

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

**Date:** Thursday, August 25, 2005

**From:** William Rhotenberry

**Subject:** Source of Odor Identified  
Helena Chemical  
602 Holland Avenue, Mission, TX  
Latitude: 26.2131000  
Longitude: -98.3336000

<b>POLREP No.:</b>	6	<b>Site #:</b>	0606
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	08/25/2005	<b>D.O. #:</b>	
<b>Start Date:</b>		<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA
<b>Mob Date:</b>	7/12/2005	<b>Response Type:</b>	
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL
<b>Completion Date:</b>		<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Assessment
<b>CERCLIS ID #:</b>	TXD980625008	<b>Contract #</b>	
<b>RCRIS ID #:</b>			

**Site Description**

This site is a former pesticide formulation and packaging facility, and was the subject of corrective action by USEPA in 1982. Deterioration of the containment cap has raised concerns over potential health impacts from chlorinated pesticides.

Contamination of surrounding properties was addressed by previous TCEQ actions.

**Current Activities**

Geoprobe work is complete.

Wipe sampling will be completed tomorrow (Friday).

Concerns have been raised that odors noted in the vicinity of the ASTs (south side of the facility) might be attributed to pesticides. In consultation with a Texas Certified Nursery Professional and the University of Texas Pan American, we determined the source to be a plant (Twining Milkweed or Sarcostemma cynanchoides) that has overgrown that area. When heated, driven over, walked on, or otherwise damaged, it emits a foul garlic/onion odor. None of the assessment team has noticed any odors that could be attributed to pesticides.

**Planned Removal Actions**

As appropriate following assessment

**Next Steps**

Complete wipe sampling

Demobe

Await sample results

Debrief City officials

**Key Issues**

Heat

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