

**PECAN CREEK, GAINESVILLE, TEXAS
DETAILED PROJECT REPORT
AND
INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**APPENDIX D
HAZARDOUS, TOXIC, AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE**

Introduction. A Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) Investigation was conducted on the Pecan Creek Section 205 Study Site, Gainesville, Texas, by the Environmental Design Branch, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ft. Worth District. The HTRW investigation consisted of an environmental records search and a site inspection of the area of Pecan Creek study site and a proposed mitigation area. In addition, a site inspection was conducted at the proposed disposal site. The purpose of the HTRW Investigation was to identify any environmental contamination concerns that require additional investigation.

Site Location and Description. The Pecan Creek Study Area includes lands directly adjacent to Pecan Creek bounded by Olive Street to the north and Moss Street to the south. The mitigation area is within 250 feet either side of Pecan Creek from the upstream end of the channel at Olive Street to Highway 82. The proposed disposal site is just off of FM 902 on CR 208 north of the intersection of CR 208 and CR 214.

Environmental Records Search. An environmental record search was conducted July 2002 by Environmental Data Resources (EDR), Inc., at the request of the Environmental Design Branch. The record search for known HTRW sites was conducted for the study area with specific emphasis on areas adjacent to the Pecan Creek channel. One site was identified that is directly adjacent to the channel that has the potential to have HTRW contamination. Bazflex Texas, Inc., is located at 719 Smith Street and borders the channel on the east. Bazflex Texas, Inc. was listed in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System as a Small Quantity Generator (RCRIS-SQG) and received six Notices of Violations from 1992 to 1993. The records search identified additional potential HTRW sites. A complete copy of the record search is located in the document titled, "Records Review, Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) Investigations, Pecan Creek Section 205, Gainesville, Texas", prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District, July 2002. The recommendation in this report was to conduct an HTRW site survey to determine if feasible pathways exist between the recognized environmental conditions and places of planned excavation.

Site Inspection. On May 16, 2005, personnel from the Environmental Design Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ft. Worth District, performed a site inspection of the Pecan Creek study area, the mitigation area and the disposal area. In accordance with ER 1165-2-132 the sites were inspected for evidence of contamination including partially buried containers, discolored soil, seeping liquids, films on water, signs of dumping, abnormal or dead

vegetation or animals, suspect odors, dead-end pipes, abnormal grading or depressions, and any other general indication of the presence of hazardous waste conditions. Weather conditions were sunny, no clouds, mid to high 80's, with a light breeze. Visibility at the site was excellent with no haze, smoke or smog present.

Pecan Creek Study Area. The visual inspection of Pecan Creek was conducted by gaining direct access to the creek from the bridges. The south section of the creek was inspected first beginning at the California Street bridge, then moved south to the foot bridge in Georgia Davis Bass Park, the Garnet Street bridge the former bridge at Gordon Street, then the Moss Street bridge. There was much vegetation along the creek and the water was clear ranging in depths from about 6 inches to one foot. The creek area had only occasional litter consisting of a few soft drink cans and very minor amounts of paper including paper cups. There was no commercial development on this southern section of Pecan Creek. The inspection of the northern section of the creek began at the bridge at California Street, then proceeded north to Broadway Street, Scott Street and Belcher Street, and concluded in the vicinity of Olive Street. There is commercial development and a few residences along the northern section. This section of the creek was also heavily vegetated. The water was clear and ranged in depths from a few inches to about two feet. Two small turtles and a snake were observed in the vicinity of Belcher Street. The northern section of the creek had occasional litter consisting of paper waste, but two small areas were observed that had litter consisting of a shopping cart, soft drink cans, paper waste and piles of tree limbs and twigs. Overall, the condition of the creek was very good with no apparent hazardous waste issues.

There were a few businesses directly adjacent to the channel in the vicinity of California and Broadway Streets. This section of the channel is concrete lined. Businesses included Gainesville Printing and the offices of the Texas Department of Health and Protective and Regulatory Services. The EDR database search identified Gainesville Printing as a RCRIS-SQG; however, at the time of the records search, this business had not received any notices of violations. An inspection was made of the back of the buildings. At the time of the inspection, no environmental conditions were observed in the vicinity of the buildings that require additional investigation.

A site inspection was conducted at Bazflex Texas, Inc. which the EDR database search identified as having a potential for environmental concern. Bazflex Texas, Inc., which was a manufacturer of molded shoe soles and heels, no longer occupies the building. The signage at the building indicates that it had been occupied by Enhanced Powder Coating but a note on the door stated that the business has moved. This site is directly adjacent to the channel and the back of the building is within a few feet of the channel. The channel has dirt banks and the area is wooded and very heavily vegetated. There was a section of PVC pipe at the back of the building property that led directly to the channel. Upon inspection it appeared that its function was to carry rainwater away from the roof. There was a section of metal pipe that had been cut in half and coated with asphalt. It was anchored to the ground and led directly to the channel. No other piping was observed that connected to this section of pipe and there were no pipes that protruded from the building. The function of this section of pipe could not be determined. The back of the building had one window but no doorways. There was a caged area connected to the building that contained a Ingersol-Rand generator. There were

no apparent hazardous waste issues identified by the site inspection; however, based on the environmental violations identified in the 2002 EDR and the nature of the two businesses that have occupied the building, it is recommended that a HTRW investigation be conducted to identify potential soil contamination to the channel if the soils will be excavated or disturbed during the project.

Mitigation Area. An inspection was conducted of the mitigation area. The area directly south of Highway 82 and east of the channel is a closely mowed grass. East of the grassy area is a Home Depot. The area south of the Home Depot and south of the grassy area is being cleared for development. No HTRW issues were observed in these areas. The area to the west of the channel was observed from the bridge at Highway 82 as direct access to the site was blocked by railroad cars. From this vantage point the area could be observed with enough detail to potentially identify environmental conditions that would constitute an HTRW problem. No environmental conditions were identified that would require further investigation.

Disposal Area. The disposal area is an old borrow pit owned by the city of Gainesville. The area was observed by stepping through a closed pipe gate at CR 208 and walking along the dirt road that runs along the north side of the property. The area had several locations of concrete rubble that had been disposed. No environmental conditions were observed within the borrow pit that require additional investigation. At the northeast corner of the property was an abandoned oil well with two storage tanks and what appeared to be a portion of a pumping unit. One of the storage tanks was about two-thirds full with a liquid that had a petroleum odor; the second tank also contained liquid with a petroleum odor but the volume could not be determined. The presence of the oil well on the property should not impact the operations of disposal of rubble in the borrow pit, but care should be taken to avoid this area to prevent a release of petroleum constituents from the tanks to the environment. The Railroad Commission of Texas has a resourced program to cleanup abandoned oil production sites. It is recommended that the owner pursue the voluntary cleanup program of this oil production site to prevent future impacts to the environment.

Conclusions and Recommendations.

Prior to the next phase of this project, it is recommended that the 2002 environmental database search be updated to address more recent environmental conditions that could impact the study areas.

If the soils within the channel adjacent to the former Bazflex Texas, Inc. property are to be disturbed or excavated, it is recommended that soil samples be collected to identify potential contaminants that could have been released to the soils in the channel and to characterize the soils for disposal. In addition, because the study area is in an urban area, soil removed for disposal should be tested to make sure potential contaminants are not released to the disposal site. At the disposal site, care should be taken to stay a safe distance away from the oil well and storage tanks to avoid a release of petroleum hydrocarbons to the environment. Otherwise, the property is suitable from an environmental standpoint for excavated material disposal.

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