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Community Relations Plan

for

Unnamed Plating

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October 1995

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
for

**Unnamed Plating
El Paso, Texas**

October 1995

Office of Pollution Cleanup
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
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Austin, Texas 78753
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Community Relations Plan
for
Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study

Unnamed Plating Superfund Site El Paso, El Paso County, Texas

Overview of Community Relations Plan

This community relations plan (CRP) identifies issues of community concern regarding the Unnamed Plating State Superfund site, in El Paso County, Texas. It also outlines the anticipated community relations activities to be conducted during each phase of the cleanup at the Unnamed Plating site.

The Unnamed Plating 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 Unnamed Plating 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 Unnamed site.

The information in this plan is based primarily on the information from the TNRCC hazardous ranking package on the Unnamed Plating Site.

Site Profile

Site Location and Description:

The Unnamed Plating site is located in El Paso, El Paso County, Texas, at 6816-6824

Industrial Avenue. The site covers approximately two acres in an industrial area in the southeast portion of the City of El Paso. The site slopes four to five feet from north to south. A 13,000 square foot steel frame building is located on the western half of the site and is surrounded by a paved asphalt surface. The remainder of the site is covered by dirt at the surface. There are three closed waste ponds partially exposed on the eastern half of the site. The ponds are thought to extend westward under the asphalt and potentially under a portion of the on-site building. A fourth pond may also be present in an area south of the building.

Site Background and Operating History:

The site was operated from 1971 to 1979 by Schwartz-Edmonds Corporation. During this time, the site was utilized for secondary metals recovery and spent nickel recovery and involved the use of the three large waste ponds.

In order to obtain more information about the site history, EPA reviewed aerial photographs obtained from the City of El Paso's Department of Planning, Research and Development. The photographs were dated 1956, 1965, 1969, 1973, 1979 and 1986. The scale of the photographs ranged from 1" = 200' to 1" = 300'.

The 1956 aerial photograph showed the site to be vacant, undeveloped land. The area to the north and east was also undeveloped and vacant land. Industrial development that included refineries was present in the area to the south and west of the site.

The 1965 photograph showed that the site remained vacant and undeveloped. Additional industrial development is evident in all directions. Interstate 10 had also been constructed north of the site. Residential development was evident approximately 3,500 feet to the north.

The 1969 photograph showed the site as a vacant and undeveloped lot. Additional industrial development of the immediately adjacent areas was evident. Commercial development was present in the area approximately 1,800 feet to the north and additional residential development was evident in the area 3,500 feet to the northeast.

The 1973 photograph showed that the site was developed at that time. Three oval ponds of varying sizes are present. No other structures or improvements were apparent.

The 1979 photograph showed the site unchanged, with one notable exception. Pond 1 on the north side of the site appeared to be full. The pond was still approximately 190 feet long and 75 feet wide. Increased industrial development of the surrounding area was also

evident.

The 1986 photograph showed that the ponds were no longer present. A building, storage yard and parking lot had been constructed on the western half of the site and the eastern half of the property was vacant. Drainage ditches were present on the eastern half of the property. The building and parking lot were present at the northwestern corner of the property. An outdoor materials storage area was evident at the southwestern corner of the property. Additional industrial development of the surrounding areas was also present.

Information about the history of the operations at the site was obtained from a review of historical records and an interview with Mr. Jim Cibela, who was employed at the site from 1972 until 1975 or 1976. Mr. Cibela believed that the site had been in operation since approximately 1970. Additional information indicates that the site was operated until sometime between 1979 or 1981. It should be noted that, in large part, the source of the history referenced is Mr. Cibela's recollection of events that occurred 10 to 20 years ago. As such, this history may not be completely accurate.

The site consisted of evaporation ponds that received materials from a metals recovery plant. The plant recovered copper and nickel from secondary materials that were received from off-site suppliers. Mr. Cibela reported that four evaporation ponds were used at the site. According to Mr. Cibela, an underground piping system was used to supply the liquid to the ponds. Mr. Cibela stated that two of the ponds had a capacity of approximately 160,000 gallons each. The third pond had a capacity of somewhere around 1,000,000 gallons and the fourth pond had a capacity of between 25,000 and 50,000 gallons. Mr. Cibela recalled that all of the ponds were lined with PVC that was fairly thick.

On July 11, 1995, the TNRCC held a Public Meeting at the City Council Chambers in El Paso to discuss the proposed remedial action. This meeting marked the close of the 45-day public comment period. The TNRCC has determined that the proposed capping alternative is the most appropriate remedial alternative for the Unnamed Plating State Superfund site. The capping alternative will be fully protective of human health and the environment by eliminating all means of physical contact.

Community Profile

The Unnamed Plating State Superfund site is located in an industrial area in the southeast portion of El Paso, in El Paso County, Texas. Based on 1990 census figures, the population of El Paso is 515,342.

Community Involvement

Local community involvement in the State Superfund process began on October 27, 1987, with a public meeting held in El Paso, Texas. The purpose of this meeting was to seek comments on the proposed listing of the Unnamed Plating site to the State Superfund and to obtain any information related to the site.

On July 11, 1995, the TNRCC held a Public Meeting at the City Council Chambers in El Paso to discuss the proposed action. This meeting was attended by approximately 20 people. This meeting marked the close of the 45-day public comment period.

Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program

- A. Maintain open communications between the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, El Paso County, City of El Paso, state officials and concerned citizens.
- B. Continue to expand the mailing list to include additional agencies, organizations, and residents that are interested in the project.
- C. Provide a community relations contact from whom interested parties can receive information on site activities, project status, and results.
- D. Provide citizens, involved agencies, elected officials, and the media with accurate, timely information concerning the scope, progress, and findings of site-related activities by issuing press releases and conducting community meetings.
- E. By telephone, written correspondence and attending public meeting, interested parties can make inquires to ensure communication.
- F. Brief field teams on community relations issues before performing on-site investigations.
- G. Provide all information, especially technical findings, in a language that is understandable to the general public and in a form useful to interested citizens and elected officials through the preparation of fact sheets and news releases, when major findings become available during project phases.
- H. Monitor community concerns and information requirements as the project progresses by monitoring the community response to news releases and community meetings.
- I. Modify the community relations plan with changes in project phases.

Community Relations Techniques

- A. Project Status Briefings for State and Local officials-To periodically inform, state and local officials of project developments over the course of the program during the investigations, findings and as project developments occur.
- B. Project Status Briefings for community groups and concerned citizens (may include public meetings, if needed)- To periodically inform the general community of significant project developments and findings; to respond to inquiries accordingly and incorporate local concerns into the decision making process as appropriate.
- C. Press releases/Press conferences-To periodically inform the general community of project status, i.e. significant changes or developments related to schedule, scope, and/or objectives.
- D. Project Mailing List- To provide the means through which press releases, project status reports and other significant communications can be distributed to concerned groups and individuals.
- E. 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 insure effective two-way communication.
- F. Program Document Repositories - To maintain easily accessible repositories through which the public may review project outputs. The public will be periodically informed of the availability of project documents and the location of repositories via techniques A through D.
- G. State Superfund Quarterly Status Reports - Direct mail to state, local and county officials and interested persons.
- H. Revise CRP - To reflect changes in site activities or local concerns. After the Remedial Action Document (RAD) has been issued, the CRP will be revised to address implementation of the selected remedial action alternative.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

STATE

THE HONORABLE PEGGY ROSSON
TEXAS SENATE
1551 MONTANA
EL PASO, TEXAS 77902

THE HONORABLE PEGGY ROSSON
TEXAS SENATE
P.O. BOX 12068
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

THE HONORABLE NANCY
MCDONALD
TEXAS HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES
7500 DISCOUNT #187
EL PASO, TEXAS 77925-5633

THE HONORABLE NANCY
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REPRESENTATIVES
P.O. BOX 2910
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910

COUNTY

THE HONORABLE CARLOS AGUILAR
EL PASO COUNTY COMMISSIONER,
CENTRAL
500 EAST SAN ANTONIO, #301
EL PASO, TX 79901

THE HONORABLE CHUCK MATTOX
EL PASO COUNTY JUDGE
500 EAST SAN ANTONIO, #301
EL PASO, TEXAS 79901

CITY

THE HONORABLE LARRY FRANCIS,
MAYOR
2 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
EL PASO, TEXAS 79901

THE HONORABLE ROSALIO
ACOSTA
CITY OF EL PASO COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE
2 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
EL PASO, TEXAS 79901

EL PASO AREA NEWS MEDIA

EL PASO TIMES
P.O. BOX 20
EL PASO, TX 79999-0020
(915) 546-6100
FAX-(915) 546-6415

KFNA-AM
2100 TRAWOOD
EL PASO, TX 79935
(915) 595-6700
FAX-(915) 598-6073

KHEY-AM/FM
2419 N. PIEDRAS ST.
EL PASO, TX 79930
(915)566-9301
FAX-(915) 566-0928

KTSM-AM
801 N. OREGON
EL PASO, TX 79902
(915) 532-5421
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KDBC-TV CHANNEL 4
P.O. BOX 1799
EL PASO, TX 79999
915-532-5526
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PROGRAM DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
Central Records
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Building D
Austin, Tx 78753
1-800-633-9363

El Paso Library
Southwest Collection
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El Paso, Tx. 79901
915-543-5441

Site Location Map