCEQ and its contractor have also discovered that the volume of

waste in the west pit is greater than indicated by prior investigation.

### **Announcement:**

**The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality invites you to attend a Community Meeting at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, in the Auditorium of the Nueces County Johnny Calderon Building, 710 East Main Street, Robstown, Texas 78380.**

The TCEQ will provide information on the current status of the removal action and future plan of action at the Ballard Pits.

Staff from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will be available to provide information on an individual basis after the meeting.

With the additional volume of waste discovered and higher than anticipated percentage of hazardous waste in the west pit the project costs have increased substantially. TCEQ is investigating to determine how best to continue with the project.

***There will be a temporary suspension of removal activities.*** TCEQ will stabilize and monitor the site to ensure that waste

material from the pits does not spread to the surrounding property or infiltrate into the shallow groundwater. Removal activities are expected to begin again after September 1, 2008. In the meantime, the TCEQ will conduct additional investigation to evaluate the remaining waste and the associated costs.

### **Upcoming Community Meeting**

The TCEQ invites you to a community meeting to discuss the current status of the removal action and future plan of action at the Ballard Pits. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, in the Auditorium of the Nueces County Johnny Calderon Building, 710 East Main Street, Robstown, Texas 78380.

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#### **Information Repositories**

TCEQ Records Management Center  
Building E, First Floor  
12100 Park 35 Circle  
Austin, Texas 78753  
(512) 239-2920

Corpus Christi Public Library  
Northwest Branch  
3202 McKinzie Road  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78410  
(361) 241-9329

Internet address:  
[www.tceq.state.tx.us/remediation/superfund/index.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/remediation/superfund/index.html)

**Si tiene alguna pregunta o necesita  
informacion adicional favor de  
llamar al 1-800-633-9363 y hable  
con John Flores**