

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

**Date:** Friday, March 9, 2007

**From:** William Rhotenberry

**Subject:** Soil Excavation with T&D Week #19

Helena Chemical

602 Holland Avenue, Mission, TX

Latitude: 26.2131000

Longitude: -98.3336000

<b>POLREP No.:</b>	35	<b>Site #:</b>	0606
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	3/2/07 - 3/9/07	<b>D.O. #:</b>	
<b>Start Date:</b>	2/9/2006	<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA
<b>Mob Date:</b>	2/13/2006	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL
<b>Completion Date:</b>		<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>CERCLIS ID #:</b>	TXD980625008	<b>Contract #</b>	
<b>RCRIS ID #:</b>			

#### **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**

Excavation of contaminated soil continued in excavation areas #1 through #6. 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 March 9, 2007 EPA has excavated and stockpiled approximately 11,900 cubic yards of soil for further analysis and waste characterization. To date, EPA has removed approximately 11,100 cubic yards of contaminated soil for off site transportation and disposal. Additionally, EPA has removed approximately 315 tons of contaminated concrete and 37,000 gallons of storm water for off site transportation and disposal.

Approximately, 100% of Area #1, 100% of Area #2, 100% of Area #3, 100% of Area #4, 90% of Area 5 and 89% of Area 6 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, 100% of Area #2, 100% of Area #3, 100% of Area #4, 79% of Area 5 and 89% of Area 6 has initial backfill in place. Approximately 100% of the initial backfill has been stockpiled on site pending use.

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.

As of 9 March 2007, 793 particulate and gaseous phase air samples, 177 confirmation of cleanup soil samples, 6 backfill source soil samples, 4 sludge/sediment samples, and 2 water samples have been collected and 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 trailer 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 allow 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 from Site.

**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.

Continue site restoration with clean backfill soil in excavation areas that have met clean up goals for site.

**Key Issues**

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](https://response.epa.gov/helenachemicalmission)