



# **Coastal Radiation Services SUPERFUND SITE UPDATE**

October 2001

St. Gabriel, Iberville Parish, Louisiana

## **U.S. EPA Region 6 Removal Action Underway at Site**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) are working together to remove contamination problems at the Coastal Radiation Services (CRS) Site located at 6745 Bayou Paul Rd., in St. Gabriel, Iberville Parish Louisiana.

### **STATUS OF THE SITE**

The LDEQ referred the site to EPA Region 6 on December 11, 2000. The LDEQ assisted EPA by scanning the debris that had to be removed prior to the sampling event, providing community relations support at the public meeting on January 25, 2001, and laboratory support including sample analysis. The LDEQ plans to continue providing assistance to EPA in this manner throughout the removal activities.

On March 27, 2001, the EPA On-Scene Coordinator, a representative from EPA's Office of Radiation and Indoor Environments National Laboratory, a mobile laboratory and two representatives from EPA's National Air and Radiation Environmental Laboratory, and a representative from LDEQ mobilized at the site to conduct sampling which lasted approximately one week. Soil samples were collected and screened for gamma radiation in the EPA mobile laboratory. The samples were also sent to the LDEQ lab for gamma spectroscopy analysis.

Copies of the removal assessment have been placed in the East Iberville Branch Library in St. Gabriel and the State Repository in Baton Rouge.

A whole body counter was available on September 28, 2001 for the residents whose properties are affected. The machine measures the emission of gamma rays or x-rays from internally deposited radionuclides. The purpose of the whole body count is to help answer some of the residents' questions about their exposure to ionizing radiation. A health physicist was on hand to help interpret the data and answer health questions. All the individuals scanned showed no detection of cesium-137 in their bodies.

### **THIS SITE UPDATE WILL TELL YOU ABOUT:**

- Introduction
- Status of the Site
- Site Background
- What Happens Next
- Public Involvement Opportunities

### **SITE BACKGROUND**

Coastal Radiation Services received a license to possess radioactive materials from the Nuclear Energy Division. In addition, CRS offered radiation consulting and tracer services. The site is approximately a one-half acre lot, with a wood framed home and a corrugated metal shop.

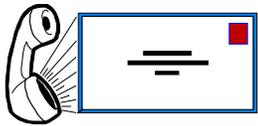
CRS offered several services to the petro-chemical industry in the Baton Rouge area, including survey and wipe tests of nuclear gauges, tracer studies, pipe scans and removal and disposal of nuclear gauge sources. Nuclear gauges were frequently removed from industrial plants and transported to the Bayou Paul Road location. Sometime in the late 1970's (approximately 1979) a radioactive source leaked on the ground behind the workshop, and subsequent rainstorms spread the contamination to the adjacent properties.

In August 1979, CRS removed approximately eighteen 55-gallon drums of contaminated soil from the site. In October 1979, CRS poured a concrete slab over the contaminated area behind the workshop to provide shielding from any remaining contamination. By July 1980, CRS had allegedly removed fifty-four 55-gallon drums of soil from the site. CRS stopped conducting cleanup efforts at the site in the mid 1980's and went out of business in 1990.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The EPA and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality are working together to accelerate the process so the site can be cleaned up quickly. On August 6, 2001, EPA mailed information requests to former customers of the CRS. Based on the responses to these information requests, EPA Region 6 decided to require these potentially responsible parties to expend their funds before Federal funds are spent. This approach preserves tax payer money when viable potential responsible parties are identified. Work should begin on-site in early 2002 and be completed 90 days after initiation.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Public involvement is an important part of the Superfund process. The following individuals and resources are available to help you

learn more about the Coastal Radiation Services Site and obtain answers to your questions.

If you have questions about the information in this fact sheet or would like additional information about the site, please contact any of the following individuals:

### *EPA Region 6*

#### **Nancy Jones**

#### **On-Scene Coordinator**

1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, Texas 75202  
(214) 665-8041 or 1800-533-3508

#### **Janetta Coats**

#### **Community Involvement Coordinator**

1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, Texas 75202  
(214) 665-7308 or 1-800-533-3508

### *Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality*

#### **Michael E. Henry**

#### **Environmental Scientist - Senior**

P.O. Box 82135  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70884-2135  
(225) 765-0892

## *Information Repositories*

### **East Iberville Branch Library**

5715 Monticello Street  
St. Gabriel, Louisiana 70776  
(225) 642-8380

### **Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality**

7290 Bluebonnet Boulevard  
Room 4400  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809  
(225) 765-0428 or 1-888-763-5424 (toll-free)

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Region 6 Library - 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1445 Ross Avenue, Ste. 12D13  
Dallas, Texas 75202  
(214) 665-2792

**All news media inquiries should be directed to Dave Bary, EPA Region 6 Press Office, at (214) 665-2208 or Jennifer Betbeze, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Communication Director at (225) 763-5680.**

### *On The Web...*

Information about Superfund sites can be found on the U.S. EPA Internet Homepage at:

U.S. EPA Headquarters: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)  
U.S. EPA Region 6: [www.epa.gov/region6](http://www.epa.gov/region6)  
U.S. EPA Region 6 Superfund Division:  
[www.epa.gov/region/superfund](http://www.epa.gov/region/superfund)

**I**f you or someone you know would like to be placed on the mailing list to receive future information about the Coastal Radiation Services site, please call 1-800-533-3508. Leave your name and address and you will be added to the mailing list.



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**U.S. EPA Region 6**  
**1445 Ross Avenue (SF-PO)**  
**Dallas, Texas 75202**