
CITY OF PORT LAVACA

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PORT COMMISSION MEETING: February 15, 2022

DATE: 2.10.2022

TO: PORT COMMISSION

CC: JIM RUDELLAT, HARBOR MASTER

FROM: JODY WEAVER, INTERIM CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: LIMITED PHASE II ESA OF TRACTS 16, 17, AND 17A OF THE HARBOR OF REFUGE

As you recall, last year we contracted with CRG Texas Environmental Services to perform a Limited Phase II Environmental Site Assessment/TRRP Applicability Determination Report on the referenced site. This report was submitted to TCEQ who then responded with a request for additional information before making a determination as to whether the site can be excluded from entry into the Texas Risk Reduction Program (TRRP).

To provide answers to TCEQ's questions, CRG will be installing 4 permanent monitoring wells. It has finally dried up enough to set the wells, which work is to take place next week.

CRG has made contact with the TCEQ reviewer and has submitted the attached initial response to TCEQ.

February 8, 2022

Garrett Thering, Project Manager
Team 1, VCP-CA Section
Remediation Division
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



RE: Response To Request for Information dated November 29, 2022
Limited Phase II Environmental Site Assessment, July 1, 2021
Harbor of Refuge – City of Port Lavaca
South Virginia Street, Port Lavaca (Calhoun County)
TCEQ Facility ID No. T3678; CN600755052; RN102335361

Dear Mr. Thering:

On behalf of our client the City of Port Lavaca, CRG Texas Environmental Services, Inc., (CRG Texas) is pleased to provide you with this response to the Request for Information for the above-referenced site. We expected that additional information would be required to move this site forward toward an acceptable agency closure. This correspondence is being provided to comply with your request for additional information within 90 days from the date of your original correspondence and to provide you with an overview of the on-going activities to satisfactorily characterize the site. Your comments are listed below, followed by our responses.

1. *The TCEQ does not accept lab-filtered groundwater samples to be representative of the in-situ groundwater. Please resample groundwater using low flow sample collection techniques. Please note, groundwater can only be filtered in the field with a 10-micron (or larger) filter if the turbidity measurement of the groundwater to be sampled is greater than 10 nephelometric turbidity units (NTUs). Filtering through a 10-micron (or larger) filter ensures that the sample collected represents the groundwater with its naturally suspended solids (e.g., colloids) and does not exclude any of the solids that could migrate with the water in the saturated zone.*

Please ensure that the groundwater monitoring well is properly developed, and the groundwater's physical parameters have stabilized, before determining if the groundwater sample should be filtered. Additionally, for metals analyses, the groundwater sample obtained using a 10-micron (or larger) filter still corresponds to a total metals analysis for comparison of sample results to TRRP Tier 1 groundwater protective concentration levels (PCLs);

The TCEQ does not accept groundwater samples collected from temporary wells that were not properly completed or developed per Title 16 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 76;

Response: The temporary well installation and sampling techniques employed to date were used for screening purposes only to determine what, if any, actual impacts might be present and to plan for additional characterization as may be needed. TCEQ has accepted groundwater water samples from temporary wells in the past particularly under the auspices of the Leaking Petroleum Storage Tank Program (RG-411 allows for the use of temporary wells). However, given the potential constituents of concern (COCs), we understand and concur that representative, in-situ groundwater samples must be collected from properly constructed, permanent monitoring wells. We will be installing 4 permanent monitoring wells to collect the needed groundwater samples to evaluate potential constituents of concern, establish the site groundwater classification, and to delineate the COCs to the critical residential assessment levels based on a Class 1 groundwater resource.

2. *Please note, the TCEQ cannot accept a Class 3 groundwater resource classification demonstration or Tier II PCLs when a site is not subject to the TRRP;*

Response: I understand that information was offered prior to the site's formal inclusion under TRRP. Historically, I have found that some TCEQ coordinators prefer to review information as it is acquired and will consider the available data during their initial evaluation. We will adhere to formal Agency process going forward.

3. *Soil confirmation samples of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were analyzed by the laboratory outside of the analytical method's holding time. New confirmation samples will need to be collected. Please note, confirmation samples of PAHs need to be collected in the area with the highest concentration of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH);*

Response: We will be collecting new samples for PAH analyses during the upcoming field efforts. The offered analyses, albeit outside of holding time, was selected from the initial sample with the highest TPH concentration and was again used for screening purposes. PAH compounds are normally very persistent in the environment.

4. *Please provide additional information pertaining to the site's history, including information on potential source areas, historical site operations, and known releases. It is unclear if the correct target COCs were chosen for the assessment. Also, please clearly define the areas of the site for which the City of Port Lavaca is seeking "no further action" (NFA) determination from the TCEQ;*

Response: A Phase I ESA is currently being updated for the parent tract area which includes approximately 65 acres. Areas within the 65 acre parent tract on the site were used as a landfill / solid waste disposal site from June 7, 1948 to October 10, 1977. Historical accounts suggest the landfill accepted only household / domestic trash and vegetative debris. There have been no reports of potential chemical disposal.

The referenced environmental studies are being conducted to specifically evaluate portions of Tracts 16 and 17 which have been more recently occupied for other industrial purposes. RLB Contracting, Inc., (RLB) leased 26.66-acres of land at the Harbor of Refuge identified as Tracts 16, 17, and 17A. RLB, a civil and marine construction company specializing in maintenance dredging, and levee projects, operated at Harbor of Refuge Tract 16 since September 1, 2002 and Tract 17 and Tract 17A since January 2012.

Since January 1, 2022, Encore Dredging has occupied the above-referenced Harbor of Refuge and will continue similar maintenance dredging and other marine projects under a two-year lease agreement (January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023). Maps will be provided with the next submittal to illustrate the areas in question.

The COCs in question were selected for the initial property evaluation based on the historical site operations (landfill and dredge maintenance) and the preliminary site inspection as part of an earlier Phase I. Analyses included total petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds, and RCRA 8 metals. Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons and semivolatile organic compounds were to be analyzed in the event TPH compounds were detected in the > C12 carbon range. While TPH concentrations did not exceed screening levels, the sample was offered for PAH analyses for screening purposes as mentioned previously. If the TCEQ has additional COC concerns, we are open to further discussions on the preferred analytical testing.

5. *Please note, the City of Port Lavaca will need to fully assess the areas that it is seeking NFA by identifying the source area(s) and delineating to the critical residential assessment level based on a Class 1 groundwater resource. For additional information, please refer to the TCEQ guidance document: "Determining Which Releases are Subject to TRRP" available on TCEQ's public webpage at: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/remediation/trrp/guidance.html>.*

Response: The site evaluation is on-going. Future correspondence will provide the requested information.

We understand that there is additional work to be completed before TCEQ will be able make a final determination on the status of this site. Field efforts are scheduled, weather permitting, over the next few weeks and we will provide you with an updated deliverable, as may be appropriate for the accumulated data. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me, should you have further questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John I. Hogue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Hogue" clearly distinguishable.

John I. Hogue, P.G., CHMM, LPST-PM
Project Manager

CC: JoAnna P. "Jody" Weaver, P.E.
City of Port Lavaca