

Former Pesticide Mixing Plant/Hayes-Sammons
Mission, Texas

Site Update
March 2004

In April 2002 the TCEQ began soil sampling in Mission, Texas on 142 residential properties, five Mission School District properties, and one 17 acre vacant lot (Lot 20). The sampling was conducted in the neighborhoods surrounding the Former Pesticide Mixing Plant/Hayes-Sammons Superfund site. Samples were tested for the presence of pesticides and metals. The cost of property sampling activities in FY02 was \$315,016.06. The cost for property sampling in FY03 is estimated to be \$318,000.00.

The test results from property sampling indicated various levels of pesticides and/or heavy metals were found at levels above the agency's health-based standards at 39 residential properties, the Mission School District's maintenance facility, and on Lot 20. The TCEQ recommended cleanup actions on all affected properties.

Starting in November 2002 through June 2003 the TCEQ completed cleanups on 31 of the affected residential properties, the Mission School District maintenance facility, and the affected portions of Lot 20. Property owners for 8 of the affected residential properties chose not to accept TCEQ's offer for the cleanup. Approximately 6,386 cubic yards of contaminated soil was excavated from the 31 affected residential properties at an estimated cost of \$1,185,857.00. The average cost per residential excavation, based on the median cubic yards excavated, was approximately \$29,250.00 per residence. Excavation activities at the Mission School District maintenance facility consisted of the excavation of approximately 2,772 cubic yards of contaminated soil, including some classified as hazardous waste, at an estimated cost of \$867,617.00. The removal activities on Lot 20 included the excavation of surface soils, and buried pesticide wastes. The buried pesticide wastes were located in a trench area adjacent to the Former Pesticide Mixing Plant site and surrounding residential properties. Approximately 20,551 cubic yards of contaminated soil was excavated from Lot 20 at an estimated cost of \$1,698,525.00. The total project cost for this removal action is estimated to be \$4,385,000.00.

Also as part of the TCEQ cleanup activities, soil and shallow groundwater samples were collected at the Former Pesticide Mixing Plant site. Pesticides were detected above established industrial/commercial levels in the surface soils and sub-surface soils of the site. Shallow ground water sampling revealed that one of five wells tested contained gamma-BHC (lindane) at a level of 0.028 milligrams per liter (mg/L) which slightly exceeds a TCEQ threshold of 0.020 mg/L for non-drinking groundwater. This groundwater is not used for drinking water purposes and has low yield and other natural characteristics that make it non-potable. TCEQ sampling of the City of Mission drinking water supply did not indicate the presence of any pesticides or other contaminants.

Soil samples were also collected at the Hayes-Sammons Superfund site. Pesticides were not detected at levels of health concern at this site.

The TCEQ provided all of the sampling information from the Former Pesticide Mixing Plant site to the EPA and requested their assistance in evaluating the site. The EPA sent their contractor to Mission during the week of September 8, 2003 to begin an extensive sample characterization of the Former Pesticide Mixing Plant site.

EPA is currently studying the results of their sampling event to determine the most appropriate remedy for the site. EPA should know soon what course of action they will be undertaking. -