

The following is an Adobe Acrobat reproduction of the official

Community Relations Plan

for

Harvey Industries, Inc.

No graphic illustrations are included with this electronic version, but are available with the printed versions as part of the Harvey Industries, Inc. repository records

at

Henderson County Library

121 South Prairieville

Athens, Texas

and/or

TNRCC Records Management Center

Austin, Texas

Scroll Down to View

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
for

Harvey Industries, Inc., Proposed State Superfund Site
Athens, Henderson County, Texas

August 1996

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
Pollution Cleanup Division
12118 North Interstate Highway 35
Building D
Austin, Texas 78753
Telephone -- 1-800-633-9363

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
for
Harvey Industries, Inc., Proposed State Superfund Site
Athens, Henderson County, Texas

August 1996

Inquiries relating to the Harvey Industries, Inc., Proposed State Superfund Site should be directed to:

Bruce McAnally, Community Relations Assistant
Pollution Cleanup Division
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
Physical Address: 12118 North IH-35
Austin, Texas 78753
Mailing Address: PO Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711
Telephone: 1-800-633-9363 or 512/239-2141

Table of Contents

Overview of Community Relations Plan.....1

Site Profile:

A. Site Description.....1

B. Background and Operating History.....1

Community Profile.....6

Community Involvement and Concerns.....6

Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program.....8

Community Relations Techniques.....9

Elected Officials Address List.....10

Area News Media.....12

Key Project Personnel.....13

Program Document Repositories.....13

APPENDIX

- Site Location Map
- Site Area Land Use Diagram
- Plant Site Diagram

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
for
REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION AND FEASIBILITY STUDY
Harvey Industries, Inc., Proposed State Superfund Site
Athens, Henderson County, Texas

August 1996

Overview of Community Relations Plan

This community relations plan (CRP) identifies issues of community concern regarding the Harvey Industries, Inc., Proposed State Superfund site, in Athens, Henderson County, Texas. It also outlines the anticipated community relations activities to be conducted during each phase of the cleanup at the Harvey site.

The Harvey Industries, Inc., (Harvey) 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 Harvey 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 Harvey site.

The information in this plan is based primarily on the information from the TNRCC Hazard Ranking System Assessment on the Harvey site.

Site Profile

A. Site Location and Description: 32B 12' 30", 95B 49' 30"

Harvey Industries, Inc., originally the location of Curtis Mathes Manufacturing Company, which operated a television manufacturing facility located at the southeast corner of the intersection of FM 2495 and State Highway 31 in Athens, Henderson County, Texas.

The Harvey facility consists of an irregularly shaped 87.54 acre tract of land containing a 645,521 square foot building, seven additional buildings and sheds, a 500,000 cubic foot capacity landfill and an abandoned fire training pit with shallow ground water contamination. The additional buildings on site consist of two pump houses used to

provide water pressure to the facility's fire sprinkler system, a truck service building, two general storage buildings, a boiler room and a covered drum storage shed.

B. Background and Operating History:

The Harvey site was initially developed by Olive-Myers Spalti Manufacturing Company, which erected a furniture manufacturing plant on approximately 57 acres of the site in 1955. The Olive-Myers Spalti Manufacturing Company sold all title and interest in the 57 acre site to Olive M-S Realty Company in June 1956. On March 1, 1957, Olive M-S Realty Company entered into a lease agreement with Olive-Myers Spalti Manufacturing Company (lessee) for the continued operation of the site. According to corporation records on file at the Texas Secretary of State's Office, the Olive-Myers Spalti Manufacturing Company merged into Curtis Mathes Corporation on January 20, 1970.

Records show that on September 8, 1968, Curtis Mathes Manufacturing Company purchased a 24.33 acre tract of land from Dresser Industries, Inc. The 24.33 acre tract consisted of the residue remains of a 13.13 acre and 11.2 acre tract of land that had been used for clay mining purposes. On October 8, 1978 an additional 5.89 acre tract was purchased by Olive M-S Realty Company from the Athens Industrial Foundation, Inc.

The Curtis Mathes Manufacturing Company operated the site until July 31, 1982, when they ceased all operations. On August 2, 1982, Harvey Industries, Inc. (aka Harvey Joint Venture) leased the building and all facilities for Curtis Mathes and took over the operation of the plant, manufacturing television cabinets for Curtis Mathes. On July 26, 1984, the Curtis Mathes Corporation (part of which was formerly Curtis Mathes Manufacturing Company), and Olive M-S Realty Company conveyed all of the 57 acre, 24.65 acre and 5.89 acre tracts of land on the site to Harvey Joint Venture.

During the site operations in the 1960's through the late 1970's chemical wastes (paints, inks, stains and solvents) were accumulated in 55-gallon drums and stored on the south central portion of the site. According to a Scientific Laboratory Report (1993), this practice was discontinued in 1979 when Curtis Mathes began incinerating chemical wastes in an on-site boiler. Metal plating operations were reported to have been conducted on site during the 1960's. The plating operations were conducted in an area later used as a mill storage area, located on the west side of the manufacturing building, adjacent to the boiler room incineration area. There is no documentation for the plating

operation except that cadmium, zinc and chromium were used. Also, a Texas Department of Health inter-office memo copied to the Texas Water Quality Board in December of 1972, referenced that Curtis Mathes Company previously operated a plating plant on the site and discharged waste into small ponds and then directly into Coon Creek. In December 1981 and January 1982, Curtis Mathes conducted a fire training school at the site to dispose of the backlog of chemical wastes accumulated over this twenty year period. Approximately 16,500 gallons of chemical wastes along with wooden pallets were burned in an open clay pit known as the "fire training pit."

On July 26, 1985, Harvey Industries, Inc., entered into a compliance agreement with the Texas Department of Water Resources (TDWR). That agreement required Harvey to submit a closure plan for the cleanup of the fire-training pit. The agreement also required Harvey cease the incineration of hazardous wastes on site until a proper permit authorization could be issued.

Between July 26, 1985 and November 25, 1985, Harvey Industries drilled nineteen soil borings around the fire training pit in the initial investigation of the subsurface conditions. Subsequently four of the borings were developed into temporary ground water monitoring wells. Ground water analysis from these wells identified organic chemical contamination within the shallow ground water table. Additional monitoring wells were installed in March 1986 to further evaluate the extent of contamination. On April 22, 1986, Harvey Industries reported to the Texas Water Commission (TWC), successor agency to TDWR and predecessor agency to TNRCC, that the analyses of the samples collected from monitor wells on site indicate the presence of methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), isobutyl alcohol and toluene in the ground water beneath the former fire training pit. Harvey Industries concluded their investigation of the shallow ground water contamination in March 1987 with completion of a Ground Water Quality Assessment.

On June 23, 1987, the TWC authorized a Harvey Industries remediation plan to install a ground water recovery and treatment system for the fire training pit. The system was subsequently installed and began operation on October 5, 1989, and discharge of the treated water to the City of Athens wastewater treatment facilities began on October 10, 1989. During the operation of the ground water recovery and treatment system, the contamination levels were found to range from .1 ppm to 150 ppm methyl isobutyl ketone, and 535 ppm toluene.

The incineration of hazardous wastes occurred on site from 1979 to 1984. The resultant ash from the incineration process was disposed of

in the on-site class II landfill, although a hazardous waste determination of the ash was never completed. In an effort to obtain proper permitting for the on-site incinerator, ash from the incinerator was analyzed by East Texas Testing Laboratory on November 9, 1984. The results of the analysis determined that the ash was classified as class II, non-hazardous waste (organ non-hazardous). However, no inorganic data was submitted, and the actual organic data and Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) were not acceptable as per U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Contract Laboratory Procedures (CLP) standard. On October 3, 1985, as part of the July '85 compliance agreement with the TDWR, Harvey Industries submitted a closure plan for the hazardous waste incinerator.

In 1972, Curtis Mathes Manufacturing Company began the process of converting a clay pit located on the west side of the site into a landfill. The landfill began operations in 1973 and is reported to have received office wastes, plant cafeteria wastes, cardboard, particle board, vinyl, wood, sawdust, metal cans, dried paint waste and incinerator ash. According to former employees, solvent-soaked rags and empty drums were placed into the landfill. A 1986, TWC Inspection Report also lists styrene as deposited in the landfill. The landfill has a 500,000 cubic yard capacity. Runoff from the landfill accumulates in a sump and holding pond before being filtered and discharged into the City of Athens waste water system. During a TNRCC inspection of the landfill on April 7, 1989, a leaking PVC pipe used to transfer waste water for the landfill was found to be discharging into Coon Creek. Analysis of the discharge revealed low amounts of volatile organic compounds. On May 26, 1992, as part of a Phase II Environmental Assessment, a two inch diameter ground water monitoring well was installed to a depth of 47 feet, with ground water being encountered at approximately five feet. The analytical results of ground water testing from the well revealed the presence of volatile organic compounds.

In 1984, Harvey Industries reported that they began storing 55-gallon drums of chemical wastes in a container storage area located along the fence line south of the manufacturing building while waiting on a permit exemption of the on-site incinerator. However, in 1985 it was determined that on site incineration of hazardous waste would be discontinued and a closure plan for the container storage area was submitted to the TWC. In the mid 1980's Harvey Industries constructed a new covered drum storage area on the east corner of the manufacturing building. All chemical wastes were transferred to this storage area prior to off-site disposal. Additional chemical waste storage areas on site consist of the east dock, adjacent to the spray painting

operations area, with a design capacity of 220 gallons, and a storage area adjacent to the on-site incinerator. Harvey Industries also maintained a quality control laboratory and a photograph development room inside the manufacturing building. The closure plan was approved by the TWC on January 10, 1986, and a closure certification was submitted on March 11, 1986.

During the asbestos survey of the site in January 1992, asbestos containing building materials were found on site. Approximately 5,500 linear feet of asbestos-containing pipe insulation and 500 pipe fittings and 10,500 square feet of asbestos-containing floor tile were found in the manufacturing building. Another 500 linear feet of pipe insulation and 125 pipe fittings and 4,000 square feet of boiler insulation were found in the boiler room.

Harvey Industries filed Chapter 7 Bankruptcy in U.S. Bankruptcy Court on March 2, 1992, and has reported that they did not operate most, if any, of the calendar year 1991.

Curtis Mathes leased office space and storage/shipping space from Harvey Joint Venture in July 1986 and remained at the site through July 31, 1993. Curtis Mathes filed Chapter 11 Bankruptcy in U.S. Bankruptcy Court on January 27, 1992, and was granted reorganization on September 1, 1992.

On November 17, 1993, the State of Texas entered into an agreement with a third party, Lorax Corp., which allowed Lorax to cleanup the on-site warehouse in exchange for leasing the warehouse.

Community Profile

Athens is the county seat of Henderson County in northeast Texas. Athens is located 36 miles west of Tyler, Texas, on State Highway 31 and approximately 75 miles southeast of Dallas on U.S. Highway 175.

The population of Athens is 11,077, an estimation calculated by the Texas Department of Public Safety in 1992. The 1994-95 Texas Almanac cites the area as hilly and rolling, one-third forested; containing sandy loam and clay soils.

Community Involvement and Concerns

In April and May 1995, there were reports in the Athens Daily Review and Tyler Courier/Telegraph that former workers employed by Harvey Industries were concerned about health effects from possible exposure to chemicals or other substances during their tenure at the facility.

A Daily Review article mentioned that former workers asked the Athens City Council for assistance in setting up a public meeting to address those health concerns. The article states, "no action was taken on the issue, . . . but the former workers were advised to seek advice from the TNRCC." As of June 7, 1995, no former employees of Harvey Industries had contacted the TNRCC regarding health concerns.

Two persons, acting as concerned citizens, did initiate a dialogue with TNRCC Superfund staff regarding the health of the former workers. TNRCC Superfund staff informed those persons that TNRCC does not have jurisdiction in health-related issues and helped the persons get in contact with the Texas Department of Health.

On June 15, 1995, a public meeting was held, in the Henderson County Commissioners' Courtroom in Athens, to announce the TNRCC's proposal to list the Harvey site on the State Registry and to solicit public input and information to assist in the site investigation. Over 80 citizens attended, many former employees of Curtis Mathes and Harvey Industries.

Two Texas Department of Health employees were also in attendance to answer health-related questions and to gather information on health issues related to the site.

An Assistant State Attorney General presented a briefing on the "third-party agreement" between the State and Lorax Corporation. The third-

party agreement states that Lorax Corporation will cleanup portions of the site and make payments to the state for the option to occupy and lease the area of the site Lorax remediates. Setbacks in acquiring funding during 1995 delayed Lorax's cleanup of the site.

Information provided by former Curtis Mathes and Harvey employees gathered at the June 1995 proposal to registry public meeting included:

Reports of on-site dumping and burying of empty paint containers;

Reports of off-site landfill used to dispose of various wastes;

Extremely lax house-keeping standards during facility operations;

Exposed asbestos through facility during years of operation.

Former employees voiced numerous concerns for their health. Many former employees felt their current and past health problems were related to possibly being exposed to chemicals, solvents and other materials during their employment at the facility.

In March 1995, CURA, environmental consultant to Lorax, removed cadmium-contaminated soil from an area of the site and dumped it on the old parking lot. This soil was moved without first obtaining authorization from the TNRCC. Initially the soil also was not properly covered and staged. Due to citizen concerns about the soil, raised before and at the June 1995 public meeting, and TNRCC requests, the soil was stabilized on site. After stabilizing, 385 cubic yards of material were treated on-site and disposed of at the CSC Republic Landfill in Avalon, Texas. The soil treatment began in early October, 1995 and the materials were transported to the landfill on November 9, 1995.

Citizen concern regarding the fire training pit includes -- What was dumped into the pit and what quantities?, Was runoff contained during the fire training exercise?, To what extent was the City of Athens Fire Department involved and liable?

Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program

- A. Maintain open communications between the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Henderson County, City of Athens, 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 community relations contact from whom interested parties can receive information on site activities, project status, and study results.
- D. Provide citizens, involved agencies, elected officials, and the media with accurate, timely information concerning the scope, progress, and findings of site-related activities by issuing press releases and conducting community meetings.
- E. Brief field teams on community relations issues before performing on site investigations.
- F. 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.
- G. Monitor community concerns and information requirements as the project progresses by monitoring the community response to news releases and community meetings.
- H. 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 - Conduct informal meetings (if needed) with residents. To provide an opportunity for affected residents to express any concerns and to make inquiries to ensure 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 D.

E. State Superfund Quarterly Status Reports - Direct mail to state, local and county officials and interested persons.

F. Revise CRP - To reflect changes in site activities or local concerns. After the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and Remedial Action Document (RAD) have been issued, the CRP will be

revised to address implementation of the selected remedial action alternative.

Elected Officials

State

The Honorable Drew Nixon
State Senate
PO Box 368
Carthage, Texas 75633
903/693-3913

The Honorable Drew Nixon
State Senate
PO Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711
512/463-0103

The Honorable Clyde Alexander
Texas House of Representatives
PO Box 750
Athens, 75751
903/675-1990

The Honorable Clyde Alexander
Texas House of Representatives
PO Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768
512/463-0730

County

The Honorable Tommy Walker
County Judge
Henderson County Courthouse
Courthouse Square
Athens, TX 75751
903/675-6120

The Honorable Walter Jackson
County Commissioner, PCT. 1
Henderson County Courthouse
Courthouse Square
Athens, TX 75751
903/489-1665

The Honorable Harold Hammer
County Commissioner, PCT. 2
Henderson County Courthouse
Courthouse Square
Athens, TX 75751
903/425-2611

The Honorable Cleburn Shavor
County Commissioner, PCT. 3
Henderson County Courthouse
Courthouse Square
Athens, TX 75751
903/469-3430

The Honorable Jerry West
County Commissioner, PCT. 4
Henderson County Courthouse
Courthouse Square
Athens, TX 75751
903/675-8250

City

The Honorable Jerry King
Mayor
City of Athens
City Hall
501 N. Pinkerton
Athens, TX 75751
903/675-5131

The Honorable Carroll Maberry
Council Member
City of Athens
City Hall
501 N. Pinkerton
Athens, TX 75751
903/675-5131

The Honorable Brad Loden
Council Member
City of Athens
City Hall
501 N. Pinkerton
Athens, TX 75751
903/675-5131

The Honorable Bob Gould
Council Member
City of Athens
City Hall
501 N. Pinkerton
Athens, TX 75751
903/675-5131

The Honorable Carl Westbrook
Council Member
City of Athens
City Hall
501 N. Pinkerton
Athens, TX 75751
903/675-5131

AREA NEWS MEDIA

Athens Daily Review

ATTN: Editor
PO Box 32
Athens, Texas 75751-0032
903/675-5626
FAX 903/675-9450

KNUE-FM
News Director
3810 Brookside Drive
Tyler, Texas 75701
903/581-0606
FAX 903/592-2011

Cedar Creek Pilot

ATTN: Editor
828 W. Main
Gun Barrel City, Texas 75147
903/887-8051
FAX 903/887-8225

KTBB-AM
News Director
1828 ESE Loop 323
Tyler, Texas 75701
903/595-2631
FAX 903/592-9923

Mabank Monitor

ATTN: Editor
PO Box 48
Mabank, Texas 75147-0048
903/887-4511
FAX 903/887-4510

KLVQ-AM/KCKL-FM
News Director
PO Box 489
Malakoff, Texas 75148
903/489-1238
FAX 903/489-2671

Tyler Courier Times/Telegraph

ATTN: City Editor
PO Box 2030
Tyler, Texas 75702
903/597-8111
FAX 903/595-0335

KETK-TV
News Assignments Editor
PO Box 4300
Tyler, TX 75703
903/581-5656
FAX 903/561-2459

KLTV-TV
News Assignments Editor
PO Box 4300
Tyler, TX 75703
903/581-5588
FAX 903/510-7849

KEY PROJECT PERSONNEL

Joe Liu
Project Manager, Superfund Investigation Section
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
PO Box 13087
MC-143
Austin, TX 78711
1-800-633-9363

Bruce McAnally
Community Relations Assistant
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
PO 13087
MC-141
Austin, TX 78711
1-800-633-9363

PROGRAM DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
Central Records
11218 North IH-35
Building D
Austin, TX 78753
1-800-633-9363

Henderson County Library
121 South Prairieville
Athens, Texas 75751
903/677-6350