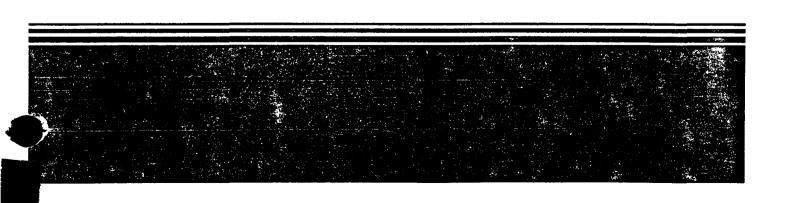


### **Superfund Record of Decision:**

MECTION MERCY TEXAS

French Limited, TX



REPORT	DOCUMENTATION PAGE	1. REPORT NO. EPA/ROD/R06-88/030	2.	3. Recipient's Accession No.
4. Title and SUPER		DECISION	L	5. Report Date 03/24/88
4.	h Limited, TX Remedial Acti	ion - Final		6.
7. Author(s)	)			8. Performing Organization Rept. No.
9. Performi	ng Organization Name a	and Address		10. Project/Task/Work Unit No.
				11. Contract(C) or Grant(G) No.
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•	ring Organization Name : Environmental	and Address Protection Agency		13. Type of Report & Period Covered
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Count site past.	y, Texas. The is within the Between 1966	eed, Inc. (FLI) site, a 22.5-ace site is situated one mile east 100-year flood plain of the R. and 1972, approximately 300,00 inies were deposited in an unl	st of the San Ja iver and has flo 100 yd <sup>3</sup> of indus	acinto River. The entire coded frequently in the strial wastes from area
sand	pit. The disp	posal site operated under a ter 1973, the permit was revoked a	porary permit	issued by the Texas Water
FLI w of la the w	as ordered to nd was ultimat aste pit was o	and FLI was ordered to cease of remove all the structures, tan ely deeded to the State. Duri evertopped and breached, and co	nkage, and proce ng a flood ever ontaminated sluc	ess equipment. The tract nt, the dike surrounding dges were discharged into
	ike was repair	In 1982, the U.S. EPA conducted and the majority of discharge parties of the sludges was reconstructed.	ged sludges wer	re pumped back into the
1983	during another	portion of the sludges was res U.S. EPA IRA. Ground water h	as been heavily	y contaminated by the
pit a	nd adjacent sl	organic wastes deposited in the ough include the following pro-		
_	ics, VOCs, met Attached Sheet	als, and arsenic.		1
	nt Analysis a. Descript			
	d of Decision			

French Limited, TX

First Remedial Action - Final

Contaminated Media: gw, sludge, soil

Key Contaminants: metals (arsenic), organics (PCP), VOCs, (PCBs)

c. COSATI Field/Group

vallability Statement	19. Security Class (This Report)	21. No. of Pages
	None	98
	20. Security Class (This Page)	22. Price
	None	

EPA/ROD/R06-88/030 rench Limited, TX irst Remedial Action - Final

16. ABSTRACT (continued)

The selected remedial action for this site includes: in-situ biodegradation of sludges and contaminated soils with aeration of the lagoon waste for degradation enhancement; stabilization of residues followed by onsite disposal; ground water pump and treatment; surface water discharge to the San Jacinto River with treatment, as necessary; backfilling of the lagoon to grade and contour; and ground water monitoring. The estimated present worth for this remedial action is \$47,000,000.

### Declaration for the Record of Decision

### Site Name and Location

French Limited is located on U.S. Highway 90 in Crosby, Texas.

### Statement of Purpose

This document represents the selected remedial action for the French Limited site, developed in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), and the Naitonal Contingency Plan (40 CFR Part 300).

### Statement of Basis

This decision is based on the administrative record for the French Limited site. The attached index identifies the items which comprise the administrative record upon which the selection of the remedial acton is based.

### Description of Selected Remedy

The primary component of the selected remedy for French Limited is in situ biological treatment of the sludges and contaminated soils in the lagoon onsite. The concentration of contaminants in these sludges and soils will be reduced to at least the levels specified in Table 3 of the "Summary of Remedial Alternatives" attached herein.

The contaminated groundwater will be recovered and treated during implementation of the in situ biological treatment process. Groundwater recovery and treatment will continue until modeling shows that a reduction in the concentration of volatile organics to a level which attains the  $10^{-6}$  Human Health Criteria can be achieved through natural attenuation in 10 years or less.

Surface water from the lagoon will be treated to at least the Texas surface water quality standards for the San Jacinto River Segment 1001.

Residues generated from the treatment process will be stabilized to prevent leachate generation and used as backfill in the lagoon. The remaining lagoon volume will be backfilled with clean soil. The surface will then be graded to promote drainage away from the site.

The final component of the remedy involves post-closure monitoring of the upper and lower aquifers for a period of 30 years. Post-closure monitoring is required under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

### <u>Declaration</u>

The selected remedy is protective of human health and the environment, attains Federal and State requirements that are applicable, or relevant and appropriate, and is cost-effective. This remedy satisfies the statutory preference for remedies that employ treatment technologies which permanently and significantly reduce the toxicity, mobility, or volume of hazardous substances.

The State of Texas has been consulted and agrees with the approved remedy.

11/1000 24, 1958

Robert E. Layton Jr. / P.E.

Regional Administrator

### FRENCH LIMITED, INC., RECORD OF DECISION CONCURRENCES

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### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Site Location and Description	1
Site History	1
Current Site Status	2
Migration Pathways	3
Target Receptors	4
Enforcement Analysis	5
Alternative Evaluation Criteria	5
Remedial Objectives	8
Identification of Potential Remedial Technologies	9
Development of Site Remedial Alternatives	9
Potentially Responsible Party Pilot Study	10
Evaluation of Alternatives	12
Recommended Alternative	16
Operation and Maintenance	17
Future Actions	17
Schedule	17
Administrative Record	Appendix A
Community Relations Summary	Appendix B
Pasnansi yanass Summary	Annondis B

### Summary of Remedial Alternative Selection

### French Limited Inc., Site Crosby, Texas

### SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The French Limited Inc., site is a 22.5-acre tract of land located in northeast Harris County, approximately 2 miles south, southwest of Crosby, Texas (Figure 1). The site, shown on Figure 2, is triangular in shape and bordered on the northwest by U.S. Highway 90 and on the south by Gulf Pump Road. The Riverdale Subdivision, immediately southwest of the site, is the only residential development in close proximity to the site. The site lies approximately 10 feet above mean sea level and is about one mile east of the San Jacinto River. The entire site is within the 100 year floodplain of the San Jacinto River and has flooded frequently in the past. Two aquifers are present within the 155 foot depth investigated during the Remedial Investigation.

The site consists of a 7.3-acre lagoon where wastes were disposed. The wastes have been classified into four media categories:

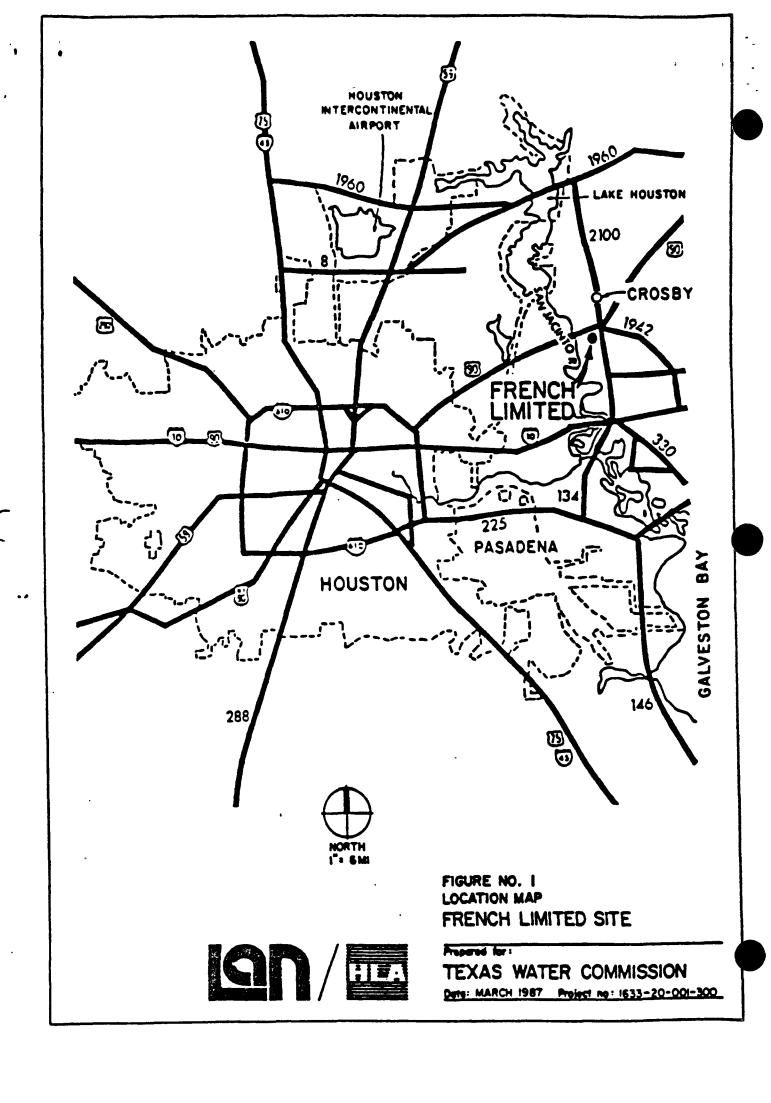
- o Sludges/sediments;
- o Contaminated soils (surface and underlying);
- o Contaminated surface waters; and
- o Contaminated groundwater.

The approximate volumes of waste at these areas are listed in Table 1.

### SITE HISTORY

Between 1966 and 1972, approximately 300,000 cubic yards of industrial wastes from area petrochemical companies were disposed at the French Limited site. The majority of the waste received was deposited in an unlined pit, formerly an active sand pit. However, some wastes were stored upon arrival in several large tanks and later burned in open pits. The French Limited disposal site was operated under a temporary permit issued by the Texas Water Quality Board. In 1973, the permit was revoked after extensive public hearings and legal proceedings, and French Limited was ordered to cease operations. As part of the settlement, French Limited was ordered to remove all of the site structures, tankage, and process equipment, and the tract of land upon which the disposal operations occurred was ultimately deeded to the State.

During a flood event, the dike surrounding the waste pit was overtopped and breached, and contaminated sludges were discharged into an adjacent slough. An Immediate Removal Action by the U.S. Environmental Protection



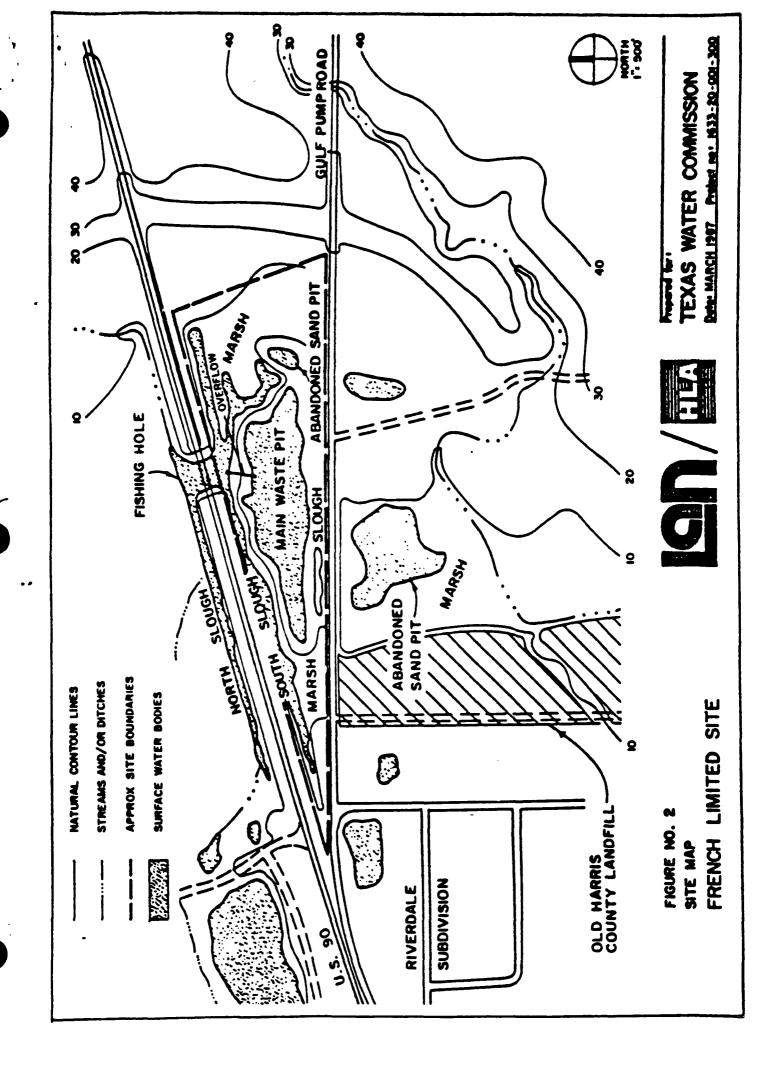


TABLE 1

### APPROXIMATE WASTE VOLUMES FRENCH LIMITED SITE

Waste V	olumes
In S	itu
Non-PCB1	PCB <sup>2</sup>
59,800 2,300	8,000
62,100	8,000
73,000 2,000 2,300 300	1,900
77,600	1,900
24.0 2.0	
26.0	
	59,800 2,300 62,100 73,000 2,000 2,300 300 77,600

- 1. Sludge/sediments in this column contain less than 50 ppm PCB.
- 2. Sludge/sediments in this column contain greater than 50 ppm PCB. Contaminated soils in this column greater than 50 ppm PCB. Note: While the quantity of sludge/sediments containing >50 ppm PCB can be estimated, it is not practical/possible to separate the PCB material from the remaining sludge/sediments. Therefore, for the purpose of this report, all of the sludge/sediments will be considered PCB sludge/sediments.

Agency in 1982 repaired the dike and pumped the majority of discharged sludges back into the pit. The floating portion of the sludges was removed and disposed of by the USEPA during another Immediate Removal Action in July 1983.

In January 1983, pursuant to a Cooperative Agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Texas Department of Water Resources (now the Texas Water Commission) contracted with Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc. (LAN), to conduct a Remedial Investigation (RI) at the site. The initial phase of the RI was performed in April 1983 to establish a data base for site characterization and evaluation. A supplemental phase was performed in November 1983 to refine and expand the original data base. The French Limited Task Group (a group of Potentially Responsible Parties) conducted a "1986 Field Investigation" and "Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report" pursuant to an Administrative Order and the results were utilized in the Feasibility Study and selection of the remedy.

### CURRENT SITE STATUS

Table 2 summarizes the reports which were used to describe the nature and extent of contamination. Pathways and receptors are described in detail in these reports.

The primary areas found to be contaminated at the site are:

- o The main waste pit; and
- o The slough immediately north and west of the main waste pit.

The contamination is broken down as waste or sludges and underlying contaminated soils. Table 1 shows the estimated waste volumes for the site and Figure 3 depicts areas of contamination on the site.

Sludges onsite are composed of a wide variety of organics, metals, and up to 616 ppm of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). There is little data showing PCB contamination with depth. Data indicate that 12 percent (by volume) of the sludges contain PCB concentrations greater than 50 ppm. However, the PCB contaminated material cannot be practically separated from the non-PCB material. Other chemical characteristics of the sludges include:

- o Volatile organics up to 400 ppm for a single contaminant;
- o Pentachlorophenol up to 750 ppm;
- o Numerous base/neutral organics at levels up to 5,000 ppm;
- o Pesticides up to 20 ppm; and
- o Metals up to 5000 ppm for a single metal.

TABLE 2
CHRONOLOGY OF SAMPLING EVENTS/INVESTIGATION

Date	Agency/Firm	Purpose
September 1979	EPA	Flood Impact Assessment
August 1981	EPA	Response Action
September 1981	Texas Department of Water Resources (TDWR) (District 7)	Water Well Testing
January 1982	Rollins Environmental	Cleanup Proposal
April 1983	Lockwood, Andrews and Newnam (LAN)	Remedial Investigation (RI)
November 1983	Lockwood, Andrews and Newnam (LAN)	Supplemental RI
February 1984	Resource Engineering, Inc. (REI)	Supplemental Investigatin
April 1985	Resource Engineering, Inc. (REI)	Remedial Investigation (RI)
July 1986	Resource Engineering Inc. (REI) & Applied Hydrology Associates, Inc. (AHA)	Field Investigation
December 1987	ERT	Biodegration Study

TEXAS WATER COMMISSION
RELIMINATION THAT THE SALES THE STATE OF THE SALES TH - 30 LONE STAR APPLINE EASLINERS POTON STAR EASEMENT MAIN WASTE PIT SLUGES AND UNDERLYING SOLS PIGURE NO.3

APEAS OF CONTAMNATION

FRENCH LIMITED SITE US HWY 90 BOUTH MIDDE ENSTRUCTORS OF MATER FOR PITS & SLOUGHS NORTH AREA CONTAMINANTO BORS HEST AMEA CONTRAMMATED SOLS LEGAL PROPERTY BOLNOARY/ROW SCUTTY RUDGE AND UNDERLYHIS SOLS FRENCH LIMITEL BITE BOURDARY MARK WASTE PIT BHIE AMEN CONTRAMANTED BONS REST AMEA PUB SORLS HOTE: AMEAS SHOWN ON THIS STANDS TO DETERMINE THE VOLUMES PRESENTED ON TABLE 1-4. EASEMENT 

The underlying soils contain many of the same contaminants found in the sludges, but generally at much lower levels. No PCBs were detected in any of the underlying soils.

Surface waters of the main waste pit and the south slough (refer to Figure 2) for the most part, meet the Surface Water Quality Criteria limits, and therefore would require minimal treatment prior to discharge. Off-site surface water contamination was not found during the French Limited remedial investigation.

Groundwater in the shallow aquifer has been heavily contaminated by the leaching action of organic wastes deposited in the main waste pit. At this time, only the shallow aquifer is significantly contaminated. No residential wells are currently affected.

A second aquifer lies beneath the first, separated by approximately 70 feet of sediments consisting predominantly of clays. This lower aquifer appears to contain trace concentrations of one or more volatile organic compounds which can be attributed to a leaking monitoring well. This well has since been sealed.

Underlying the two aquifers previously discussed and separated by several hundred feet of clay are the Chicot and Evangeline Aquifers, a primary drinking water source for metropolitan Houston. The aquifers do not appear to be in any danger of future contamination.

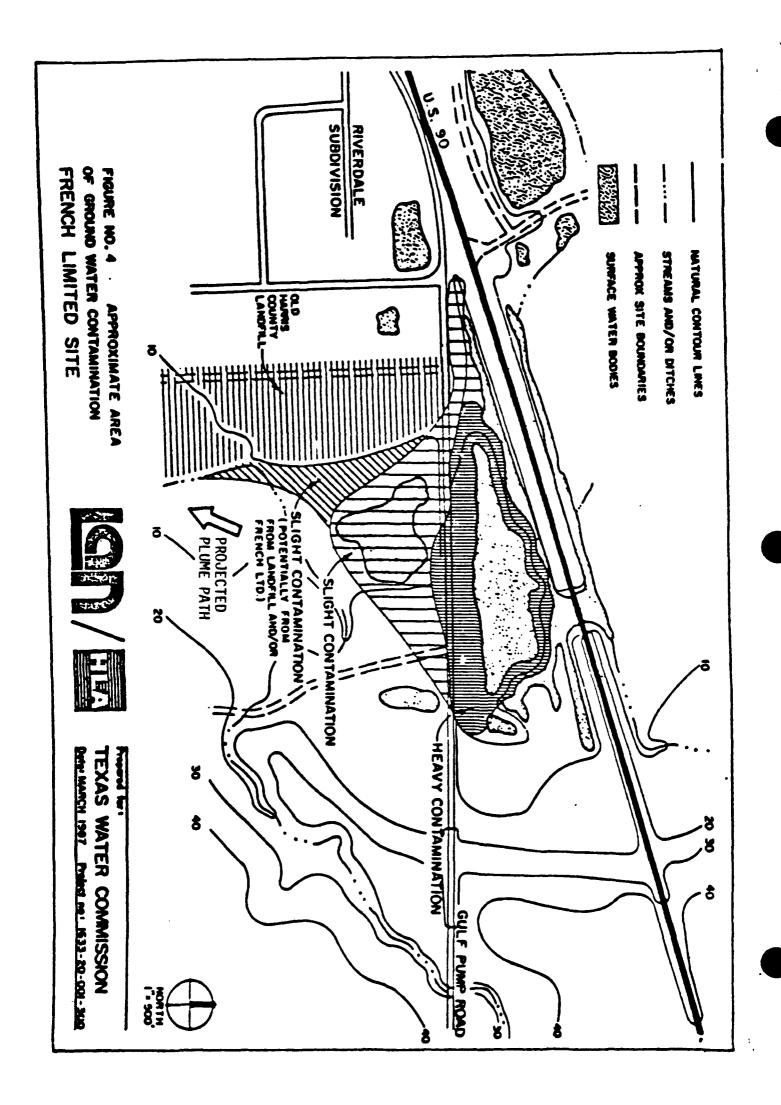
Air quality at the site has not been measurably degraded. However, if the wastes were to be disturbed in an uncontrolled situation the air releases could be substantial.

A more detailed description of the environmental setting, site hydrology, and extent and magnitude of contamination can be found in the RI report written by Lockwood, Andrews and Newnam (April 1985).

### MIGRATION PATHWAYS

The high levels of contaminants in the shallow aquifer in the vicinity of the lagoon (main waste pit) is evidence of seepage from the lagoon. The lack of significant mounding of the water table near the lagoon suggests that the seepage rate from the lagoon is low. However, given that the contamination has been present for about 20 years, even a low rate of seepage would cause contamination at the levels seen in the shallow aquifer.

Lateral contaminant migration within the shallow aquifer has been estimated to be up to 80 ft/year to the south, southeast. Field investigations have confirmed ground water contamination up to 1000 feet south, southeast of the site (Figure 4).



Vertical migration from upper to lower aquifer is estimated to be between 0.3 and 0.1 feet/year. At this rate, the contaminant/plume in the alluvium could have pentrated the underlying clay only a few feet and would take between 230 to 3,500 years to migrate through 70 feet of clay to the lower aquifer. Recent pump tests conducted by the French Limited Task Group indicate that while certain portions of the clay may result in higher rates of vertical migration, the overall integrity of the clay is sufficient to prevent substantial vertical migration of contaminants into the lower aquifer.

Transport and deposition of contaminated materials by stormwater runoff and/or floodwaters are surface pathways for migration of contaminants away from the site.

Transport and deposition mechanisms are illustrated by the San Jacinto River flood of April 1979. The flood played a key role in dispersing sludges out of the main waste pit. The flood breached the north berm of the pit (refer to Figure 2) allowing floating sludges to flow into the south slough. Contaminated surface soils bordering the slough provide a pathway for contamination to leave the site via erosion during heavy rainfall.

Contamination has passed through similiar pathways northward beneath US Highway 90 bridge and is now found in the slough along the north side of Highway 90. A "fishing hole" is part of this slough. Sediments in this slough contain trace concentrations of several compounds and up to 10 ppm PCB in the "fishing hole". Surface waters are apparently free of organic contamination and contain only trace concentrations of several metals. Fish tissue from specimens taken in the fishing hole indicated low level bioaccumulation of PCBs and some metals, with both contaminants below U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines for human consumption.

During flood events, water flowing west from the site could discharge into the Riverdale subdivision. Flood waters would also move directly south of the site.

### TARGET RECEPTORS

The following target receptors were identified in the Remedial Investigation:

- o Residents of Riverdale subdivision:
- o Sport fishermen that frequent the "fishing hole" under U.S. Highway 90;
- o Harris County Precinct 2 road maintenance personnel;
- o State Department of Highways and Public Transportation maintenance personnel:
- o Persons who make unauthorized or inadvertent entrance to the site.

Results of the RI study and Endangerment Assessment indicate that remedial action is required to reduce the potential for public health exposure through:

- o Direct contact with contaminated sludges and soils and surface water;
- o Ingestion of contaminated aquatic species and plants; and
- Consumption of and/or contact with contaminated groundwater.

### ENFORCEMENT ANALYSIS

Approximately 95 Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) have been identified for the site. ARCO has taken the lead in forming a task group, the French Limited Task Group, which has conducted various investigations and studies at the site. The Task Group has expressed an interest in conducting future remedial activities at the site and has conducted a biodegradation study at the site.

The remedy to be conducted at the site will be selected by the Record of Decision (ROD). If negotiations with the PRPs are unsuccessful it is recommended that the fund be utilized for cleanup of the site. Should the fund be used, EPA will enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the State of Texas for the design and construction. Attempts to recover the government costs will be made through a subsequent cost recovery action.

### ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION

### Evaluation Criteria

Section 121(a), (b) and (d) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act contains nine factors which EPA must consider in selecting a remedy for a Superfund site. These are summarized below:

### 1. Consistency with Other Environmental Laws

In determining appropriate remedial actions at Superfund sites, consideration must be given to the requirements of other Federal and State environmental laws, in addition to CERCLA as amended by SARA. Primary consideration is given to attaining applicable or relevant and appropriate Federal and State public health and environmental regulations and standards. Not all Federal and State environmental laws and regulations are applicable to each Superfund response action.

### 2. Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility or Volume

The degree to which alternatives employ treatment which reduce toxicity, mobility, or volume must also be assessed. Relevant factors are:

- o The treatment processes the remedies employ and materials they will treat;
- o The amount of hazardous materials that will be destroyed or treated;
- o The degree of expected reduction in toxicity, mobility, or volume;
- o The degree to which the treatment is irreversible;
- o The residuals that will remain following treatment, considering the persistence, toxicity, mobility, and propensity for bioaccumulation of such hazardous substances and their constituents.

### 3. Short-term Effectiveness

The short-term effectiveness of alternatives must be assessed; considering appropriate factors among the following:

- o Magnitude of reduction of existing risks;
- o Short term risks that might be posed to the community, workers, or the environment during implementation of an alternative including potential threats to human health and the environment associated with transportation, and redisposal or containment of treatment residuals;
- o Time until full protection is achieved.

### 4. Long-term Effectiveness and Permanence

Alternatives are assessed for the long-term effectiveness and permanence they afford along with the degree of certainty that the remedy will prove successful. Factors considered are:

- o Magnitude of residual risks in terms of amounts and concentrations of waste remaining following implementation of a remedial action, considering the persistence, toxicity, mobility, and propensity of such hazardous substances and their constituents to bioaccumulate;
- o Type and degree of long-term management required, including monitoring and operation and maintenance;
- o Long-term reliability of the engineering and institutional controls, including uncertainties associated with land disposal of untreated wastes and residuals;
- o Potential need for replacement of the remedy.

### 5. Implementability

The ease or difficulty of implementing the alternatives are assessed by considering the following types of factors:

- Degree of difficulty associated with constructing the technologies;
- o Expected operational reliability of the technologies;
- o Need to coordinate with and obtain necessary approvals and permits (e.g., NPDES, Dredge and Fill Permits for off-site actions) from other offices and agencies;
- o Availability of necessary equipment and specialists;
- o Available capacity and location of needed treatment, storage, and disposal services.

### 6. Cost

The types of costs that should be assessed included the following:

- o Capital cost;
- o Operational and maintenance costs;
- o Net present value of capital and O&M costs;
- o Potential future remedial action costs.

### 7. Community Acceptance

This assessment should look at:

- o Components of the alternatives which the community supports;
- o Features of the alternatives about which the community has reservations;
- o Elements of the alternatives which the community strongly opposes.

### 8. State Acceptance

Evaluation factors include assessments of:

o Components of the alternatives the State supports;

- o Features of the alternatives about which the State has reservations;
- o Elements of the alternatives under consideration that the State strongly opposes.

### 9. Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment

Following the analysis of the remedial options against individual evaluation criteria, the alternatives are assessed from the standpoint of whether they provide adequate protection of human health and the environment considering the multiple criteria.

### Remedial Objectives

The Feasibility Study developed the following objectives and criteria based on the results of the Remedial Investigation

Objective 1: Reduce health hazards associated with direct contact of contaminated soils, sediments or sludges.

Criterion: No direct contact with soils/sediment or sludges containing levels greater than those shown in Table 3.

Objective 2: Reduce contaminants in the upper aquifer.

Criterion: USEPA Drinking Water Standards and/or (10<sup>-4</sup> to 10<sup>-7</sup> cancer risk range) Human Health Criteria.

Objective 3: Reduce impact of contaminated runoff.

Criterion: Surface Water Quality Criteria.

Objective 4: Reduce migration of waste during flood events.

Criterion: Surface Water Quality Criteria for liquid waste.
Solid Waste criterion shown in Table 3.

Objective 5: Reduce contamination in lower aquifer.

Criterion: USEPA Drinking Water Standards and/or (10<sup>-4</sup> to 10<sup>-7</sup> cancer risk range) Human Health Criteria.

Objective 6: Reduce human contact with contaminated surface water.

Criterion: Surface Water Quality Criteria.

Objective 7: Reduce the potential of any adverse air discharge.

Criterion: OSHA standards at site boundary, Federal Ambient Air Standards.

TABLE 3

DIRECT CONTACT CRITERIA FOR SLUDGES AND CONTAMINATED SOILS
FRENCH LIMITED SITE

Contaminant	Maximum Allowable Concentration, ppm*
Benzo (A) pyrene	9
PCB	23
Volatile Organic Compounds	43
Arsenic	7
Benzene	14

<sup>\*</sup> Values correspond to a 1  $\times$  10<sup>-5</sup> excess lifetime cancer risk factor. Method and data for calculation taken from "Endangerment Assessment for French Limited Site," CH2M Hill, April 1987.

### Identification of Potential Remedial Technologies

The following broad criteria was used in the initial screening of alternatives and is consistent with the guidances distributed pursuant to SARA.

- 1. Effects of the Alternative. The effects of each alternative should be evaluated in two ways: (i) whether the alternative itself or its implementation has any adverse environmental effects; and (ii) for source control remedial actions, whether the alternative is likely to achieve adequate control of source material, or for offsite remedial actions, whether the alternative is likely to effectively mitigate and minimize the threat of harm to public health, or the environment.
- 2. <u>Implementability</u>. Alternatives must be feasible for the location and conditions of the release, applicable to the problem, and represent a reliable means of addressing the problem.
- 3. Cost. For each alternative, the cost of installing or implementing the remedial action must be considered, including operation and maintenance costs. Cost is an important factor when comparing alternatives which provide similar results. However, it is not used to discriminate between treatment and nontreatment alternatives.

EPA is also directed by SARA to give preference to remedial actions that utilize treatment to remove contaminants from the environment. Off-site transport and disposal without treatment is the least preferred option where practicable treatment technologies are available.

### Development of Site Remedial Alternatives

A number of potentially applicable remedial technologies were studied for the French Limited site. Combinations of technologies were identified and developed into 11 (Table 4) alternative remedial actions. Treatment alternatives for source control actions were developed ranging from an alternative that would eliminate the need for long-term management at the site, to an alternative using, as a principal element, treatment that would reduce the toxicity, mobility, or volume of site waste as a principal element. In addition, two other alternatives were reviewed:

- 1) An alternative that involves containment of waste with little or no treatment, but provides protection of human health and the environment primarily by preventing potential exposure or by reducing the mobility of the waste.
- 2) A no-action alternative.

A summary of initial screening of alternatives is presented in Table 4. After this initial screening of alternatives, five alternatives were retained for detailed evaluation and are described below.

SUMMARY OF INITIAL EVALUATION AND SCREENING RATIONALE FOR REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVES AT THE FRENCH LIMITED SITE

311ED STITE	Effectiveness Implementability Feasibility Million\$ ++ ++ ++ ++ ++ ++ ++ ++ 0 118.1	of ++ 0 65.2	n of t 0 0 71.1	· ·	0	
•	1. On-site incineration of sludges and contaminated ++	2. On-site incineration of sludges and thermal stripping of contaminated soils	3. On-site incineration of sludges and chemical fixation of contam- inated soils	4. On-site incineration of sludges and biological treatment of contaminated soils	e incineration of s and water/solvent 19 of contaminated	

criteria and inviolation of ARARs;

T 4 (Cont.)

### SUMMARY OF INITIAL EVALUATION AND SCREENING RATIONALE FOR REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVES AT THE FRENCH LIMITED SITE

Rationale	Achieves cleanup criteria in timeframe similar to Alt. 1. Stabilization of treatment residue required	Fixation is questionable due to high organic content of untreated soils	Inadequate treatment of soils may leave some contaminants at levels exceeding established criteria and in violation of ARARs; generation of large volume of metal sludge for disposal.	Increased cost for very little decrease in risk; Alt. 1 essentially achieves same risk without large quantity of slightly contaminated soils.
Relative Cost* Millions	47	N.C.	N.C.	166.8
Engineering Feasibility	<b>+</b>	0	<b>o</b> ,	0
Implementability	<b>+</b> +	o ·	O	<b>‡</b>
Effectiveness	‡	+	<b>+</b>	‡
Alternative	In-place biological treatment of sludges and contaminated soils	In-place biological treat- ment of sludges and chemical fixation of contaminated soils	In-place biological treatment of sludges and water/solvent leaching of contaminated soils	On-site incineration of sludges and contaminated soils above background levels. N.C Not Calculated
	•		<b>&amp;</b>	<b>.</b>

SUMMARY OF INITIAL EVALUATION AND SCREENING RATIONALE FOR REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVES AT THE FRENCH LIMITED SITE

moratod for althoughter	mate will be de	ly Detailed	ratives purposes on	estimates for conna	These mets are baseline estimates for connaratives purposes only. Detailed mets will be generated for alternates	*
Retained for comparative purposes	0.52		N/A	I	No action	11.
Effective short-termy temporary solution; retained for comparative purposes	41.3	0	· +	•	Isolate sludges and contaminated soils with slurry wall and cap	19.
Rationale	Engineering Relative Cost* Feasibility Million\$		Implementability	Effectiveness	Alternative	

These costs are baseline estimates for comparatives purposes only. Detailed costs will be generated for alternates retained for detailed analysis.

The following scale was used to rate each of the remedial actions:

Definition	Extremely negative	Moderately negative	Neutral effect	Positive	Very positive
Rating	!	1	0	+	‡

- Alternative 1 is complete incineration of sludges and soils above criteria levels (listed in Table 3). Ash would be chemically fixed if deemed hazardous and backfilled onsite. Surface water will be treated if necessary and discharged to the San Jacinto River. Contamination in the upper aquifer should naturally attenuate to a 10<sup>-6</sup> human health level in less than 10 years after the source is removed. The estimated cost of this alternative is \$120 million.
- Alternative 2 is incineration of sludges only, with contaminated soils chemically fixed and left in place. Surface water and groundwater would be handled the same as in Alternative 1. The estimated cost of this alternative is \$75 million.
- Alternative 3 would encapsulate contaminants by slurry walls and a multilayered cap. This alternative is a containment remedy which is required to be evaluated under interim guidance under SARA. Surface water and groundwater would be handled in the same manner as Alternative 1 and 2. The estimated cost of this alternative is \$43 million.
- Alternative 4 is the no-action alternative. The Superfund regulations require full consideration be given to a no-action alternative. The associated \$500,000 cost of this alternative is for fencing and groundwater monitoring. However, no action would be taken to contain or treat the waste.
- Alternative 5 is consists of using indigenous bacteria for biological degradation with aeration of the lagoon waste for enhancement of the degradation process. Controls would be implemented to reduce air emissions. Surface water in the lagoon would be treated and discharged to the nearby San Jacinto River. Residues from the treatment process would be stabilized and buried onsite. The lagoon would be backfilled to grade with clean soil and contoured to promote drainage. Also, a groundwater recovery system would be installed to pump and treat the shallow aquifer in the vicinity of the site.

### POTENTIALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES PILOT STUDIES

Some of the firms that disposed of waste at the French site formed the French Limited Task Group in 1983 and began their own site evaluation studies. As a result of these investigations, the Task Group requested that EPA give serious consideration to a biological treatment concept for the site. Pursuant to an EPA Administrative Order signed on April 16, 1987, the responsible parties have undertaken pilot scale testing of biological treatment systems onsite.

In order for the EPA to consider biological treatment as a remedy, the following was to be clearly demonstrated in the pilot study:

- equal permanence and protection of human health and the environment afforded by onsite thermal destruction in the short and long term,
- degradation of the waste in a timeframe faster than or equal to thermal destruction, and
- all applicable, relevant, or appropriate State and Federal regulations are met or exceeded to the same extent as thermal destruction.

The pilot study was conducted onsite from April to October 1987 in a 0.6-acre section of the lagoon. The sampling plan was designed to address three areas of concern:

- The biodegradation rate and overall implementation schedule;
- The degree of air emissions that might evolve from full-scale implementation;
- The impact of implementation on groundwater quality.

The results of the pilot study are documented in a report submitted to the EPA by the Task Group on October 30, 1987. The results of the waste sampling indicate that the organic contaminants of concern, except the PCBs and arsenic, were reduced to concentrations below the cleanup criteria established for French Limited. Stabilization of the treatment residue may be necessary to adequately prevent migration of the PCBs and arsenic to the upper aquifer.

Air monitoring data were generated to evaluate time weighted average and instantaneous concentrations of volatile organics in the ambient air near the demonstration area. Samples were taken upwind and downwind of the demonstration area and downwind at the French Limited property boundary. Action limits for operating the pilot system were set at 50% of the threshold limit values for seven indicator compounds (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, trichloroethene, tetrachloroethene, chloroform, and napthalene). The results of the air monitoring are summarized in Table 5. These results indicate that air emissions generated by the aeration process should not present a significant health threat.

Results from monitoring well samples taken from around the perimeter of the test area indicate that some degradation of the water quality in the upper aquifer did occur during the pilot study. Prior to aeration, the

Table 5

FRENCH LIMITED PILOT STUDY AIR MONITORING DATA

				Legoonside		Peace	line
			Actual	Highest	r Pre	Actual	Host Proquent
		Detection	Concentration	Concentration	centr	Concentration	Concentration
Compound	21	Limite	Bange	1 of TA	3	lange 2	Prote
Choloromethane	86. 86.	•.	MC-2.4	9.003	ğ	708	ğ
Dromome thane	5,000	6.3	70	1	ğ	<b>10</b>	708
Vinyl Chloride	9,000	• •	MCC-132	•	2	MOC-1.8	708
Chloroethane	1,000,000	:	706	•	2	ğ	BOC
Nothylene Chloride	90,000	6.3	1.7-201	0.015	2	HDC~3.9	301
Acetone	750,000	6.5	3DC-16	900.0	100	BDC-31.1	BD(~10
Carbon Disulfids	10,000	• .	BOC-134	-	ğ	35-728	304
1,1-Dichloroethene	9,000	6.3	BDC-3.5	6.7	2	) M	200
1,1-bichloroethane	200,000	6.3	BDC-225	0.1	170	NOC-5.9	MOC
Trans-1, 2-Dichibro-	200,000	6.3	BD(~10)	0.24	10-5	100-16	101
ethere							
Chloroform	10,000	6.3	BDC-9.4	. 99	178	· mot-3.4	ğ
1,2-Dichloroethane	10,000	6.3	BOC-214	~		BC-9.6	
2-But anome	200,000	•	MCC-122	<b>3</b> .	1	MDC-61.4	300
1,1,1-Trichleroetham	156,000	6.2	BDC-1.4	. 0004	Ž	80C-6.5	70
Carbon Tetrachlorida	5,000	6.2	MCC-1.1	0.05	ž	MOC-1.1	ğ
Vinyl Acotate	10,000	6.3	106-9.1	0.1	ğ	MC-1.0	3
Bronodich i ereethene		6.3	7	•	ğ	3	30
1, 2-Dichlorepropuse	75,000	4.2	MCC-110	0.15	1	MC-2.0	3
Trans-1, 3-Dichlere-	1.000	6.3	ğ	1	ž	ğ	300
probene							
Trichloroethene	<b>2</b> . <b>2</b> .	6.2		0.10	1	MOC-1.3	5
Dibromoch le romethene		1.0	70	•	ğ	70	3

- 1. Based on normal 26-litter air volume.
- 2. BDL entries indicate levels were below detection limits. 3. Concentration level ranges used: BDL, BDL-18 ppb, 10-50 ppb, 350 ppb.

Table 5 (cont.)

FRENCH LIMITED PILOT STUDY AIR MONITORING DATA

				Lagouaside		Posses	line
			Actual	Hi gheet	Nost Proquent	Actual	Most Prequent
		Detection	mounti	encentration	Concentration	Concentration	Concest rot ion
Compound	2	Linde	4	1 of TLV	-	-	4
1,1,2-Trichleroothese	10,000	6.2	#Of-11.	0.11	ž	#DC-1.1	MC-1.1 MC.
Dentero	10,000	7.0	MCL-25	•	MDC-10	11-708	MDC-10
Cis-1, 3-Dichlore-	1,000	6.3	7	,	ğ	7	ğ
bropene.							
2-Chlorosthyl vinyl		6.3	104-3.	ı	<b>10</b>	ğ	ğ
Ether							
Bronoform	98	•.1	<b>10</b>	,	70	į	ğ
2-Henanone	5,000	6.3	106-1.	0.03	<b>1</b>	ng (	300
4-Hathyl-2-Pentenone	56,000	6.9	DK-3.	. 007	ij	300	) M
Tetrachloroethene	90,000	0.3	BOL-6.1	•.•	70	MDC-0.2	708
1,1,2,2-Tetrachlore-	1,000	0.3	7	1	ğ	ğ	70
othere					•		
Tolumn	100,000	6.3	2017	1.0	<b>172</b>	MOC-24	BCC-10
Chlorobennens	75,000	0.3	<b>806-19</b>	6.025	ğ	MOC-1.0	
Stby I bensone	100,000	6.3	MC-15	1.0		MQ-5.0	MCL-10
Styrese	<b>3.</b>	6.3	25.70	1.0	7	BDC-1.1	7
Total Mylame	100,000	•:	BOC-111	7.	BDC-10	BDC-7.0	<b>80</b> C10

### Motes:

- 1. Based on mormal 26-liter sir volume.
  2. BCL emtries indicate levels were below detection limits.
  3. Concentration level ranges used: BCL, BCL-10 ppb, 10-50 ppb, >50 ppb.

Table 5 (cont.)

FRENCH LIMITED PILOT STUDY AIR MONITORING DATA

The got Compound	2	Action Linkt	Bat act ion Limit	Laponeside Concentration Reaps	Leponnaide Maximum Concentration % of Action Limit	Peaceline Ceacentration Benge	Perceline Maximum Concentration 1 of Action Limit
Chloroform	99.00	25,000	356	ğ	1	ğ	
Pensene		8,000	91	BDC-1160	<b>62</b>	MC-150	9.0
Trichleroothess	100,000	30,000	91	BDC-675	1.4	BCC-530	•:
Tolumn	300,000	100,000	\$2	BOK-1494	1.5	. 185-380	•
fot rachi are- othese	. es.	960,000	2	8C - 3%	1.7	<b>35</b> 1-136	
Stby lbensons	18.00	20,00	*	BDC-410	1.6	MC-130	•

NC. - Delow Detection Limit

sludges formed a seal on the bottom of the lagoon. This seal effectively retarded leachate generation. Aeration of the sludges broke the seal, allowing leachate to contaminate the upper aquifer.

Sludges on the bottom of the lagoon currently provide an effective barrier against leachate generation. As these sludges are mixed in the lagoon, some leaching of contaminants to the shallow aquifer may occur. Recovery and treatment of the shallow aquifer is necessary to control any groundwater degradation which may occur during implementation of the biotreatment remedy.

Based on the results of the study, the estimated implementation time for a full scale biological treatment remedy is four years. The estimated present worth cost of the remedy is \$47 million.

### Evaluation of Alternatives

The degree that the five remedial alternatives meet the nine selection criteria is shown in Table 6. The following values were assigned to compare remedial selection criteria:

- ++ Alternative would greatly exceed a selection criterion when compared to other alternatives.
- + alternatives would exceed a criterion in comparison to other alternatives
- o alternatives can be designed to meet the selection
- special efforts will be necessary in the design of the remedy to meet the selection criterion
- -- alternative would present the most difficulty in achieving a selection criterion in comparison to other alternatives.

The rationale for the ratings assigned in this table is as follows:

- 1. <u>Compliance with ARARs</u> (i.e. meets or exceed applicable, or relelvant, and appropriate Federal and State Requirements).
  - a. No action was assigned a "--" because it would not comply with SARA or the National Contingency Plan provisions to respond to a threat of release which endangers human health and the environment.
  - b. Complete Incineration was rated "++" for compliance with all identified ARARs regarding operation of the thermal destruction unit. This alternative would also meet the applicable standards (including water quality standards).
  - c. Partial Incineration received a "+" rating. A thermal destruction unit would be operated in compliance with all applicable requirements. This alternative would also, by

TABLE 6

DETAILED EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES

	I	1 Acceptable	<del>2</del>	<del>2</del>			-
Cost	ĽL	ial Repl	•	120	120	120	120
) ;;	S M1	Initial	120	75	42	0.52	47
	Implement-	ability	‡		+	‡	‡
Long	Term	Effect	‡	+		l	‡
Short	Term	MOB TOX VOL Effect	0	0	0	0	o
	S	Š	<b>+</b>	0	ı	1	‡
.	Reduces	ğ	‡	0	1	1	<b>‡</b>
	ž	<b>€</b>	‡	0	0	i	+
Complies	with	ARAR'S	‡	+	t		+
		Alternative	1. Complete On-site Thermal Destruction	2. On-site Thermal Destruction W/stabiliza-	3. Cap and Slurry wall	4. No action	5. In situ Biodegrad- ation w/ stabiliza- tion

destruction of the PCB contaminated sludges, fulfill the disposal requirements of TSCA. The alternative would not, however, comply with the RCRA requirements for closure in a 100-year floodplain due to the high concentrations of organics remaining in the subsoil.

- d. <u>Containment</u> was rated "-". This alternative would not comply with the RCRA or TSCA requirements for closure in floodplain.
- e. <u>Insitu biodegradation</u> received a "++" rating for compliance. Reduction of the contaminant concentrations below the health based criteria, in conjuction with chemical fixation of the treated residue, would comply with the closure requirements for the site. This alternative would also satisfy the preference in SARA to significantly reduce the mobility, toxicity, or volume of the waste.

The compliance of each alternative with ARARs is shown in Table 7.

### 2. Reduces Mobility, Toxicity, or Volume

- a. No Action received a "--" because it would not reduce these parameters to any extent.
- b. <u>Complete Incineration</u> rated a "++" for these parameters since all of the organic contaminants above the identified health-based criteria would be eliminated.
- c. Partial Incineration was rated "0". The contaminated sludges would be destroyed and the mobility of the subsoils would be reduced. However, the toxicity of the subsoils would not be significantly reduced, while the volume of the soil would be increased significantly by the addition of the stabilizing agents. Also, the degree of reduction of mobility will depend upon the concentration of organics in the soil. Soils with greater than 2 percent organics may continue to generate leachate after stabilization.
- d. <u>Containment</u> (cap and slurry wall) was rated a "-". The volume and toxicity would not be affected and mobility of the waste would only be reduced so long as the integrity of the slurry wall was maintained.
- e. <u>In situ</u> biodegradation received a "++" rating. Destruction of the contaminated sludges and treatment of the soils will significantly reduce the toxicity of the waste. Reduction in the volume of the sludges will be offset somewhat by an

# REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE OR RELEVANT AND APPROPRIATE REQUIREMENTS

. S		×	×	×	<b>×</b> .		×
ative				×	×		
1tern				×	×	×	
Remedial Alternative No.			×	×	×	*	×
Remed		×	×	*	×	×	×
Analysis		Implementation of this alternative will be consistent with current RCRA regulations, including standards for owners and operators of hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities and closure performance standards for facilities located within a 100-year floodplain.	Implementation of this alternative is consistent with the goals and objectives of HSWA including the current and proposed land disposal bans for RCRA wastes.	Implementation of this alternative does not specifically require the off-site transport of hazardous materials.	Implementation of this alternative may result in the emission of pollutants into the air. On-site personnel will be adequately protected. Emissions will be controlled to comply with standards.	Implementation of this alternative will require point source emissions to the air. Pollution control equipment will be placed on the on-site treatment facility to comply with standards.	Implementation of this alternative will be consistent with current TSCA regulations and policy for cleanup of PCBs and PCB contaminated material.
Law or Regulation	Federal	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) including the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA)		Department of Transportation (DOT) Hazardous Materials Transport Rules	Clean Air Act (CAA) and National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)		Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)

# REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE OR RELEVANT AND APPROPRIATE REQUIREMENTS

Law or Regulation	Analysis	Reme	dial A	Remedial Alternative No.	ive No.
Federal					
Federal Water Quality Criteria (FWQC) including criteria	Implementation of the alternative should result in compliance with all FWQC for groundwater.	×	×	×	×
Water Act and its maximum contaminant level goals, the Clean Water Act, and the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act	Implementation of this alternative should result in compliance with all FWQC for surface water.	×	×	×	×
Floodplain Management Executive Order No. 11988	Implementation of this alternative will be consistent with Floodplain Management requirements as prescribed in Executive Order 11988.	×	×	×	×
State					
Texas Water Commission (TWC) Surface Water Quality Criteria (SWQC)	Implementation of this alternative will produce a point source discharge. The discharge will be treated on-site as necessary to satisfy State SWQC.	×	×	×	×
Texas Air Control Board Regulations	Implementation of this alternative may produce a point source emission from on-site equipment. Emissions will be in compliance with State regulations.	×	×	×	×
	<pre>Implementation of this alternative may produce a non-point source emission. Emissions will be controlled to comply with standards.</pre>	×	×	×	×

increase in volume of stabilized residues. The net reduction in volume is, however, expected to be significant. A slight, temporary increase of the mobility of the waste may be expected during implementation of the remedy. This increase is due to leachate generation and can easily be controlled by recovering and treating the groundwater under the site.

#### 3. Short-term Effectiveness

All of the alternatives were rated "0". A potential exists for the release of volatile organics during site drainage and excavation activities for alternatives 1, 2, and 3 and during the operation of alternative 5. This can be reduced by cautious work practices during implementation, and will have to be addressed during design. Property boundary air monitoring data generated during the PRP pilot study indicates that emissions generated by bioremediation should not consitute a health treat.

#### 4. Long-term Effectiveness and Permanence

Both alternatives 1 and 5 were rated "++" for their abilities to reduce contaminants to levels below the established health-based criteria. While biodegradation of PCBs to the criterion (23 ppm) has not been demonstrated, significant reductions in concentration have been noted. Stabilization of the residue should provide adequate long-term effectiveness if the PCB criterion is not achieved through biodegradation. Partial incineration was rated less highly (+) because of concerns regarding the permanance of stabilized soils with high concentrations of organics. Containment and No Action were rated "--" because neither would contribute to the long-term remediation given the site conditions of high water table and 100-year floodplain.

#### 5. Implementability

Alternative 1,4, and 5 were rated "++" because they are easily implementable in a reasonable timeframe. Concerns about air emission can be overcome with careful design and implementation considerations. Partial incineration received a "+" rating due to potential problems with the stabilization of soils with high organics concentrations. The containment alternative was rated "+" based on its effectiveness as a short-term solution at the site.

#### 6. Cost

Estimated costs for each alternative are listed in Table 6. Included in this table are the total present worth and replacement costs. Total present worth costs consist of capital costs and operation and maintenance costs through the post-closure period. Replacement costs are the costs for remediation of the site should the remedy fail.

The containment, partial incineration, and no action alternatives are considered most likely to fail because of the potential for leachate generation, slurry wall failure, and lateral migration of the waste. Failure of in situ biotreatment is less likely because the treated soils may be more amenable to solidification. However, failure costs must also be considered for biotreatment Replacement costs are estimated at \$120 million, assuming that onsite incineration is the replacement cleanup technology.

Costs associated with the no action alternative include groundwater and air monitoring and periodic site inspections. These costs are considered to be operation and maintenance costs, not capital costs.

Costs for the containment alternative, \$42 million, are primarily reflective of the construction costs for the cap and slurry wall and treatment of the lagoon water prior to discharge.

The difference in cost between alternatives 1 and 2 is associated with the lower volume of material to be treated by incineration.

Alternative 5, biological treatment, offers the lowest cost of the treatment alternatives. This is attributed to the equipment and operating costs which are significantly lower for biological treatment than for thermal destruction.

#### 7. Community Acceptance

The community expressed significant concerns about the incinerator alternatives. Comments regarding the biological treatment alternative were mixed, ranging from complete endorsement to opposition. Those persons opposed to biological treatment were also opposed to all onsite remedies.

A complete summary of the community relations history and responses to public comments is presented in Appendix B of this summary.

#### 8. State Acceptance

The State of Texas (Texas Water Commission) has concurred with the selected biological treatment remedy.

# 9. Overall Protection of Public Health and the Environment

Complete incineration and in situ bioremediation both received "++" ratings. Incineration offers destruction of all of the contaminants to levels below the health-based criteria and can be operated in compliance with applicable requirements. Biodegradation has been shown to reduce contaminants, except PCBs, to levels below the criteria. Stabilization of the treated residue for disposal onsite will provide adequate protection from any residual PCB concentrations.

Partial incineration was rated a "+" for the destruction of contaminated sludges. A higher rating could not be justified due to the potential for future leachate generation form inadequately stabilized soils. The cap and slurry wall alternative was rated a "-" because it was considered a short term remedy for the site. The potential would always exist for failure of either the cap or the slurry wall allowing for the movement of unstabilized wastes contained onsite.

The risk involved with leaving untreated waste onsite is the principal reason that the no action alternative received a rating of "--".

### Recommended Alternative

Based on the evaluation of alternatives discussed in the previous section, Alternative 5 is recommended for implementation at the French Limited site. The major components of this alternative include:

- 1. In <u>situ</u> biodegradation of sludges and contaminated soils;
- 2. Recover and treat contaminated groundwater until modeling shows that a reduction in the concentration of volatile organics to a level which attains the  $10^{-0}$  Human Health Criteria can be achieved through natural attenuation in 10 years or less.
- Discharge surface waters from the lagoon to the San Jacinto River; treat as necessary to meet surface water discharge criteria;
- 4. Stabilize the treated residue and dispose onsite;
- 5. Backfill the lagoon to grade and conform the site surface to promote drainage; and
- 6. Monitor the upper and lower aquifers for a period of 30 years.

# Operation and Maintenance (O&M)

Operation and maintenance will consist of post closure monitoring of the upper and lower aquifers as well as surficial maintenance of the site once closure is complete. Surficial maintenance includes such items as:

- o Fence repair, and
- o Fill replacement and regrading.

Due to its proximity to the French Limited site, groundwater monitoring in the Riverdale subdivision will be necessary during the post-closure period. The frequency of sampling will be outlined in a post-closure operation and maintenance plan. This plan will be developed and finalized during implementation of the selected remedy.

0&M costs include purchased services such as sampling and laboratory analysis for groundwater monitoring, administrative costs, taxes, insurance, labor, and materials. Operation of the groundwater recovery system after the final closure of the lagoon is also included in this cost. Operation of this recovery system will continue until modeling shows that a reduction in the concentration of volatile organics to a level which attains the  $10^{-6}$  Human Health Criteria can be achieved through natural attenuation in 10 years or less.

#### Future Actions

No future actions are anticipated at the site. The proposed remedial action is considered permanent. If, however, significant, unforeseen offsite migration of contamination occurs as a result of the site, appropriate remedial measures will be taken. Also, should organic contamination be detected during any of the residential well sampling events, the need for an alternate water supply in the subdivision will be evaluated.

## Remedial Action Schedule

ROD Signature	March 1988
Complete Enforcement Negotiation	September 1988
Start Remedial Design	September 1988
Complete Remedial Design	December 1989
Begin Remedial Action	December 1989
Complete Remedial Action	December 1993

# TEXAS WATER COMMISSION

Paul Hopkins, Chairman
John O. Houchins, Commissioner
B. J. Wynne, III, Commissioner



J. D. Head, General Counsel Michael E. Field, Chief Examiner Karen A. Phillips, Chief Clerk

Allen Beinke, Executive Director

Mr. Robert E. Layton, Jr., P.E. Regional Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region VI 1445 Ross Avenue Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Re: Draft Record of Decision

French Limited Superfund Site

Dear Mr. Layton:

We have reviewed the draft Record of Decision (ROD) and responsiveness summary for the French Limited Superfund Site. We have no objection to the issuance of a ROD by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

On a related matter, we would like to comment on the obligation of State monies for a period of 30 years after the remedial construction activities are complete. Such a commitment by the State of Texas may be a violation of Article VIII, Section 6 of the Texas Constitution which addresses the appropriation of money beyond a two year period.

Sincerely yours,

Allen P. Beinke Executive Director

# APPENDIX A ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

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Tempera D. Cooper, Envaronmental Biologist

U.F. E.A.A., Houston Branch

Anting Director, Surveillance and Analysis

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In-spection of French Ltd. Waste Disposal

Site, near Crosby, Texas

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Kenneth D. Cooper, Environmental Biologist

U.S. E.P.A., Houston Branch

Acting Director, Surveillance and Analysis

Division, U.S. E.P.A.

Connespondence

Follow-up Site Inspection of the French

Ltd. Waste Disposal Site, near Crosby,

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Identification and Preliminary Assessment

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Jack Wiseman U.S. E.P.A.

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Report

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Tentative Disposition - Potential Hazardous

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H:50R: William D. Langley, Chief, Laboratory

Rention. Houston Branch

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Decen Papirez, Jr., Acting Director,

Emperationne and Analysis Division, U.S.

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French Ltd. Disposal Site; Crosby, Texas

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AUTHOR:

Charles A. Gazda, Chief

U.S. E.P.A. COMPANY/AGENCY:

RECIPIENT:

Bruce Elliott, Chief, General Enforcement

Branch, U.S. E.P.A.

DOCUMENT TYPE:

Solid Waste Site Inspection

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Lab reports for samples collected at French

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Royal J. Nadeau, Ph.D., Environmental

Response Team

FOMEANY/ASENCY: U.S. F.P.A.

HTCDS-LERT: Wally Cooper, Ch-Scene Coordinator, U.S. E.P.A., Region VI

Report

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Interim Report on results of sampling and analysis effort for the French Ltd.

Abandoned Hazardous Waste Site

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Tentative Disposition

Assessment of hazardous waste site

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U.S. E.P.A. Files

Site Inspection Report

Inspection findings at French Ltd.

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NUMBER OF PAGES:

AUTHOR:

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Michael A. Kilpatrick, Chemical Engineer,

Hazardous Waste Enforcement Task Force

COMPANY/AGENCY: U.S. E.P.A.

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Kirk Sniff, Enforcement Division, U.S.

E.P.A. Region VI

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Enforcement Investigation of French Limited

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U.S. E.P.A. Files Site Notification

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Addendum to Emergency Action Plan

Overview of plan to be implemented at

French Ltd.

DOCUMENT NUMBER:

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AUTHOR:

COMPANY/AGENCY:

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U.S. E.P.A. Files

Emergency Action Plan

Site description, history and general

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Information on Cedar Bayou Plant (disposal for French Ltd.)

French Ltd. Disposal Site Information

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AUTHOR:

COMPANY/AGENCY:

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Michael J. Miille, Ph.D., Director of GC/MS

Services

California Analytical Laboratories, Inc.

Dick Thacker, Viar & Company Memorandum and attachment

19

09/89/81

**⊕**04

Larry K. Landry, FIT

Ecology and Environment, Region VI

Charles Gazda, Chief. Compliance Section,

L.S. E.P.A.

Memoreadum

Review of organic analysis of three sludge samples from French Ltd., TDD #F-6-8109-32

20 10/02/81

QQ4

William D. Langley, Chief, Laboratory

Services Section, Region VI

U.S. E.P.A.

William J. Librizzi, Director, Surveillance

and Analysis Division, U.S. E.P.A.

Lab report analyses

Reports for analyses of monitoring well samples taken by TDWR at French Ltd.

DOCUMENT NUMBER: DOCUMENT DOTE:

1://:5/81

NUMBER OF PAGIS: AUTHOR: 019 Robert W. Cibulskie, Environmental

Scientist, Environmental Response Yeam

COMPANY/AGENCY:

13.5. 机.6.4

RECIPIENT:

Bot Formest, Emergency Response Branch,

U.S. E.F.A.

DOCUMENT TYPE:

Survey Reports at French Ltd. and Motoo

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Accestic Emission Monitoring Surveys

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AUTHOR:

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COMPANY/AGENCY:

U.S. E.P.A., Region VI Headquarters

RECIPIENT: U.S. E

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DOCUMENT TITLE:

Inonganics Quality Assurance RMA QC Report

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11/09/81

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AUTHOR:

David Anderson, FIT

COMPANY/AGENER:

Ecclocy & Environment, Region VI

'KOURFIENTE

Charles Gazda, Ensef, Compliance Section,

U.S. E.P.A.

DOCUMENT TYPE:

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REFERENCE: DOCUMENT TITLE:

Review of sample data from French and Sikes

monitor wells: TDD F-6-8111-1

DOCUMENT HUMBER:

24

DOCUMENT DATE:

11/09/81

NUMBER OF PAGES:

300

AUTHOR:

David Anderson, FIT

COMPANY/AGENCY:

Ecology & Environment, Region VI

RECIPIENT:

Charles Gazda, Chief, Compliance Section,

U.S. E.P.A.

DOCUMENT TYPE:

Memorandum

DOCUMENT FLAG CODE:

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DOCUMENT TITLE:

Collection of data for Sikes Pit and French

Ltd.: TDD#F-6-8109-33

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David Anderson, FIT

Ecology and Environment, Region VI

Charles Garda, Chief, Compliance Section.

U.S. E.F.A. Memorandum

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Review of sample data from French and Sikes monitor wells; TDD F-6-8111-1

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AUTHOR:

RECIPIENT:

COMPANY/AGENCY:

DOCUMENT TYPE: DOCUMENT FLAG CODE:

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28

11/23/81 OOB

Thomas N. Smith, FIT Geologist

Ecology and Environment, Region VI

Charles Gazda, Chief, Compliance Section,

U.S. E.P.A.

Memorandum and attachment

Collection of data for areas surrounding Sikes Pit and French Ltd.; TDD #F-6-8109-33

DODUMENT NUMBER: DOCUMENT LATE: NUMBER OF PAGES:

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COMPANY/AGENTY: SECTIONENT:

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William N. Hedeman, Jr., Director, Office

of Emergency and Remodial Response

9.5. E.P.A.

Charstopher Capper, Acting Asst.

Administrator, Solid Waste & Emergency

Response Office, U.S. E.P.A.

Memorandum

Authorization to proceed with Remedial

Planning at the French Ltd. Disposal Site -

Action Memorandum

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AUTEOR:

Lamar Miller, Actump Director, Office of

Waste Programs Enforcement

COMPCHY/PRENTY:

RECTUTENT:

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Memorandum:

Bill medeman, Director, Office of Emergency

and Remedial Response, U.S. E.P.A.

DUCUMENT TYPE:

DOCUMENT FLAG CODE:

REFERENCE:

DOCUMENT TITLE:

Expanditure of Superfund money at French

Ltd., Region VI

89

DOCUMENT NUMBER:

DOCUMENT DATE:

05/12/82

NUMBER OF PAGES:

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AUTHOR:

Charles A. Gazda, Chief, Emergency Response

Bearich

COMPANY/AGENCY:

RECIPIENT:

U.S. E.P.A.

Memorandum

William mathaway, Acting Chief, Superfund

Branch, U.S. E.P.A.

DOCUMENT TYPE:

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REFERENCE:

DOMUMENT TITLE:

Community Relations Plan for the French

Ltd. Site, Crosby, Texas

DOCUMENT NUMBER:

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MUMBER OF FACES:

05/21/82

HITHOR:

W. Lamar Miller, Acting Director, Office of

Waste Programs Enforcement

COMPANY / AGENCY:

U.S. E.F.A.

RECTPUENT:

William N. Hedeman, Jr., Director, Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, U.S.

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Expenditure of Superfund money at the French Ltd. Site

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CCMPANY/ACENCY: RECIPITENTS

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DUBLIMENT TITLE:

Quality Assurance Program Plan for the

Texas Dept. of Water Pesources

French Ltd. Site

DOCUMENT NUMBER: DOCUMENT DATE:

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AUTHOR:

COMPANY/AGENCY: RECIPIENT:

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U.S. F.P.A.

Report

019

William B. Hathaway, Deputy Director, Air & Waste Management Division

U.S. E.P.A. Russ Wyer, Acting Director, Hazardous Site

Control Division, U.S. E.P.A. Cover Letter

Community Relations Plans for Remedial Action at Bio-Ecology and French Limited

Hazardous Waste Sites

DOCUMENT NUMBER: IOCUMENT DATE:

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ALTHOR:

COMPANY/ARENCY:

RECIPIENT:

William Rhea, Chief, Policy and Design Section

07/13/88

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U.S. E.P.A. Eddie Lee, Acting Director, Office of

Public Affairs, U.S. E.P.A.

DOCUMENT TYPE:

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REFERENCE:

DOCUMENT TITLE:

Community Relations Plan for French Ltd.

DOCUMENT NUMBER: DOCUMENT DATE:

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AUTHOR:

RECIPIENT:

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DOCUMENT TITLE:

34 09/03/82

Correspondence

001

R. A. Brunell, Lt. Commander

U.S. Coast Guard

Sam Nott, Superfund Enforcement Section,

U.S. E.P.A. Correspondence

Information request from the U.S. Coast

Guard

DOJUNG T NUMBER: DOLLMENT DOTELL DEV EAR BE

001 NUMBER OF PAGES:

Sam Nott, Chief, Superfund Enforcement AUTHOR:

Section

4.5. E.P.A. COMPANY/AGENCY:

RECIPIENT: R. A. Brunell, Lt. Commander, U.S. Coast

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DOCUMENT TYPE: Correspondence

DOCUMENT FLAG CODE:

REFERENCE:

DUCUMENT TITLE: Response to inquiry regarding French Ltd.

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 36 DOCUMENT DATE: 02/10/83

NUMBER OF PAGES: 018

S. David Ellison, P.E. AUTHOR:

COMPANY/AGENCY: CH2M Hill

RECIPIENT: Russell Bartley, Site Project Officer, U.S.

E.P.A.

DOCUMENT TYPE: Connespondence and workplan

DOCUMENT FLAG CODE:

REFERENCE:

DOCUMENT TITLE: Cover letter; French Ltd. Work Plan

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 37 DOCUMENT DATE: 02/18/83 OOL

NUMBER OF PROES:

Gary D. Schroeder **ՔԱՐԿԱԳ:** 

Teyas Dept. of Water Resources COMPANY / AGENCY:

RECIPIENT: Carlene Chambers, Project Officer, U.S.

E.P.A.

DOCUMENT TYPE: Connespondence

DOCUMENT FLAG CODE:

REFERENCE:

Eites and French Ltd. Work Plans DOCUMENT TITLE:

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 38 03/04/83 DOCUMENT DATE:

NUMBER OF PAGES: 001

AUTHOR: Frieda Beaty COMPANY/AGENCY: Baytown Sun

Public, Baytown, TX RECIPIENT: DOCUMENT TYPE: Newspaper Article

DOCUMENT FLAG CODE:

REFERENCE:

"Sikes Waste Dump Cleanup to Begin Soon" DOCUMENT TITLE:

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Reid L. Bornis, Padistani Project Manager

CHEM FILL

Russell Bartley, Site Project Officer, U.S.

E.C.G.

DOCUMENT TYPE:

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DOCUMENT TITLE:

Review of Sikes and French Limited

Connespondence and attachment

Workplans

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DOCUMENT NUMBER: DOCUMENT DATE:

NUMBER OF PAGES:

AUTHOR:

COMPANY/AGENCY:

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The Houston Post

Public

Newspaper Article

"Governor's letter protests hearings of

N-Waste Sites"

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Newpaper Article

DOCUMENT NUMBER: DOCUMENT DATE:

NUMBER OF PAGES:

AUTHOR:

COMPANY/AGENCY:

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DUCUMENT TITLE:

"Field Work Started at Crosby Waste Site"

DOCUMENT NUMBER: DOCUMENT DATE: NUMBER OF PAGES:

AUTHOR:

COMPANY/AGENCY:

RECIPIENT:

DOCUMENT TYPE: DOCUMENT FLAG CODE:

REFERENCE:

DOCUMENT TITLE:

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Texas Dept. of Water Resources

State of Texas

Public

News Release

Announcement of field investigation at Sikes

DINCOMENT NUMBER:

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"House Considers New Water Legislation

Today"

DOCUMENT NUMBER:

44

DOCUMENT DATE:

05/29/83

NUMBER OF PAGES: ANTHOR:

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COMPANY/AGENCY:

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Baytown Sun, Baytown, TX

RECIPIENT:

Public

DOCUMENT TYPE: DOCUMENT FLAG CODE: Newspaper Article

REFERENCE:

DOCUMENT TITLE:

"Fields: Dump to be Cleaned"

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NUMBER OF PAGES.

137

AUTHOR:

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COMPANY/ASENCY:

CHAM Hill

RECTRIENT:

Hazardona Site Control Division, U.S.

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Remedial Action Master Plan

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Carlos Byars and Jim Carlton

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"EPA Taking Emergency Action to Clear UP 2

PCB Dumps"

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DOCUMENT NUMBER: 48 DOCUMENT DATE: 00/05/83 001

NUMBER OF PAGES:

Unspecified AUTHOR:

COMPANY/AGENCY: Austin American Statesman

RECIPIENT: Public

DUCUMENT TYPE: Newspaper Article

DOCUMENT FLAG CODE:

REFERENCE:

"High PCB Level Found at Site Near Houston" DOCUMENT TITLE:

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 49 DOCUMENT DATE: 06/05/83 001

NUMBER OF PAGES:

AUTHOR: Unspecified

COMPANY/ASENCY: Baytown Sun, Baytown, TX

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DOCUMENT TITLE: "IN Sa Sumpage Safe at Emosty Dump

50 DOCUMENT NUMBER: DOCUMENT DATE: 06/08/83 003

NUMBER OF PAGES:

**CUTHORE** William Hathaway, Deputy Director, Air and

Watte Management Division

COMPANY/AGENC:: U.S. E.P.A.

RECIPIENT: William Librizzi, Director Air and Waste

Management Division, U.S. E.P.A.

DOCUMENT TYPE: Memorandum and attachment

DOCUMENT FLAG CODE:

REFERENCE:

DOCUMENT TITLE: Removal action notification MARCHENT DATE: 0811-4113

11.1 NUMBER OF PAGES:

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DOMORNY / AGENCY # The Houston Post

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REFERENCE:

DOCUMENT TITLE: "Air Pollutants Search Expected after

Meeting"

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 50 DUCUMENT DATE: 06/14/83

NUMBER OF PAGES: 001

AUTHOR: Jim Carlton

COMPANY/AGENCY: Houston Chronicle

Public RECIPIENT:

DOCUMENT TYPE: Newspaper Article

DOCUMENT FLAG CODE:

REFERENCE:

DOCUMENT TITLE: "& FCR-Laced Area Dumps Ready for EPA

Cleanup"

53 DOCUMENT NUMBER: INUCLMENT DATE: 06/28/33

NUMBER OF PASSE: COL

Carlene Chambers, Project Officer, Policy AUTHOR:

and Design Section

COMPANY / GATINGY: U.S. E.P.A.

REFORD FRENCH

Roc Fimbro, Head, Abandoned Site Response

Unit. Taxas Dept. of Water Fescurces

DOCUMENT TYPE: Commespondence

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DOCUMENT TITLE:

Approval of site specific detailed workplans for French Ltd., Sikes, and

Crystal Chemical sites

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 54 DOCUMENT DATE: 06/29/83

NUMBER OF PAGES: 001

Russell Bartley, Engineer AUTHOR:

COMPANY/AGENCY: U.S. E.P.A.

Rod Kimbro, Texas Dept. of Water Resources RECIPIENT:

DOCUMENT TYPE: Correspondence

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Final RAMP for French Ltd. Site DOCUMENT TITLE: Re:

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DUCUMENT FLAS CODE:

REFERENCE:

DOCUMENT TITLE: French Lto. Supplemental Field Effort

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 56 DOCUMENT DATE: 10/13/83 oot

NUMBER OF PAGES: AUTHOR: Russell Bartley, Engineer, Operations

Section

COMPANY/AGENCY: U.S. E.P.A. U.S. E.P.A. Files RECIPIENT:

DOCUMENT TYPE: Memorandum

DOCUMENT FLAG CODE:

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Pe: French Ltd. Site Investigation Meeting

with State of Texas

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Dary D. Schroeder, P.E., Chief, Solid Waste

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Alperations Div.

This Part, of Water Resources 自由國際自動人不會等於自己主義

PREJETENCE Carlene Chembers, Project Officer, U.S.

E. E. G.

DOCUMENT TYPE: Memorandum and Work Plan

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DOCUMENT NUMBER: 58 DOCUMENT DATE: 01/01/84 032

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AUTHOR:

COMPANY/ASENCY:

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Hazel R. Hoffman, Chairman

French Ltd. Steering Committee

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DOCUMENT TITLE:

Transmittal of Technical Comments on

Remedial Investigation Report

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E(0)02/28/84

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077

AUTHOR:

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COMPANY/AGENCY:

Resource Engineering

RECIPIENT: DOCUMENT TYPE: French Ltd. Task Group

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French Ltd. Site Technical Comments

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Resource Engineering French Ltd. Task Group

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French Ltd. Task Group U.S. F.P.A. Region VI

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Resource Engineering

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Technical and Regulatory Concepts for

In-Place Closure

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AUTHOR:

United States of America, Plaintiff

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Extension of deadline for the Defendants to answer

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carry Thomas, U.S. E.F.A. Region VI

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Response to Information Request

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68

MUCUMENT DATE:

01/17/85

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008

AUTHOR:

Harel Hoffman, Esq.

COMPANY/AGENCY:

Atlantic Richfield Company

RECIPIENT:

U.S. District Ct. Southern District of TX,

Houston Division

DOCUMENT TYPE:

DOCUMENT FLAG CODE:

REFERENCE:

DOCUMENT TITLE:

First Stipulation for Extension of Time

DOCUMENT NUMBER:

69

Cover Letter

DOCUMENT DATE:

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AUTHOR:

Teo wall, Environmental Engineer, Superfund

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COMPANY/AGENIY:

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mr. Ler Dielmann III, Lockwood, Andrews and

Newman, Inc.

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After Action Report on Remedial Action

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70

DOCUMENT DATE:

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AUTHOR:

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COMPANY/AGENCY:

Resource Engineering

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RECIPIENT:

U.S. E.P.A., and the Texas Dept. of Water

Resources

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Work Plan - Response to EPA Request

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French Ltd. Field Activities Work Plan

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Information relative to the French water well found at the French i.td. site; recommendation that the well be completely closed, and methodology for closure of well

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Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.

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Report

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74

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065

Frances E. Phillips, Regional Administrator, Region VI

U.S. E.P.A. Respondents

Administrative Order on Consent .

Administrative Order on Consent to conduct in accordance with NCP, the additional remedial investigations to determine fully the nature and extent of any threat to public health or welfare

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Dor Ponter, U.S. F.P.A. Region VI

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Frances E. Phillips U.S. E.P.A. Region VI

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Record of Communication

U.S. E.P.A.

First Amended Administrative Order on Consent

First Amended Administrative Order on Consent to conduct the additional remedial

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RECIPIENT: Hazel P. Hoffman, Esq., Senior Attorney,

Atlantic Richfield Company

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RECIPIENT: Christine McClure, Peterson, Ross, Schloerb

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In-Situ Biodegradation Demonstration Report

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DOCUMENT TITLE:

An investigation of the French Limited Abandoned Hazardous Waste Site - Crosby,

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# APPENDIX B COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY

# COMMUNITY RELATIONS RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY FOR FRENCH LIMITED SUPERFUND SITE

This community relations responsiveness summary is divided into two sections:

Section I: Background on Community Involvement and Concern

This section provides a brief history of community interest and concern raised during the remedial planning activities.

Section II: Summary of Major Comments Received During the Public Comment Period and EPA Responses.

Both written and spoken comments are categorized by topics. EPA responses to these topics are also presented.

# I. Background on Community Involvement

The French Limited site was proposed for the National Priorities List (NPL) in December 1982. On April 13, 1983, the Texas Department of Water Resources, now the Texas Water Commission (TWC), announced the receipt of funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the purpose of investigating the French Limited abandoned hazardous waste site in northeast Harris County. In June 1983 high waters caused the holding pond at French to overflow and PCB-laced sludge escaped. An EPA emergency response team removed 25 truckloads of sludge from the site. TWC conducted the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Studies (RI/FS) on the site. The studies were completed in the Spring of 1987.

On April 28, 1987, EPA announced through a press release and fact sheet that the RI/FS has been completed on the site. The announcement also advised that public meeting would be held on May 21, 1987, at the Crosby High School, Crosby, Texas to discuss the EPA preferred remedy of incineration and a proposed remedy of biological treatment by the French Limited Task Group. The information release provided that written comments on the proposal would be accepted beginning May 11, 1987, through June 1, 1987, and that a decision would be made by the end of year.

EPA conducted the public meeting on the proposed remedies on May 21, 1987. About 70 people attended. Citizens mainly commented that the waste should be taken to an offsite disposal facility rather than incineration onsite.

During 1983, a group of companies identified as having used the site for disposal, referred to as "Potentially Responsible Parties" (PRPs), formed the French Limited Task Group to fund independent studies on potential remedies for the site. On March 11, 1987, EPA signed an enforcement agreement referred to as an Administrative Order (AO) with the French Limited Task Group which allowed the group to undertake a pilot scale testing of biological treatment systems on the site. This study was to be completed by the end of October 1987 and clearly demonstrate that biological treatment would be as effective and timely as incineration and meet all applicableor, relevant and appropriate state and federal requirements. The PRPs would also be allowed to conduct community relations activities with EPA oversight.

In May 1987 the Task Group initiated a community relations program to provide communications channels to residents and other interested parties about site activities. On May 13, 1987, the French Limited Task Group held a public meeting in Crosby, Texas, to advise the community about the biodegradation pilot project. EPA Superfund project managers attended the meeting and provided updated information on EPA studies. The Group also announced the establishment of a Community Information Line for residents seeking additional information on the site. Community leaders were invited to attended a meeting on May 19 to learn more about the site status.

The French Limited Task Group held additional community leaders meetings for the purpose of providing site activities status reports on June 11, 1987, July 21, 1987, August 12, 1987, September 29, 1987, October 28, 1987, November 18, 1987, December 17, 1987, January 22, 1988 and February 17, 1988. EPA representatives attended these meetings and provided EPA site status reports.

On August 18, 1987, the French Limited Task Group held a community meeting for Riverdale residents. About 50 people attended the meeting and received the site updates from the Group and EPA representatives. A similar meeting was held in Barrett Station on August 19 and about 65 residents attended.

The Task Group held additional community meetings to provide site status updates in Barrett Station on October 27 and in Riverdale on October 28. About 112 people attended the meeting in Barrett Station and about 60 people attended the Riverdale meeting. EPA representatives were also present.

In November 1987, public misunderstandings arose about possible contamination from the French and Sikes sites in several drinking water wells. This confusion was the result of a meeting held on November 14 scheduled by residents and attended by an ATSDR official. Although data from the wells gave no indication of contamination from the sites, EPA agreed to sample wells of seven residents and a monitoring well. The sampling took place on December 15, 1987. Also, EPA representatives agreed to attend a community meeting on December 14 in order to clarify the water well data and to further assure residents that there was no indication of well contamination resulting from French or Sikes. However, on December 9, 1987, when an EPA representative called the community leaders to confirm the date and location of the meeting, she was advised that the residents would not meet with EPA and the meeting was cancelled.

On January 4, 1988, J. Winston Porter, Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, EPA, Washington, D.C. held a community meeting to discuss the status of Superfund sites in the Houston area. The meeting was held at the Crosby Library, Crosby, Texas. About 75 people attended and requested more detailed information on the water well matter. Through the news media and telephone calls to interested residents, EPA announced that the follow-up public meeting would be held January 28, 1988 at the Crosby Library.

On January 21, 1988, EPA announced through the news media that the Task Group pilot study for bioremediation had been reviewed by EPA and that a public comment period on the new EPA preferred remedy would begin on January 25, 1988, and conclude on February 23, 1988. Also this announcement included details about a public meeting to receive comments on the proposal to be held on February 11 at the Crosby High School, Crosby, Texas. A listing of the repositories, where all studies/investigations and other documents concerning the French Limited site could be reviewed, was included in the press release. The press release was mailed to the area news media and the French Limited site mailing list. Announcement of a proposed actions appeared in the Houston Chronicle on January 22, 1988, the Houston Post on January 23, 1988, and the Community News January 27, 1988. Also, on January 22, 1988, the EPA representative attending the Task Group Community leaders luncheon announced the February 11 public meeting, the public comment period timeframe and he left copies of the new release for public dissemination. A four page fact sheet on the proposed remedy was mailed to residents and the media following the press release mailing. Copies of all documents relative to the pilot study were placed in the site repositories on January 22, 1988, per the AO.

EPA representatives held the January 28, 1988, community meeting to announce the results of the water well sampling and to clarify other areas of concern. Prior to the meeting at the Crosby Library, EPA and ATSDR representatives delivered copies of the water well data to the residents whose wells were sampled and explained that none of the contaminants from the French Limited or Sikes sites were found in the wells. About 150 residents attended the evening community meeting.

During the afternoon of February 11, 1988, EPA representatives briefed state elected officials on the preferred remedy. EPA conducted the public meeting on the proposed remedy on the evening of February 11, at the Crosby High School. Citizens reiterated their comments from the May public meeting that the waste should be disposed offsite. About 150 people attended the meeting.

#### II. Summary of Public Comments

This section is divided into two parts. Part A includes comments received during the public comment period from January 25 to February 23, 1988, including the public meeting held on February 11, 1988. Part B includes comments received at a community meeting held on January 28, 1988. EPA responses to comments received during the comment period held from May 11 to June 1, 1987, regarding the originally proposed incineration remedy, have been incorporated into the Administrative Record for French Limited.

PART A: Summary of Comments Received During the Public Comment Period and Agency Responses from January 25 to February 23, 1988.

#### Comment #1

The available PCB data has confirmed that over 90% of the PCBs originally present in the demonstration area were destroyed.

# EPA Response to Comment #1

EPA disagrees. Analytical results from the demonstration indicate that the concentrations of PCBs decreased during the demonstration. No data was presented to show what portion of the decrease is specifically attributable to degradation.

# Comment #2

It is not necessary that bioremediation equal or exceed the effectiveness of incineration.

# EPA Response to Comment #2

EPA disagrees. Bioremediation must meet or exceed the cleanup criteria established for the contaminated soils and sludges at the site. Biological treatment must also work as quickly as onsite incineration.

# Comment #3

A final decision on the need for residue solidification can only be made after the results of residue testing are available.

# EPA Response to Comment #3

EPA disagrees. Based on the results of the pilot study, the health-based criteria for PCBs was not attained. Therefore, stabilization of the residue is a necessary component of the remedy.

# Comment #4

The post-closure monitoring period should be reduced from 30 years to 5 years.

#### EPA Response to Comment #4

EPA disagrees. A 30-year post-closure monitoring period is required under 40 CFR Part 264.117(a)(1). EPA deems the period appropriate, particularly given the proximity of the Riverdale residential subdivision to the site.

## Comment #5

The cleanup criterion for PCBs at the site should be increased from 23 ppm to 50 ppm because both concentrations would provide equivalent levels of protection.

# EPA Response to Comment #5

EPA disagrees. The cleanup criteria were established based on an endangerment assessment conducted in April 1987. Five criteria were identified in the assessment and were subsequently used to estimate the volume of sludge and

soil requiring treatment. Increasing the PCB criterion from 23 ppm to 50 ppm could possibly decrease the volume of material to be treated. The effect of this change would be to allow higher concentrations of other, more mobile contaminants to remain in the soil. This would increase the possibility of continued contamination of the upper aquifer. EPA believes, therefore, that the 23 ppm PCB criterion is appropriate.

# Comment #6

The surface water discharge criteria for the lagoon water should be set at a combined chemical and biological oxygen demand level of 10 ppm.

# EPA Response to Comment #6

EPA disagrees. Discharge standards based on the specific contaminants found at the site would be more appropriate.

# Comment #7

Would it be possible to build a tank onsite as a biological treatment unit.

# EPA Response to Comment #7

It may be possible, but is not necessary. The current conceptual design of isolating 2.5 acres of the lagoon with sheet piles is essentially the equivalent of a separate reactor. Waste treatment in the lagoon would also minimize excavation of the waste, reducing air emissions during remediation.

#### Comment #8

Will waste from other sites be brought into French Limited?

#### EPA Response to Comment #8

No. Wastes from other sites will not be brought to French Limited.

#### Comment #9

How will the residue from the biological treatment system be handled?

#### EPA Response to Comment #9

The treatment residue will be dewatered, stabilized, and used as fill material in the lagoon. The residue will be tested to show that the stabilized mass will not generate leachate that will contaminate the upper aquifer. The specific methods for residue handling will be developed during remedial design.

# Comment #10

What volatile organic compounds were found at the site? What were the concentrations found?

# EPA Response to Comment #10

The concentration ranges for contaminants found at French Limited are listed in Table 1-2 of the Feasibility Study written by Lockwood, Andrews, and Newnam.

# Comment #11

Biological treatment will result in a significant increase in air pollution in the vicinity of the site.

# EPA Response to Comment #11

Some air emissions will occur during biological treatment. However, air monitoring performed during the pilot study indicated that the emissions, 1% to 5% of the threshold limit values for the volatile compounds onsite, would not constitute a public health threat.

#### Comment #12

Offsite disposal was not considered as an alternative.

## EPA Response to Comment #12

Offsite disposal was eliminated during the initial phases of the feasibility study for the following reasons: Section 121 of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act clearly states a preference for onsite remedies involving waste treatment. Section 121 goes on to state that these remedies shall be selected to the maximum extent practiceable. Also, recently enacted land disposal restrictions require significant treatment of the waste prior to disposal in a landfill.

#### Comment #13

Is the soil in the Riverdale subdivision contaminated?

## EPA Response to Comment #13

Based on surface soil samples taken during the remedial investigation, no contamination was found in the subdivision.

# Comment #14

Biological treatment was rejected at Sikes because it was untested. Why is it being recommended for French Ltd., which has similar types of waste?

# EPA Response to Comment #14

Remedies are selected on a site-specific basis. It is applicable to French Limited because it can be implemented in the lagoon where the wastes are located with few construction and materials handling considerations. At Sikes a treatment unit would have to be built onsite. The land area available for construction would limit the size of the basin to be built, potentially legthening the time required to implement the remedy. Excavation and transport of the waste, spread over 185 acres, would also be required. These considerations make biodegradation unattractive at Sikes.

# Comment #15

How will the property values in the area be affected by the site?

# EPA Response to Comment #15

EPA does not know how property values may be affected by the site.

#### Comment #16

Signs warning of possible contamination in the fishing hole and north slough should be posted along U.S. Highway 90.

# EPA Response to Comment #16

EPA is currently looking into posting signs along Highway 90.

#### Comment #17

Have chemicals from French or Sikes contaminated the drinking water in Riverdale?

## EPA Response to Comment #17

Analytical results of samples taken from the shallow wells in Riverdale in December 1987 indicate that the drinking water has not been contaminated from either site.

# Comment #18

Does biological treatment really work and is it safe?

# EPA Response to Comment #18

Yes, biological treatment does work. Data generated in the pilot study indicates that the organic contaminants, with the exception of the PCBs, are reduced to concentrations below the cleanup criteria. The PCBs and arsenic can be controlled by stabilization of the treatment residue.

# Comment #19

What is the relationship of the Potentially Responsible Parties at French to the EPA?

# EPA Response to Comment #19

All of the work performed by the Potentially Responsible Parties was done under an Administrative Order issued by EPA. EPA reviews the plans and reports generated under the Order and oversees the onsite activities conducted by the PRPs.

# Comment #20

Was the dike around the lagoon at French built with contaminated soil from Sikes?

# EPA Response to Comment #20

No. Samples of the sand used in the dike were taken prior to construction. The analytical results indicated that the sand was not contaminated.

# Comment #21

How many studies were conducted and how much money has been spent on French Ltd.?

#### EPA Response to Comment #21

Three studies have been conducted. The remedial investigation and feasibility study conducted by EPA and the TWC cost about \$1.5 million. The French Limited Task Group spent almost \$5 million on the pilot study. The Task Group has also reimbursed Superfund for \$965,000 for removal actions conducted at the site.

#### Comment #22

EPA did not consider relocation of the residents as part of any remedial alternative.

# EPA Response to Comment #22

EPA does not believe that relocation is an appropriate component of the remedy at French Ltd. Relocation is authorized when implementation of a remedy would not provide adequate protection of public health or when buildings are located on land necessary for implementation of a remedy. Neither of these conditions exists at French.

# Comment #23

EPA should consider a health monitoring program as part of the selected remedy.

# EPA Response to Comment #23

After review, EPA has determined that a health monitoring program would provide no additional protection from the hazards from French Limited. Data generated in the remedial investigation shows that the contaminants from the site have not migrated to drinking water supplies and are not currently contaminating the air. Groundwater monitoring will be conducted after completion of the remedy to ensure that drinking water supplies in the vicinity of the site are safe.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has expressed a willingness to assist the public in developing a private health monitoring program, should a citizens' group wish to pursue such a program on its own.

#### Comment #24

Table 4 in the draft "Summary of Remedial Alternatives" should be revised to indicate that onsite incineration is "an effective alternative," not the "most effective alternative. The rationale for this alternative should also indicate that air emissions risks may exist and that implementation is "complex" not "simple."

#### EPA Response to Comment #24

Onsite incineration of sludges and soils (Alternative 1) is considered the most effective alternative evaluated. This is based on the complete destruction of the organic contaminants onsite. Performance standards for air emissions from incinerators would be met, minimizing the risk from these emissions. EPA considers the implementation of an incinerator to be relatively simple in comparison to the other alternatives evaluated in the summary. EPA believes that the ratings given to the alternatives in this table are appropriate.

## Comment #25

The Federal Government should have a facility to dispose of these types of wastes.

## EPA Response to Comment #25

As a governmental agency, EPA is not and should not be in the business of handling and disposing of wastes. EPA believes that these functions, including the ownership and operation of offsite disposal facilities, is best left to the private sector.

PART B: Summary of Community Meeting Held on January 28, 1988.

ATTENDEES:

- o Approximately 150 area residents and other concerned citizens.
- o Representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and Texas Water Commission (TWC).

PURPOSE: This informal meeting was held at the request of residents of Crosby, the Riverdale subdivision, the Rogge subdivision and the Barrett Station subdivision to discuss hazardous waste pollution at the French Ltd. and Sikes Superfund sites, as well as other possible hazardous waste problems in the area. This was a followup meeting to a January 4, 1988, meeting between Dr. J. Winston Porter (EPA's Assistant Administrator for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response) and community leaders in the area. Since citizen concerns covered a wide range of environmental issues, an effort was made to have all the key federal and state officials available to respond to questions. This record was prepared to summarize the response to issues raised at the January 28 meeting.

MEETING SUMMARY: Mr. Edlund opened the meeting at 6:30 pm and indicated that a record of the meeting would be prepared for attendees and other interested persons. Because of the wide range of topics, it is being entered in the records of both the Sikes and French Ltd. Superfund sites.

Numerous comments regarding hazardous waste had appeared on January 27, 1988, in the <u>The Community News</u>, a local newspaper. In addition, questions were compiled and presented to EPA by Mr. David Shade of the Rogge subdivision a few minutes before the meeting began. The questions contained in these documents were addressed in sequence by the federal and state representatives.

- A. "The Community New" "article entitled "Whiddon Fed up with 'Double Talk'/ Whiddon wants facts" by Robert Vanya dated 1/27/88
  - 1. Question: "Have chemicals from the dumps contaminated the drinking water?"

Response: No. EPA found no correlation between contaminants in the Riverdale residential water wells sampled on December 15, 1987, and contaminants found in the French Limited and Sikes sites. Contaminants found were those commonly associated with analytical laboratory equipment and FVC pipe used in water well construction.

2. Question: "Is bioremediation (the cleanup method being used at French Limited) really working and is it really safe?"

Response: Yes, to both questions. EPA believes bioremediation will be effective if combined with treatment of the groundwater, and solidification of the residue. For this reason EPA proposed this approach for the French Ltd. site. A public meeting to discuss the French remedy was scheduled for February 11, 1988. Mr. Edlund asked that detailed questions regarding the French remedy be deferred to that forum.

3. Question: "Is bioremediation causing harmful air emissions?

Response: No, EPA does not believe harmful levels are or will be produced. This conclusion is based on the data gathered by the French Task Force at the <u>in situ</u> biological remediation pilot project.

4. Question: When will incineration start at the Sikes site?

Response: EPA anticipates that incineration will start in about two years.

5. Question: "What will the effects of incineration of wastes at the Sikes dump be?"

Response: EPA does not anticipate any detrimental results or effects of incinerating Sikes waste. Incineration at Sikes will take place after the Remedial Design. The Design will be made available for review and comments. This fall we will post the list of requirements for the design which will address noise and air emissions.

6. Question: "Why is there no protective fence around the Sikes site"?

Response: A fence was proposed in June 1986, to be erected as part of the incineration project. Until EPA received the recent comments about the frequency of illegal trespassing on the site, no urgency was given to this aspect of the remedy. Based on the citizen concerns voiced in December 1987 and January 1988, EPA announced that a fence would be erected in the near future to prevent access to the waste on the Sikes site.

In follow-up discussions by attendees two related questions were asked: a) will EPA post "no fishing" and/or "no trespassing signs", and b) will EPA erect the fence across the private access road that traverses the French site? EPA agreed to look into erecting signs but indicated that blocking the road was not planned because there was no evidence that the road itself is a hazard. Also EPA did not have any evidence that the sand hauled in the trucks is contaminated.

UPDATE: EPA began fence construction on March 7, 1988.

B. "Proposed Questions for EPA Representatives" - A list of 26 questions compiled by Mr. David Shea was presented to the representative at the beginning of the meeting (Attachment #3). Responses to questions discussed at the meeting are summarized below (the numbering matches that in the attachment). Written responses to questions that were not explicitly addressed are contained in Section D.

7. Question: "Why has there been so many cancer related deaths and people with nerve disorders and lung disease in this area?"

#### - and -

8. Question: "We feel someone should have done a health survey in our community. With these dangerous chemicals in our area, why wasn't one conducted? (There appears to have been numerous cancer related deaths in our community)."

Response: While some statistical summaries show relatively high incidents of cancer in Harris County, the federal and state agencies were not aware of any data for the Crosby area. Any information of this nature would be gladly reviewed by health advisory agencies such as ATSDR and the State Department of Health.

EPA does not take action at hazardous waste sites based on health studies for two reasons:

- a. <u>Timing</u> chemicals that cause cancer often take many years to have an affect (e.g. mesothelioma, an incurable lung cancer caused by asbestos, takes 20 to 30 years to develop after asbestos ingestion). It would be poor public policy to defer action at a hazardous waste site pending a study lasting several decades.
- b. Ambiguity of results Because chronic disease, such as cancer can be caused by a wide variety of factors acting singly, or in combination and often over periods of years, a health study could never determine the extent that the hazardous waste sites in question harmed anyone in the area. Exposure of area residents to former levels of pollution from the sites is unquantified as is their exposure to other chemicals in the home or at work. While some factors that contribute to cancer (such as tobacco use, diet, and possibly heredity) might be able to be documented, the unquantified factors plus other, as yet undiscovered causes of disease, would render the results ambiguous.

Instead of performing site by site health studies before acting. EPA uses all the scientific information know about the contaminants to determine if a site poses a <u>potential</u> risk to human health as the basis for cleanup.

Questions 9-13 restate the issues posed in the newspaper article. EPA's reponses to these questions are summarized above.

- 9. Question: Have chemicals from the dumps contaminated our drinking water?"
- 10. Question: Is bioremediation causing harmful air emissions?"

- 11. Question: When will incineration start at the Sikes Dump?
- 12. Question: What will the effects of incineration of wastes at the Sikes Dump be?
- 13. Question: Why is there no protective fence around the Sikes site?
- 14. Question: Where is well GW-25? Where are the test results on this well that Larry Thomas took in December?

Response: GW-25 is located along Gulf Pump Road between the Sikes Disposal Pits and the Riverdale subdivision. The analytical results from the samples taken on December 15, 1987, can be found in the reposities.

15. Question: Is the sand contaminated, like it shows on your research, if so why was the public allowed to purchase this sand?

Response: Samples taken from areas where sand was sold were not contaminated.

16. Question: How do we clean up the sand that was hauled to the <u>Public</u> Library, Post Office, our Schools, and Little League Ball Parks?

Response: EPA does not know if the sand is contaminated in these areas. We will pursue the sampling and take action if deemed necessary.

17. Question: What danger are our children in when they have played in the sand that now shows to be contaminated?

Response: This is difficult to assess because the effects are long term and the frequency of exposure and concentrations of contaminants are not known.

18. Question: "Why was the road, across Sikes Chemical Dump, allowed to stay open, although the research states there is danger from spreading the chemicals on the general public using Highway 90?"

Response: The private road, composed of clean fill, is not in and of itself hazardous. This road is laid over contaminated soils however, which will be excavated for incineration in the future. At that time this road may be closed.

The "research" cited was explained to be the Sikes Site RI/FS reports prepared for TWC by Lockwood, Andrews, and Newnam.

19. Question: "Is there some connection between one of the Responsible Parties at French Limited and the EPA?"

Response: No.

19. Question: "Is there some connection between one of the Responsible Parties at French Limited and the EPA?"

Response: No.

20. Question: "We believe that one of the responsible parties at the French Limited also owns a large track of land behind Sikes Dump and otherwise would not have access to their property. Can you comment on this?"

Response: This may be true. However, EPA data indicates that the land and access road in question are not contaminated. EPA has no authority, therefore, to prevent the current business from operating.

21. Question: How do you go about establishing the safe drinking water standards? Does your research consider the bathing, cooking, and drinking, in the amount that the consider safe for human consumption? What is the normal in-take per child or per adult?

Response: EPA considers all these factors and more in setting cleanup standards for Superfund sites. EPA looks at all regulations published to date at the State and federal level. We also check with other health agencies such as ATSDR and we employ health specialist also.

22. Question: "Why was the dike at French Limited built with contaminated soil from Sikes Dumps? Is that not against the Superfund Laws?"

Response: Contaminated soil was <u>not</u> used to build the dike around French Limited.

23. Question: "How many studies have been done on these Superfund Toxic Waste Sites?"

Response: Three.

24. Question: "How much money has been spent on these studies?"

Response: See Part Ax comment #21.

25. Question: "Have you sampled the water and sediments in the swamp north and south of Highway 90?"

Response: Yes. Sampling was done as part of the remedial investigation at French.

27. Question: "What position is French Limited on the National Priorities List?"

- and -

Question: "What position is Sikes Site on the National Priorities List?"

Response: The position (rank) of a site on the list is inconsequential. Once a site is on the National Priorities List it is eligible for funding.

- C. Additional Verbal Questions asked at the Meeting
  - 28. Question: Why have you not looked at the alternative of relocating residents? That might be more cost effective.

Response: Relocation of residents is considered when their health is immediately threatened or in cases where this is physically necessary to implement a remedy. While French and Sikes represent potential, long term health risks there is no immediate health posed by the sites and the remedies for the sites can be implemented without moving people.

29. Question: Who pays for the guard at Sikes?

Response: Federal funding to the State.

30. Question: Why don't you take the waste offsite by barge or railroad?

Response: Offsite removal was considered at Sikes, the Agency must give preference to remedies conducted on site.

31. Question: Why can't I take my barrels to French?

Response: We don't even want clean trash at French.

32. Question: Why don't you want responsible parties at Sikes?

Response: EPA is very interested in pursuing Potentially Responsible Parties at all Superfund sites and will evaluate any information concerning PRPs.



33. Question: Be clear with the citizens that lab tests of well water can go only so far.

Response (by EPA & TWC): When we tested the water wells it did not appear that contaminants from the sites are contaminating the wells. Further analysis is being conducted by the Texas Department of Health regarding bacteria and sodium. The levels for which we have drinking water standards were not exceeded. Also phalates were found in the samples which can result from pipe or lab. These levels were well below the health advisory. We cannot measure zero although the Agency goal is zero. We have sampled enough wells and have thorough data to show the movement of the groundwater is slow. We do not see any cause for alarm and the contamination is not related to the Superfund sites. At French Limited we are proposing to treat the groundwater. Sikes groundwater contamination will diffuse and restore itself.

Response (by ATSDR): We have reviewed the type of exposure routes from the water wells and provided consultation on the Sikes site. There are 7 homes in the are that use the aquifer and we have recommended that these wells be monitored again.