

# STATE MARINE OF PORT ARTHUR SUPERFUND SITE

## Port Arthur, Jefferson County, Texas

### SITE STATUS SUMMARY

EPA Region 6  
EPA ID: TXD099801102  
SITE ID: 0602444  
U.S. Congressional District: 36

Contact: Rafael Casanova, P.G. (214) 665-7437

Summary Updated: March 2013



### Background

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The State Marine of Port Arthur Superfund Site (hereinafter "SMPA" or "the Site"), a former barge-cleaning operation and municipal landfill, occupied a 17-acre industrial tract of land located approximately 4.5 miles east-northeast of the City of Port Arthur on Old Yacht Club Road on Pleasure Islet. Pleasure Islet is a peninsula located approximately 0.5 miles southwest of the mouth of the Neches River. The Site is bordered by the Palmer Barge Line Superfund Site (hereinafter "PBL Site") to the north, by Old Yacht Club Road to the west, by undeveloped property to the south, and Sabine Lake to the east.

Pleasure Islet is a manmade landmass consisting of dredge spoils generated during the construction and maintenance of the Sabine-Neches canal, also called the Intercoastal Waterway. The canal was constructed between 1898 and approximately 1920 in the vicinity of Sabine Lake and the Neches River, between the current Site location and the mainland. Between 1955 and 1957, a portion of the canal along the western side of Pleasure Islet was abandoned, and a new canal was cut along the eastern and southern sides of Pleasure Islet. Pleasure Islet was created when a land bridge was constructed across the abandoned portions of the canal, between the northern tip of Pleasure Island and the mainland. Vehicle access to the Site is limited to a single dirt road starting at the western Site border along Old Yacht Club Road.

Ownership of Pleasure Islet was transferred from the State of Texas to the City of Port Arthur, Texas, in 1955. Development of the islet and the Site began after 1957, following construction of the land bridge across the abandoned portions of the Sabine-Neches Canal. In approximately 1963, the City of Port Arthur began municipal landfill operations in the northern and central portions of the islet. Initially, the landfill consisted of a burn pit in which wastes were incinerated. By December 1969, burn operations were discontinued, and the landfill was used solely for disposal of wastes. Between 1969 and 1972, landfill disposal operations expanded to include the central and northern portions of the Site and the property north of the Site. In December 1974, the City of Port Arthur closed the landfill in accordance with Texas Department of Health regulations, which required covering the entire landfill with approximately two feet of fine-grained fill material. The cover material is believed to be dredge spoils that originated on the islet. Site operations began about 1973 under the names of State Welding and Marine Works and the Golden Triangle Shipyard. The construction of wastewater impoundments in the northwestern portion of the Site was also reported. The impoundments were reportedly unlined earthen dike areas approximately two acres in size used to store oil and wastewater from barge-cleaning operations. Inspection reports indicate that wastewater from the barge-cleaning operations was directed to two aboveground storage tanks and then pumped to the wastewater impoundments. Some of the oil from the tanks was diverted to an old ship docked on the land that was used as an oil/water separator. Oil from the separator was collected for reuse, potentially on the Site. The Site is currently being operated by the owner as an

industrial property for metal scrapping activities. The following photos (circa 2005) show the condition of the Site prior to the Removal Action:



## Current Status

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The EPA issued a “No Further Action is Necessary” Record of Decision in April 2007. This decision was based on a Removal Action, which addressed the materials that posed a risk to human and ecological receptors, and the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments, that determined there was no risk to human health and the environment. Institutional controls (*i.e.*, deed restrictions) are in place and have been recorded at the local county offices to ensure that the Site’s use remains industrial/commercial.

The EPA proposed to delete the Site from the National Priorities List (NPL). A “Notice of Intent to Delete” and a “Direct Final Notice of Deletion” were published in the Federal Register (FR) on December 6, 2011. The deletion became effective on February 6, 2012. Deletion of the Site from the NPL does not preclude further response actions under Superfund.

The “First Five-Year Review (FYR) Report” for the Site has been completed and is available for review at the Site’s information repository listed in the “Community Involvement” section of this “Site Status Summary.” The purpose of the FYR is to ensure that the final remedy for the Site remains protective of human health and the environment.

## Benefits

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The Site can now be developed for industrial/commercial purposes. Institutional Controls, in the form of a deed restriction, have been recorded in the county records that prohibit residential land use.

## National Priorities Listing History

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The National Priorities List (NPL) is a list of national priorities among the known or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the United States. The NPL is intended primarily to guide the EPA in determining which sites warrant further investigation to assess the nature and extent of public health and environmental risks associated with a release of hazardous substances.

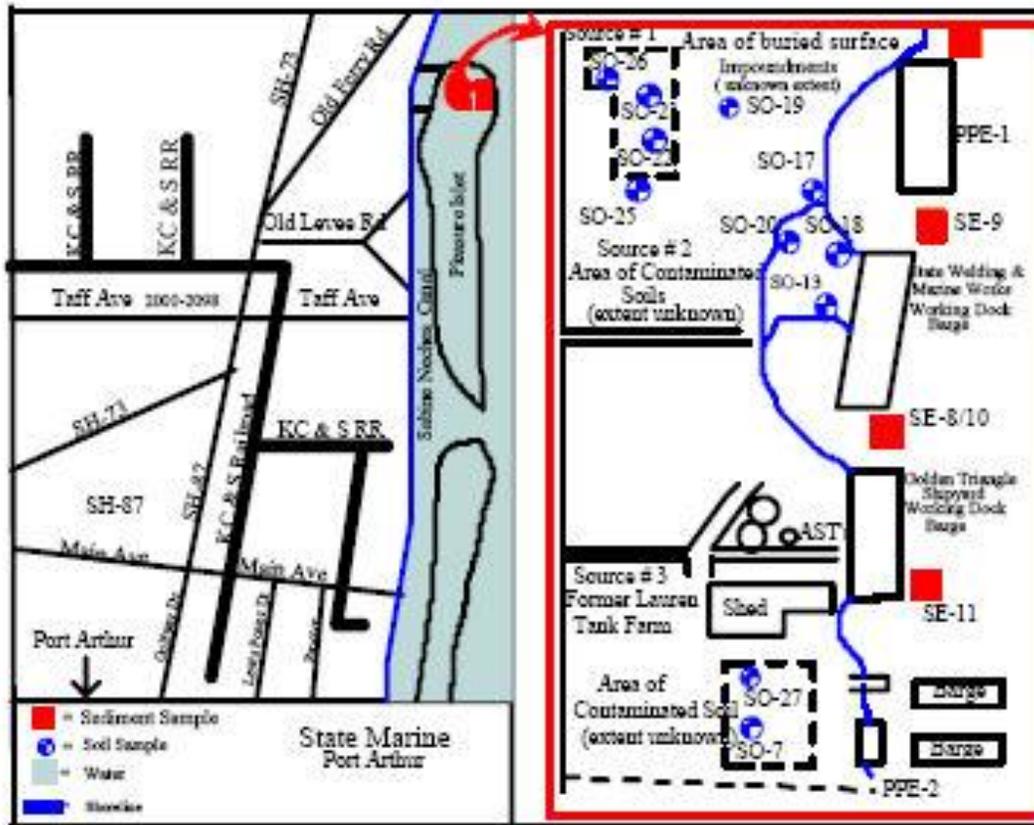
Proposal Date: March 06, 1998  
Final Listing Date: July 28, 1998

Population: Approximately 61,000 people live in the City of Port Arthur.

Setting: The owner is currently using the Site as an industrial property and land use surrounding the Site is industrial.

Hydrology: The shallow ground water at the Site is not considered a potential drinking water source. The shallow ground water resulted from the adjacent shipping channel dredge materials that were used to build the island where the Site is located.

## Site Map



## Wastes and Volumes

In 2001, a Remedial Investigation was conducted at the Site to determine the nature and extent of contamination present at the Site. The EPA completed a Time Critical Removal Action in August 2001 to remove source materials stored on-site. Activities included the removal and off-site disposal of waste materials, water treatment, oil/water separation, and stabilization and off-site disposal of sludge materials. This Removal Action addressed the materials that posed a risk to human and ecological receptors.

Twenty-two (22) aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) of varying sizes, several oil pits, 27 drums, and debris materials scattered throughout the Site were identified during the Removal Action. Materials removed and disposed off-site included 26,000 gallons of waste oil, water, diesel fuel, and kerosene; 3,800 gallons of heavy sludge; 27 drums; 28 compressed gas cylinders; and 14 batteries. After disposing of liquids and sludge materials from the ASTs, the tanks were decontaminated utilizing a degreaser solution and a pressure washer. The decontamination rinse water was disposed off-site.

## Health Considerations

Based on the Time Critical Removal Action and subsequent Site investigations, the Site does not pose a risk to human health or the environment. The Site risk analysis was based on an industrial/commercial future land use scenario.

## Record of Decision

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The EPA's Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on April 27, 2007. Based on the results of the Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment, Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment, and the EPA's Time Critical Removal Action, the EPA's Selected Remedy identified in the ROD for the SMPA Site was "No Further Action is Necessary." An institutional control, in the form of a Restrictive Covenant, was selected to ensure that the current and future use of the Site remains for industrial or commercial purposes. The "No Further Action is Necessary" remedy is based on an industrial/commercial land use scenario.

## Community Involvement

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The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Report and the Proposed Plan for the Site were made available to the public on July 27, 2005. The notice of availability of these documents was published in the Port Arthur News on July 28, 2005. The EPA established an information repository near the Site so that the public could review the administrative record located at the Port Arthur Library in Port Arthur, Texas. A public comment period was held on the Proposed Plan from July 27, 2005, to August 25, 2005. The EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality conducted a public meeting on August 11, 2005, at the West Grove Education Center in Port Arthur to discuss the Proposed Plan and receive comments from the community.

## Site Contacts

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### **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**

Project Manager: Assignment Pending

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