

**United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region VI  
POLLUTION REPORT**

**Date:** Sunday, January 27, 2002  
**From:** Greg Fife

**Subject:** Cleanup begins  
Webster-Gulf Nuclear  
202 W. Medical Center Blvd, Webster, TX  
Latitude: 29.5378530  
Longitude: -95.1185780

<b>POLREP No.:</b>	2	<b>Site #:</b>	pending
<b>Reporting Period:</b>		<b>D.O. #:</b>	
<b>Start Date:</b>	10/18/2001	<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA
<b>Mob Date:</b>	10/18/2001	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL
<b>Completion Date:</b>		<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>CERCLIS ID #:</b>	TX0000	<b>Contract #</b>	
<b>RCRIS ID #:</b>			

**Site Description**

The Site is an abandoned radioactive laboratory. Operating from the 70's until the early 90s, they supplied radioactive sources and tracers to the medical and oil industries. The company ventured into waste disposal but achieved only partial success. Several sources remain at the site including an 18 Curie Cesium 137 source. House-keeping was extremely poor, protective containers (pigs) were left open, Radium needles are scattered on the floor, and the ventilation system is highly contaminated.

**Current Activities**

Crews are sorting material, continuing the assessment, staging additional shielding, and loading roll-off boxes for disposal.

The OSC met with the Mayor and City Manager of Webster, and the Environmental Director for the City of Houston. The goal of the meetings was to inform the cities of the activity and plans for the site.

**Planned Removal Actions**

The contents of the building will be disposed of at several sites. The waste will be sent to the most appropriate disposal facility. The floors, walls, ceilings, and roofs are very contaminated and requires complete demolition. Some excavation of the underlying soils is expected.

**Next Steps**

The several radioactive sources will be removed offsite first. This will reduce the overall dose rate from the site. Some require special packaging from shipment.

The crews will continue to sort the material into proper waste streams.

**Key Issues**

The investigation and cost assesment directed by the Bankruptcy Court identified 4 wells, in-ground storage stuctures for the radioactive sources. However, the crews have found 20 additional wells. The contents is unknown. Preparation will be necessary to conduct the investigation.

There are issues with the dose accumulation of the workers. Some areas have radiation levels high enough to provide the yearly permissible dose in a very short period of time. Solutions are being sought to limit the exposure, and other permissible avenues.

**Estimated Costs \***

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
<b>Extramural Costs</b>				

<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
<b>Total Site Costs</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

\* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

[response.epa.gov/webster](http://response.epa.gov/webster)

POLREP #2 Last Updated 1/27/2002