

# **Ballard Sand Pits State Superfund Site Fact Sheet**

## **December 2007**

The Ballard Sand Pits are located at the end of Ballard Drive, a rural area consisting of 296 acres of property. Historically the Ballard Sand and Gravel Company operated on the property. The Brine Services Company (Brine Services) used the Ballard property for storage of oilfield drilling mud and disposal of refinery waste in the late 1960s. In 1968 the Texas Water Quality

Board issued an order requiring Brine Services to cease all waste disposal at the property.

In September 2002, the river overflowed its banks and inundated the pits. The Railroad Commission (RRC) responded with collection of samples from the pits, adjacent residential yards and from four nearby residential water wells.

In March 2003, the RRC conducted a site assessment. Sample results led to the conclusion that the pits posed an unacceptable risk to human health. This evaluation was based on the possibility of direct contact with the waste material. The material was found to be hazardous for numerous hydrocarbon compounds including benzene. The volume of waste material was estimated to be 3,600 cubic yards (in place) for the West Pit and 9,600 cubic yards (in place) for the East Pit.

In December 2003, the Texas Department of Health, predecessor agency to the Texas Department of State Health Services submitted a health consultation for the site that concluded the levels of contamination in the site soil and ground water posed no additional risk to the development of cancer.

### **Community Meeting:**

**A Community Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 8, 2007, at Calallen High School, 4001 Wildcat Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas.**

The meeting format is:

- **7:00 PM to 7:30 PM**  
Open House / Availability Session
- **7:30 PM to 8:00 PM**  
Project Update
- **8:00 PM to 8:30 PM**  
Open House / Availability Session

Staff from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will be available to provide information on an individual basis during the Open House/Availability Session.

### ***Site Contacts***

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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

***Commissioners***

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

***Executive Director***

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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**

In August 2006, TCEQ completed the Remedial Investigation at the site. Samples of soil, ground water and sediments were collected from both pits and the adjacent area surrounding both pits. A total of 86 surface soil, subsurface soil, and sediment samples were collected in and around the pits. TCEQ determined that all of the contaminated material was located in the pits and had not migrated outside of the pits. In addition, ground water sampling completed during the Remedial Investigation indicated that no material from the pits has migrated into the ground water.

The waste material in the pits has been classified as hazardous and the pits are in continual danger of flooding during high water events of the Nueces River. Flooding may cause the waste material to migrate from the pits to adjacent soil or the ground water. The TCEQ therefore intends to perform a removal action at the site to prevent the spreading of the contaminated waste material to the surrounding soil and the possible infiltration of the waste material into the shallow groundwater which is used by the adjacent residences for their groundwater. The TCEQ will excavate the waste material from both pits and dispose the material in

an approved landfill located in Robstown, Texas.

For further information, please contact Barry Lands, Project Manager, or Kelly Peavler, Community Relations Coordinator, toll-free at 1-800-633-9363.