

Office of Environmental Assessment Remediation Services Division

*Annual Legislative Report
for Fiscal Year 2004-05*



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Executive Summary

The Remediation Services Division (RSD) under the Office of Environmental Assessment prepared this report to give a brief overview of the division's activities for fiscal year 2004-05. This report also functions to submit the site lists as required by La.R.S. 30:2226.H.

During fiscal year 2004-05, the division completed 146 site cleanups (see Appendix A). These completed sites included underground storage tank (UST) sites, groundwater sites, solid waste sites, hazardous waste sites, and voluntary remediation program (VRP) sites (see Figure 1 on page 9). As of June 30, 2005, there were 157 confirmed sites needing cleanup action and 440 potential sites awaiting assessments (see Appendix D). RSD also continues to add sites to the VRP . An updated list of VRP sites is located in Appendix E of this report.

RSD continues to find innovative ways to enhance and improve the site remediation process.

Remediation Services Division

**Remediation Services Program Updates and Site Activities
FY 2004-05**

Voluntary Remediation and Brownfields Programs

Louisiana Voluntary Remediation Program

The Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) received Voluntary Remedial Investigation Applications for eight properties and Voluntary Remedial Action Applications for 11 properties this fiscal year. This brought the total participation in the VRP to 55 properties by the end of the fiscal year. One Certificate of Completion (COC) was issued for final remediation of a VRP property. Participation in this program has more than doubled in the last two years.

Brownfields Activities

Numerous Brownfields outreach activities were conducted during the fiscal year. RSD conducted a brownfields redevelopment symposium for commercial developers, realtors, and lenders, as well as planners and economic development coordinators. Over 100 interested persons attended this symposium in November 2004.

Three “brownfields breakfasts” were conducted to promote brownfields redevelopment awareness and teach brownfields grant writing in Bossier City, Alexandria, and Lake Charles in early 2005. RSD also sponsored its Louisiana Brownfields Grantees Workshop in Kenner, Louisiana, in May 2005, at which all of the local Louisiana brownfields programs met with DEQ, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), and other parties to hear about and discuss current brownfields issues.

RSD closed out a very successful USTfields cooperative agreement with the City-Parish of Baton Rouge on the North Boulevard Expansion Project. Remediation of the USTs and associated contamination funded by the cooperative agreement is almost complete. It is anticipated that the COC for this project will be issued before the end of 2005 (calendar year) and the street expansion project will be completed in the near future.

Targeted Brownfields Assessments

A federally-funded contract was executed this fiscal year to perform Targeted Brownfields Assessments for eligible local governments. The contractors will be able to perform Phase one and Phase two environmental site assessments, as well as Risk Evaluation Corrective Action Program (RECAP) investigations on eligible properties. Guidance for determining eligibility and prioritization of applicants was also finalized. An open competition period was held in the Spring of 2005, and three properties were tentatively selected for assessments. More will be selected in the coming fiscal year.

Use of Dedicated State Remediation Funds

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE CLEANUP FUND (HWSCF)

For fiscal year 2004-05, DEQ paid a total of \$1,588,682.47 from the Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Fund (HWSCF) to EPA Region six as state match for EPA-lead Superfund site work at five sites (American Creosote, Bayou Bonfouca, Coastal Radiation, Delatte Metals, and Southern Shipbuilding). As required by Superfund State Contracts, the state pays EPA annually ten percent of all remediation expenses funded by the EPA Superfund program.

Future state match payments will also be required for remediation work already completed at the Central Wood, Marion Pressure Treating, and Mallard Bay Landing Bulk Plant sites. Additional work is being considered at the Marion Pressure Treating site, pending the availability of federal funding for fiscal year 2005-06.

In addition to the Superfund State Contract payments, a total of \$408,230.02 was paid from the HWSCF to its contractors for continuing Operation and Maintenance (O & M) work at three Superfund sites (Bayou Bonfouca, Delatte Metals, and Madisonville Creosote). The State of Louisiana is responsible for funding and implementing O & M at these sites until determined to be no longer necessary through five-year reviews. In future years, the State will be responsible for O & M at additional Superfund sites as remedial work is completed.

Also during this year, DEQ continued its groundwater monitoring contract for the Old Inger Oil Refinery Superfund site (a state-lead EPA-funded site). This monitoring work will be conducted through fiscal year 2005-06. Data from this monitoring work will be used to determine whether any further work is needed at the Old Inger site.

At the end of fiscal year 2004-05 there were 157 confirmed inactive and abandoned sites in the DEQ RSD site universe. Confirmed sites for which there are no financially viable responsible parties may be eligible for remediation with government

funding from the U.S. EPA Superfund (if they qualify) or the state HWSCF. Priority ranking of these sites in accordance with the DEQ site prioritization regulations is underway – including application of criteria to determine financial viability of potentially responsible parties. Beyond the 157 confirmed sites, there were 440 potential sites needing initial evaluation as of the end of fiscal year 2004-05.

During fiscal year 2004-05, DEQ continued utilizing contracts for coring services and monitoring wells, data validation, analytical services, and remediation services. The HWSCF provides limited funding for these contracts, and is used for the highest priority investigation and remediation work for confirmed sites.

ABANDONED UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) TRUST FUND

Revenue for the Abandoned UST Trust Fund is derived from interest earned by the Motor Fuels UST Trust Fund, as mandated by R.S. 30:2195 F. This revenue is to be used for the closure of abandoned motor fuel USTs and assessment and remediation of property contaminated by abandoned motor fuel USTs. RSD utilizes an identification and ranking process which addresses specific eligibility requirements, and is based on a numerical ranking system for quantifying risk to public health and the environment. In excess of 500 known leaking UST sites have been screened through fiscal year 2004-05, with 22 sites identified as candidates for the abandoned UST program. These 22 sites have been prioritized based on their numerical ranking and will be addressed in response to the level of risk posed to public health and the environment. Use of some money from the HWSCF for work at these sites is currently being studied due to the shortage of available interest monies from the MFTF.

The Abandoned UST Trust Funds have been used to address the highest priority abandoned UST site in Louisiana, Burt's Chevron, in Ruston. The first contract, valued at approximately \$350,000, was implemented to determine the extent of contamination, conduct a risk evaluation, and provide interim corrective action. Results and data produced from the first contract were studied for development of a complete site cleanup contract. This work continued through fiscal year 2004-05.

LOUISIANA MOTOR FUELS UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK TRUST FUND

The Motor Fuels UST Trust Fund is administered by the DEQ Office of Management and Finance. In accordance with the UST regulations (LAC 33:XI.101 et seq.), UST owners or operators who are eligible participants in the Motor Fuels UST Trust Fund program may receive payment or reimbursement of costs for assessment, investigative, or remediation work that is necessary to mitigate releases from UST systems into the environment. A detailed financial report is prepared and submitted annually to the legislature regarding use of this fund. Oversight of the work performed and paid with monies from this fund is conducted by RSD site team leaders.

In recent years, the UST Corrective Action High Cost Panel was formed by DEQ to review and evaluate UST site cleanup plans, in order to ensure cost effective use of the Motor Fuels UST Trust Fund. In January 2005, the UST Corrective Action Plan High Cost Panel was renamed the Remediation Oversight Group. During fiscal year 2004-05 the Remediation Oversight Group adopted a more stringent management policy, as it began reviewing all Correction Action Plans other than those for minor site work.

Through fiscal year 2004-05, DEQ continued its efforts to utilize limited state funding for site remediation at RSD confirmed and UST sites, seeking innovation and improvement where possible in the management of available state funds.

Site Remediation Activities

During fiscal year 2004-05, RSD completed 146 site cleanups. This means that all the work at these sites is complete and RSD has concluded that No Further Action (NFA) is needed based on the current condition and the intended uses of the properties.

The RSD site universe consists of many different types of sites, all of which are remediated according to specified regulations. The UST sites are cleaned up according to the policy for Cleanup Levels at UST Sites, and the RECAP regulations. The solid waste sites universe includes sites from the former Solid Waste Division and new sites identified in the RSD triage sub-process as solid waste. These sites are remediated using the Solid Waste Regulations. The groundwater sites fall under the general authority of the Environmental Quality Act and the Notification Regulations. Confirmed sites are sites from the former Inactive and Abandoned Sites Division and are remediated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, Liability Act (CERCLA), the Environmental Quality Act, and the Inactive and Abandoned Sites Regulations. The hazardous waste sites are the sites remediated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The VRP sites follow the VRP Regulations.

The completed sites list consists of all the types of sites from the RSD site universe. Classification of the completed sites list is as follows: 76 UST sites, 40 solid waste sites, 14 groundwater sites, 9 confirmed sites, 6 hazardous wastes sites, and 1 VRP site. Figure 1 is a graph depicting the percentage of completed sites by site type.

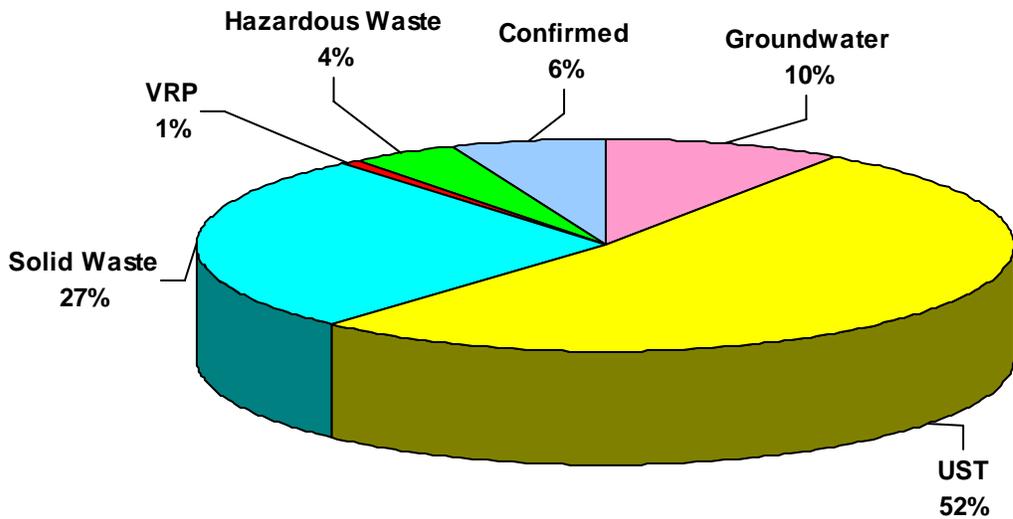


Figure 1: Type of sites completed during FY 04-05

A statewide map of completed sites by parish and a list of the sites including the site name, completed date, and the type of site listed by parish are included in Appendix A of this report.

In addition, this report contains site summaries of recent RSD site remediation efforts in Appendix B. This year the RSD sites highlighted are Delatte Metals, Exxon Co. USA Store 5-3417, and Zippy's L.L.C.