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Community Relations Plan
for
Rogers Delinted Cottonseed Co.

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July 2002

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

for

Rogers Delinted Cottonseed Company Proposed State Superfund Site Farmersville, Collin County Texas

August 2002

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

for
**Rogers Delinted
Cottonseed Company
Proposed State Superfund Site
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas**

August 2002

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Appendices

- I. *Texas Register* public notice regarding proposal of the Rogers Delinted Cottonseed Company site to the state Superfund registry and land use designation. Published June 28, 2002.
- II. *Farmersville Times* public notice regarding proposal of the Rogers Delinted Cottonseed Company site to the State Superfund registry and land use designation. Published June 27, 2002.
- III. Site Display
- IV. Site Location Map

Community Relations Plan

for
Rogers Delinted Cottonseed Company
Proposed State Superfund Site
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas
August 2002

Overview of Community Relations Plan

This community relations plan (CRP) identifies issues of community concern regarding Rogers Delinted Cottonseed Company (RDCC) proposed state Superfund site, located in Collin County, Texas. It also outlines the anticipated community relations activities to be conducted during each phase of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study for the RDCC proposed state Superfund site.

The RDCC proposed state Superfund site 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 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 RDCC proposed state superfund site.

This plan is based primarily on the information from the TNRCC hazard ranking system package prepared for the site.

Site Profile

Site Location and Description

The RDCC site is an abandoned cottonseed delinting processing facility located approximately one mile east of Farmersville at the intersection of State Highway (SH) 380 and Farm to Market (FM) 547 in Collin County, Texas. The approximate geographic coordinates of the site are latitude 33E 09' 18.74" N and longitude 96E 19' 46.93" W.

The site consists of an 81 acre tract as described in the SMALLWOOD OWENS SURVEY, Abstract No. 678, and recorded in the deed from Calvin Douglas, et ax, to J. L. Uland, et ax, dated October 12, 1962. The site was divided into four parcels with three separate owners sometime after RDCC stopped operations at the facility. The original buildings and impoundments are on approximately 10 acres currently owned by the Yazaki U.S. Corporation. The Yazaki U.S. Corporation owns 100 percent of the capitol stock of RDCC. The corporation has declared bankruptcy and the site is abandoned. A deed dated February 1, 1985 shows Dalwest Properties as the owner of 69 acres. On September 27, 1993,

Singing Properties JV purchased the 69 acres, subsequently selling two parcels of 5 and 15 acres to Step of Faith Worship Center on April 27, 1999.

The cottonseed delinting facility operated from 1965 to 1984 and is currently abandoned. A former processing building, office, and silo structures are located on the property, along with two inactive surface impoundments. Security fences around the impoundments and processing building were installed during 2000 by TNRCC state contractors.

Background

The company began delinting operations in 1965, and submitted registration as an industrial solid waste management site to the Texas Water Quality Board (TWQB) on August 11, 1973. The company subsequently applied for a wastewater discharge permit on April 23, 1974, that was publically reviewed on November 14, 1974, and approved (Permit #01898) by the TWQB on February 25, 1975. The company had constructed two surface impoundments to manage corrosive wastewaters (5% dilute sulfuric acid) from the cottonseed delinting process. These wastewaters gravity-flowed from the processing area through an underground PVC line to Pond #1, which was used as a primary settling basin to collect husks, lint and other particulate matter. Wastewater from Pond #1 gravity-discharged through an 8-inch diameter plastic pipe to Pond #2, which was used as a secondary settling basin and evaporation pond. The permit specified wastewater discharge from the ponds was to be accomplished only by natural evaporation and by irrigation to the adjacent fields using rainfall mixture dilution.

Site Chronology

(Note: The State predecessor agencies, Texas Water Quality Board (TWQB), Texas Department of Water Resources (TDWR), Texas Water Commission (TWC) and the Texas Air Control Board (TACB) referred to throughout this report are to be known as the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC). The new agency, TNRCC came into being effective September 1, 1993, as mandated under State Senate Bill 2 of the 73rd regular Legislative Session.)

July 1973

The TWQB District 4 Office conducted a site investigation in response to a Texas Park & Wildlife reported spill of dilute sulfuric acid discharging along 4 miles of Brushy Creek and a tributary located east of the RDCC facility. Results of the investigation documented the presence of low pH runoff at a distance of 0.25 miles from the site that had been inadvertently pumped from the on-site wastewater ponds to an unnamed tributary draining into Brushy Creek.

Subsequent District 4 inspections on November 20, 1973 and January 21, 1974 noted Pond #1 was nearly full of lint and other settled solids, and a pump on the west side of Pond #2 was used to irrigate the adjacent fields. Waste sludge from Pond #1 was reported dredged by backhoe and transported to the City of Farmersville sanitary landfill when the pond became full. According to the plant operations manager, Mr.

A. D. Cook, processed cottonseeds were treated with a fungicide and a pesticide after the seeds were delinted.

August 1974

On August 21, 1974 the TWQB District 4 Office investigated an anonymous citizen's complaint referred by the EPA Region 6 Office concerning a contaminated stormwater discharge from sulfuric acid allegedly poured on the ground surrounding Pond #1. The complainant stated there had been numerous fishkills in Brushy Creek and the most recent one had occurred on August 14, 1974. The complaint could not be substantiated; however, during the investigation, it was noted that there were ponds of water in the creek containing minnows. Soil samples were obtained from each of the impoundments and from the irrigated field during an April 6, 1984 TDWR inspection. Lab results from the samples indicated a total arsenic level of 0.88 mg/kg in the sample from Pond #1. Total arsenic analysis results were not included from the Pond #2 sample; however, arsenic EP toxicity results were 345 ug/l. The two samples from the irrigated field had total arsenic concentrations of 6.09 mg/kg and 4.72 mg/kg. Facility personnel stated that the southwest field had not been planted or irrigated during the last year. During the sampling inspection, the District 4 inspector was informed by facility personnel that both fields had been used to grow cotton. It was revealed that an arsenic-based chemical was used to defoliate the plants when the cotton was harvested.

November 1985

The facility was subsequently submitted for enforcement to the Texas Water Commission (TWC) Central Office based on results of the March 14 and April 6 inspections and a November 4, 1985 Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) conducted by a District 4 inspector and a TWC Central Office Enforcement staff member. Liquid samples collected during the inspection from the edge of each pond revealed low pH values of less than 1.0, which were determined hazardous. The site was no longer in operation.

April 1987

A civil administrative penalty of \$8,599.00 was assessed on April 15, 1987 for failure to close and failure to submit financial assurance. On July 14, 1987, representatives of RDCC negotiated an Agreed Order with the TWC.

August 1987

On August 7 and 28, TWC District 4 inspector conducted a sampling and case development inspection at RDCC to determine compliance with the TWC Agreed Order. Results of the inspections indicated:

1. Analysis of a soil and liquid sample collected from the west end of Pond #2 indicated low concentrations of four (4) acid extractable semi-volatile organics, an unidentified sulfur

compound, and five (5) unidentified organic peaks in the liquid sample. Three (3) unidentified semi-volatile organic compounds were detected in the sludge sample.

2. It was noted the company had not completed closure as of September 25, 1987, a soil investigation plan had not been developed and submitted, and proper posting had not been accomplished.

Subsequent inspections by the TWC District 4 Office on February 12, 1988 and January 17, 1989; and, an EPA Preliminary Assessment (PA) reconnaissance inspection on May 14, 1988 noted that site conditions had not significantly changed since the December 2, 1986 TWC inspection.

March 1988 On March 15, 1988 the site was referred to TWC enforcement for failure to close. When the company failed to respond to two TWC Notice of Violation (NOV) letters, the site was referred to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for enforcement on November 30, 1988. When enforcement efforts by both the EPA and the Department of Justice (DOJ) resulted in no further action by representatives of RDCC, the site was subsequently transferred to the EPA Superfund Program.

March 1992 On March 18, 1992 the EPA Region 6 Office notified the TWC Central Office that it was closing its enforcement file on the site and referring the site back to the State for further action.

September 1993 During the September 23, 1993 TNRCC Region 4 complaint investigation, numerous drums of leaking pesticides were noted located in the north end of the former processing building. A total of seven (7) drums were subsequently overpacked and removed, and a spill area on the concrete floor remediated. During the investigation, strong pesticide odors were noted in the soils between the two buildings, where liquids from the corroded drums may have spilled when the drums were apparently moved. The following conditions were observed:

1. Stored within the former processing building were: four (4) full to partially full, upright 55-gallon drums (one noted corroded); three (3) overturned, leaking 55-gallon drums with a stained area approximately 10' in diameter on the concrete floor surrounding the drums; and, one (1) open 5-gallon and three (3) capped 1-gallon glass containers containing a red-brown liquid. The drums contained the insecticide "THIMET", containing phorate (listed extremely hazardous substance), and a fungicide "VITAVAX-200", containing carboxin and thiram.

2. There were numerous empty containers and drums, many of them unmarked, stored on pallets in the south end of the processing building.

3. Information provided by a former employee revealed that when the plant ceased operations, remaining insecticide and fungicide drums were placed in the warehouse. The drums had been moved to the processing building sometime prior to the investigation.

4. Farm equipment was noted stored in the warehouse. During the investigation, it was revealed that local ranchers had used the warehouse as a storage area from the time the company had vacated the property.

5. The leaking and open drums were containerized by a State emergency response contractor on September 23, 1993. The 10' diameter stained area inside the processing building was washed using a water, bleach, and isopropyl alcohol solution, and absorbent applied. The building was secured using a locked chain.

From September 1993 to March 1994, the remaining drummed pesticide wastes were removed by the respective manufacturers at the request of the TWC District 4 Office. On January 16, 1995, the remainder of the drummed (overpacked) glass containers containing the red-brown acid liquid, decontamination material, and absorbants were removed from the site for characterization and disposal.

The information used to identify the waste characteristics at the RDCC site was obtained from a review of both federal and state records. The site was identified to have multiple waste sources, where hazardous substances had been stored, deposited, or disposed, plus soils that may have become contaminated from migrating hazardous substances. A record review identified the following known hazardous materials generated or stored at the site:

Spent sulfuric acid rinsewaters from processing cottonseeds

Arsenic-based chemicals applied to defoliate cotton plants

Pesticides (containing phorate, carboxin, and thiram) spilled on-site

- 1995 A Screening Site Inspection (SSI) was performed by TNRCC under the multi-site cooperative agreement with the EPA. Nineteen soil/sediment samples were collected during the SSI to evaluate the surface water and soil exposure pathways. Analytical results for sediments indicated that there was no apparent release of on-site contaminants to the surface water pathway. Soil sample analytical results documented that dieldrin, aroclor 1254 and 1260, arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, selenium, and zinc were present in concentrations at least three times background levels. Arsenic concentrations onsite ranged from 4.7 mg/Kg to 23.7, none of which were three times background levels. One sample was taken from the irrigated cotton fields located south of the main facility that contained an arsenic concentration at a concentration of 27 mg/Kg, which exceeds three times background. The EPA-Region 6 Office issued a Superfund Site Strategy Recommendation of "No Further Remedial Action Planned" and referred the site to the State in December 1995.
- February 2000 The installation of security fences around the surface impoundments and former processing building (production warehouse) was completed by a contractor hired by the TNRCC in February 2000. In order to determine if further immediate removal activities were required, additional investigation was performed in March 2000. The first objective of the activities was to determine if stormwater was entering the processing building, coming into contact with the contamination inside, and then washing contaminants into Pond #1. The second objective was the determination and disposal of the contents of the aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) on the site. Thirty (30) gallons of diesel fuel from the tanks was disposed of on June 7, 2000.
- July 2001 Soil samples were taken in order to further evaluate the potential for exposure to nearby residents to elevated arsenic concentrations. Soil samples were taken from the two closest residential yards along with two background samples from presumably unaffected areas. The analytical results did not indicate arsenic levels above detection limits. However, during field activities, it was noted that a new facility was being constructed by a church within the former irrigated cotton fields. The Step of Faith Church representative Ms. Becky Sims was contacted regarding ownership and plans for the property. Ms. Sims indicated that the church had purchased twenty (20) acres and that a church and private school would be operated on the property. Classes were anticipated to begin at the facility in 2002. Samples were taken from the property owned by the church and planned for future recreational use by the school and the soil exposure pathway was re-evaluated. A documented release of 25 mg/Kg, at least three times background and above Texas Risk Reduction Program protective concentration level for arsenic, was documented in soil sample SO-8. The site hazard ranking

score was based upon the soil exposure pathway that exists for the workers and students at the church and private school facility.

January 2002 TNRCC staff completed the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) Documentation Record for the site. The HRS was developed to determine a numerical value for rating sites. Sites that receive scores above 28.5 are eligible for consideration for the Federal Superfund National Priorities List ((NPL). If a site scores at least 5.0 and below 28.5, it is eligible for the Texas Registry of hazardous waste sites. The RDCC site's HRS score was calculated at 9.1.

Community Profile

Farmersville, Texas is located at the intersection of SH 380 and SH 78 in east Collin County. The Rogers Delinted Cottonseed Company site is located approximately one mile east of Farmersville at the intersection of SH 380 and FM 547. Farmersville currently uses a council / manager form of city government. Land use in the site area currently supports agricultural, residential and commercial activities.

The U.S. Census estimates the 2000 population as follows:

	Collin County	Farmersville
Population	491,675	3,118
Male	245,633	1,453
Female	246,042	1,665
White	400,181	2,569
Black	23,561	315
American Indian	2,323	13
Asian	34,047	2
Native Hawaiian	2,720	0
Other	33,333	219

Community Involvement

On May 1 & 2, 2002, TNRCC staff traveled to the RDCC site to conduct an inspection of the site and the surrounding area. The site inspection allowed the staff to become familiar with the area and the opportunity to meet with some of the area residents. A visit to city hall and the library resulted in a brief informal meeting between TNRCC project manager Mr. Subhash Pal, community relations coordinator Mr. John Flores, and Farmersville city manager Mr. Allen Hein. TNRCC staff informed Mr. Hein of the site location, its history, and of the possible actions that the state would be initiating.

Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program

1. Maintain open and on-going two way communication between the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Collin County, City of Farmersville, state elected officials, as well as area residents.
2. Continue to expand the mailing list and our communications to include additional agencies, organizations, and residents that are interested in the project.
3. Provide a community relations contact from whom interested parties can receive information on site activities, project status, and study results.
4. Provide citizens, involved agencies, elected officials, civic leaders and the media with accurate, timely information about site related activities through newsletters, press releases and community meetings.
5. Respond to telephone inquiries and written correspondence. Attend public meetings.
6. 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.
7. Monitor community concerns and information requirements as the project progresses.
8. Modify the Community Relations Plan for changes in community needs as necessary to be accurate during different project phases.

Community Relations Techniques

1. Project Status Briefings, for state and local officials - to periodically inform them of project developments over the course of the project.
2. Project Status Briefings for community groups and concerned citizens (may include public meetings, if needed) - to periodically inform the community of significant project developments and findings; to respond to inquiries accordingly and incorporate local concerns into the decision making process as appropriate.
3. 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.
4. Program Document Repository - to maintain an easily accessible repository through which the public may review project outputs.
5. Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission State Superfund Internet Homepage - to provide timely, current information on state Superfund activities on the World Wide Web at the following web address:

www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/superfund/index.html

6. Community Relations Plan - to reflect changes in site activities or local concerns. After the Proposed Remedial Action Document has been issued, the Community Relations Plan will be revised to address implementation of the selected remedial action alternative.

**City of Farmersville
Elected Officials**

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