

FALCON REFINERY SUPERFUND SITE Ingleside, San Patricio County, Texas

SITE STATUS SUMMARY

United States Environmental Protection Agency (Region 6)

EPA ID: TXD086278058

Site ID: 0602349

State Congressional District: 27

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

Summary Updated: January 2012



Background

The Falcon Refinery Superfund Site (hereinafter “the Site”) is located near the city of Ingleside, Texas. It occupies approximately 104 acres in San Patricio County and is located 1.7 miles southeast of State Highway 361 on FM 2725 at the north and south corners of the intersection of FM 2725 and Bishop Road (see the “Site Map” section of this summary). The Site consists of a refinery that operated intermittently and is currently inactive, except for a crude oil storage operation being conducted by Superior. When in operation the refinery had a capacity of 40,000 barrels per day and the primary products consisted of naphtha, jet fuel, kerosene, diesel, and fuel oil. The refinery also historically transferred and stored vinyl acetate, a substance not excluded under the petroleum exclusion. Surface water drainage from the Site enters the wetlands along the southeastern section of the abandoned refinery. The wetlands then connect to the Intracoastal Waterway and Redfish Bay, which connects Corpus Christi Bay to the Gulf of Mexico. The Site is bordered by wetlands to the northeast and southeast, residential areas to the north and northwest, Plains Marketing (a crude oil storage facility) to the north, and several construction companies to the west and south. Other portions of the Site include above-ground and buried piping leading from the Site to dock facilities, owned by National Oil Recovery Corporation, at Redfish Bay.



Current Status

The potentially responsible party (PRP) for the Site, National Oil Recovery Corporation (NORCO), entered into an "Administrative Order on Consent" (AOC) with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on June 9, 2004. The PRP agreed to perform and finance the Removal Action and Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Site. The purpose of the Removal Action is to address the wastes from the abandoned tanks, equipment, and piping. The Removal Action currently is ongoing. The purpose of the RI/FS is to determine the nature and extent of contamination and to gather sufficient information about the Site to support an informed risk management decision regarding which remedy is the most appropriate for the Site. The EPA approved the RI/FS Work Plan, Field Sampling Plan, and Quality Assurance Project Plan on October 22, 2007; and Addendum 1 on May 8, 2009.

On February 16, 2010, in response to the EPA's 2009 request for reimbursement of the RI/FS Special Account under the terms of the AOC, NORCO notified the EPA that it was financially unable to perform the remaining RI/FS work. On March 28, 2011, the EPA notified NORCO of the take over of the performance of the remaining work under the AOC for the RI/FS. The EPA invoked the takeover provisions of the AOC because NORCO failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the AOC. On December 16, 2011, after providing NORCO another opportunity to resume the remaining work under the terms of the AOC and an "Agreed Order for Resumption (Agreed Order) of RI/FS Work," the EPA again notified NORCO of the take over of the performance of the remaining work under the AOC for the RI/FS for failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the AOC and Agreed Order.

The EPA is currently in the process of performing the remaining RI/FS work through its federal contracting procedures and expects to begin field sampling activities in April 2012. The RI/FS is expected to be completed in the latter part of 2013.

Benefits

The investigation and cleanup of the Site will ensure the protection of human health and the environment. Specific cleanup benefits will be identified during the RI/FS and Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments planned for the Site.

National Priorities List History

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 5, 2002 (Final listing was deferred since the PRP agreed to enter into an AOC for RI/FS with the EPA, and the Site was initially identified as an "alternative site.").

Final Listing Date: September 16, 2011 (The Site was listed as final after the PRP failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the AOC for RI/FS).

Site Description

Population: The population of the City of Ingleside is approximately 9,388.

Setting: The Site consists of an abandoned refinery that has operated intermittently since 1980. When in operation, the refinery operated at 40,000 barrels per day capacity with primary

products consisting of naphtha, jet fuel, kerosene, diesel, and fuel oil. The refinery processed material that consisted not only of crude oil but also hazardous substances. The Site is bordered by wetlands to the northeast and southeast, residential areas to the north and southwest, an abandoned refinery to the northwest, and a construction company to the southwest.

Hydrology: The Site is located in the San Antonio-Nueces Coastal Basin adjacent to Redfish Bay, which connects Corpus Christi Bay to the Gulf of Mexico. Surface water drainage from the Site enters the wetlands along the southeastern section of the abandoned refinery. A culvert connects the on-site palustrine/estuarine wetlands to estuarine wetlands. The wetlands then connect to the Intracoastal Waterway and Redfish Bay. Ground Water at the Site is located approximately two feet below the ground's surface.

Site Map



Wastes and Volumes

The types and volumes of wastes currently present at the Site, or possibly released from the Site, have not been determined. This information will be obtained during the Removal Action and the RI/FS for the Site.

Health Considerations

Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments will be performed during the RI/FS for the Site. These risk assessments are an integral part of the RI/FS.

A Human Health Risk Assessment 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 does not automatically place a person at risk, that depends on the chemicals present and the ways people are exposed to them.

An Ecological Risk Assessment is defined as a process that evaluates the likelihood that adverse ecological effects are occurring or may occur as a result of exposure to one or more stressors. A stressor is any physical, chemical, or biological entity that can induce an adverse ecological response. Adverse responses can range from sublethal chronic effects in individual organisms to a loss of ecosystem function.

Record of Decision

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 the documents that support the EPA's decision.

A ROD has not been signed for the Site. The ROD is expected to be issued in the latter part of 2013.

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, based on community interviews and other relevant information about the Site, has been prepared and is available at the Site's repository. The purpose of the 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 repositories are located at:

Ingleside Public Library
2775 Waco St.
Ingleside, TX 78362

Ed & Hazel Richmond Public Library
110 North Lamont Street
Aransas Pass, TX 78336

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:

Community meetings, were held on September 16, 2004, and December 5, 2007, in Ingleside (City Hall), Texas, to discuss the EPA's current and planned environmental activities for the Site.

Other community meetings will be scheduled in the near future to provide the public an update on the current activities at the Site. Fact sheets have been prepared, and will continue to be prepared, as necessary during the implementation of the RI/FS. These fact sheets have been filed at the Site's repository and distributed to people on the mailing list.

Proposed Plan:

A Proposed Plan has not been issued for the Site. Before a ROD can be finalized, the EPA must provide a Proposed Plan for public review and comment. A Proposed Plan is expected to be issued in August 2013.

Public Meeting:

A formal public meeting will be scheduled after issuance of the Proposed Plan for the Site so that the public can provide input into the EPA's proposed final decision for the Site.

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.

An "Availability Notice" was published in the Aransas Pass Progress on September 18, 2002.

The TAG application process begins when a group of individuals affected by the Site submits a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the EPA. A LOI was received on November 19, 2002. This LOI notified the EPA of the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation's (CBBF) intent to apply for a TAG for the Site. The Executive Director for the CBBF can be reached at the following address:

Lois C. Huff, Executive Director
Coastal Bend Bays Foundation
P.O. Box 23025
Corpus Christi, TX 78403
Telephone #: 361-882-3439 Fax #: 361-882-5625

The EPA published a notice in a local newspaper that the CBBF expressed interest in applying for the TAG. No other applications were received. A final application was received on March 5, 2003, from the CBBF. A TAG was awarded to the CBBF on December 14, 2004.

Site Contacts

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Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

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