

FRENCH LIMITED
SUPERFUND SITE
Crosby, Harris County, TEXAS



EPA Region 6
EPA ID# TXD980514814
Site ID: 0602498
State Congressional District: 09

Contact: Charles Fisher 214-665-2224
Updated: Last revised 10/2011
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Background

The site is located in northeast Harris County, two miles southwest of Crosby, Texas, one mile east of the San Jacinto River, at old US Highway 90 and Gulf Pump Road.

The site was used for sand mining operations between 1950 and 1965. The site operated from 1966 until 1972 under permit from Texas Water Quality Board for Petrochemical Waste Disposal. Approximately 3.4 million cubic feet of material were received, some burned; remainder placed in pit. The facility's permit was revoked and the operation closed in 1973.

Current Status

The ground water in-situ bioremediation and conventional pump and treat system were operational from 2/92 to 12/95. Natural Attenuation (NA) of groundwater began January 1996 and has ten-year duration to January 2006. The first Five-Year review (Type 1a) was signed January 1995. The second Five-Year review dated February 2002, secured final EPA signature on 3/12/02. The third Five Year review dated February 2007, secured final EPA signature on 3/15/07. Current activity includes Ground Water (GW) Screening Technology Evaluation/s and the analysis of a Tier #1 and #2 wetland Remediation System to be followed-up by Supplemental FS document for a groundwater (GW) ROD Amendment.

Comments on the Ground Water Evaluation, Remedial Progress Report, 1st Half, March 2005 report was furnished to EPA on April 1, 2005. Analytical results on the GW remediation were addressed. FLTG has identified the contaminated plume limits, and is pursuing to identify active screening technologies that will achieve timely remediation in the site plume areas.

In February 2006, a Supplemental Groundwater Investigation Report was submitted to EPA, reflecting the steel containment wall alignment and extends MNA duration for remediation of the other site GW plumes. The FLTG and ERM are in preparation and evaluation of Supplemental Feasibility Study (SFS) and applicable site remedial alternatives. Six new COCs namely, TBA, chloroform, naphthalene, acetone 1, 1 - 1DCE and MTBE will be addressed in the SFS. EPA received the 2007 Annual Progress Ground Water Monitoring Report on April 02, 2007. EPA received the 2008 annual Ground Water Monitoring Report on April 22, 2008. EPA received the 2009 annual Ground Water Monitoring Report on December 21, 2009. EPA received the 2010 annual Ground Water Monitoring Report on December 07, 2010

EPA received the Constructed Wetlands Treatability Study on December 22, 2008. This treatability study summarizes the Tier 1 laboratory screening study and the Tier 2 pilot scale wetland study, to treat Site COCs in ground water to acceptable discharge limits. During June 2009, the EPA and TCEQ completed its review of the Constructed Wetlands Treatability Study and the EPA has instructed FLTG to proceed with the preparation of the draft SFS. On August 26, 2011, the FLTG responded to the TCEQ and EPA

draft SFS comments. The TCEQ and the EPA are currently reviewing the FLTG response and will respond back to the FLTG by the end of September 2011.

Benefits

During 2/80 through 6/83, EPA was involved in three (3) removal actions to stabilize the site. This included maintaining site security, sampling and analysis, migration control, and pumping and containment of 992 cubic yards of contaminated sludge. May 1989 floodwaters inundated the site, creating concerns for drinking water supplies; EPA supplied bottled water during this time. In June 1989 FLTG began construction of a double-interlock, high-tensile strength steel pile wall around the French Lagoons to protect the site from flooding. Construction was completed November 2, 1989. May 1994 floodwaters again surrounded the wall at the site; however, the floodwaters crested three inches from the top of the flood control wall. The wall functioned as designed. The main waste lagoon, OU-1 for soil, at the site was divided into 2 parts for bio-remediation, and both sides of the lagoon were completed in 1993. The remedial action OU-2 for ground water is underway with an ongoing feasibility study and a follow up ROD amendment change is anticipated.

Remediation of the French Limited site will eliminate approximately 300,000 tons of lagoon sludge and soil, 800,000 tons of subsoil associated with the ground water cleanup, 11,000 tons of soil in shallow subsoil excavations around the perimeter, and the creation of 25 acres of new wetlands as per the Natural Resource Consent Decree, which was entered into Federal District Court on 3/10/93.

National Priorities Listing (NPL) History

Proposed Date: October 1981

Final Listing Date: September 08, 1983

Population: Approximately 10,000 residents in Crosby and nearby communities.

Setting: The nearest residence is within 300 feet of the main pit. The nearest drinking water well is within 1,500 feet of the main pit. The entire site now encompasses approximately 55.00 acres, with one 7-acre waste pit of 10.5 ft. average depth.

Hydrology: The site is located within 100-year floodplain of the San Jacinto River. The Gulf Coastal Plain overlies the Chicot and Evangeline aquifers. The main pit lies within alluvial deposits over the Beaumont Clay formation. A shallow ground water system (20-50 feet deep) is in use by nearby residents.

Site Map



Wastes and Volumes

The principal pollutants at the French Limited Superfund site include:

- Volatile organic compounds in; ground water (10 ppm); sludges (6%).
- Phenols; ground water (10 ppm), sludges (1%).
- Heavy metals; sludges (2%).
- PCB; sludges (0-320 ppm).

The volumes of these wastes are approximately as follows:

- Sludges; PCB 8,000 cubic yards; non-PCB 68,000 cu. yds.
- Water, 25 million gallons.
- Soil, 70,000 cu. yds.

Health & Environmental Considerations

- Ground water and surface water are for drinking and irrigation.
- The nearest drinking water well is 1,500 feet southwest of the waste lagoon.
- The site is in the 100 year floodplain of the San Jacinto River.
- Ground water in the upper aquifer is contaminated.

Water: OU -2 – Groundwater Treatment

Initial groundwater ROD treatment utilized ten year MNA period, in conjunction with a 2006 Bench Scale test which proved MNA to not be functioning timely, so a new Supplemental Feasibility Study (SFS) has been initiated. This action also includes addressing containment as a propose remedy in the upcoming Proposed Plan, Public Meeting, ROD Amendment, new RD and RA to execute the new technologies/remedial activities of the ROD Amendment.

The current identified Ground Water Contaminants of concern (COCs) are as follows:

- (1) Benzene
- (2) Trichloroethylene (TCE)
- (3) Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)
- (4) Vinyl Chloride (VC)
- (5) Chloroform
- (6) Tertiary-Butyl Alcohol (TBA)
- (7) Naphthalene
- (8) Acetone
- (9) 1,2- Dichloroethylene (DCA)

Record of Decision

The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on March 24, 1988. A ROD Amendment is scheduled for completion in 2012

Community Involvement

- Community Involvement Plan: Developed 4/87, revised 4/89
- Open houses and workshops: 5/87, 8/90, 2/91, 8/91 (by PRPs), 5/93, 4/95
- Original Proposed Plan Fact Sheet and Public Meeting: 1/88.
- Original ROD Fact Sheet: 4/88
- Milestone Fact Sheets: 4/87, 7&8/87 (by PRPs), 10/88, 1/89, 8&9/89, 3&4/90, 7&8/90, & 11/90
- Commemorative event conducted with TNRCC, PRPs on 4/95
- Citizens on-site mailing list: 558
- Information Repository: Crosby Public Library, 135 Hare Road, Crosby, TX 77532

Technical Assistance Grant

- Availability Notice: 4/88, Re-advertised 8/17/90 and 8/31/90
- Letters of Intent Received: (1) French Limited/Sikes Disposal Environmental Relief Committee - 4/25/88 (withdrawn) and (2) Barrett-Crosby Civic League - 8/21/90
- Final Application Received: 8/26/91
- Grant Award: 3/1/92
- Current Status: TAG closed 1998.

Site Contacts

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