

Gulfc0 Marine Maintenance Superfund Site

Freeport, Brazoria County, Texas

EPA Region 6
EPA ID: TXD055144539
Site ID: 0602027
U.S. Congressional District 14
Contact: Gary Miller 214-665-8318

Updated: July 2015



Current Status

The Site achieved the construction completion milestone on September 9, 2011, because the removal work was completed and the selected remedy did not require any new construction. Implementation of the remaining operation and maintenance work for the Site will be performed according to a Consent Decree, which is being prepared now.

The EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order, effective July 29, 2005, to the Gulfc0 Respondents to perform a remedial investigation to define the nature and extent of contamination at the site, and to prepare a Feasibility Study to identify and screen remedial action alternatives.

A Proposed Plan outlining the Site history, investigation results, and the Preferred Alternative for remediation was issued, and a public comment period on the Proposed Plan ended on August 22, 2011. A public meeting was also held on August 4, 2011 to present the Proposed Plan and receive comments.



Cleanup of Storage Tank Area

The Record of Decision issued on September 29, 2011, selected a final remedy including institutional controls, groundwater monitoring, and an operation and maintenance program for inspection and repair of the cap over the former impoundments.

Background

The Site is located in Freeport, Texas at 906 Marlin Avenue (or County Road 756). The Site consists of approximately 40 acres along the north bank of the Intracoastal Waterway between Oyster Creek (one mile to the east) and the Texas Highway 332 Bridge (one mile to the west).

Marlin Avenue divides the Site into two primary areas. The property to the north of Marlin Avenue (the North Area) consists of undeveloped land and the closed surface impoundments, while the property south of Marlin Avenue (the South Area) contains a dry dock, sand blasting areas, and two barge slips connected to the Intracoastal Waterway. Adjacent property to the north, west, and east of the North Area is unused and undeveloped. Adjacent property to the east of the South Area is currently used for industrial purposes. The property to the west of the South Area is currently vacant and previously served as a commercial marina. Residential areas are located south of Marlin Avenue, approximately 300 feet west of the Site, and 1,000 feet east of the Site.

The site operated as barge cleaning and repair facility from 1971 to about 1998. Barges brought to the facility were cleaned of waste oils, caustics, and organic chemicals. Three surface impoundments in the North Area were used for storage of waste oils, caustics, various organic chemicals, and waste wash waters generated during barge cleaning activities until 1981. The impoundments were closed in 1982. Shallow groundwater (salt water) below the former impoundments has been found to contain various organic chemicals including 1,1,1-trichloroethene, tetrachloroethene, and trichloroethene.



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In October 2010 the EPA and the Gulfco Respondents signed a Consent Order, which required the Respondents to remove the storage tanks located in the southern part of the site. The removal work began in November 2010 and was completed by February 2011 with the exception of six roll-off containers which remain on-site waiting on disposal facility capacity. These roll-off containers were removed in March 2011.

Benefits

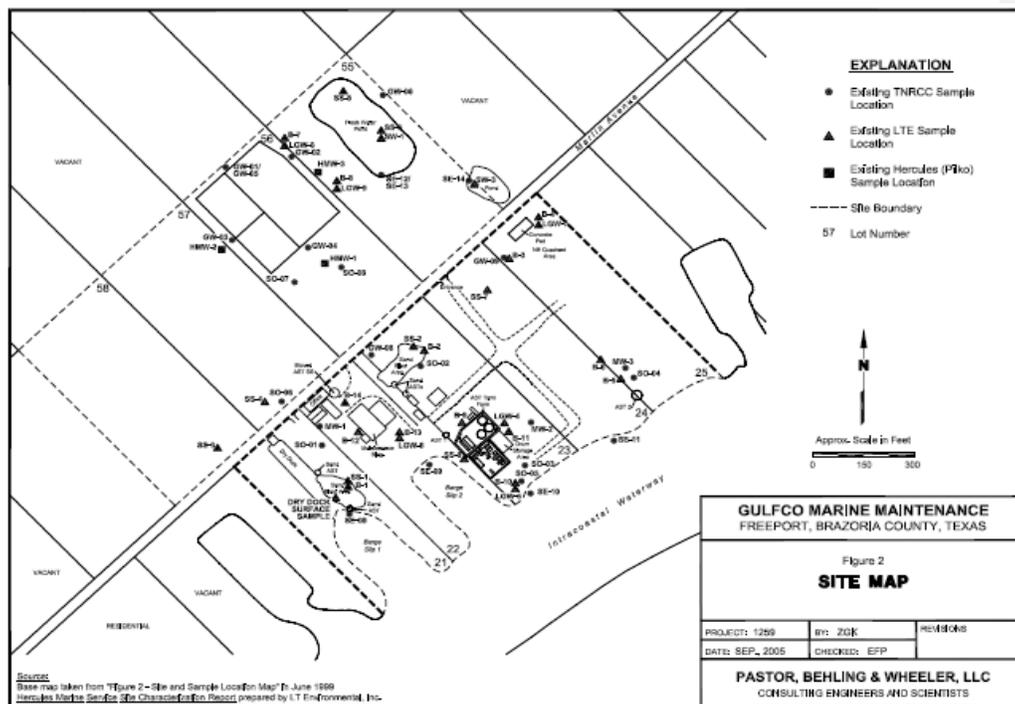
Remediation of the contaminated area reduced human health risks associated with the contaminants at the site. Further, revitalization of the area will encourage reuse or redevelopment plans.

National Priorities Listing (NPL) History

Proposal Date: September 2, 2002
Final Listing Date: May 30, 2003

Population: Approximately 78 people live within the one square mile area surrounding the Site, and 3,392 people live within 50 square miles. The population of the City of Freeport is 12,800.
Setting: The Gulfco site lies along the north bank of the Intracoastal Waterway between Oyster Creek to the east and the Old Brazos River Channel and the Dow Barge Canal to the west. It is approximately 40 acres in size. A fence has been installed around the property south of Marlin Avenue to restrict land access. A wetland area is located north of the site.
Hydrology: The Chicot and Evangeline Aquifers underlie the Site. Ground water flow in the aquifers is to the southwest. A shallow, briney ground water zone also exists within a few feet of the surface.

Site Map



Wastes and Volumes

Approximately 74,500 gallons of aqueous liquids and 14,150 gallons of hydrocarbon liquids located within the former storage tanks were transported off-site for incineration. The former storage tanks contained volatile organic compounds including benzene, chloroform, dichloroethane, and trichloroethylene. These tanks were demolished and removed from the Site. In addition, contaminated soil below the tanks to a depth of 5.5 feet was removed and transported off-site for incineration. The excavated area was back-filled with clean soil.

The former surface impoundments consisted of three earthen lagoons used for the storage of wash waters generated from barge cleaning operations. Covering an area of approximately 2.5 acres combined, the impoundments were three feet deep with a natural clay liner.

The closure activities completed in 1982 included the removal of liquids and most of the sludges, and solidification of approximately 100 cubic yards of residual sludge that was difficult to excavate. The former impoundments were capped with three feet of clay and a hard-wearing surface (i.e., shell). The sludges covered by the cap include various organic compounds such as trichloroethane; 1,1-dichloroethene; 1,2,3-trichloropropane; 1,2-dichloroethane; benzene; methylene chloride; tetrachloroethene; trichloroethene; and vinyl chloride.

Health Considerations

Implementation of the tank removal action and placement of institutional controls has addressed the risks at the Site. Long term protectiveness will be achieved with complete implementation of the remedy selected in the Record of Decision.

Record of Decision

The Record of Decision, which was issued on September 29, 2011, selected a final remedy including institutional controls, groundwater monitoring, and an operation and maintenance program for inspection and repair of the cap over the former impoundments.

Community Involvement

Involvement Plan: November 2004
Open Houses: October 2005; August 22, 2003

Proposed Plan: July 18, 2011
Public Meeting: August 4, 2011
Technical Assistance Grant: September 26, 2002 and May 15, 2003
No Final Applications received

Information Repository: Freeport Branch Library
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Site Contacts

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