

Robert J. Huston, *Chairman*
R. B. "Ralph" Marquez, *Commissioner*
Kathleen Hartnett White, *Commissioner*
Jeffrey A. Saitas, *Executive Director*



IDP/VCP/BSA/MSD 538
IN/OUT/DATE 20020411
DOC NAME 5.236 Notification
IDA COMM# _____
PROJ. MGR. _____

TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

April 11, 2002

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Hon. Lawrence Naiser
County Judge, Wharton County
100 Courthouse Building
Wharton, TX 77488

and

H. Mark Guidry, MD, MPH
Public Health Regional Director
Texas Department of Health
Regional Headquarters
5425 Polk, Suite J
Houston, TX 77023

Re: Notification of Groundwater Contamination in El Campo, Texas

Dear Judge Naiser and Dr. Guidry:

Pursuant to the Texas Water Code, Section 5.236, effective September 1, 1987, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) is required to provide written notification to county officials within thirty (30) days when it has been confirmed "that a potential public health hazard exists because usable groundwater has been or is being contaminated." The following information is your notification, including a brief description of the contamination incident and other information available at this time:

Type of Incident:

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Release to ground water.

Impact:

Groundwater wells at 13 properties as of the date of this letter have been impacted by a release to groundwater. These wells have been screened at depths of approximately 90-100 feet, or 190-200 feet below ground surface. Water wells at 10 of these properties revealed the presence of trichloroethene (TCE) above the safe drinking water limit or maximum contaminant level (MCL). Six of the wells are for domestic use. Bottled water has replaced well water for drinking water at all of these properties. For those wells above the MCL, carbon filtration systems are being installed.

URS Corporation first discovered that active water wells were impacted when they sampled a well on behalf of Reynolds Aluminum as part of a Voluntary Cleanup Program Response Action on March 14, 2002. Analytical results were forwarded to the TNRCC on March 22, 2002.

Specific Well Locations:

A list of the locations of the contaminated water wells is attached.

Contaminant (product type):

The sample results at the wellheads revealed the presence of TCE, 1,1-dichloroethene, 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,2-dichloroethane, cis-1,2 dichloroethene, trans-1,2-dichloroethene, 1,1,2-trichloroethane, and chloroform. Only TCE was found above the safe drinking water limit or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 5 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$). TCE concentrations found in active wells ranged from 1070 to 1.37 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$).

Action Taken:

The VCP Applicants are continuing to locate and sample water wells that may be impacted by the release. The property owners are being notified of the results of the water sampling by the VCP Applicant as the results are recieved. The VCP Applicants are providing the bottled water and carbon filter systems to the affected property owners. In addition, the TNRCC has been providing toxicological information and guidance to the affected property owners and is preparing to coordinate a public meeting with the VCP Applicant for landowners and potentially affected persons in the area.

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By copy of this letter, we are notifying you according to the terms of the Texas Water Code, Section 5.236. If we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (512) 239-2132 (mail code MC -221) or contact Mr. Stuart Goldsmith, VCP Project Manager at (512) 239-2960. The VCP ID Number for this case is 538. Please refer to this identification number when inquiring about this incident.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Fontenot". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Pat Fontenot, Team Leader Unit I
Voluntary Cleanup Program Section
Remediation Division

cc:

Affected Water Wells in El Campo, Texas
as of April 12, 2002

Cormier Private Well

David Cormier
P.O. Box 327
El Campo, Tx 77437

Reyna Private Well

Anastacio Joseph Reyna
1106 Glen Flora Road
El Campo, TX 77437

Diamond Cleaning Equipment Co., Inc. Production Well

Diamond Cleaning Equipment Co., Inc.
P. O. Box 1512
El Campo, TX 77437

Doyle Exploration Well
Doyle Production Well

Charles E. Doyle
P.O. Box 1597
El Campo, TX 77437

Ryan Production Well

Ryan Services, Inc..
P.O. Box 348
El Campo, TX 77437

Henry Martinez Private Well

Henry Martinez
County Road 406
El Campo, TX 77437

Joe Soliz Private Well

Joe Soliz
1414 Thrift Street
El Campo, TX 77437

Josephine Soliz Private Well

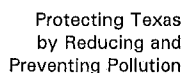
c/o Joe Soliz (above)

Ken Socha Private Well

Ken Socha
111 Turek Street
El Campo, TX 77437

Larry Haynes Irrigation Well

Larry Haynes
1615 Lily Street
El Campo, TX 77437



DATE: 4/12/02 NUMBER OF PAGES (including this cover sheet): 6

TO:	Name	<u>The Honorable Lawrence Naiser</u>
	Organization	<u>Wharton County</u>
	FAX Number	(979)532-1970

FROM: TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Name	<u>Stuart Goldsmith</u>
Division/Region	<u>Voluntary Cleanup Section</u>
Telephone Number	<u>512-239-2960</u>
FAX Number	512-239-1212

NOTES:

Attachment

VOLUNTARY CLEANUP SECTION

*** TX REPORT ***

TRANSMISSION OK

TX/RX NO 0885
CONNECTION TEL 9p19795321970
CONNECTION ID
ST. TIME 04/12 14:08
USAGE T 01'53
PGS. SENT 6
RESULT OK



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FAX TRANSMITTAL

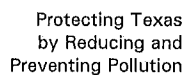
DATE: 4/12/02 NUMBER OF PAGES (including this cover sheet): 6

TO: Name The Honorable Lawrence Naiser
Organization Wharton County
FAX Number (979)532-1970

FROM: TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Name Stuart Goldsmith
Division/Region Voluntary Cleanup Section
Telephone Number 512-239-2960
FAX Number 512-239-1212

NOTES:

Attachment



DATE: 4/12/02 NUMBER OF PAGES (including this cover sheet): 6

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TO:	Name	Dr. H. Mark Guidry
	Organization	Texas Department of Health
	FAX Number	(713) 767-3049

FROM: TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Name	Stuart Goldsmith
Division/Region	Voluntary Cleanup Section
Telephone Number	512-239-2960
FAX Number	512-239-1212

NOTES:

Attachment

VOLUNTARY CLEANUP SECTION

*** TX REPORT ***

TRANSMISSION OK

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RESULT OK

**TNRCC**

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FAX TRANSMITTAL

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