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**Community Relations Plan**  
for  
**Permian Chemical Company**

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TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

Community Relations Plan  
for the

PERMIAN CHEMICAL COMPANY PROPOSED  
STATE SUPERFUND SITE

Ector County, Texas  
April 2002

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission  
Remediation Division  
12100 Park 35 Circle  
Building D  
Austin, Texas 78753  
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**COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN**

for

**PERMIAN CHEMICAL COMPANY PROPOSED STATE SUPERFUND SITE**

April 2002

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Community Relations Plan  
for  
Permian Chemical Company Proposed State Superfund Site  
Odessa, Ector County, Texas  
March 2002

**Overview of Community Relations Plan**

This community relations plan (CRP) identifies issues of community concern regarding Permian Chemical Company State Proposed Superfund site, in Odessa, Ector County, Texas. It also outlines the anticipated community relations activities to be conducted during each phase at the Permian Chemical Company site.

The Permian Chemical Company 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 Permian Chemical Company 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 Permian Chemical Company site.

This information in this plan is based primarily on the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) 3012 Preliminary Assessment, the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) package, and the Pre-Statement of Work for the site.

**Site Profile**

**Site Location and Description**

Latitude 31°52' 21" North and Longitude 102° 17' 58" West.

The Permian Chemical Company (PCC) site is located on 30 acres of ground at 325 Pronto Ave., Odessa, Ector County, Texas on the east side of Pronto Road. Pronto Road is located approximately 0.9 mile east of Loop 338 between Texas Highway 80 and I-20 E. The site is situated on calcareous, sandy soils of the Ogallala Formation of the southern High Plains at an elevation of 2870 feet above mean sea level.

**Site Background and History**

(Note: The state agencies referred to in this history as the Texas Water Quality Board (TWQB), Texas Department of Water Resources (TDWR), Texas Water Commission (TWC) and the Texas Air Control

Board (TACB) are now known as the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC). The new agency, TNRCC, became effective September 1, 1993, as mandated under State Senate Bill 2 of the 73<sup>rd</sup> regular Legislative Session).

The PCC operated a chemical manufacturing plant from 1981 to 1987. The plant produced hydrochloric (HCl) acid and potassium sulfate from a reaction of sulfuric acid and potassium chloride. The production process employed at the plant generated corrosive wastewater streams which were hazardous because of low pH. An on-site neutralization ditch had been designated a hazardous waste treatment unit because it was lined with crushed limestone to enable neutralization of the acidic wastewater which flowed through it. The south pond had been designated as a hazardous waste impoundment because hazardous acidic waste water reached the pond during periods of high flow through the neutralization ditch. This pond had an estimated capacity of 300,000 gallons at an average depth of six inches. The south pond was identified as the source of contamination for the uppermost and second aquifers beneath the facility site because water levels and chemical analyses from monitor wells obtained during the Groundwater Quality Assessment submitted on September 25, 1985, indicated that the pond was recharging the ground water beneath the site. Spills and dumps may be additional sources of contamination.

The North Pond located along the northern border of PCC was a lined surface impoundment with an approximate capacity of 375,000 gallons. This pond had been in operation since mid-1980 and was used for the storage/evaporation of off-specification hydrochloric acid (HCl) and minor amounts of machinery and automotive oils. Although originally believed to be non-hazardous, a May 23, 1985, analysis of the impoundment waste water revealed toxic levels of chromium and lead with elevated levels of barium, cadmium, mercury, and silver. The lining is deteriorated and the North Pond may have been a source of contamination as indicated by chemical analysis during the September 25, 1985, Groundwater Quality Assessment.

A September 29, 1986, letter from PCC to the Texas Water Commission stated that PCC purchased waste oils from a company called Recon. This oil was used in a diluted form to spray as a dust control for the potassium sulfate according to a PCC letter to the TWC dated July 7, 1986. The process included blending one gallon of waste oil with one ton of potassium sulfate to create the dust control mixture.

The PCC was identified by the TWC as a generator/transporter/transporter storage and disposal facility. Based upon the December 30, 1986, Notice of Registration, the facility had been permitted by the TWC for a waste stream that included dilute HCl, HCl, absorbent salt washwater, cooling tower waste water, miscellaneous plant wastes, general miscellaneous plant refuse, ion exchange effluent, and neutralized acid. A portion of all the wastes was reported to be disposed of onsite. The dilute HCl was reported to be sold for recovery, and the miscellaneous plant waste, the general miscellaneous plant refuse, and the neutralized acid were reported to be disposed of offsite as well as onsite. The company was required to maintain records for storage, processing and/or disposal of the dilute HCl, the HCl, the absorbent salt washwater, and the ion exchange effluent.

In December 1993, Kaiser Aluminum transported 7,050,000 pounds (3525 tons) of potassium sulfate to its Baton Rouge, Louisiana, plant to be used as a potassium source in soil amendments.

In October 1994, TNRCC initiated plans for a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the site. The first phase of the RI was conducted in October and November 1995, and included sampling and analysis of soils, sediment, surface water and groundwater for chemical constituents of concern including heavy metals, volatile organic compounds, petroleum hydrocarbons, inorganic salts, and dissolved solids.

Additional investigations were conducted in May through July 1996, during which additional monitoring wells were installed and sampled for analysis. At that time, a dormant pipeline, not associated with the site but associated with oilfield activities on the property adjacent to the site, was observed to have leaks. Subsequent analyses of soils and groundwater showed that these oilfield pipeline activities resulted in a release of petroleum hydrocarbons along the eastern side of the site.

Due to the deteriorated condition of process structures at the PCC site, demolition of unstable structures in the former process area was begun in September 1996, to allow soil sampling to be safely performed. The demolition was completed in November 1996.

Additional groundwater sampling was conducted in January 1997 to confirm results previously obtained from groundwater samples.

The Phase I RI Report was completed August 1997. The report confirmed that several volatile organic compounds and inorganic salts were present in the groundwater underlying the site. The volatile organic compounds present in groundwater that may have been attributed to site operations are a group of four compounds collectively referred to as the trihalomethanes (chloroform, bromoform, dibromochloromethane, and dichlorobromomethane). These compounds can form as a result of the reaction of chlorine with natural organic material. This mechanism of trihalomethane formation has been documented to occur in public water supply systems that use chlorine for disinfection purposes.

Investigation of the soils across the site showed that some soils contain high levels of inorganic salts, and some metals, including lead, chromium, and mercury are also present. The concentrations of metals are below health-based action levels.

A second phase of the RI was initiated in June 1999 and included the installation of additional monitoring wells to determine if the high levels of inorganic salts are attributable to the site, and sampling and analysis of soils in the former process area to evaluate whether soils in this area are contaminated. After completion of the RI, the potential risk the site poses to human health and the environment was assessed. Based on the results of this assessment it was determined that levels of contaminants did not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. The site was deed recorded for industrial use only in January 2002.

### Site Chronology

1977	Dorchem, Inc. commenced operation, manufacturing hydrochloric acid for industrial use and potassium sulfate as fertilizer.
Aug. 1981	PCC bought facility and continued to produce hydrochloric acid and potassium sulfate.
Nov. 1981	60,000 gallons of hydrochloric acid spilled in central part of the site. Neutralized with sodium hydroxide.
Sept. 1983	TDWR sample analyses of facility discharge water in South Pond reveals a pH range from 1.0 to 6.5.
March 1984	North Pond water sample analyses reveal pH of 1.5.
May 1985	Elevated levels of chromium (15 ppm) and lead (31 ppm) found in water samples from North Pond.
Aug. 1985	PCC signs TDWR agreement to eliminate solid waste discharge and remedy groundwater.
Oct. 1985	PCC submits Solid Waste Closure Plan for North Pond, South Pond, South Dump, Potassium Storage Pile Area, and Neutralization Ditch.
March 1987	TWC Order for PCC to submit remedial action alternatives for groundwater and soil remediation.
Aug. 1987	PCC shut down operations.
Nov. 1987	PCC filed for bankruptcy.
Aug. 1988	Dames and Moore under contract to the PCC, completed investigation which showed elevated levels of dissolved solids in the groundwater.
Nov. 1990	Site referred to TWC Hazardous and Solid Waste Division for consideration in Superfund.
Aug. 1992	Site scored 10.12 on Hazard Ranking System.

July 16, 1993 A legal notice was published in the *Texas Register*, (18 TexReg 4709) and on July 21, 1993, in the *Odessa American*, proposing the site to the state Superfund registry, and announcing a public meeting would be held on August 19, 1993, at the Odessa City Council Chambers to receive comments on the proposal of the site to the state Superfund registry.

Aug. 1993 Emergency response team acted to limit dangers that contaminants may have posed to public health and safety or the environment by removing potassium sulfate from the site, constructing a site perimeter fence to limit unauthorized access, and posting signs warning of contamination.

Dec. 1993 Kaiser Aluminum removed 3,525 tons of potassium sulfate from site.

Oct. 1994 TNRCC issued a work order to determine the nature and extent of contamination (RI/FS).

Sept. 15, 1995 An informal presentation was provided to the City Manager of the history and investigation data concerning the PCC site.

Sept. 28, 1995 Public meeting was conducted to discuss an upcoming Remedial Investigation at the PCC site, which had been proposed as a state Superfund site. The meeting was held at Odessa City Hall.

Oct. 1995 Began RI.

Nov. 1996 A removal action was conducted to contain acidic process fluids. Solid by product materials were collected and drummed. Unstable process structures at the site were dismantled and stockpiled in an interim storage area to eliminate potential hazards.

Aug. 28, 1997 RI Phase I completed.

June 22, 1999 RI Phase II, consisting of determination of the extent of the groundwater plume, underway.

July 23, 1999 Legal notices were published in the *Texas Register*, (24 TexReg 5798) and the *Odessa American*, proposing non-residential land use specifications for remediation of the site contamination. The land use designation may be considered in a remedial action proposed for the site. A public meeting, to receive citizens comments, was to be held August 30, 1999, at the Ector County Courthouse, Commissioner Court Room.

Aug. 30, 1999	A public meeting was held at the Ector County Courthouse, Commissioner Court Room to present to the community a proposed non-residential land use for the site, and receive citizen comments. Determination of land use may impact any remedial action proposed for the site.
Oct 19, 1999	Land Use Determination letters on the PCC site were mailed to state and city officials.
May 5, 2000	TNRCC approved the Phase II RI report.
June 26, 2000	The baseline risk assessment report was completed. The results of the risk assessment concluded that, with the exception of onsite low-PH materials, the site does not pose unacceptable excessive risk to human health or the environment. Although, the groundwater had low levels of contamination, it was determined in the risk assessment that they were below health based levels and the site did not pose unacceptable excess risk to human health or the environment.
July 1, 2000	TNRCC issued a work order for performance of a comprehensive waste inventory and waste characterization of all onsite wastes, including remaining process facilities' waste and investigation-derived waste. This study was to be used to support waste removal activities at the site.
May 31, 2001	TNRCC received the waste removal action work plan. The plan outlined disposition of investigation-derived waste and some remaining Class I wastes. Based on investigation technical reports, TNRCC concluded that the groundwater and soil at the site did not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. No further remedial action was warranted at the site. Conditions at the site met commercial/industrial cleanup criteria established by 30 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 350 (Texas Risk Reduction Program).
Dec. 23, 2001	TNRCC approved the waste removal action report which related that all investigation-derived waste, hazardous waste and Class I wastes had been removed from the site and sent to an authorized waste disposal facility.
January 18, 2002	Legal notices were published in the <i>Texas Register</i> , (27 TexReg 511-512), and the <i>Odessa American</i> , proposing to delete the site from the state Superfund registry in accordance with 30 TAC §335.344, and receive public comment on the determination that the site no longer presents an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health and safety or the environment. A public meeting was scheduled for 7:00 pm., Tuesday, February 26, 2002 at the Ector County Library, Rotary Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, 321 West Fifth Street. No further remedial action planned.

## Community Profile

### **Population & History of Odessa**

The City of Odessa is located in West Texas between Dallas/Fort Worth and El Paso on Interstate 20. Odessa and its neighboring cities are located in what is known as the Permian Basin, which is 250 miles wide and 300 miles long. The basin was formed during the Permian Period, the final portion of the Paleozoic Era (approximately 280 million years ago). At the time, the basin was an ocean filled with marine life and plants. As the ocean dried up, the decaying plants and animals eventually helped form the gigantic pools of oil and gas that are still being taken from the basin.

Oil was discovered in the area in 1926. Odessa is still considerate one of the major oil field technology centers throughout the modern world.

The PCC site is located in Odessa, Ector County, Texas on the east side of Pronto Road. The population of Odessa in 2000 was 100,920 with ethnicity for the city as follows:

White	74.2%
Black or African American	5.4%
American Indian & Alaska Native	0.8%
Asian	0.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Islander	0.0%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	40.8%
White persons, not of Hispanic /Latino origin	59.2%

### **History of Community Involvement**

The TWC held a public meeting to propose listing of the PCC Site on the State Superfund Registry. The meeting was held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 19, 1993, at the Odessa City Hall, Council Chambers. The meeting notice was published in the legal section of the *Odessa American* on July 21, 1993, and in the *Texas Registry* on July 16, 1993. There were 5 citizens in attendance.

The TNRCC staff met with City Manager Jerry McGuire and gave an informal presentation of the history and investigative data concerning the site on Tuesday, September 15, 1995, at 9:30 a.m., in the Odessa City Hall Chambers.

On Thursday, September 28, 1995, at 7:00 p.m. a public meeting was held at the City Council Chambers. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information regarding the site investigation. There were 10 citizens in attendance.

The key community concerns at this time are the schedule of activities at the site and the impact the site has had on the groundwater.

### **Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program**

Maintain open communications between the TNRCC, Ector County officials, City of Odessa officials, and state officials, and concerned citizens.

Continue to expand the mailing list to include additional agencies, organizations, and residents that are interested in the project.

Provide a community relations contact from whom interested parties can receive information on site activities, project status, and study results.

Provide citizens, involved agencies, elected officials, civic leaders, and the media with accurate, timely information concerning site related activities by issuing fact sheets, press releases, and community meetings.

Brief field teams on community relations issues before performing on-site investigations.

Respond to telephone inquiries and written correspondence in a timely manner.

Provide all information, especially technical findings, in 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 are made available during project phases.

Monitor community concerns and information requirements as the project progresses.

Modify the Community Relations Plan to address changes in community needs and to maintain accuracy during different project phases.

### **Community Relations Techniques & Tools**

Project Mailing List - To provide the means through which press release, project status reports and other significant communications can be distributed to concerned groups and individuals.

Public Consultations - To conduct informal meetings (if needed) with residents. To provide an opportunity for affected residents to express any concerns and to make inquiries to insure effective two-way communication.

Program Document Repositories - To maintain an easily accessible repository through which the public may review project outputs. The public will be informed periodically of the availability of project documents and the location of the repository.

Superfund Internet: Progress of activities at the PCC site is regularly posted to the TNRCC Superfund web site at: [www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/superfund/index.html](http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/superfund/index.html)

**Elected Officials**

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The Honorable Teel Bivins  
Texas State Senator  
P O Box 12058  
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(512) 463-0131

District address:

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Amarillo, TX 79105

The Honorable Robert Duncan  
Texas State Senate  
P O Box 12062  
Austin, TX 78711  
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District address:

1330 East 8<sup>th</sup>  
Ste 322  
Odessa, TX 79761  
(806) 762-1122

The Honorable Bob Turner  
Texas House of Representative  
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Austin, TX 78711  
(512) 463-0546

District address:

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Coleman, TX 76834  
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**Ector County**

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**City**

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The Honorable Royce Bodiford  
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The Honorable Berta Calzada  
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## Key Project Personnel

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## **Program Document Repositories**

### Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission

Records Management Center

Physical Address: 12100 Park 35 Circle  
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Austin, TX 78753

Mailing Address: P O Box 13087, Mail Code 199  
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Telephone: 1-800-633-9363 or (512) 239-2920

### Ector County Library

Doris Baker

321 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street

Odessa TX 79761

Telephone: (915) 333-9633

## **Appendices**

## I. Texas Register publication of the State Superfund Registry

27 Tex Reg 512 January 18, 2002 Texas Register  
IN ADDITION January 18, 2002 27 TexReg 511  
26 TexReg 3660 May 18, 2001 Texas Register  
IN ADDITION May 18, 2001 26 TexReg 3661  
26 TexReg 9658 November 23, 2001 Texas Register  
IN ADDITION November 23, 2001 26 TexReg 9659  
IN ADDITION November 23, 2001 26 TexReg 9657  
25 TexReg 4946 May 26, 2000 Texas Register  
25 TexReg 4944 May 26, 2000 Texas Register  
IN ADDITION May 26, 2000 25 TexReg 4945  
25 TexReg 11756 November 24, 2000 Texas Register  
IN ADDITION November 24, 2000 25 TexReg 11757  
IN ADDITION June 4, 1999 24 TexReg 4303  
24 TexReg 4304 June 4, 1999 Texas Register  
IN ADDITION June 4, 1999 24 TexReg 4305  
24 TexReg 10608 November 26, 1999 Texas Register  
IN ADDITION November 26, 1999 24 TexReg 10609  
23 TexReg 5524 May 22, 1998 Texas Register  
IN ADDITION May 22, 1998 23 TexReg 5523  
22 TexReg 3632 April 18, 1997 Texas Register  
IN ADDITION April 18, 1997 22 TexReg 3631  
21 TexReg 3274 April 12, 1996 Texas Register  
IN ADDITION April 12, 1996 21 TexReg 3273  
20 TexReg 2484 March 31, 1995 Texas Register  
IN ADDITION March 31, 1995 20 TexReg 2485  
19 TexReg 546 January 25, 1994 Texas Register  
IN ADDITION January 25, 1994 19 TexReg 545  
IN ADDITION July 16, 1993 18 TexReg 4709  
24 TexReg 5798 July 23, 1999 Texas Register