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

**Date:** Friday, February 9, 2007
**From:** William Rhotenberry

**Subject:** Concrete Pipe Investigation
Helena Chemical
602 Holland Avenue, Mission, TX
Latitude: 26.2131000
Longitude: -98.3336000

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| **POLREP No.:** | 31 | **Site #:** | 0606 |
| **Reporting Period:** | 02/02 - 09/2007 | **D.O. #:** | |
| **Start Date:** | 2/9/2006 | **Response Authority:** | CERCLA |
| **Mob Date:** | 2/13/2006 | **Response Type:** | Time-Critical |
| **Demob Date:** | | **NPL Status:** | Non NPL |
| **Completion Date:** | | **Incident Category:** | Removal Action |
| **CERCLIS ID #:** | TXD980625008 | **Contract #** | |
| **RCRIS ID #:** | | | |

**Site Description**
In late September 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began the removal clean up at the Helena Chemical Company facility (site) in Mission, Texas. The removal action involves digging up the contaminated soil within the on-site facility property underneath a deteriorating asphalt cap.

**Current Activities**
On February 6, 2007, EPA provided access to the City of Mission Public Works Department to investigate a concrete pipe under West 6th Street at the south end of the Helena Chemical site. The pipe had been discovered during the EPA removal of contaminated soil at the site. The City removed a minimal amount of black sludge from the pipe. The City contained the sludge in a City vacuum truck which EPA will assist in the proper disposal. Using a portable video feed robotic camera the City investigated the concrete pipe and determined that the pipe terminates under West 6th Street. There appears to be no threat to the Mission Consolidated Independent School District Maintenance facility from the concrete pipe. The City approved EPA's request to cap the pipe with concrete so clean backfill can be placed at the southern end of the site.

Excavation of contaminated soil continued in excavation areas #1 through #5. A depth of approximately 1 to 8 feet has been removed from each 25 foot square grid. Maps can be found online in the 'documents' section of this web site. The maps are labeled 'Primary and Secondary Excavation Maps.'

As of February 9, 2007 EPA has excavated and stockpiled approximately 5,700 cubic yards of soil for further analysis and waste characterization. To date, EPA has removed approximately 5,100 cubic yards of contaminated soil for off site transportation and disposal. Additionally, EPA has removed approximately 245 tons of contaminated concrete for off site transportation and disposal.

Approximately, 100% of Area #1, 100% of Area #2, 100% of Area #3, 4% of Area #4 and 5% of Area 5 has been confirmed by soil analysis to be below Texas Risk Reduction Program (TRRP) commercial / industrial clean up levels for all contaminants of concern.

Backfill has been placed over excavated areas that have been confirmed below TRRP clean up levels. Approximately, 100% of Area #1, 65% of Area #2 and 91% of Area #3 has backfill in place.

Excavated soils are being stockpiled on Site for further analysis and waste characterization. A plastic sheathing is being used to cover all stockpiles and excavated holes on Site to minimize offsite migration of odors, dust, and the potential for contaminated storm water runoff. A frac tank has been mobilized on Site and will be used for containment and water quality sampling of any potentially contaminated storm water. Approximately 37,000 gallons of storm water runoff that is being stored in two tanks on Site has been sampled and cleared for transportation to a commercial treatment/deep well injection facility located in Corpus Christi, Texas.

To date, a total of 729 air samples particulate and gaseous phase air samples, 91 composite soil samples, 4 sludge/sediment, and 2 water samples have been submitted to a fixed laboratory for analysis. All pesticide particulate and vapors levels on-site and in the surrounding community have been below the site-specific action levels.

An EPA community office trailer is available on Site. A map which will have updated daily information on particulate air monitoring data is being posted next to the entrance of the office railer for the public to stop by and view. This information will also be available in hard copy and electronic format. The office is open to llow community members an opportunity to speak with an EPA representative in person about any questions or concerns they may have about ongoing Site activities. This office has up to date and current information available in both English and Spanish.

**Planned Removal Actions**

Review soil analysis for waste profiling and characterization.

Transportation and disposal of contaminated soil and storm water from Site.

Prepare profile of storm water collected on Site for commercial / industrial facility.

**Next Steps**

Continue excavation of contaminated soil underneath asphalt cap.

Continue to conduct air monitoring and sampling on Site and in the community.

Continue off site transportation and disposal of contaminated soil.

**Key Issues**

Health and safety concerns have been raised about dust that may be potential contaminated migrating offsite during the clean up process.

An extensive network of air monitoring and air sampling safe guards are being utilize on Site and within the neighboring community. All scientific data will be quickly analyzed and made public for city and community leaders to review and discuss with the EPA. Dust control techniques are being used during soil excavation to reduce and / or eliminate offsite migration of dust.

EPA is committed to the public health and safety of its workers and the neighboring community. Results of the air monitoring and air sampling have indicated that the dust control measures taken are effective.

response.epa.gov/helenachemicalmission