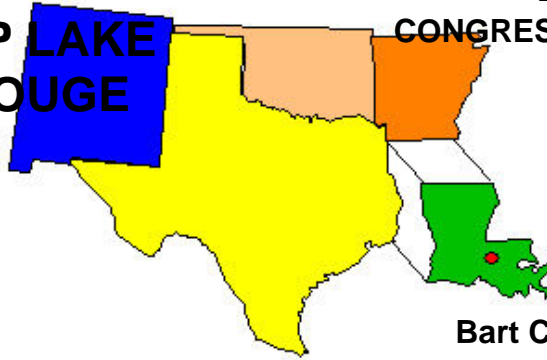


DEVIL'S SWAMP LAKE EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LOUISIANA



EPA REGION 6

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 06

EPA ID#: LAD981155872
Site ID#: 0600652

Contact:
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Updated: December 2009

Current Status

The site was proposed to the NPL list in the *Federal Register* on March 8, 2004. The EPA established a public comment period and will make a final listing decision after considering the relevant comments if the site continues to meet the requirements for listing.

The EPA continues to evaluate the responses submitted by some Potential Responsible Parties (PRPs) as part of the enforcement process. Special Notice Letters were sent to additional PRPs in October 2007. A meeting with community representatives was held on April 23, 2009 at the Alsen Recreation Center.

The EPA, in cooperation with the Local Emergency Planning Committee, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, is planning to conduct an educational session on the release of hazardous materials due to natural disasters or facility accidents, emergency response planning/procedures and the role of communities in such events. In addition, EPA is working with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals to bring various local health care providers together for a Health Fair in the community of Alsen.

This Health Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2009 – 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. - at the Alsen Recreation Center located at 601 Old Rafe Meyer Road in Baton Rouge, LA. More than 26 local health agencies will provide basic health screening as well as a variety of information booths. There is no charge to attend.

Benefits

The identification of the site for the NPL is intended to guide the EPA in:

- determining which sites warrant further investigation to assess the nature and extent of the human health and environmental risks associated with a site.

National Priorities Listing (NPL) History

Proposed Date: March 8, 2004
Final Date: Pending

Location:

- Devil's Swamp consists of a large flood plain area near Scotlandville, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, about ten miles north of the City of Baton Rouge.
- Devil's Swamp is also a freshwater wetland covering approximately 31 square kilometers (12

square miles) of land along the Mississippi River.

- Within the swamp, the “Oxbow” or “U” shaped [Devil's Swamp Lake](#) is approximately 0.75 miles (4,200 feet) in length, 1/12 miles (400 feet) wide, some 20 feet deep at its deepest parts, and covers approximately 64 acres.
- Devil's Swamp Lake is characterized as a man-made lake, resulting from the construction of Baton Rouge harbor in 1973.

Population:

- Approximately 1598 people within two miles.
- City of Baton Rouge (population 602,894 in 2002)(Metro statistical area).
- Parish of East Baton Rouge (population 412,952 in 2000)(U.S. Census Bureau).
- Major residential areas include Scotlandville, and residential communities along Highway 61, Scenic Highway, east of Devil's Swamp. This includes the Alsen Community.

Setting:

- Industrial facilities have discharged to the swamp since the 1960's and the 1970's.
- The swamp to the north of the lake is characterized by numerous small open ponds and water tupelo trees. This 262-acre area extends approximately 1.0 miles (5,500 feet) to the Devil's Swamp Lake.
- The swamp to the south of the lake is characterized also by numerous small open ponds and water tupelo trees. This 684-acre area extends approximately 2.2 miles (11,500 feet) to the Mississippi River and is subject to frequent backwater encroachment from the river.

Photos: [2005](#)

Principal Pollutants:

- Sampling conducted by the State in 1980's identified the presence of Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the lake and in a drainage ditch or outfall canal leading to the former Rollins facility. PCBs are a category or family of chemical compounds.
- Concentrations of PCBs have been observed in several samples collected by the EPA during a 1993 Expanded Site Inspection. Some samples show concentrations of PCBs congeners of up to 5.2 mg/kg of Aroclor-1248, 6.4 mg/kg of Aroclor-1254 and 1.6 mg/kg of Aroclor-1260. Congeners are well-defined chemical compounds in the PCB category.
- The extent of contamination and volume of contamination have not been established

Human Health Considerations

- Several Preliminary Assessments and Site Inspections were completed by the EPA. More recently, in 1995, the EPA completed a Screening Level Risk Assessment (SLRA). This screening report indicated a potential for adverse risk.
- Based on the limited information available in 1995, it appears that contaminants could be posing adverse effects to biota utilizing the site, thus, the EPA initiated a comprehensive risk assessment to further collect more information, evaluate the site and the potential risk.
- In 1997, the EPA conducted sampling activities during high and low flow conditions. Data collected was analyzed and validated in 1998.
- A Human Health Risk Assessment and an Ecological Risk Assessment were completed in early 1999 by the EPA.
- The Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments have shown that concentrations of PCBs can produce unacceptable risks to human health and the environment.

Record of Decision (ROD)

- Signed: No record of decision yet.

Site Contacts

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