

# EPA ORGANIZATION

Internal deliberative pre-decisional - FOR USE BY 2024 PRESIDENT-ELECT TRANSITION TEAM MEMBERS ONLY

## ISSUE SUMMARY:

### Fifth Ward/Kashmere Gardens UPRR Site, Houston, Texas

The Fifth Ward/Kashmere Gardens UPRR Site (aka UPRR Houston Wood Preserving Works (HWPW) Site) is a former creosote facility located in an EJ community in the Greater Fifth Ward, Houston, TX. In February 2023, EPA entered into a CERCLA Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent with UPRR. The order compels UPRR to conduct a removal site evaluation for creosote related contamination (dioxin/furans, SVOC, VOCs) in the neighborhood nearest the former HWPW Site.

## KEY POINTS:

The soil sampling for the Removal Site Evaluation will be completed in October 2024. EPA targeted 342 properties for sampling but only 181 property owners agreed to participate. Only properties that have been sampled will be eligible for potential cleanup or other follow-up. EPA expects to make a decision regarding cleanup in 2025. In 2024, a Community Advisory Group was established and includes 22 local community members. EPA hosts 2-3 public meetings each year to keep the community informed on site progress. The next public meeting is scheduled for 10/29/2024. EPA maintains the following Fifth Ward/Kashmere Gardens UPRR website: <https://fifth-ward-kashmere-gardens-uprr-epa.hub.arcgis.com/>

## ONGOING/UPCOMING REVIEWS FOR FY2024:

Current and upcoming activities include: (1) Sampling for the vapor intrusion (VI) investigation is complete. EPA has approved UPRR's interim VI report and posted it on EPA's website. (2) Soil sampling will be completed in October 2024. Soil sampling includes a background study, onsite samples from the former creosote plant, and residential and high access area properties in the neighborhood near the site. (3) EPA hosts 2-3 public meetings each year to keep the community informed on site progress. The next public meeting is scheduled for 10/29/2024. EPA also hosts monthly open office hours at the EPA Field Office in the Fifth Ward. Office hours are come-and-go and the community is welcome to visit and talk with EPA. (4) The Community Advisory Group (CAG) holds meetings every month. The CAG invites EPA to attend the meetings and focuses their agenda on specific site-related topics. The remaining CAG meeting dates for 2024 are: 10/17, 11/21, and 12/19.

## KEY EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS:

<input type="checkbox"/> Congress	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> States	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Federal Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> NGO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Governments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public			

## MOVING FORWARD:

EPA expects a final approved Removal Site Evaluation Report by mid-year 2025. Additionally, EPA will complete a human health risk assessment to determine if there is a risk to people's health which warrants a response action (cleanup). An EPA decision regarding next steps, including potential cleanup, should be made by the end of FY25.