

EPA SUPERFUND UPDATE – HURRICANE HARVEY

Bailey Waste Disposal

Post-Hurricane Harvey condition of soil at the Bailey Waste Disposal Superfund site is consistent with historical site conditions that existed before the hurricane made landfall.

On September 11, 2017, soil samples were collected and analyzed for metals, volatile organic compounds and semi-volatile organic compounds to evaluate the potential effects from Hurricane Harvey. Metals, volatile organic compounds and semi-volatile organic compounds were below the clean standards specified in the Record of Decision (ROD). Ongoing Operations & Maintenance (O&M) activities and five-year reviews are being conducted. The site remedy is operating as intended, and the remedy is protective of human health and the environment in the long term provided operation and maintenance activities.

The 280-acre Bailey Waste Disposal site is located in Bridge City, Texas. The site owner constructed two ponds on site in early 1950s as part of the Bailey Fish Camp. The fish camp operated at the site until 1961, when Hurricane Carla introduced saline waters into the ponds, killing the freshwater fish. Disposal of industrial and municipal waste took place near the ponds until 1971. Waste disposal activities contaminated groundwater, surface water, and soil. Following construction of the site's remedy. EPA took the site off of the Superfund Program's National Priorities List (NPL) in 2007. O&M activities are ongoing.

The last site evaluation was conducted during the 2015 Five Year Review. EPA is responsible for reviewing Superfund remedial actions at least every five years where hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants will remain on site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) also requires that EPA report to Congress regarding these sites. A Superfund Five-Year Review Report to Congress is prepared each fiscal year.