

Spills and Dumping Abstracts

SAN JACINTO RIVER WASTE PITS SUPERFUND SITE: COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND CLEAN UP STATUS

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The San Jacinto River Waste Pits (SJRWP) is an abandoned waste pits site on the west bank of the San Jacinto River immediately upstream of the Interstate 10 Bridge in Channelview, Texas. The site contains paper mill wastes contaminated with dioxins, an extremely toxic family of compounds which can cause cancer and other serious illness in humans. It was placed in the U.S. EPA Superfund Program in 2008.

The Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) has provided information to the public on the SJRWP since 2011, through its position as the site's Technical Assistance provider. Through the Technical Assistance grant from the U.S. EPA, GBF also contracted with the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) to produce summary reviews of the site technical reports, which were then placed on GBF's SJRWP webpage. These summaries provide the layman with an explanation of the technical cleanup documents produced by the responsible parties. In addition to providing these electronic materials, GBF has participated in multiple EPA public meetings as well as hosted its own public meeting in January 2013 where GBF and HARC answered many questions posed by citizens.

This presentation will provide an overview of GBF's community education activities; examine the various government and community groups that have a stake in the site and an update on the status of the cleanup at the site.