

Restoration in Port Arthur, Texas

Increasing benefits through combined Remediation and Restoration

The Old Gulf Refinery site has been an active refinery since the 1902 discovery of oil in the area at "Spindletop." NOAA and the Texas trustees worked with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to achieve remedial goals at the site that address releases of hazardous substances including aromatic hydrocarbons and metals. Work was initiated in 1993 to control potential sources of contamination and ensure that human and environmental health would be protected from further risk. Simultaneously, the trustees worked with the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to negotiate a cooperative Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) site settlement.



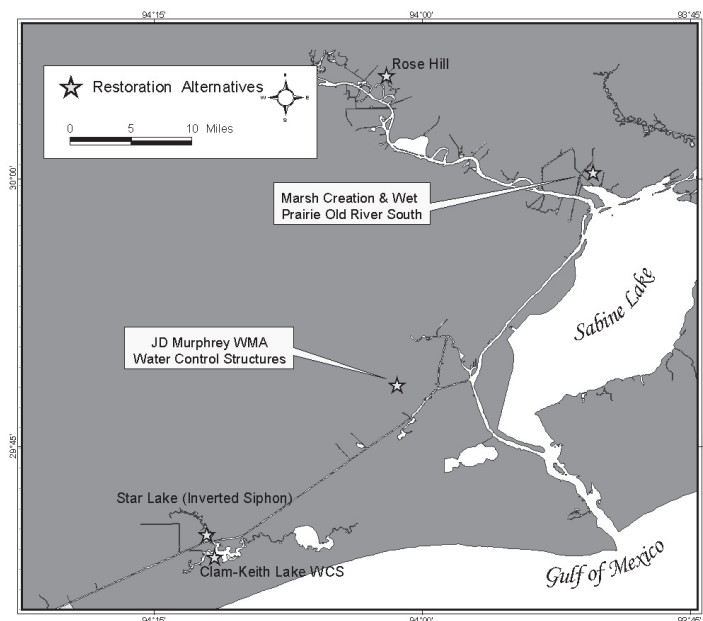
Pilot restoration project - 2004

The cooperative agreement between the PRPs and trustees avoided costly and time-consuming litigation and provided the opportunity for expeditious restoration of natural resources. The trustees reached a cooperative settlement to resolve natural resource damage liability at the site in 2004; the PRPs chose to undertake the restoration project themselves.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Texas Natural Resource Trustees (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas General Land Office, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) finalized the Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment for the Old Gulf Refinery site, Port Arthur, Texas in 2004. The Consent Decree for the site *United States v. Chevron U.S.A., Inc.*, Civil Action No. 1:05CV0021 was lodged with the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas on January 26, 2005.

The selected restoration project will result in the creation of 83 acres of intertidal wetland, 30 acres of coastal wet prairie, and water control structures to improve 1600 acres of habitat in the Neches River basin. These wetland enhancements will improve conditions for numerous aquatic and semi-aquatic plants and for fish and wildlife that use the habitats.

The PRPs completed a pilot restoration project in early 2004 with great success. Full project construction is scheduled to begin in May 2005. The marsh and wet prairie projects will be built simultaneously. Soil will be removed from the currently dry land, lowering the soil level to wet prairie elevation. Slurries of that soil and ambient water (at a controlled consistency) will be



Restoration Project Locations for the Old Gulf Oil Refinery Site

pumped to the currently open water areas to create hundreds of "pimple mounds." With an eye on reduced material handling costs and increased constructability, the trustees and the PRPs designed this restoration project, in consultation with NOAA Fisheries.

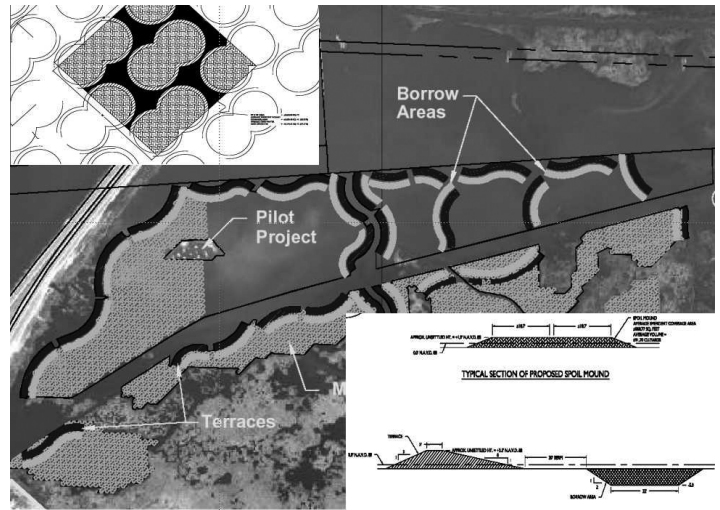
In this area of Texas, there are several hazardous waste sites and large areas of subsided wetlands where similar projects could be constructed, creating an ideal opportunity for combined remediation and restoration. Such projects carry maximum benefit by providing significant improvements to natural resources at a reduced expenditure of time and money.

For additional information:

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<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/cprd>



Old Gulf Oil Refinery Old River Pimple Mound Restoration Layout

NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration—Protecting our Coastal Environment

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