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Community Relations Plan

for

Jones Road Ground Water Plume

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February 2004

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**JONES ROAD
GROUNDWATER PLUME
SITE**

HARRIS COUNTY, HOUSTON, TEXAS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

February 2004



**Submitted to the
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
by the
Texas Commission on
Environmental Quality**

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Section 1

Introduction

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting a hazardous waste investigation. The investigation and cleanup effort is under the federal Superfund program at the Jones Road Groundwater Plume site in Harris County, Houston, Texas.

This **Community Relations Plan (CRP)** has been prepared for the Jones Road Groundwater Plume site to identify issues of community concern and provide a basis for establishing timely communication between TCEQ, the EPA, and the community during the **Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS)** for the site. This plan outlines the general communications efforts appropriate to the Jones Road Groundwater Plume site and may be modified as circumstances warrant.

The CRP consists of four sections:

- Section 1 - Introduction
- Section 2 - Site Background and Status
- Section 3 - Community Involvement Background
- Section 4 - Community Involvement Program

This CRP describes activities required to meet the provisions of the **National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)** and the **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**. CERCLA, which is commonly known as **Superfund**, was amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA). The CRP also includes additional activities tailored to meet the unique needs of those who live and work near the Jones Road Groundwater Plume site. This plan has been developed in accordance with EPA guidance for conducting community involvement programs for Superfund sites. Technical terms which may be new to the reader are printed in **boldface** type and defined in the Superfund Glossary (Appendix A).

Personal interviews with residents, community and business leaders, and state and local officials who are interested in site activities form the basis for the Jones Road Groundwater Plume site CRP. In addition, background information for the plan was obtained through file research and discussions with technical staff from the EPA and the TCEQ. As work progresses at the site, the plan will be reviewed and revised to reflect the community's changing needs.

Congress passed CERCLA in 1980 to correct the problems of abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites that threaten public health or the environment. CERCLA created a tax on chemical industries, which went into a trust fund called Superfund. Under the Superfund program, the EPA and states can pay for investigating and remediating problems at hazardous waste sites if those responsible cannot be found or they are unwilling or unable to pay. The law also permits the EPA and states to require those responsible for the contamination to investigate and conduct remedial activities at their sites or reimburse the EPA and states for doing the work.

The law authorizes the EPA to initiate short-term response actions, called a “**removal action**,” when an imminent and substantial endangerment exists and an immediate response is necessary to control or eliminate potential or actual harm to human health or the environment. **Remedial actions** are designed to correct problems that do not present an imminent and substantial endangerment, but present a potential long-term risk to human health or the environment. The EPA and the TCEQ are working together to implement actions at the Jones Road Groundwater Plume site under the Superfund program.

Section 2

Site Background and Status

The Jones Road Groundwater Plume site is located approximately one-half mile north of the intersection of Jones Road and FM 1960 in a mixed residential, urban, light industrial area outside the city limits of northwest Houston, Harris County, Texas. Drinking water wells in the area have been contaminated with the chemicals, **tetrachloroethene (also known as perchloroethene or PCE), trichloroethene (TCE) and -1,2-dichloroethene (DCE)**. PCE has been detected in drinking water wells above EPA's **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** of **5.0 parts per billion (ppb)**.

Site Activities to Date

December 2000 - during a routine sampling of public wells by the TCEQ's Houston office, PCE, DCE and chloromethane were detected in Public Water Supply (PWS) well 1012358 in the Jones Road area. The PWS well supplied water to a gymnastics school and childcare facility with eighteen employees, 90 children in childcare and 150 to 200 gymnastic students.

January 25, 2001 - followup water sample collected at PWS 1012358. PCE was detected.

February 6, 2001 - a letter advised PWS 1012358 that tetrachloroethene was detected above the MCL.

May 2, 2001 - PWS 1012358 water samples analyzed by Texas Department of Health (TDH), PCE was detected.

June 2001 - a phase I environmental assessment was conducted at Bell Dry Cleaners, 11600 Jones Road, and leakage was discovered from a dry cleaning machine into the storm drains; PCE and vinyl chloride were found in groundwater and soil samples collected from the Bell Dry Cleaners facility during the environmental assessment.

July 2, 2001 - PWS 1012358 water samples analyzed by TDH, PCE detected.

September 10, 2001 - Bell Dry Cleaners Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) application accepted.

February 7, 2002 - TCEQ conducted site visit of PWS 1012358 well to determine if there was a "release or substantial threat of release" and to identify dry cleaners in the area.

February 14, 2002 - water samples collected from PWS 1012358 well show PCE and DCE in the well. Discovered three nearby businesses that use private water well for drinking water and additional wells used for drinking in the community.

March 6, 2002 - TCEQ letter to Bell Dry Cleaners notified them that PWS well 1012358 was impacted by PCE and that Bell Dry Cleaners was a potential source of that PCE. TCEQ investigated area drinking water wells. In addition, Bell Dry Cleaners was advised that it was required to prevent exposure. If Bell Dry Cleaners did not take measures to prevent exposure, TCEQ would take those measures and then seek cost recovery.

March 11, 2002 - TCEQ letter to Bell Dry Cleaners advised them to perform emergency response actions to protect public health and safety.

March 12, 2002 - TCEQ notified the Honorable Robert Eckels, Harris County Judge, and the Honorable Lee P. Brown, Mayor of Houston, of the **groundwater** contamination.

March 13, 2002 - TCEQ was notified that Bell Dry Cleaners would install the filtration system on PWS well 1012358 and sample 10 water wells between the gymnastics school / child care facility and the dry cleaners.

March 14, 2002 - Bell Dry Cleaner's contractor and TCEQ split samples on eight water wells. Bell Dry Cleaner's contractor installed a carbon filter on PWS 1012358.

March - April 2002 - during a site inspection TCEQ collected samples from 43 drinking supply wells and found concentrations of PCE in ground water samples in some wells, with the highest concentration of 128 ppb. As a result, filtration systems were placed on eight wells. The source of PCE, TCE, and DCE contamination was unidentified. Several potential source areas exist near the affected drinking water wells. Several businesses within the area use chlorinated solvents, one of which is Bell Dry Cleaners.

March 27, 2002 - sample results indicated that three additional wells were impacted above the MCL. TCEQ was notified that Bell Dry Cleaners would not authorize any additional sampling, or install additional filtration systems. TCEQ notified Bell Dry Cleaners of a 5:00 o'clock deadline or the TCEQ would begin emergency response actions and terminate the VCP agreement. Bell Dry Cleaners indicated that they could not give a commitment by 5:00 o'clock. Bell Dry Cleaners was informed that TCEQ would proceed with the installation of the filtration systems. TCEQ letter to property owner asked them to provide written statement by April 1, 2002, that they were committed to performing the emergency response actions if Bell Dry Cleaners chose not to continue.

March 28, 2002 - property owner agreed to installation of the carbon filters at the remaining impacted wells that had previously been identified.

April 1, 2002 - letter from property owner to the TCEQ indicated that the property owner and Bell Dry Cleaner's owners were committed to performing the required emergency response items by April 12, 2002, and that the filtration systems had been installed at the impacted wells.

April 11, 2002 - fax letter to the TCEQ indicated that the applicants were withdrawing from the VCP.

April 13 - May 15, 2002 - TCEQ emergency response contractor sampled 151 water wells within

a half mile surrounding Bell Dry Cleaners.

April 16, 2002 - termination of the VCP agreement.

April 17, 2002 - Enforcement Action Referral (EAR) delivered to TCEQ Enforcement Section.

April 17 - May 1, 2002 - TCEQ's contractor replaced eight filtration systems that had been installed by the property owner and Bell Dry Cleaners. TCEQ's contractor was instructed to install eight additional filtration systems based on the new sample results.

May 1, 2002 - Emergency Order issued by TCEQ.

May 2002 - Bell Dry Cleaners agreed stop using PCE at the facility.

June 17-28, 2002 - TCEQ's contractor sampled water wells and monitored filtration systems in the area.

August 21, 2002 - an order was issued affirming modifications to the May 1, 2002 emergency order. These modifications ordered the facility and property owners to cease use of PCE, grant access for remediation, and add a deed restriction to the shopping center property that prohibits use of PCE.

February 2002 -January 2003 - based on results of water samples collected from 228 wells, the approximate boundaries of the groundwater **plume** were identified as:

- southern end of Echo Spring Lane to Tower Oaks Boulevard
- Timber Hollow to east of Jones Road.

September 10, 2002 - EPA notified TCEQ to proceed with Hazard Ranking System (HRS) Package for Jones Road groundwater plume site.

September 20, 2002 - Focused Site Inspection of the Jones Road Groundwater Plume site submitted to EPA by TCEQ.

October 2002 - TCEQ began addition of chlorine to wells at four locations with filtration systems that had discoloration or odor problems.

October 17, 2002 - TCEQ public meeting at Moore Elementary School attendees were told that the state had installed filtration systems on 21 wells where PCE was detected above the MCL.

October 21 - 28, 2002 - TCEQ was granted access to additional properties within the area. Samples were collected at 150 locations as part of the quarterly monitoring. Collected water samples showed concentrations above the MCL in two wells. Filtration systems were installed on those two additional wells. TCEQ installed greensand filters at three locations to help remove odors and reduce staining.

November 1, 2002 - TCEQ completed the HRS and transmitted to EPA for approval.

December 9-10, 2002 - TCEQ sampled locations with newly-installed filtration systems; wells with staining and odor problems are being evaluated.

January 24, 2003 - Department of Licensing and Regulation notified all licensed drillers in Harris, Waller, Grimes, Fort Bend, Brazoria, Galveston, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Chambers, and Liberty counties, of more stringent well construction specifications for drilled wells within the Jones Road groundwater plume area. The well driller alert area was defined as extending from south of Woodedge Drive to Jones Road West, and from Possum Hollow to east of Jones Road. Any new wells within the area must be drilled to the Evangeline Aquifer with a 3 inch larger borehole than the outside diameter of the casing, and pressure cemented to a depth of not less than approximately 400 feet back to the land surface.

January 31, 2003 - TCEQ established an internet web site to help make more information available to the residents of the Jones Road area; it includes a link to a map of the area covering the PCE plume, and an access agreement form that could be printed out, filled in, and submitted by residents within the zone who had not yet granted access for testing of their wells.

February 13, 2003 - TCEQ's contractor reported tests were completed on 149 wells where owners have filed access agreements.

February 17, 2003 - Harris County-sponsored public meeting at Matzke School, 13102 Jones Road. Approximately 100 citizens, along with representatives from the TCEQ, EPA, Harris County Pollution Control and the Harris County Health Department were in attendance.

March 31, 2003 - based on results of the February water samples collected from 149 wells, the approximate study area was revised to:

- northern boundary - south of Woodedge Drive along Echo Spring
- southern boundary - Jones Road West (near the intersection with Jones Road)
- western boundary - west of Timber Hollow Drive along Timber Crest
- eastern boundary - one-sixth of a mile east of Jones Road

No additional wells were found to need a filtration system; the number of filtrations systems installed remained at 24.

Six wells did have detections of PCE below the MCL of 5 ppb. During the past year of sampling, those wells with detections below the MCL have remained below the MCL.

No contamination was found in the nine wells sampled west of the study area on Bexhill, Dakar and Dermont.

March 31, 2003 - results of the February well sampling analysis were mailed to well owners.

April 11, 2003 - two additional wells sampled during the February 2003 sampling event were found to have detections of PCE, but below the MCL of 5 ppb.

April 30, 2003 - the EPA published a legal notice in the *Federal Register*, proposing the Jones Road Groundwater Plume site to the **National Priorities List** (NPL).

May 19 - 23, 2003 - TCEQ's contractor reported tests were completed on 146 wells.

June 16, 2003 - TCEQ and Harris County, along with the EPA, conducted a community meeting at Matzke Elementary School, to provide an update on the site and to answer questions and address concerns.

July 7, 2003 - in response to request from the community, the **information repository** files were moved from the Collier Branch Library in Houston to the Northwest Harris County Library at 11355 Regency Green Drive.

July 31, 2003 - sample results of the May 2003 sampling event did not show the need for any additional filtrations systems. Based on results of the water samples collected from the 146 wells, the appropriate boundaries of the study area were identified as:

- northern boundary - Woodedge Drive
- southern boundary - Neeshaw Drive
- western boundary - Timber Hollow Drive
- eastern boundary - one sixth of a mile east of Jones Road

August 4, 2003 - TCEQ began quarterly sampling of wells. Thirty eight wells showed no contamination for four consecutive samplings, and were qualified to be dropped from further sampling based on no detection of contaminants outside the groundwater plume boundary.

August 25, 2003 - field activities began for the first phase of the remedial investigation. Thirty seven cone penetrometer (CPT) test borings and three monitor wells were installed. Groundwater and soil samples were collected.

August 25, 2003 - final results for the May 2003 well sampling analysis were mailed to well owners.

September 8, 2003 - lithological data, groundwater samples, and soil samples were collected.

September 15, 2003 - during this week, preliminary results from the August 2003 water well sampling event were provided by telephone to the well owners.

September 23, 2003 - results from the August 2003 sampling event showed one additional well with detection above the MCL. This well was within the boundary of the study area and had not been sampled previously. The wells with prior detections below the MCL have remained below the MCL.

September 29, 2003 - the EPA published a legal notice in the *Federal Register* (68 FedReg 55875-55882) finalizing the listing of the Jones Road Groundwater Plume site on the NPL. Comments received by the EPA were addressed in a separate document titled "Support Document for the Revised National Priorities List Final Rule - September 2003."

October 13, 2003 - final results, based on validated laboratory data from the August 2003 water well sampling event, were mailed to well owners.

October 22-29, 2003 - soil sampling was conducted at 21 locations in the 11600 block of Jones Road. Groundwater samples were collected at selected locations.

October 27-29, 2003 - TCEQ staff conducted personal interviews within the area to assist in the preparation of a community relations plan.

November 18, 2003 - TCEQ's contractor completed quarterly sampling of wells.

November 18, 2003 - TCEQ conducted a community meeting at Matzke School to provide an update on site activities. Staff from the TDH made a presentation on the public health assessment. Representatives of the EPA and Harris County were also in attendance.

Site Listing on National Priorities List

On April 30, 2003, the EPA proposed the Jones Road Groundwater Plume site to the NPL of Superfund sites. The NPL is the EPA's list of uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for long-term cleanup action due to the potential risks posed to human health and the environment by hazardous contaminants. Placement on the NPL makes federal funding available for site cleanup. The site was officially placed on the NPL on September 29, 2003.

Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study

TCEQ is proceeding with a remedial investigation (RI) to determine the source, nature, and extent of contamination. This work is funded by the EPA under a cooperative agreement. Field activities for the RI began August 25, 2003. The TCEQ will use the results of the RI to conduct a Feasibility Study (FS). The FS will include an evaluation of the cleanup alternatives and a description of the preferred remedy. This information will be presented to the community for review and comment in a document called a Proposed Plan. Upon completion of the Proposed Plan, a 30 day public comment period and a public meeting will give community members the opportunity to comment on all the alternatives. After considering the public comments, the EPA will select a remedy.

Public Health Assessment

The Texas Department of Health is preparing a Public Health Assessment for the Jones Road Groundwater Plume site. The Public Health Assessment document evaluates exposure in the community to determine:

- whether the levels of contaminants found may be a concern;
- whether there is an exposure pathway to the public; and,
- whether human exposure might result in harmful effects.

TDH reviews available environmental samples collected by EPA or TCEQ and makes recommendations for actions to reduce or eliminate exposure. The community's health concerns are solicited to provide answers and education about those concerns. Health education may be provided to the community and physicians if necessary. The Public Health Assessment will be available for public review and comment before it is finalized.

Section 3

Community Involvement Background

Community Profile

The Jones Road Groundwater Plume site is approximately one-half mile north of the intersection of Jones Road and FM 1960 in a mixed residential, urban, light industrial, unincorporated area outside the city limits of northwest Houston, Harris County, Texas.

The Jones Road Groundwater Plume site is located just outside the City of Houston but within Harris County's Precincts 3 & 4.

At the state level, the Jones Road Groundwater Plume site is within the boundaries of House Districts 126, 130 & 135, and Senate District 7. At the national level, the site is in Congressional District 31.

The United States 2000 census estimates the area's populations as, Harris County - 3,400,578; Northwest Harris Census County Division - 405,444; Harris County Census Tract 5524 - 4,266 and Harris County Census Tract 5525 - 7,236.

Children living in the area generally attend, Adam Elementary School, Arnold Middle School and Cypress High School.

Community Events to Date

October 17, 2002 - TCEQ public meeting at Moore Elementary School, attendees were told that the state had installed filtration systems on 21 wells where PCE was detected above the MCL.

February 17, 2003 - TCEQ staff attended a Harris County-sponsored community meeting at Matzke School, 13102 Jones Road. Approximately 100 citizens, along with representatives of the EPA and staff from the Harris County Pollution Control and the Harris County Health Department, were in attendance.

June 16, 2003 - TCEQ and Harris County, along with the EPA, conducted a community meeting at Matzke School, beginning at 7 p.m. to provide an update on the site and to answer questions and address concerns.

October 27-29, 2003 - TCEQ staff conducted personal interviews within the area to assist in the preparation of a community relations plan.

November 18, 2003 - TCEQ conducted a community meeting at Matzke Elementary School to provide an update on site activities. Staff from the Texas Department of Health also made a presentation on the public health assessment. Representatives of the EPA, and staff from Harris County were also in attendance.

Community Issues, Concerns, and Information Needs

As part of the research for this CRP, the TCEQ and the EPA staff discussed community issues, concerns and information needs related to the Jones Road Groundwater Plume Superfund site. This information was collected in the neighborhood surrounding the site and took place during the late summer and fall of 2003. In addition, the TCEQ community relations staff conducted individual interviews with residents and Harris County officials during the last week of October 2003. These discussions gave interested citizens opportunities to ask questions, voice their opinions and concerns about site activities and issues, and learn more about the Superfund program. The following summarizes the major site-related issues and concerns identified by those interviewed:

Community Issues, Concerns, and Information Needs

From October 2002 through November 2003, TCEQ and EPA staff focused discussions with the community about their concerns, issues, and information needs during community meetings in neighborhoods. Telephone calls to the TCEQ's 1-800 number line, general correspondence received, and comments submitted to the EPA regarding the listing of the site to the NPL provided additional information on community concerns and issues.

A TCEQ October 2003 Site Update to local residents provided for additional input and included interview questions and a self-addressed envelope to allow for the return of the questionnaire. The TCEQ community relations staff also conducted individual face-to-face interviews with community members and Harris County officials during the last week of October 2003. The interview questionnaire is attached as Appendix D.

Community Issues and Concerns

The following topics summarize the major issues and concerns expressed. The topics are listed alphabetically:

- Agencies and Their Roles
Requested information on the roles and responsibilities of the TCEQ, the EPA, Harris County, and the Texas Department of Health. Also requested information on the governmental agencies responsible for overseeing septic systems, water well drilling, and real estate disclosure.
- Government Credibility and Timeliness of Actions
Questioned if EPA and TCEQ were taking the problem seriously enough or making light of it to relieve themselves of the responsibility for taking the critical action necessary. Questioned the TCEQ's oversight of their sampling contractor. Disappointed with the bureaucratic process and the amount of time it is taking, and will take, for the resolution of the problem.

- Health & Safety
Concerned about short and long term exposure to PCE and the possible health effects.
- Parties Responsible for Causing Contamination
Frustrated that the business or businesses that were responsible for the contamination are not being held accountable.
- Property Values
Concerned with decreasing property values, the time frame for rebounding of property values, and the inability on the part of some owners to find buyers for their property now.
- Water Filtration Response Action
Concerned about the frequency of filter replacement, cost, low water pressure, PCE- breakthrough, odor problems, discoloration problems, and water ponding from daily purges causing mosquitoes.

Information Needs

In general, all interviewees and those returning the questionnaire, indicated that they would like to be kept informed by written site updates and public meetings. Most indicated that the site updates provided good information and served their information needs between public meetings. They appreciated and wanted site information to continue to be made available at the local repository at the Northwest Branch Library and approximately one third indicated that they accessed the TCEQ's internet site for information about the project. Some would like even more data to be provided on the internet pages.

The TCEQ and the EPA are conducting a comprehensive community relations program in order to meet residents' participation and information needs. To date, the TCEQ and the EPA have met with residents at public meetings, distributed site updates, published notices in the *Houston Chronicle* newspaper, conducted face-to-face interviews, publicized and maintained a 1-800 number telephone line, and set up and routinely updated the TCEQ Jones Road internet pages.

Section 4

Community Involvement Program

Throughout the Superfund process at the Jones Road Groundwater Plume site, TCEQ will conduct a program that addresses the concerns and issues important to community members and fosters communication between the agency and those interested in correcting contamination problems at the site. The Superfund program emphasizes the importance of community involvement, and the program will ensure that community members have an opportunity to voice opinions and receive answers to their questions.

Community Relations Objectives

The objectives of the Community Relations Program are to:

- Maintain open and ongoing two-way communication between the TCEQ, the EPA, those who live near the site, community leaders, business leaders, environmental groups, local, state and federal government officials, and other interested individuals or groups. This communication was established early in the Superfund process, and will be maintained during the duration of the project.
- Provide residents, agencies, local officials, civic leaders, and news media with accurate, timely information through newsletter updates about the Superfund process, the progress of the site investigation and cleanup, and other crucial technical and administrative matters. This will give community members the tools they need to successfully participate in the decision-making process.
- Share identified concerns with the EPA, monitor shifts or changes in these concerns, and to address them directly through planned activities or written communications.
- Maintain the established toll-free telephone information line.
- Maintain a local repository containing copies of updates, reports, and other documents intended to inform the public about the site.

Community Relations Activities and Tools

Formal communication methods include briefings of community leaders and elected/appointed officials at local, state, and federal levels; newsletters; informal and formal meetings with area residents; updating the information repository; and providing answers and information through a toll-free, bilingual community relations line.

Informal inquiries from area residents and other interested parties will be handled on a telephone information line maintained by the TCEQ Community Relations Unit. The information number is: 1.800.633.9363. These inquiries will be handled by the following TCEQ staff:

Subhash Pal, P.E. Remedial Project Manager
TCEQ Remediation Division
P. O. Box 13087 MC-143
Austin Texas 78711-3087
Phone 1.800.633.9363 or 512.239.4513

Janie Montemayor Community Relations Coordinator
TCEQ Remediation Division
P. O. Box 13087 MC-225
Austin Texas 78711-3087
Phone 1.800.633.9363 or 512.239.3844

Inquiries to the EPA Region 6, may be made by calling:

Vincent Malott Remedial Project Manager
U. S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas Texas 75202-2733
Phone 1.800.533.3508 or 214.665.8313

Donn Walters Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas Texas 75202-2733
Phone 1.800.533.3508 or 214.665.6483

Inquiries to the Texas Department of Health, may be made by calling:

Nancy B Ingram Community Involvement Liaison
Texas Department of Health
1100 West 49th Street
Austin Texas 78756-3199
Phone 1.800.588.1248 or 512.458.7259

Tom Ellerbee Health Assessor
Texas Department of Health

1100 West 49th Street
Austin Texas 78756-3199
Phone 1.800.588.1248 or 512.458.7269

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)

An EPA Technical Assistance Grant, or TAG, provides \$50,000 per site for a qualified citizen's group to hire a technical advisor to help them understand and comment on technical information about ongoing site activities, thus improving their ability to effectively take part in the decision-making process. TAGs cannot be used to develop new information, such as additional sampling or testing, or to underwrite legal actions in any way.

To be eligible for a grant, a group must incorporate. Also, the applicant must meet a 20 percent matching requirement, which may be in cash or donated services.

On August 7, 2003, the EPA announced in the *Houston Chronicle (Zone16)* that they had received from the Jones Road Coalition for Safe Drinking Water, a Letter of Intent to apply for the Jones Road Groundwater Plume Site Technical Assistance Grant. The public was notified that groups wishing to join for the purposes of the grant must notify the Jones Road Coalition for Safe Drinking Water by August 25, 2003. Groups wishing to file a separate grant application had to file a notice of intent by August 25, 2003; all grant applications had to be filed with the EPA by September 25, 2003. The Coalition requested and received a 30-day extension for the TAG application submittal. One "draft" Technical Assistance Grant application was received on October 27, 2003. EPA Region 6 reviewed the draft and provided comments in support of the applicant's submission of a "final" application.

For additional information regarding TAGs, please contact:

Beverly Negri TAG Coordinator
U. S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas Texas 75020-2733
Phone 1.800.533.3508 or 214.665.8157

Community Advisory Groups

One way a community can participate in the site cleanup decisions is by forming a Community Advisory Group (CAG). A CAG is made up of representatives of diverse community interests. Its purpose is to provide a public forum for community members to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process. A CAG should be formed as early as possible in the Superfund process. It is critical that the community "owns" its CAG and that the community itself initiates the formation of the CAG. Self-selection of members lends legitimacy to the process and ensures that the CAG is in the hands of stakeholders. Neither the TCEQ nor the EPA will select or approve/disapprove individual CAG members but the EPA

must certify that the CAG is representative of the diverse interests of the community.

A CAG can assist the TCEQ and the EPA in making better decisions on how to clean up a site. It offers the TCEQ and the EPA a unique opportunity to hear, and seriously consider, community preferences for site cleanup and remediation. The existence of a CAG enhances the agency's ability to keep the community informed about plans and decisions throughout the Superfund process.

Public Comment Period

The EPA will announce a 30-day public comment period upon completion of the RI/FS to enable citizens to review and comment on the Agency's Proposed Plan. A public notice containing brief summaries of the cleanup alternatives evaluated, the Proposed Plan, dates of the comment period, and instructions on how to submit comments will be published in the *Houston Chronicle*.

Public/Community Meetings, Open Houses, etc.

A public meeting is an effective way to give community members an opportunity to give and receive feedback regarding site activities. TCEQ, the EPA, and Harris County conducted a community meeting on June 16, 2003, to provide an update on site activities. Additionally, TCEQ conducted another community meeting on November 18, 2003, to provide a site update. Community meetings will be held at critical stages of progress when important, new information is available.

A public meeting will be held during the 30-day public comment period on the Proposed Plan so citizens can express their views on the recommended remedy.

A news release and a site update seeking comments from interested parties and inviting the community to the proposed plan public meeting will be distributed immediately before the beginning of the comment period. A certified court reporter will make a transcript of the proceedings of the Proposed Plan public meeting. This transcript will be available for public review at the Information Repositories for the site.

Responsiveness Summary

A summary of the written and oral comments made by the public on the Proposed Plan and the Agency's responses to those comments will be prepared. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available for public review at the site Information Repositories.

Information Repositories

Information repositories are a valuable source of technical information about the site and the

Superfund process in general. They will be updated as necessary with the most current information about site activities. Information Repositories have been established at the following locations:

Northwest Branch Harris County Public Library
11355 Regency Green Drive
Cypress Texas 77429
Phone .281.890.2665

U.S. EPA Region 6
Libraries - 12th Floor
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas Texas 75202
Phone 214. 665.6427

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Records Management Center

Physical Address: 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building E
Austin Texas 78753
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 13087 MC-144
Austin Texas 78711-3087
Phone 512.239.2920

Mailing List

Throughout the project, the TCEQ has maintained and will continue to maintain a mailing list for distributing information to the community. The mailing list will include residents who live near the site, community groups, environmental organizations, businesses, representatives from the news media, and local, state and federal officials. The list will be expanded and updated as the project continues. Updates for the mailing list are obtained through sign-in sheets at public meetings, open houses, etc. Interested citizens may also call Janie Montemayor or John Flores, TCEQ Community Relations Coordinators, at 1.800.633-9363 and asked to be placed on the mailing list.

Update Sheets

Update sheets will be prepared and distributed by mail to keep community members informed about site activities. Since the proposed listing of the site to the NPL, TCEQ has prepared and distributed two site updates. TCEQ plans to produce and mail updates four times a year to keep the community informed. In addition EPA will provide a site update which details information about the alternatives EPA evaluated and the Proposed Plan, which presents the Agency's preferred remedy. In addition, this update sheet will announce the public comment period and the date, time and location of the public meeting, and offer other opportunities for the public to become involved in the Superfund process. Other update sheets will be produced as needed to meet the information needs of community members.

Update sheets will contain clear, accurate descriptions of technical information prepared in a

style and format that will encourage use and understanding. They will be filed at the information repositories, distributed to people on the mailing list, and made available at workshops, open houses, public meetings, and other events.

News Media Information

News releases that provide important information about the site will be issued to the *Houston Chronicle* and radio and television stations that serve the area. News releases will be prepared to announce the beginning of the public comment period for the Proposed Plan and as needed during the course of the project.

Visual Aids/Graphics

Visual aids including drawings, slides, posters, videotapes, and overhead slides that illustrate remedial technologies, explain the Superfund process, or provide details about site-specific activities will be used to illustrate fact sheets and other informational material and to support open houses and public meetings. Effective use of graphics and visual aids can help enhance the community's understanding of the Superfund program and the remedial process at the site.

Public Notices

Display advertisements to publicize public comment periods and public meetings, the availability of Technical Assistance Grants, and other important regulatory information will be published in the *Houston Chronicle*.

Community Relations Program Time Frame

Community activities are timed to coincide with technical milestones in the RI/FS process or on an as-needed basis to address community concerns. Appendix F is a schedule of community activities.

Appendix A

Superfund Glossary

Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC): The EPA official responsible for overseeing and directing public involvement activities for a site.

Community Relations Coordinator: The State official responsible for overseeing and directing public involvement activities for a site.

Community Relations Plan (CRP): A document developed from community interviews and EPA guidelines that outlines Agency efforts to establish communication with the public. The CRP is designed to create understanding of the Superfund program and related actions, to ensure public input into the decision-making process in an affected community, and to make certain that the Agency is aware of and responsive to public concerns. Specific community activities are required during Superfund remedial actions.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA): A federal law passed in 1980 and amended in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. CERCLA created a special tax that goes into a Trust Fund, commonly known as Superfund, to investigate and cleanup abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Under the program, the EPA can either:

- Perform site cleanup when parties responsible for the contamination cannot be located or are unwilling or unable to perform the work; or
- Take legal action to force parties responsible for site contamination to clean up the site or pay back the federal government for the cost of the cleanup.

DCE: 1,-2, dichloroethene (CAS number 540-59-0, 156-59-2 and 156-60-5) is a highly flammable, colorless liquid with a sharp, harsh odor. It is used to produce solvents and in chemical mixtures. There are two forms of 1,2, dichloroethene; one is called cis -1,2-dichloroethene and the other is called trans -1,2-dichloroethene.

Groundwater: Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills cracks and pores in layers of sand, soil, and rock. When groundwater occurs in sufficient quantities, it can be used as source of water for drinking, irrigation, and other purposes.

Information Repository: A file containing current information, technical reports, and reference documents regarding a Superfund site. A information repository is usually located in a public building that is convenient for local residents, such as a public school, city hall, or library.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water delivered to any user of a public water system.

National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP): The federal regulation that provides a blueprint for Superfund program operations.

National Priorities List (NPL): EPA's list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term remedial response using money from the Trust Fund. The list is based primarily on the score a site receives from the Hazard Ranking System. The EPA updates the list at least once a year.

Parts Per Billion (ppb): The number of parts by weight of a substance per billion parts of water. This unit is commonly used to represent pollutant concentrations.

PCE: Tetrachloroethylene (CAS number 127-18-4) is a synthetic chemical that is widely used for dry cleaning of fabrics and for metal degreasing operations. Other names for tetrachloroethylene include perchloroethylene, PCE, perc, tetrachloroethene, perclene, and perchlor. It is a non-flammable liquid at room temperature. It evaporates easily into the air and has a sharp, sweet odor.

Plume: An area of chemicals in a particular medium, such as air or groundwater, moving from its source in a long band or column. A plume can be a column of smoke from a chimney or chemicals moving with groundwater.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS): Two distinct but related studies. They often are performed at the same time and together referred to as the "RI/FS." These studies are intended to:

Gather the information necessary to determine the type and extent of contamination at a Superfund site;

Establish criteria for a site remedy; and

Identify and screen alternatives for remedial action; and analyze in detail the technology and costs of the alternatives.

Remedial Project Manager: The EPA or State official responsible for overseeing remedial response activities for a site.

Remedial Action: The actual construction or implementation phase that follows remedial design of the selected cleanup alternative at a site on the National Priorities List.

Removal Action: A cleanup action, such as removing and disposing of drums, taken to correct an immediate danger to public health or the environment.

Superfund: The common name used for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

TCE: Trichloroethylene (CAS number 79-01-6) is a non-flammable, colorless liquid with a somewhat sweet odor and a sweet burning taste. It is use mainly as a solvent to remove grease from metal parts, but is also an ingredient in adhesives, paint removers, typewriter correction fluids and spot removers.

Appendix B

Maps of Area

Appendix C

Area Demographics

The United Status Census estimates the 2000 population for the area at the following:

	Census Tract 5524	Census Tract 5525	Northwest Harris County	Harris County
RACE				
Total Population	4,266	7,236	405,444	3,400,578
One race	4,186	7,087	396,106	3,299,926
White	3,433	5,576	308,727	1,997,123
Black or African American	283	528	42,608	628,619
American Indian and Alaska Native	26	33	1,505	15,180
American Indian	12	22	1,024	8,600
Alaska Native	0	0	19	77
Both American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native, not specified	14	11	462	6,503
Asian	212	444	20,226	174,626
Asian Indian	60	106	5,104	35,971
Chinese	16	58	3,080	34,673
Filipino	13	39	2,452	15,576
Japanese	2	5	316	3,574
Korean	4	32	747	8,764
Vietnamese	96	141	5,266	55,489
Other Asian categories	21	62	2,880	17,357
Two or more Asian categories	0	1	381	3,222
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	8	1	268	2,095
Native Hawaiian	1	1	73	472
Samoa	1	0	26	359
Guamanian or Chamorro	5	0	80	578
Other Pacific Islander category	1	0	85	666
Two or more Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander categories	0	0	4	20
Some other race	224	505	22,772	482,283
Two or more races	80	149	9,338	100,652
Two races including Some other race	35	90	4,988	69,238
Two races excluding Some other race, and three or more races	45	59	4,350	31,414
Two races excluding Some other race	44	54	3,946	27,878

Three or more races	1	5	404	3,536
HISPANIC OR LATINO				
Total population	4,266	7,236	405,444	3,400,578
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	748	1,554	61,412	1,119,751
Mexican	537	1,092	40,007	814,693
Puerto Rican	18	34	1,575	12,390
Cuban	2	12	808	8,206
Other Hispanic or Latino	191	416	19,022	284,462
Not Hispanic or Latino	3,518	5,682	344,032	2,280,827
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO				
Total population	4,266	7,236	405,444	3,400,578
One race	4,186	7,087	396,106	3,299,926
Hispanic or Latino	725	1,477	57,752	1,061,948
Not Hispanic or Latino	3,461	5,610	338,354	2,237,978
Two or more races	80	149	9,338	100,652
Hispanic or Latino	23	77	3,660	57,803
Not Hispanic or Latino	57	72	5,678	42,849

Map Census Tract 5524

Map Census Tract 5525

Map Northwest Harris County

Map Harris County

Appendix D

COMMUNITY RELATIONS INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Jones Road Groundwater Plume

Optional:

Name

Address

Phone/Day: _____ Phone/Evening: _____

Date:

1. How did you become aware that there were contaminated wells in the Jones Road area?
2. What do you know about the contaminants associated with the site?
3. What specific issues or concerns do you have?
4. What should the TCEQ be doing differently, or better, to address your concerns?
5. Do you have knowledge about past activities with dry cleaners in the neighborhood that TCEQ might find helpful in the investigation of this site? Yes No If yes, we would appreciate any information that you think might be useful.
6. How can TCEQ best provide you with information concerning our activities regarding this site?
 - Mail (Are you currently receiving our newsletters? _____ If not, and you would like to be included on our mailing list, please provide mailing information below.)
 - Internet web site (TCEQ has a web site for the Jones Road Ground Water Plumb at <http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/superfund> where current information is posted.)
 - E-mail (Please provide an e-mail address: _____)
 - Library repository
 - Public meeting
 - Other:
7. Is there a community newspaper or some other forum available to provide information and notices about the site that you think would be useful?
8. Have the agency newsletters regarding this site provided you the type and amount of information you need? Yes No If not, please indicate what additional information

you would like to have in the newsletter.

9. The TCEQ is committed to conducting public meetings at critical stages of progress at the site. Would the newsletter provide adequate information between public meetings?
Yes No
If not, what do you suggest?
10. If you've accessed the TCEQ Jones Road web site, what additional information would you like to see included?
11. Can you suggest other individuals or groups that we should contact for additional information or to identify other types of concerns?
12. Is there anything you wish to mention that we have not discussed?

Appendix E

Key Contact List

Elected and appointed officials at every level have been regularly contacted, briefed, and sent correspondence, newsletters, and other information relative to the Jones Road Groundwater Plume site through the efforts of the EPA and TCEQ community relations. As elected officials, they have an interest in Superfund activities within their jurisdiction and may be called upon by their constituents to comment about both the process and the specific progress at the Jones Road Groundwater Plume site.

FEDERAL OFFICIALS

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
U.S. Senator
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Phone 202.224.5922

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
U.S. Senator
1919 Smith Street Suite 800
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.653.3456

The Honorable John Cornyn
U.S. Senator
571 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Phone 202.224.2934

The Honorable John Cornyn
U.S. Senator
5300 Memorial Drive Ste 980
Houston Texas 770076
Phone 713.572.3337

The Honorable Kevin Brady
U.S. Congressman District 8
428 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515
Phone 202.225.4901

The Honorable Kevin Brady
U.S. Congressman District 8
616 FM 1960 West Ste 220
Houston Texas 77090
Phone 281.895.8892

The Honorable John R Carter
U.S. Congressman District 31
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515
Phone 202.225.3864

The Honorable John R Carter
U.S. Congressman District 31
1111 University Drive East Ste 216
College Station Texas 77840
Phone 979.846.6068

STATE OF TEXAS OFFICIALS

The Honorable Jon Lindsay
State Senator District 7
P O Box 12068
EXT E1. 606
Austin Texas 78711-2068
Phone 512.463.0107

The Honorable Jon Lindsay
State Senator District 7
15531 Kuykendahl Suite 251
Houston Texas 77090
Phone 281.583.1011

The Honorable Peggy Hamric
State Representative
House District 126
P O Box 2910
Austin Texas 78768-2910
Phone 512.463.0496

The Honorable Peggy Hamric
State Representative
House District 126
7915 FM 1960 West #325
Houston Texas 77070
Phone 281.890.1200

The Honorable Corbin Van Arsdale
State Representative
House District 130
P O Box 2910
Austin Texas 78768-2910
Phone 512.463.0661

The Honorable Corbin Van Arsdale
State Representative
House District 130
12777 Jones Road Suite 175
Houston Texas 77070
Phone 281.469.9130

The Honorable Gary Elkins
State Representative
House District 135
P O Box 2910
Austin Texas 78768-2910
Phone 512.463.0722

The Honorable Gary Elkins
State Representative
House District 135
9601 Jones Road Suite 215
Houston Texas 77065
Phone 832.912.8380

LOCAL OFFICIALS

The Honorable Bill White
Mayor, City of Houston
900 Bagby
City Hall Annex
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.247.2200

The Honorable Mark Ellis
Council Member at Large # 1
900 Bagby
City Hall Annex
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.247.2014

The Honorable Gordon Quan
Council Member at Large # 2
900 Bagby
City Hall Annex
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.247.2013

The Honorable Shelley Sekula-Gibbs
Council Member at Large # 3
900 Bagby
City Hall Annex
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.247.2005

The Honorable Ronald Green
Council Member at Large # 4
900 Bagby
City Hall Annex
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.247.2006

The Honorable Michael Berry
Council Member at Large # 5
900 Bagby
City Hall Annex
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.247.2012

The Honorable Toni Lawrence
Council Member District A
900 Bagby

City Hall Annex
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.247.2010

The Honorable Carol Mims Galloway
Council Member District B
900 Bagby
City Hall Annex
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.247.2009

The Honorable Mark Goldberg
Council Member District C
900 Bagby
City Hall Annex
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.247.2004

The Honorable Ada Edwards
Council Member District D
900 Bagby
City Hall Annex
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.247.2001

The Honorable Addie Wiseman
Council Member District E
900 Bagby
City Hall Annex
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.247.2008

The Honorable M J Khan
Council Member District F
900 Bagby
City Hall Annex
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.247.2002

The Honorable Pam Holm
Council Member District G
900 Bagby
City Hall Annex
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.247.2007

The Honorable Adrian Garcia

Council Member District H
900 Bagby
City Hall Annex
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.247.2003

The Honorable Carol Alvarado
Council Member District I
900 Bagby
City Hall Annex
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.247.2011

The Honorable Robert Eckels
Harris County Judge
1001 Preston Suite 911
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.755.4000

The Honorable El Franco Lee
Harris County Commissioner
Precinct # 1
1001 Preston Suite 950
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.755.6111

The Honorable Sylvia R Garcia
Harris County Commissioner
Precinct # 2
1001 Preston 9th Floor
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.755.6220

The Honorable Steve Radack
Harris County Commissioner

Precinct # 3
1001 Preston 9th Floor
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.755.6306

The Honorable Jerry Eversole
Harris County Commissioner
Precinct # 4
1001 Preston Suite 924
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.755.6444

Carol J Lenz Community Aide
Harris County Precinct # 3
1001 Preston Suite 924
Houston Texas 77002
Phone 713.755.6306

Lance Parks Commissioners Staff
Harris County Precinct # 4
22540 Aldine Westfield Road
Spring Texas 77373

Steve Hupp Environmental Coordinator
Harris County Public Health &
Environmental Services
P O Box 6031
107 North Munger
Pasadena Texas 77506
Phone 713.475.8906

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

Subhash Pal, P.E. Remedial Project
Manager
TCEQ Remediation Division
P. O. Box 13087 MC-143
Austin Texas 78711-3087
Phone 1.800.633.9363 or 512.239.4513

Janie Montemayor Community
Relations Coordinator
TCEQ Remediation Division
P. O. Box 13087 MC-225
Austin Texas 78711-3087
Phone 1.800.633.9363 or 512.239.3844

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY**

Vincent Malott Remedial Project
Manager
U. S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas Texas 75202-2733
Phone 1.800.533.3508 or
214.665.8313

Donn Walters Community
Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas Texas 75202-2733
Phone 1.800.533.3508 or
214.665.6483

Beverly Negri TAG Coordinator
U. S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas Texas 75020-2733
Phone 1.800.533.3508 or
214.665.8157

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Nancy B Ingram Community
Involvement Liaison
Texas Department of Health
1100 West 49th Street
Austin Texas 78756-3199
Phone 1.800.588.1248 or
512.458.7259

Tom Ellerbee Health Assessor
Texas Department of Health
1100 West 49th Street
Austin Texas 78756-3199
Phone 1.800.588.1248 or
512.458.7269

NEWS MEDIA

Houston Chronicle

P. O. Box 4260
Houston Texas 77210-4260
Phone 713.220.7171

KHJZ-FM

24 Greenway Plaza # 1900
Houston Texas 77046
Phone 713.881.5100

KLOL-FM

3050 Post Oak Blvd # 1200
Houston Texas 77056
Phone 713.830.8541

KMJQ-FM

24 Greenway Plaza # 1508
Houston Texas 77046
Phone 713. 623.0102

KMKS-FM

P O Box 789
Bay City Texas 77404
Phone 979.244.4242

KODA-FM

3050 Post Oaks Blvd # 1200
Houston Texas 77056
Phone 713.830.8000

KPRC-AM

11767 Katy Fwy, Ste. 1170
Houston Texas 77079
Phone 713.558.4800

KPTY-FM

1415 North Loop West (610 North)
Houston Texas 77008
Phone 713.390.5655

KKRW-FM

3050 Post Oak Blvd # 1200
Houston Texas 77065
Phone 713.830.8000

KSEV-FM

11451 Katy Freeway # 210
Houston Texas 77079
Phone 281.558.5738

KTRH-AM

510 Lovett Blvd.
Houston Texas 77251
Phone 713.526.5874

KHOU-TV Channel 11 (CBS)

1945 Allen Parkway
Houston Texas 77001
Phone 713.521.4384

KHWB -TV Channel 39 (WB)

7700 Westpark Drive
Houston Texas 77063
Pnone 713.781.3939

KPRC-TV Channel 2 (NBC)

8181 Southwest Freeway
Houston Texas 77252
Phone 713.771.9194

KRIV-TV Channel 26 (FOX)

3935 Westheimer Rd.
Houston Texas 77227
Phone 713.625.1897

KRTK-TV Channel 13 (ABC)

3310 Bissonet St.
Houston Texas 77001
Phone 713.666.-8711

KTMD-TV Channel 48 (Telemundo)

3903 Stoney Brook
Houston Texas 77063
Phone 713.783.5863

KXLN-TV Channel 45 (Univision)

9440 Kirby Dr.
Houston Texas 77054
Phone 713.662.4545

Appendix F

Schedule of Community Activities

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time frame</u>
Contacts with Community Members	Ongoing
Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)	Ongoing
Community Advisory Group	Ongoing
Public Comment Period	Completion of Proposed Plan
Public Meeting, Open Houses	During Public Comment Period for Proposed Plan and at critical stages of progress
Responsiveness Summary	After Public Comment Period, Public Meeting
Update Information Repositories	As needed
Site Update Sheets	Four times a year, including <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Project initiation2. Beginning of RI/FS3. Public Comment Period/ Completion of Proposed Plan4. As needed for major site developments/milestones
Media Information	During Public Comment Period and as needed
Visual Aids/Graphics	As needed for Site Update Fact Sheets, Open Houses, Public Meetings
Update Mailing List	Ongoing
Public Notices	Prior to Public Meetings, for regulatory information, and as needed