

SAN JACINTO RIVER WASTE PITS

Harris County, Texas

EPA Region 6
EPA ID# TXN000606611
Site ID: 0606611

Contact: Stephen Tzhone, (214) 665-8409
State Congressional District: 2 and 29
Updated: June 2009



Current Status

The EPA is in the process of investigating parties associated with the site who may be liable for the costs of remedying the release or threat of release of hazardous substances.

In addition, the EPA is designing a comprehensive sampling plan in coordination with federal and state trustees and working with the Corps of Engineers to develop an overall watershed management strategy.

Benefits

The site has been finalized on the National Priorities List.

National Priorities Listing (NPL) History

Proposal Date: 9/17/2007
Final Listing Date: 3/19/2008

Site Description

Location: The site is located on the western bank of the San Jacinto River near the City of Houston, immediately north of the Interstate Highway 10 bridge. The site occupies a 20.6 acre tract of land currently owned by Virgil C. McGinnes Trustee and is bounded on the south by Interstate Highway 10, on the east by the San Jacinto River main channel, and on the north and west by shallow water off the River's main channel.

History: The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department referred the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on April 14, 2005. The site consist a 20.6 acre tract of land currently owned by Virgil C. McGinnes Trustee, including three former on-site disposal pits that are approximately 8.4 acres in total size. These pits historically received wastes from paper mill activities. Currently, the site is inactive, and portions of the three former on-site disposal pits are underwater in the San Jacinto River.

Site Map



Wastes And Volumes

Wastes and Volumes and the nature and extent of the contamination will be completed during the Remedial Investigation.

Health Considerations

The primary hazardous substances that have been documented at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site are polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and polychlorinated dibenzofurans. Samples collected in the disposal pits and in the San Jacinto River have dioxin concentrations as high as 70,000 parts per trillion. Fish tissue samples have been collected by the Texas Department of Fish and Wildlife, and dioxin has been found in both fish and crab tissue samples above a health based benchmark.

Sediment, water, and tissue samples collected in the vicinity of the impoundments show elevated levels of dioxins. A consumption advisory based on dioxin is in place on this segment of the watershed. The current advisory recommends that adults eat no more than one meal per month caught from the advisory area, and suggests that women of childbearing age and children not consume any blue crabs or fish from the advisory area.

Record of Decision

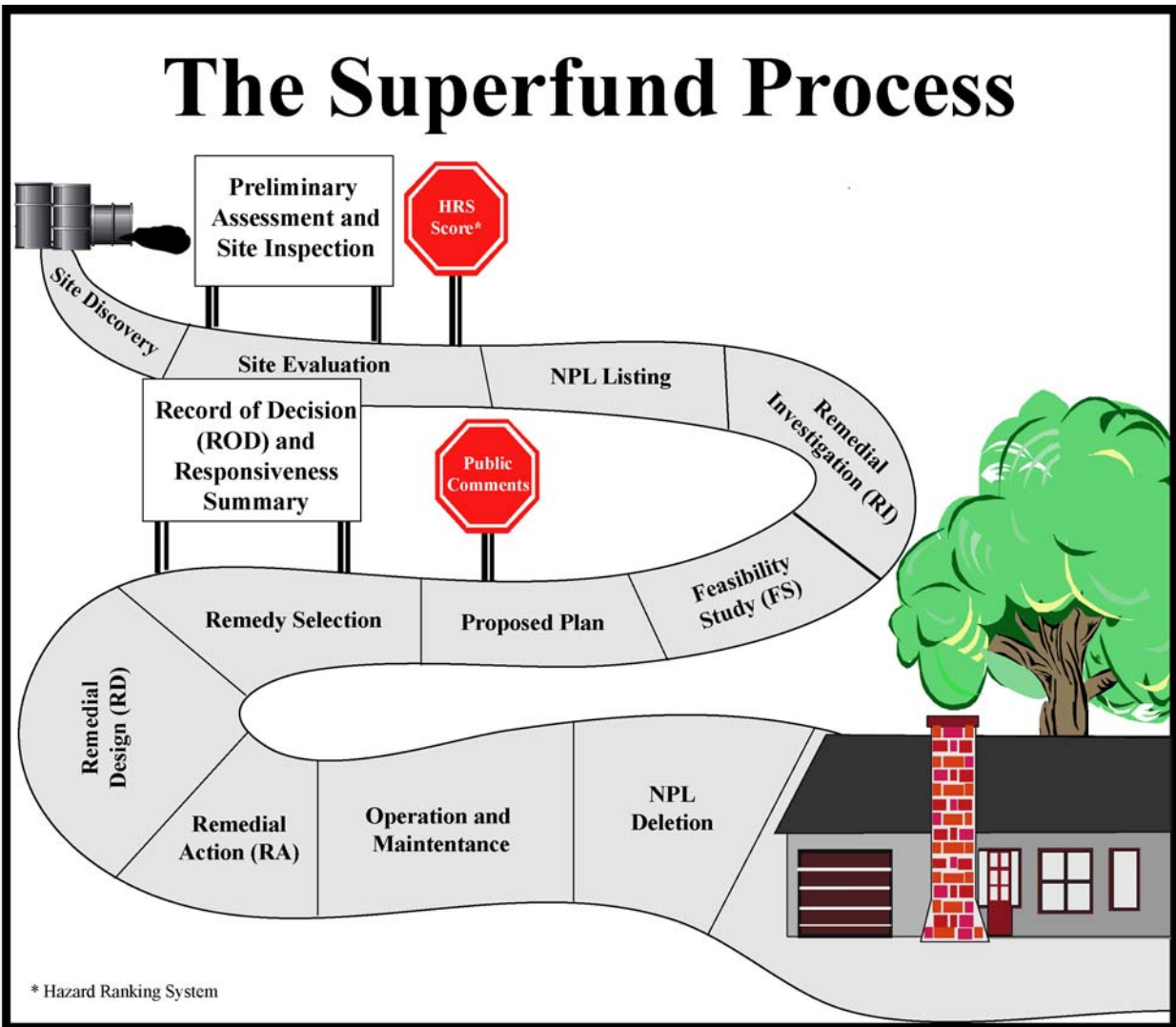
A Record of Decision will be completed during the Remedy Selection.

Operations and Maintenance

Operations and Maintenance activities will be completed after the Remedial Action.

Community Involvement

A formal meeting to solicit public input will be held during the Proposed Plan.



Site Contacts

EPA Remedial Project Manager:
Texas State Project Manager:
EPA Site Attorney:

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(214) 665-2157

EPA Regional Public Liaison: Donn Walters (214) 665-6483

Site Information Repository: Pasadena Public Library (713) 477-0276
1201 Jeff Ginn Memorial Dr.
Pasadena, TX 77506

EPA Toll Free Region 6 Superfund Information Line: (800) 533-3508

EPA Region 6 Freedom of Information Act Online Request Form:
<http://www.epa.gov/region6/6md/foia/foiaform.htm>

EPA Region 6 Contact Us Online Request Form:
<http://www.epa.gov/region6/r6coment.htm>