



FINAL DECISION AND RESPONSE TO COMMENTS RCRA CORRECTIVE ACTION PROGRAM

ANCHOR RANCH POTTSBORO, TEXAS

**THE PURPOSE OF THIS
FINAL DECISION AND
RESPONSE TO COMMENTS IS
TO:**

- *Describe the selected remedy;*
- *Explain EPA's rationale for the remedy selected; and*
- *Identify and respond to any comments received during the public comment period.*

INTRODUCTION

This Final Decision and Response to Comments is being presented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the drum burial site on Anchor Ranch, which is located near Pottsboro, Texas. The purpose of the Final Decision is to describe the selected remedy at this site, present concerns and issues raised during the public comment period, and to provide responses and rationale for any comments received. This document consists of the Final Decision, an updated index to the Administrative Record (Attachment I), and the previously issued Statement of Basis (Attachment II).

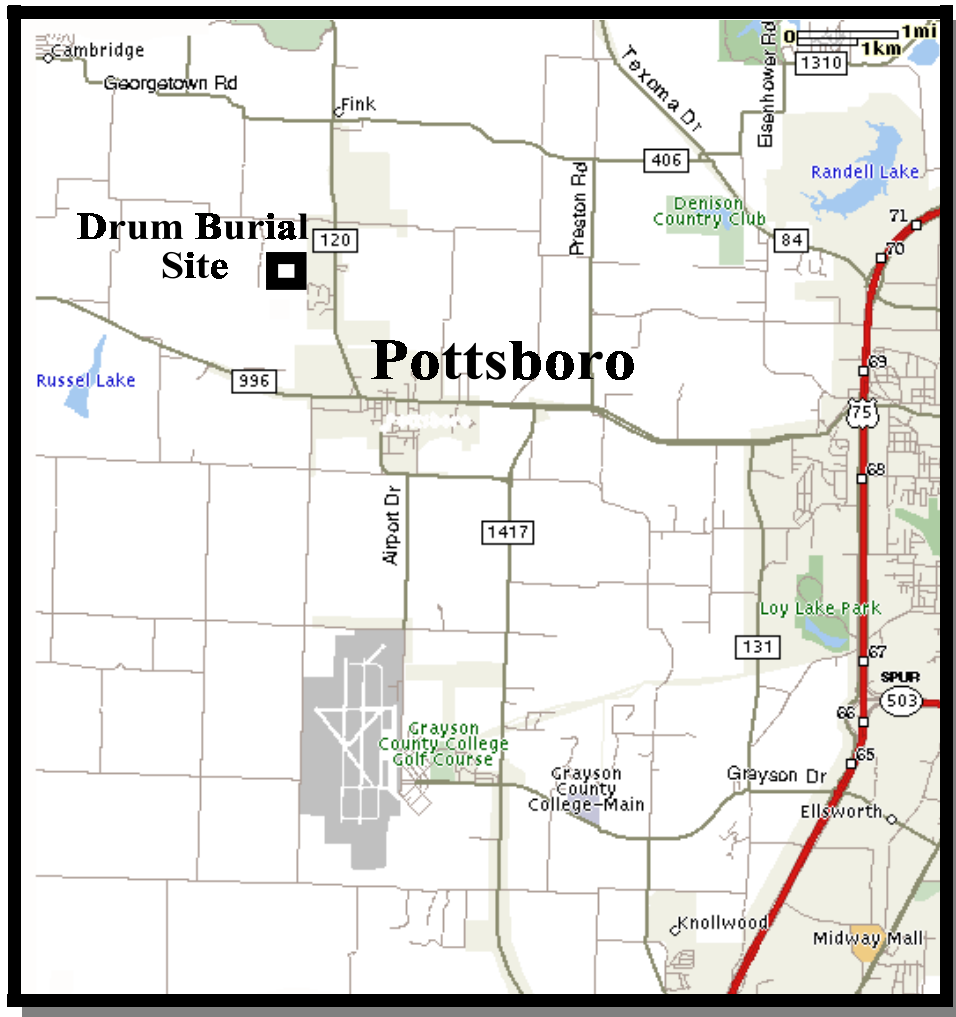
EPA selects the remedy based on the Administrative Record and any public comments received. The Statement of Basis provided the proposed remedy and was available for public review and comment from

August 13, 2001, to September 15, 2001.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND STATUTORY DETERMINATION

The drum burial site is located on a ranch approximately two miles north of the City of Pottsboro in Grayson County, Texas, as shown in Figure 1. The site is near the south fence of a pasture used for cattle grazing. The property, owned by C. D. Loe, Jr., is known as "Anchor Ranch" and consists of 137 acres on the south side of Cemetery Road approximately three-tenths of a mile west of State Highway 120.

FIGURE 1



EPA conducted an inspection of the site in October 1996 and found 25 drums buried on the property at a depth of about 4 feet. The crushed and leaking drums were found to contain various hazardous constituents including methylene chloride, di-methyl phenol, phenol, and benzene. Soils in the drum burial site were contaminated by the wastes spilled from the drums. The contaminants identified at the site include known and suspected carcinogens, which can affect the central nervous system and damage internal organs at low levels. The drums were removed from the burial site in October 1996 and sent off-site for disposal at a licensed facility in February 1997.

On June 4, 1997, EPA and C.D. Loe, Jr. signed an Administrative Order on Consent under RCRA, Section 7003. The Order required an investigation and cleanup of any remaining environmental contamination resulting from burial of the drums at Anchor Ranch.

SELECTED REMEDY

The soil at the site that was contaminated above acceptable risk-based concentrations was removed as an action in EPA's corrective action program. Subsequent to that removal, investigations performed at the site demonstrate that the threat to human health or the environment from hazardous constituents is acceptable. EPA's determination is that the previous removal is sufficient to protect human health and the environment, and that no further corrective action is necessary for the drum burial site at the Anchor Ranch.

REMEDY COMPLETED

The contaminated soil in the drum disposal area was excavated in October 1997 while the site investigation was underway and before the final measures were determined. The soil was removed to control or minimize the ongoing threats to human health and the environment in advance of the final remedy selection. The removal was accomplished by removing the upper 2 feet of soil in the drum burial area out to 1 foot beyond the original perimeter. Following this, four soil samples were collected from the sides of the pit.

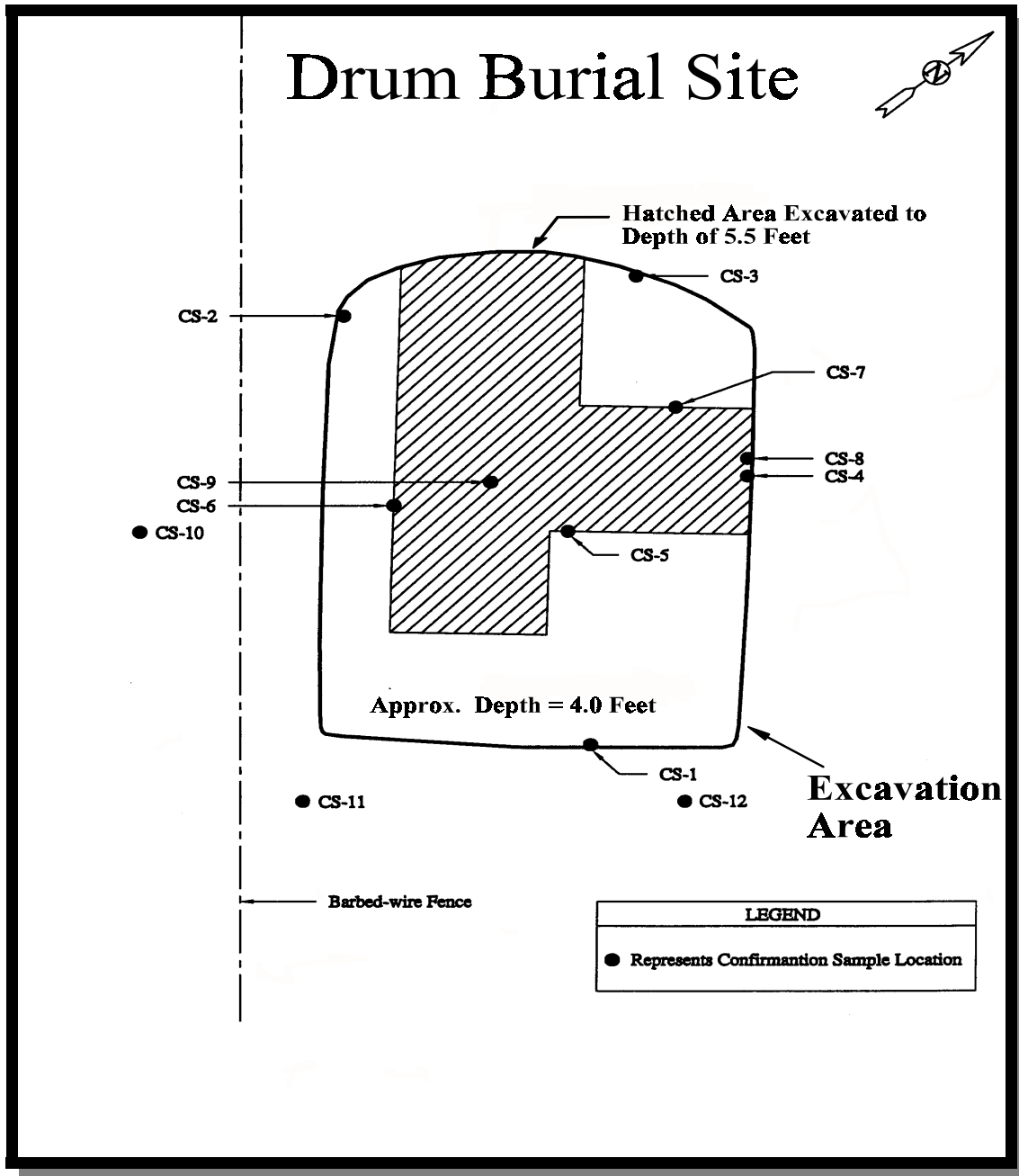
Excavation then resumed to a depth of 4 feet and a scan was conducted with a photo-ionization detector (OVM 580 PID) to investigate the presence of organic vapors. Additional excavation was done to a depth of 5½ feet in areas with elevated organic vapor readings. Five additional soil samples were collected from the sides and bottom of the pit. All confirmatory samples were collected from areas with the highest organic vapor concentrations measured by the photo-ionization detector. The excavation area is shown in Figure 2.

The soil samples were analyzed for volatile and for semi-volatile organic compounds using EPA laboratory methods. Analytical results of the soil samples taken from the sides of the pit within 2 feet of the surface showed that all detectable contamination above a depth of 2 feet had been removed. The soil samples collected between 4 feet and 5 ½ feet established that organic chemical concentrations were either below detection limits or less than the EPA Region 6 Human Health Media-Specific Screening Levels for Residential Exposures.

The drum burial site was backfilled with soil obtained off-site from Honeycutt Sand and Gravel located at 2201 Bowers Road, Seagoville, Texas. Following grading, the excavation pit, soil staging area, and surrounding areas were re-seeded with grass.

Additional sampling, described in the attached Statement of Basis, showed that nearby soils, sediments, and ground water were not contaminated by the drum burial site.

FIGURE 2



from "Interim/Stabilization Measures Report"; May 29, 1998; W.E.S.T.

SUMMARY OF SITE RISKS

There are no remaining human health or environmental risks associated with direct exposure to the surface soils because all contaminated soil from the surface to a depth of at least 4 feet was removed, and the off-site soil used to backfill the excavation prevents direct exposure to the remaining areas of deeper soil contamination. The remaining native soil underlying the backfill material has contaminant levels that are less than the EPA Region 6 Human Health Media-Specific Screening Levels for Residential Exposure. These screening levels are described in the attached Statement of Basis.

The remaining soil contamination below 4 feet is not expected to result in any significant ecological risk. For an ecological risk to exist, there must be a complete exposure pathway where a contaminant can travel from a source to an ecological receptor, and be taken up by the receptor by one or more exposure routes. The backfill material placed at the drum burial site prevents any significant exposure of ecological receptors to the contaminants remaining below 4 feet.

Table 1 below lists the remaining specific contaminants present below a depth of 4 feet and the corresponding human-health based Screening Levels.

TABLE 1

Contaminant	Maximum Remaining Soil Concentration - mg/kg <i>(sample number)</i>	EPA Region 6 Human Health Residential Soil Screening Level - mg/kg
Acetone	79 <i>(sample CS-5)</i>	1,600
Benzene	0.017 <i>(sample CS-9)</i>	0.680
Ethyl Benzene	0.010 <i>(sample CS-5)</i>	230
Methyl Ethyl Keytone	0.290 <i>(sample CS-5)</i>	7,300
Toluene	0.048 <i>(sample CS-5)</i>	520
Xylene	0.058 <i>(sample CS-5)</i>	210

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public comment period was held from August 13, 2001, to September 15, 2001. No comments were received regarding the proposal for a “no further action” remedy.

FUTURE ACTIONS

None

DECLARATION

Based on the previous excavation and removal of contaminated soil, and on the Administrative Record compiled for this corrective action, the actions completed are appropriate and protective of health and the environment, pursuant to Section 7003 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. Section 6973.

(original signed by)

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Date

Administrative Record Index

Statement of Basis