

Federated Metals, Harris County, Texas

SITE UPDATE - February 2009

SITE INFORMATION

The Federated Metals Superfund site (the Site) is located in the 9200 block of Market Street, at the intersection of Market Street and Interstate Highway (IH) 610, in Houston, Harris County, Texas. The Site is now inactive. The Site was initially bound on the north by the Union Pacific Railroad, on the west by IH-610 and on the south by a diked area formerly used for the disposal of channel dredgings. Upon further investigation, the Site boundaries have been enlarged to enclose the production facility immediately north of the Union Pacific railroad tracks. Market Street now represents the site's northernmost boundary, while commercial and vacant private property mark the site's eastern boundary.

The Site's landfill was used as a disposal facility from the 1940s to 1979 for magnesium dross and sludge and refractory brick from recovery activities of nonferrous metal alloys; breakout material from electrolytic chlorine cells such as graphite anodes, asbestos material and contaminated concrete; gasket rubber rings and other waste materials.

The Site is currently owned by Environmental Liability Transfer, Incorporated (ELT) and was previously owned by ASARCO Master, Incorporated (Inc). In August 2008, in conjunction with the ASARCO, LLC bankruptcy proceeding, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the Texas Office of the Attorney General, ASARCO Master, Incorporated, ELT and EnergySolutions (EnergySolutions was formerly a contractor for ASARCO Master, Incorporated) negotiated a transfer of property and environmental liability from ASARCO Master, Incorporated, to Environmental Liability Transfer, Incorporated.

SITE ACTIVITIES

The TCEQ has provided oversight to activities at the Site, including investigations performed by the previous owner, ASARCO Master, Inc. and will continue to monitor and provide oversight to investigation performed by the current owner (and its contractors) to ensure the protection of human health and the environment.

Investigations have included groundwater, soil and sediment sampling to assess the area.

In Fall 2007, the TCEQ received and reviewed a work plan submitted by EnergySolutions. The work plan included removal of waste from the Site and was approved by the TCEQ.

The initial phase of the removal action was designed to excavate all of the waste piles located in the landfill area to one foot below ground level. The landfill area is the 14.7- acre portion of the Site located immediately south of the railroad tracks, which intersects IH-610. EnergySolutions removed 254,000 cubic feet of material, during this phase.

All of the wastes were transported to TCEQ- approved landfills for disposal, which completed the first phase of the landfill waste removal action.

The next phase of the removal action will include excavation, characterization and transportation of waste buried deeper than one foot below ground level, including areas surrounding the excavated waste piles.

GROUNDWATER MONITORING

Multiple historical groundwater sampling events have been conducted and completed at the Site. The information from these sampling events and the results from current groundwater monitoring activities at the Site will be used to determine the full

nature and extent of contamination on the Site.

IH-610 Seep Investigation

In July 2007, whitish colored groundwater was found seeping around the IH-610 and Union Pacific Railroad intersection near Market Street. ASARCO Master, Inc. began an investigation of the seep, which included 24-hour pumping to restrict the flow of seep water into an adjacent stormwater drain on IH-610, which discharges into the Houston Ship Channel.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) also conducted an investigation regarding the seepage and determined the seepage was not attributable to activities at the Federated Metals Superfund Site. TxDOT determined the seep water contained an elevated level of pH, which is the numerical measurement of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution. The elevated level of the pH was a result of groundwater seepage through concrete stabilized backfill supporting a roadside retention wall. The elevated level of pH in the seepage posed a low environmental risk to the Houston Ship Channel; however, TxDOT determined there is no threat to human health. The TCEQ concurred with TxDOT's findings.

TxDOT has sealed the joints in the retention wall located in front of the seep pool to decrease the flow of the seepage. TxDOT also periodically monitors the seepage pool area, especially during storm

events, to determine whether additional pumping is necessary to control the seeping.

Final measures will be taken by TxDOT to eliminate the need for continued monitoring.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

You may contact the following individuals toll free at (800) 633-9363 or by e-mail at superfnd@tceq.state.tx.us:

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information about the Federated Metals Site may be obtained at the:

TCEQ Records Management Center

(512) 239-2920

Physical Address:

Building E, 1st Floor

12100 Park 35 Circle

Austin, TX 78753

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 13087

Mail Code 199

Austin, Texas 78711

Repository:

Pleasantville Branch Library

1520 Gellhorn Drive

Houston, Texas 77029

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