

EPA SUPERFUND UPDATE – HURRICANE HARVEY

South Cavalcade Street

Post-Hurricane Harvey condition of groundwater at the South Cavalcade Superfund site is consistent with historical site conditions that existed before the hurricane made landfall.

On September 13, 2017, groundwater and water samples were collected from South Cavalcade Street Superfund Site and analyzed to evaluate the potential effects from Hurricane Harvey. The groundwater samples were analyzed for Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene and Xylene (BTEX), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) and metals. All sample results were below detection limits and consistent with historical sampling results.

The 66-acre area is located in a light industrial corridor of Harris County, 3 miles north of downtown Houston, Texas, and about 1 mile southwest of the intersection of Interstate Loop 610 and U.S. Highway 59. Site owners operated a creosote wood-treating plant on the southwestern part of the Site from 1910 to 1962 and a coal tar distillation plant on the southeastern portion of the Site from 1944 to 1962. Site operations resulted in spills and releases that contaminated surface soil and subsurface soil with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and groundwater with metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and PAHs. Land use is industrial to the east of the Site and residential to the west of the Site. Most houses west of the northern portion of the Site (Northern Area) have been removed; the area is now vacant. Current site uses consist of an auto auction business on the northern portion of the Site and a trucking firm on the southern portion of the Site. The construction completion date was 9/15/2000. The Fourth Five Year Review was completed on September 2017.

The Fourth Five Year Review was completed on September 1, 2013. 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.