

## **EPA SUPERFUND UPDATE – HURRICANE HARVEY**

### **Petro-Chemical Systems**

*Post-Hurricane Harvey conditions of soil and groundwater at the Petro-Chemical Systems Superfund site are consistent with historical site conditions that existed before the hurricane made landfall.*

On September 12, 2017, soil and groundwater samples were collected from the Petro-Chemical Systems Superfund Site and were analyzed to evaluate the potential effects from Hurricane Harvey. Soil samples were analyzed for volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) and metals. Soil sample results indicate that VOCs and SVOCs were not detected, and metals was detected at below the cleanup level in the Record of Decision (ROD). Groundwater samples were analyzed for VOCs and SVOCs. Groundwater sample results indicate that VOCs and SVOCs were not detected.

The 500-acre area Petro-Chemical Systems Site is located in rural Liberty County, 15 miles southeast of the town of Liberty, Texas. The Texas Water Quality Board has records of waste disposal as early as 1971. They indicate that waste oils from nearby petroleum refining activities were disposed of in unlined pits and on Frontier Park Road for dust suppression. It appears that the waste was dumped indiscriminately from trucks at eight areas identified by EPA, including dumping of contaminated soil and groundwater with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs).

The Fourth Five-Year Review as completed on August 19, 2016. 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) requires that EPA report to Congress regarding these sites.