



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Thompson Hayward site cleanup comes to an end**

BATON ROUGE – The Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a formal document, called a No Further Action, for the cleanup project at the Thompson Hayward site in New Orleans. This concludes the cleanup of the site located at 7700 Earhart Blvd.

During the cleanup, DEQ oversaw the removal of 751 tons of hazardous debris, 4,800 tons of excavated soil and 5,800 tons of construction and debris waste and 111,000 gallons of contaminated water. This final phase of the cleanup started in October 2006.

The site was used for making pesticides from 1940-1977. From 1977-1988, the site was used for industrial activities such as bagging soda ash and for use as a warehouse and distribution area. The first cleanup, back in the late 1980s and early 90s, consisted of removing some soils and using concrete and asphalt to secure other contaminated areas. Thanks in large part because of scientific and technological advances; the last phase demonstrated how much progress has been made in cleaning up contaminated sites.

DEQ, working with remediation contractors, conducted most of the site cleanup in an enclosed structure called an Enclosed Remedial Activities Building, also known as ERAB. The ERAB was a 70-foot by 90-foot building that was fitted with ventilation and an air filtration system and other equipment to reduce air emissions getting off the site and into the nearby neighborhood. Air monitors were stationed around the site and a contingency plan was laid out in case the monitors picked up unsafe levels or contaminants. The air monitors did not detect any contamination levels during the cleanup.

After the contaminated soil had been removed, confirmatory samples indicated that concentrations for chemicals of concern at this site met the standards deemed appropriate for an industrial-use site.

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