

# MANY DIVERSIFIED INTERESTS, INC. SUPERFUND SITE

## Houston, Harris County, Texas

### SITE STATUS SUMMARY

EPA Region 6

EPA ID: TXD008083404

Site ID: 0605008

State Congressional District: 18

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

Summary Updated: January 2012



### Background

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The Many Diversified Interests, Inc. Superfund Site (hereinafter “MDI” or “the Site”), a former foundry (Operable Unit 1), occupies a 35-acre tract of land located at 3617 Baer Street in Houston, Texas. The Site is located approximately 2 miles east of downtown Houston and 1 block south of Interstate Highway 10 in an area of mixed industrial and residential land use. This part of Houston is known as the “Fifth Ward.” The MDI property is bounded by Hare Street to the north, National Vinegar Company and Press Street to the east, the former Texas & New Orleans railroad right-of-way beyond the easement to the south, and Bringham Street to the west. Residential areas are adjacent to the east, west, and north sides of the Site. Industrial areas are adjacent to the south side of the Site. The Site includes the residential yards/crawlspace and High Access Areas (HAAs, Operable Units 2 and 3) surrounding the former foundry. HAAs include residential yards or properties, schools, child day care centers, playgrounds, and churches that surround the fenced boundaries of the Site. The Site was divided into Operable Units (OU) to effectively manage the Site.

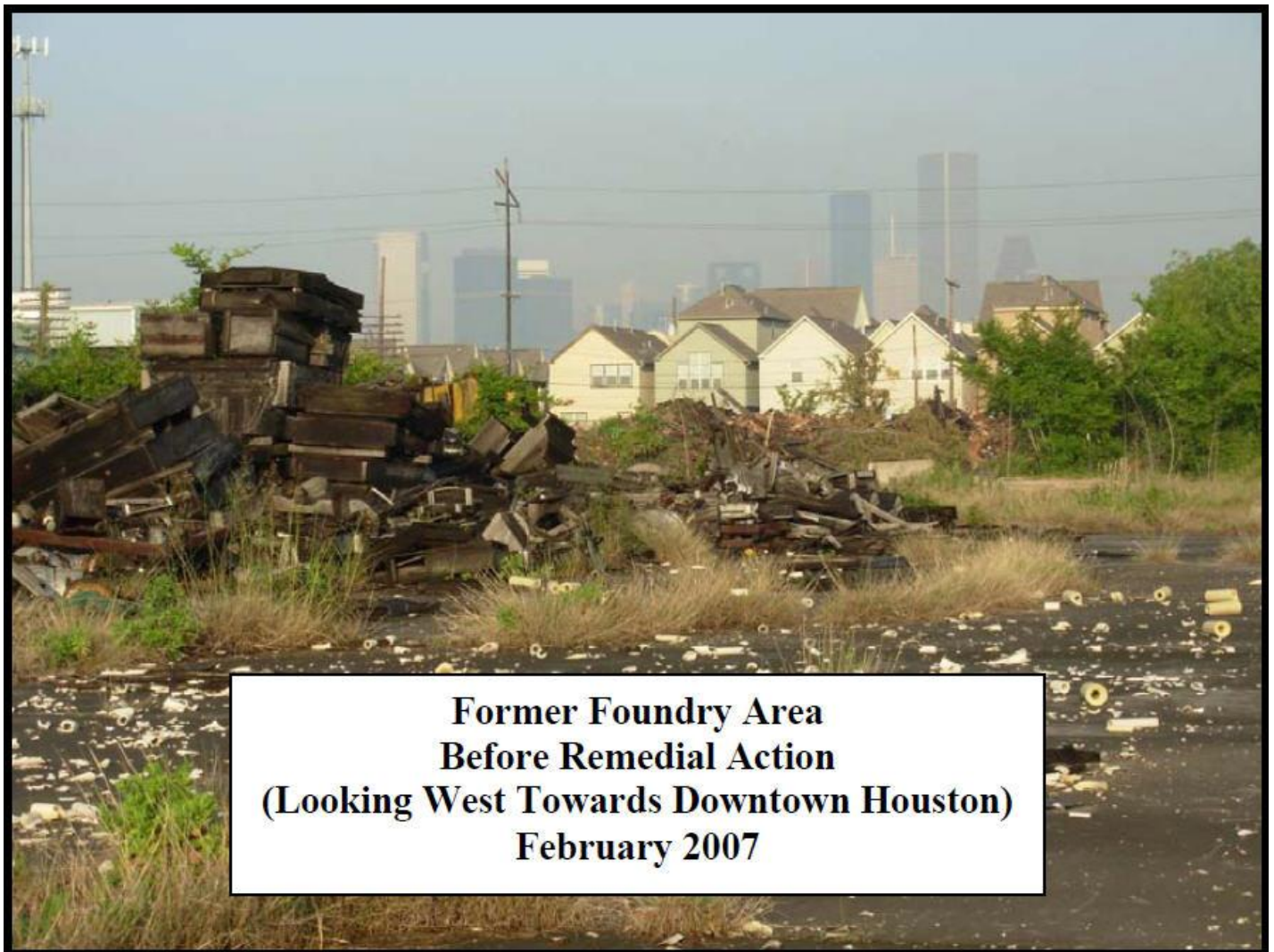
In 1926, Texas Electric Steel Casting Company (TESCO) began operations as a metal casting foundry at the MDI Site. A second foundry was built on the eastern portion of the Site during the latter half of the year 1970. TESCO primarily manufactured specialty molded parts such as large wheels, tracks, and mining equipment. In 1990, MDI bought the TESCO note from Texas Commerce Bank. TESCO ceased operations in February 1991, and MDI foreclosed on the property. MDI reopened as the San Jacinto Foundry (SJF) on March 1, 1991. SJF continued operations until about June 1, 1992. MDI filed for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas (Houston District) on May 20, 1992.

The EPA believes that the air emissions from the former foundry, which contained particles of lead, may have caused the on-site (OU 1) and off-site (OUs 2 and 3) soils to become contaminated through the air deposition of these particles. Foundry practices may have also contributed to the on-site lead contamination of the soils. Other probable sources of lead contamination that may have impacted the on- and off-site soils may include lead-based paint and historical deposition from vehicular lead-based fuel emissions, among other possible sources.

On May 26, 2006, the prospective purchaser for the Site (OU 1), Clinton Gregg Investments, Ltd., signed an “Agreed Order on Consent and Covenant Not to Sue” (Agreed Order). This is the first-ever agreement in the nation by a non-liable party to clean up a Superfund Site. The prospective purchaser agreed to implement the remedy identified in the Record of Decision (ROD) for OU 1 (On-Site Soils and Ground Water). This agreement will save the EPA and taxpayers \$6.6 million, the EPA’s estimated cost to implement the remedy. The remedy consists of, among other actions, cleanup of the soils to residential

standards. The EPA published a Federal Register (FR) Notice on June 1, 2006. The FR Notice solicited public review and comment on the EPA's agreement with the prospective purchaser. The public comment period ended on July 3, 2006. As requested by the public, the EPA held a public meeting, on August 7, 2006; (see the "Community Involvement" section) to discuss the EPA's proposed decision not to sue the prospective purchaser. The Agreed Order became final on September 29, 2006. The Remedial Action for the soils is complete and was approved by the EPA on December 12, 2008.

The following photos show the condition of the Site before and after the cleanup of the Site under the Remedial Action:



**Former Foundry Area  
Before Remedial Action  
(Looking West Towards Downtown Houston)  
February 2007**



## **Current Status**

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The EPA is currently monitoring the ground water (*i.e.*, monitored natural attenuation) at the Site according to the ROD for Operable Unit 1 and an agreement with the purchaser of the Site. On February 4, 2010, a contractor for the purchaser of the Site, requested that the EPA delete the soils and the 8-acre western ground water portion of Operable Unit 1 in order to facilitate the redevelopment of the 35-acre Site. The Federal Register Notices, announcing the proposed partial deletion of the Site, were published in the Federal Register on June 15, 2010. These notices announced a thirty-day public comment period which began on June 15, 2010 and ended on July 15, 2010. The partial deletion became effective on August 16, 2010, since the EPA received no adverse comments from the public before the end of the public comment period. This partial Site deletion does not preclude future actions under Superfund. The agreement with the purchaser of the Site is discussed in more detail in the "Record of Decision" section of this summary. Additionally, the "First Five-Year Review (FYR) Report" for the Site is currently being drafted and is due on or before May 3, 2012. The EPA has published a public notice in the Houston Chronicle announcing the start of the FYR.

## **Benefits**

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The removal of lead-contaminated soils from 155 residential yards in Operable Units 2 and 3, including an elementary school and public housing complex, prevents those children and adults from being exposed to lead.

The thirty-five (35) acres within the Site's fenced boundaries (Operable Unit 1) can now be redeveloped for residential and/or commercial land use since the selected Remedial Action that addressed the lead-contaminated soils has been completed.

## National Priorities List 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: September 29, 1998.

Final Listing Date: January 15, 1999.

**Population:** According to Census data from the year 2000, there were 3,952 persons living within ½ mile of the MDI Site, with a minority percentage of 98.9%.

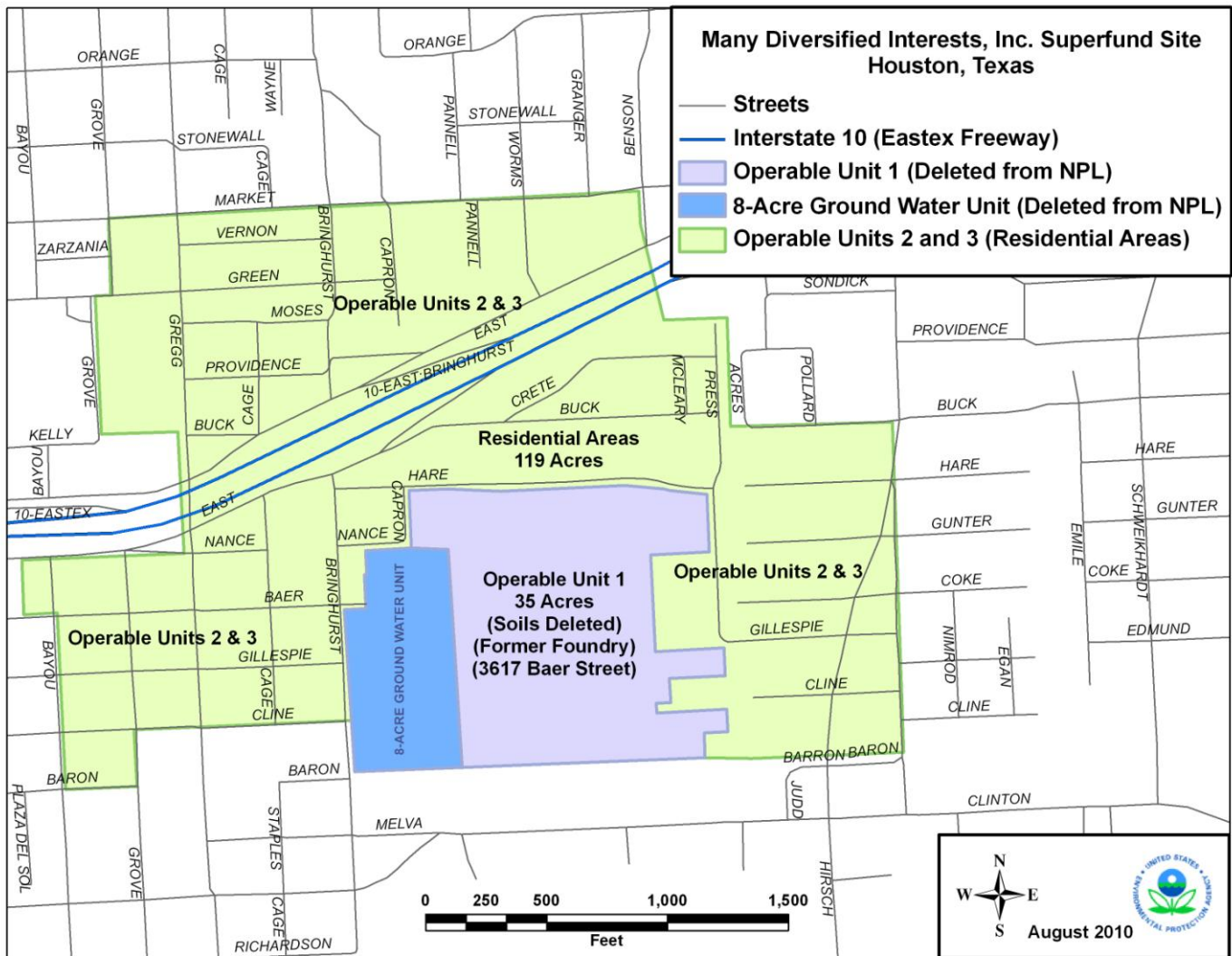
**Setting:** In 1926, Texas Electric Steel Casting Company (TESCO) began operations as a metal casting foundry at the MDI Site. A second foundry was built on the eastern portion of the Site during the latter half of the year 1970. TESCO primarily manufactured specialty molded parts such as large wheels, tracks, and mining equipment. In 1990, MDI bought the TESCO note from Texas Commerce Bank. TESCO ceased operations in February 1991, and MDI foreclosed on the property. MDI reopened as the San Jacinto Foundry (SJF) on March 1, 1991. SJF continued operations until about June 1, 1992. MDI filed for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas (Houston District) on May 20, 1992.

The EPA believes that the air emissions from the former foundry, which contained particles of lead, may have caused the on-site (Operable Unit 1) and off-site (Operable Units 2 and 3) soils to become contaminated through the air deposition of these particles. Foundry practices may have also contributed to the on-site lead contamination of the soils. Other probable sources of lead contamination that may have impacted the on- and off-site soils may include lead-based paint and historical deposition from vehicular lead-based fuel emissions, among other possible sources.

**Hydrology:** Surface water features at the Site, prior to the cleanup of the Site, included the North and South Ponds. Both of these ponds appeared to be remnants of the old Ingraham Gully, which existed at the Site prior to the installation of the underground concrete box culvert. Whereas standing water was prevalent in the South Pond, the North Pond was typically dry except immediately after a significant rainfall. The MDI Site is essentially flat, with a gentle slope to the west. Surface water flowed to the South Pond on the southern half of the Site, and towards the center of the Site and the North Pond on the northern half of the Site.

Ground water flow at the Site was controlled by the interaction between the North Pond, the foundry sands, and the native soils. A shallow water-bearing zone was identified as the water table aquifer that occurs in the native materials. The static water surface of this zone is typically encountered between 22 and 26 feet below the ground surface.

## Site Map



## Wastes

The wastes or chemicals that were investigated during the RI/FS for Operable Unit 1 included lead, manganese, molybdenum, benzo(a)pyrene, "Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons" and asbestos. The chemical investigated for Operable Units 2 and 3 included lead.

## Health Considerations

A Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) estimates the current and possible future risks if no action were taken to clean up a site. The EPA's Superfund risk assessors determine how threatening a hazardous waste site is to human health and the environment. They seek to determine a safe level for each potentially dangerous contaminant present (e.g., a level at which ill health effects are unlikely and the probability of cancer is very small). Living near a Superfund site doesn't automatically place a person at risk, that depends on the chemicals present and the ways people are exposed to them. A HHRA has been performed for Operable Units (OUs) 1, 2, and 3.

## Carcinogens

For carcinogens, risks are generally expressed as the incremental probability of an individual developing cancer over a lifetime as a result of exposure to the carcinogen. These risks are probabilities that are expressed in scientific notation (e.g.,  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ ). An Excess Lifetime Cancer Risk (ELCR) of  $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$  indicates that an individual experiencing the Reasonable Maximum Exposure estimate has a 1 in 1,000,000 chance of developing cancer as a result of Site-related exposure. This is referred to as an ELCR because it would be in addition to the risks of cancer individuals face from other causes such as smoking or exposure to too much sun. The chance of an individual developing cancer from all other causes has been estimated to be as high as one in three. The EPA's generally acceptable risk range for Site-related exposures is  $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$  to  $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$ , or a 1 in 10,000 to 1 in 1,000,000 chance, respectively, of an individual developing cancer.

## Noncarcinogens

For noncarcinogens (systemic toxicants), potential effects are evaluated by comparing an exposure level over a specified time period (e.g., exposure duration) with a reference dose (RfD) derived for a similar exposure period. An RfD represents a level that an individual may be exposed to that is not expected to cause any harmful effect. The ratio of exposure to toxicity is called a hazard quotient (HQ). An HQ of less than 1 indicates that a receptor's dose of a single contaminant is less than the RfD, and that toxic noncarcinogenic effects from that chemical are unlikely. The Hazard Index (HI) is generated by adding the HQs for all COCs that affect the same target organ (e.g., liver) or that act through the same mechanism of action within a medium or across all media to which a given individual may reasonably be exposed. An HI of less than 1 indicates that, based on the sum of all HQ's from different contaminants and exposure routes, toxic noncarcinogenic effects from all contaminants are unlikely. An HI greater than 1 indicates that Site-related exposures may present a risk to human health.

## Lead

Lead (Pb) does not have a nationally approved reference dose, slope factor, or other accepted toxicological factor which can be used to assess risk; therefore, standard risk assessment methods, such as those used for carcinogens and noncarcinogens, cannot be used to evaluate the health risks associated with Pb contamination. Instead, the "Integrated Exposure Uptake Biokinetic (IEUBK) Model for Pb in Children" was used to evaluate the risks posed to young children as a result of the Pb contamination in the residential yards and HAAs of the Site. Site-specific data was used in the IEUBK Model to predict a Pb soil level that will be protective of children and adults. Young children can be exposed to Pb by several media including air, soil, water, dust, diet, and Pb-based paint. The IEUBK Model predicts the probability that children exposed to Pb-containing media will have blood-Pb concentrations exceeding a health-based level of concern.

The EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response states in the August 1998 directive that the risk reduction goal is to attempt to limit exposure to soil Pb levels such that a typical (or hypothetical) child or group of similarly exposed children would have an estimated risk of no more than 5% of exceeding a 10 microgram/deciliter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ) blood-Pb level. This blood-Pb level is established by the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The directive also states that the EPA recommends that a soil Pb concentration be determined so that a typical child or group of children exposed to Pb at this level would have an estimated risk of no more than 5% of exceeding a blood-Pb level of  $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ .

## Operable Unit 1 (On-Site Soils and Ground Water):

The Selected Remedy for the ground water at OU 1 is protective of human health and the environment. Reduction of the B(a)P concentration in the ground water, by source removal and Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA), to below the drinking water Maximum Contaminant Level will return the ground water to beneficial use and will reduce the cancer risk level of  $1.0 \times 10^{-3}$  to below the acceptable risk level of  $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$ . Reduction of the TPH concentration in the ground water to below the Protective Concentration

Level of 4.1 milligrams/liter (mg/L), equivalent to an HI of 1.1, will also be protective of human health and the environment.

The Selected Remedy for the soil at OU 1 is also protective of human health and the environment. The cleanup level of 500 milligrams/kilogram (mg/kg) for lead in soils meets the EPA's goal of limiting soil lead levels such that a typical (or hypothetical) child or group of similarly exposed children would have an estimated risk of no more than 5% exceeding the 10 µg/dL blood-lead level established by the CDC. Lead affects multiple target systems in adults and children; however, young children (generally seven years of age and younger) are at greatest risk from the effects of lead. Lead can cause damage to the brain and nervous system; slowed growth; and behavioral, learning, and hearing problems.

Institutional Controls (ICs) have been implemented to prevent exposure of human receptors to ground water contaminated with manganese and molybdenum. ICs will also be used during MNA for B(a)P and TPH.

#### Operable Units 2 and 3 (Off-Site Residential Yards and High Access Areas, and Crawlspace):

The HHRA for OUs 2 and 3 focused on the residual risk remaining after the removal actions for both children and adults in a residential setting (e.g., children ingesting soil while playing in the area) and on those residential yards and high access areas, within the study area, not addressed under a removal action (e.g., those areas with lead concentrations less than the conservative practical cleanup level of 463 mg/kg). The HHRA for OU 3 also assessed the crawlspaces beneath the houses. The EPA believes that the Selected Remedy of "no further remedial action" for residential yards is the appropriate decision since previous removal actions have eliminated the existing and potential risks to human health and the environment so that no further action is necessary. Further, the EPA believes that the Selected Remedy for the OU 3 crawlspaces of "no action warranted" is appropriate since the Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment concluded that current or potential future Site conditions pose no unacceptable risks to human health or the environment so that no action is warranted.

## **Record of Decision**

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The final remedy (cleanup alternative) for a site is published in a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD is the official documentation of how the EPA considered the remedial alternatives and why the EPA selected the final remedy. Before a ROD can be finalized, the EPA must provide a Proposed Plan for public review and comment. This plan summarizes the remedial alternatives presented in the analysis of the RI/FS and identifies the preferred alternative, the rationale for that preferred alternative, and documents that support the EPA's decision.

#### Operable Unit 1 (On-Site Soils and Ground Water):

The EPA issued a ROD for OU 1 on July 30, 2004. The ROD for OU 1 can be viewed at the following internet link:

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/rods/fulltext/r0604098.pdf>

Briefly, the major components of the Selected Remedy implemented through a Remedial Action were:

- a. Excavation and Treatment (solidification/stabilization, if necessary) of approximately 13,600 cubic yards (yd<sup>3</sup>) of soils with lead concentrations equal to or greater than 500 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) to a maximum depth of 1.5 feet below ground surface (bgs), and approximately 3,000 yd<sup>3</sup> of soils stockpiled at the Site from a previous removal action will also be treated, if necessary. Transportation and Disposal (at a permitted off-site waste disposal facility) of the treated and untreated soils;

- b. Transportation and Disposal (at a permitted off-site waste disposal facility) of approximately 31,621 yd<sup>3</sup> of debris (nonhazardous debris, foundry sand, and slag), the Asbestos-Containing Material in the on-site building and scattered throughout the Site, and an Underground Storage Tank in the vicinity of Monitoring Well (MW) 20;
- c. Excavation and Disposal (at a permitted off-site waste disposal facility) of approximately 2,100 yd<sup>3</sup> of soils contaminated with benzo(a)pyrene, or other organics, at the MW-3 location; light nonaqueous-phase liquids at the MW-11 location; and Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons at the MW-20 location. Soil cleanup levels for these isolated source areas will be determined during the remedial design and remedial action for the Selected Remedy;
- d. Implementation of Monitored Natural Attenuation for the ground water, which includes source removal and Long-Term Monitoring for the ground water to ensure that constituents above cleanup goals are naturally attenuating; and
- e. Implementation of Institutional Controls for both the soils and ground water to prevent exposure to soil contamination above acceptable cleanup levels and to prevent exposure to contaminated ground water in the shallow water-bearing zone.

The MDI Site was a Superfund Reuse pilot site. In September 1999, the Mayor's Office of Environmental Policy (City of Houston) received a Superfund Redevelopment Initiative (SRI) Grant. The City of Houston was selected to receive one of 10 pilot grants being awarded nationwide under the EPA's innovative SRI. The City received \$100,000 to conduct a reuse assessment and public outreach to help determine how best to redevelop the former MDI property in the Fifth Ward. The MDI Citizen Advisory Group, in the "Reuse Assessment Report," recommended reuse of the site for mixed residential, organized recreational, and neighborhood-scale commercial uses.

On March 22, 2005, the bankruptcy trustee for the MDI property, represented by Waldron & Schneider, LLP, auctioned the 35 acres of property (OU 1) for a total sales price of \$7,897,539.

On May 26, 2006, the prospective purchaser for the Site, Clinton Gregg Investments, Ltd., signed an "Agreed Order on Consent and Covenant Not to Sue" (Agreed Order). This is the first-ever agreement in the nation by a non-liable party to clean up a Superfund Site. The prospective purchaser agrees to implement the remedy identified in the ROD for OU 1 (On-Site Soils and Ground Water). This agreement will save the EPA and taxpayers \$6.6 million, the EPA's estimated cost to implement the remedy. The remedy consists of, among other actions, cleanup of the soils to residential standards. The EPA published a Federal Register (FR) Notice on June 1, 2006. The FR Notice solicited public review and comment on the EPA's agreement with the prospective purchaser. The public comment period ended on July 3, 2006. As requested by the public, the EPA held a public meeting, on August 7, 2006, (see the "Community Involvement" section) to discuss the EPA's proposed decision not to sue the prospective purchaser. The Agreed Order became final on September 29, 2006. The Remedial Action for the soils is complete and was approved by the EPA on December 12, 2008. Monitoring of the ground water is continuing according to the approved work plan and with the EPA's oversight.

On February 4, 2010, a contractor for the purchaser of the Site, requested that the EPA delete the soils and the 8-acre western ground water portion of OU 1 in order to facilitate the redevelopment of the 35-acre Site. The Federal Register Notices, announcing the proposed partial deletion of the Site, were published in the Federal Register on June 15, 2010. These notices announced a thirty-day public comment period which began on June 15, 2010 and ended on July 15, 2010. The partial deletion became effective on August 16, 2010, since the EPA received no adverse comments from the public before the end of the public comment period. This partial Site deletion does not preclude future actions under Superfund. These Federal Register Notices and the documentation that the EPA used in making the proposed partial deletion determination are available for review at the local Site repositories listed in the "Community Involvement" section of this summary.

### Operable Unit 2 (Off-Site Residential Yards and High Access Areas):

The EPA issued a ROD for OU 2 on September 23, 2005. The EPA's final remedy decision for OU 2 was "no further action," since the previous yard removal actions eliminated the existing and potential risks to human health and the environment so that no further action was necessary. In 1998 and 1999, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC, now the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality [TCEQ]) performed a Removal Action at 89 residential yards and High Access Areas (HAAs). In November 2003 and June 2005, the EPA completed Removal Actions at 60 residential yards and HAAs, which included the Blanche Kelso Bruce Elementary School, Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center, and several churches. The purpose of the Removal Actions was to remove surface soil with concentrations of lead that equaled or exceeded the cleanup goal of 500 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) to reduce the exposure of children and adults to lead. The EPA believes that these Removal Actions addressed all of the residential yards and HAAs that could have been affected by the air emissions of particulates containing lead from the former foundry and for which the EPA was granted access for sampling.

### Operable Unit 3 (Residential Crawlspace and Those Residential Areas Not Addressed Under Operable Unit 2):

The EPA issued a ROD for OU 3 on August 31, 2009. The EPA's final remedy decision for OU 3 crawlspace was "no action warranted" since the Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment concluded that current or potential future Site conditions pose no unacceptable risks to human health or the environment so that no action is warranted. The final remedy decision for OU 3 residential yards was "no further action" since the previous removal actions eliminated the existing and potential risks to human health and the environment so that no further action was necessary. In April 2006 and 2009, the EPA completed removal actions at the northeastern portion of the Kelly Village Housing Complex and six additional residential yards of the Site, respectively. The purpose of the Removal Actions was to remove surface soil with concentrations of lead that equaled or exceeded the cleanup goal of 500 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) to reduce the exposure of children and adults to lead. The EPA believes that these Removal Actions addressed all of the residential yards and HAAs that could have been affected by the air emissions of particulates containing lead from the former foundry and for which the EPA was granted access for sampling.

## **Community Involvement** ---

### Community Involvement Plan:

The Community Involvement Plan (CIP) specifies the community involvement activities that the EPA expects to undertake during the remedial activities planned for the Site. A CIP, prepared in November 1999, was based on community interviews and other relevant information about the Site. This CIP is available at the Site's Repository. The purpose of the Site Repository is to provide the public a location near their community to review and copy background and current information about the Site. The Site's repository is located at:

Blanche Kelso Bruce Music Magnet Elementary School  
510 Jensen  
Houston, TX 77020

Phillis Wheatley High School/Library  
4900 Market Street  
Houston, TX 77020

Anyone who wishes to be placed on the mailing list to receive current information about the Site is encouraged to call 1-800-533-3508.

## Open Houses:

Several open houses, community meetings, or other outreach campaigns were held to discuss the EPA's current and planned environmental activities for the Site.

On June 9-13, 2002, the EPA's staff conducted an extensive "Door-To-Door Community Outreach Campaign" in an effort to inform the Fifth Ward residents of the EPA's current and future remedial activities at the Site, gather information about the Site, and provide the community with an opportunity to meet with the EPA staff responsible for the activities at the Site. The Site Team conducted interviews with over 80 residents of homes located within a 1/4 mile radius of the Site, held a public meeting, interviewed several former employees of the TESCO Site, and met with local community leaders and business owners. Several community leaders and members of the "Mothers for Clean Air" organization participated in the extensive outreach effort.

A community meeting was held on November 19, 2002, at the Blanche Kelso Bruce Elementary School, which is located one block west of the Site. A simultaneous translator was provided for the Spanish-speaking community members. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the EPA's planned activities during the RI/FS for the Site.

A community meeting was held on June 24, 2003, at the local Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center. A simultaneous translator was provided for the Spanish-speaking community members. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the planned removal and remedial actions for the Site. The EPA coordinated participation by the City of Houston's Department of Health and Human Services, the Texas Department of Health, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to address the community's health concerns. The City's health department conducted child blood-lead screening during the course of the meeting.

A community meeting was held on August 19, 2004, at 7 pm at the Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center to discuss the Selected Remedy for OU 1 with the community. EPA released a Record of Decision based on community input.

A community meeting was held on January 12, 2006, at 7 pm at the Kelly Village Community Center to discuss the planned Removal Action for a portion of the housing complex.

A community meeting was held on February 16, 2006, at 6 pm at the Kelly Village Community Center to discuss the planned Removal Action with residents that could not attend the first meeting.

An open house was held on May 16, 2006, at 7 pm at the Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center to provide the public an update on the status of OUs 1, 2, and 3.

An open house was held on February 27 and June 21, 2007, at 7 pm at the Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center to introduce the purchaser of the Site (OU 1) and the purchaser's contractor.

An open house was held on June 24, 2008, at 7 pm at the Blanche Kelso Bruce Elementary School to discuss the current and future activities at the Site and to introduce the purchaser of the Site (OU 1) and the purchaser's contractor.

Fact sheets have been prepared, and will continue to be prepared as necessary during the planning and implementation of the RI/FS for OU 3 and the Remedial Design and Remedial Action for OU 1. These fact sheets have been filed at the Site's repository and distributed to people on the mailing list. Anyone who wishes to be placed on the mailing list to receive current information about the Site is encouraged to call 1-800-533-3508.

#### Proposed Plan:

Before a ROD can be finalized, the EPA must provide a Proposed Plan for public review and comment. This plan summarizes the remedial alternatives presented in the analysis of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) and identifies the preferred alternative, the rationale for that preferred alternative, and documents that support the EPA's decision.

The Proposed Plan for OU 1 was issued on February 1, 2004. The EPA received numerous public comments on the EPA's preferred alternative. The EPA's Selected Remedy for the Site reflected the public's comments.

The Proposed Plan for OU 2 was issued on July 28, 2005. The EPA's preferred alternative for the Site was "no further action required." The public did not comment on the EPA's preferred alternative.

A Proposed Plan for OU 3 was issued on June 15, 2009. The EPA's preferred remedy is "no further action required" for residential yards and "no action warranted" for the residential crawlspaces.

#### Public Meeting:

A formal public meeting was held on February 26, 2004, at 7 pm at the Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center to present the Proposed Plan for Operable Unit 1 (On-Site Soils and Ground Water). Oral and written comments were accepted at the meeting concerning the EPA's proposed alternative for the Site. The EPA's Selected Remedy for the Site reflected the public's comments.

A formal public meeting was held on August 16, 2005, at 7 pm at the Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center to present the Proposed Plan for Operable Unit 2 (Off-Site Residential Yards and High Access Areas). Oral and written comments were accepted at the meeting; however, the public did not comment on the EPA's preferred alternative.

As requested by the public, the EPA hosted a public meeting to discuss the EPA's proposed decision not to sue the prospective purchaser regarding the handling of waste that may present an imminent and substantial endangerment while the purchaser implements the remedy identified in the Record of Decision for Operable Unit 1. This meeting was held on August 7, 2006 at the Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center

A formal public meeting was held on June 30, 2009, at the Blanche Kelso Bruce Elementary School to present the Proposed Plan for OU 3 (Off-Site Residential Crawlspaces and Those Residential Yards Not Addressed Under Operable Unit 2). The public comment period for OU 3 closed on July 30, 2009.

#### Technical Assistance Grant:

A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) is for a local citizens' group to secure the services of a technical advisor to increase citizen understanding of information that will be developed about the Site during the Superfund process. To be eligible for a grant, a group must incorporate. Also, the applicant must meet a 20 percent matching requirement, which may be in cash or donated services. If you are interested in applying for a TAG, please call Janetta Coats (TAG Coordinator) at (214) 665-7308 or toll-free at 1-800-533-3508.

"Availability Notices" were published in local newspapers on May 5, 1999, and October 31, 2000. The TAG application process begins when a group of individuals affected by the Site submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the EPA. LOIs to apply for the TAG were received from Phillip J. Smith

on April 13, 1999; Sarah Rowles on April 13, 1999; Rita Love on May 11, 1999; and Jane L. Laping on September 12, 2000 (Mothers for Clean Air, Inc.; 3015 Richmond; Suite 270; Houston, Texas 77098). A final TAG application was received on May 18, 2001. The TAG was awarded to "Mothers for Clean Air" on September 2, 2001. The TAG has since expired.

## **Site Contacts**

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### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Remedial Project Manager: Rafael Casanova, P.G. (214) 665-7437\*  
E-Mail: casanova.rafael@epa.gov

Toxicologist: Dr. Ghassan Khoury, Ph.D. (214) 665-8515\*  
E-Mail: khoury.ghassan@epa.gov

Attorney: Barbara Nann (214) 665-2157\*  
E-Mail: nann.barbara@epa.gov

Public Liaison: Donn R. Walters (214) 665-6483\*  
E-Mail: walters.donn@epa.gov

\*EPA Toll-Free Telephone Number: (800) 533-3508

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

Project Manager: Phillip Winsor (512) 239-1054\*  
E-Mail: pwinsor@tceq.state.tx.us

\*State Toll-Free Telephone Number: (800) 633-9363