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# DEQ announces Thompson Hayward cleanup nears end

BATON ROUGE – The last phase of the clean up of the former Thompson Hayward facility located in the Gert Town community of New Orleans is nearing an end. The Department of Environmental Quality held a meeting Tuesday night to discuss the clean-up process and the results of follow-up or confirmatory sampling performed by the Department. At the meeting, officials from DEQ, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the clean-up contractors explained how the contaminated material was removed, where it went, and the results of confirmatory samples taken at the site.

The cleanup consisted of removing contaminated debris and contaminated soil, and bringing the materials to facilities authorized to dispose of the wastes. Because the Thompson Hayward site is located near residences and businesses, the clean-up plan called for the soil excavation to take place in an Enclosed Remedial Activities Building. This building was 70 feet by 90 feet and was placed over areas where digging was taking place. The building had a negative air pressure system to prevent airborne contaminants from leaving the site. Air monitors were also deployed inside the ERAB and around the perimeter of the site to ensure the safety of workers and the community.

There were three types of wastes to be disposed of at the site. More than 700 tons of hazardous debris was disposed of at the Clean Harbors facility in Lone Mountain, Oklahoma. More than 4,800 tons of excavated soil was placed in roll off bins and disposed of by incineration at facilities in Texas and Nebraska, and nearly 5,800 tons of construction debris waste was disposed of at Riverbirch Landfill in Garyville, La.

The DEQ had oversight responsibilities for the cleanup and confirmatory samples taken on site. These samples showed the site met standards appropriate for returning it to commercial use.

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