

# Letter Health Consultation

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Evaluate Potential Soil Mercury Exposures

BLANCHARD LEASE PROPERTY SITE

JEANERETTE, LOUISIANA

FEBRUARY 4, 2008

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health Service  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
Division of Health Assessment and Consultation  
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

## **Health Consultation: A Note of Explanation**

An ATSDR health consultation is a verbal or written response from ATSDR to a specific request for information about health risks related to a specific site, a chemical release, or the presence of hazardous material. In order to prevent or mitigate exposures, a consultation may lead to specific actions, such as restricting use of or replacing water supplies; intensifying environmental sampling; restricting site access; or removing the contaminated material.

In addition, consultations may recommend additional public health actions, such as conducting health surveillance activities to evaluate exposure or trends in adverse health outcomes; conducting biological indicators of exposure studies to assess exposure; and providing health education for health care providers and community members. This concludes the health consultation process for this site, unless additional information is obtained by ATSDR which, in the Agency's opinion, indicates a need to revise or append the conclusions previously issued.

You May Contact ATSDR TOLL FREE at  
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LETTER HEALTH CONSULTATION

Evaluate Potential Soil Mercury Exposures

BLANCHARD LEASE PROPERTY SITE

JEANERETTE, LOUISIANA

Prepared By:

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office of Public Health  
Under Cooperative Agreement with the  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry



Kathleen Babineaux Blanco  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS



Roxane A. Townsend, M.D.  
SECRETARY

December 20, 2007

Tom Harris  
Administrator, Environmental Technology Division  
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 4314  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4314

Dear Mr. Harris:

This letter is in response to your request to evaluate potential soil mercury exposures at the Blanchard Lease Property (BLP) site. The site, which historically has been and is currently involved in oil and gas production operations, is located near Baldwin, Louisiana, south of Highway 182 in St. Mary Parish. In 2003, two onsite areas (referred to as areas 1 and 2) were identified as possible locations of natural gas meters which may have used mercury manometers to meter the flow of natural gas through flow lines [1]. Site figures can be located in Appendix 1. Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) was compelled by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) to complete a delineation of potential mercury impacts at the two locations, which confirmed the presence of mercury in the soil at both locations [1]. In June 2007, ARC completed excavation and remediation of areas 1 and 2 [1]. This letter serves as documentation of the evaluation and analysis performed by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, Section of Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology (LDHH/OPH/SEET) of the confirmatory soil sampling conducted at the BLP site.

**Discussion:**

The two meter locations are situated on a small portion (less than one acre) of the 500 + acre tract of land historically used for the gathering, treatment, storage, and metering of crude oil and natural gas. This area is presently not used in current operations [1]. ARC conducted remediation of areas 1 and 2 during the period of April 30 through May 11, 2007, opting to document compliance with the LDEQ residential Risk Evaluation / Corrective Action Program (RECAP) soil standard for mercury of 23 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) through the collection of 33 confirmation samples from the excavations and surrounding soils [1]. Each of the final (May 7 and 11, 2007) soil confirmation samples collected from areas 1 and 2 were well below the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR's) child Environmental Media Evaluation Guide (EMEG) for mercuric chloride (100 mg/kg) and therefore unlikely to be associated with adverse health effects.

On December 13, 2007, SEET and a representative from LDEQ conducted a site visit at the BLP site, and found much of the site wooded and inaccessible. The main entrance to the BLP site is access restricted via a locked gate and accompanied by prominent no trespassing signage. Site visit photos can be located in Appendix 2.

There are no residences or company camps within the immediate vicinity of the site, eliminating the potential for oral and/or dermal exposures to onsite soil. Accordingly, these exposure pathways have been eliminated.

On December 17, 2007, SEET contacted the landowner/lease holder of the BLP site, Mrs. Nancy Blanchard to inquire about any health concerns that she may have regarding the site. She indicated that she does have health concerns related to the site; however she requested information outlining the details of the ATSDR/SEET health consultation process before she releases her concerns. SEET will provide Mrs. Blanchard with the requested information and may follow-up with a separate health consultation based on her health concerns.

**Conclusions:**

- Based on available data, there is no apparent public health hazard related to mercury in soils from remediated areas 1 and 2 at the BLP site.
- Based on available information, there appears to be no potential or completed exposure pathways at the BLP site due to inaccessible wooded areas and an access restricted gate surrounding the remediated areas 1 and 2.

**Recommendations:**

- There are no actions recommended at this time.

If additional data becomes available at a later date, SEET will be glad to consider a separate request for an evaluation. If there are any questions regarding this health consultation, please contact Darcie Olexia (504) 219-4579 or Kathleen Aubin (504) 219-4575.

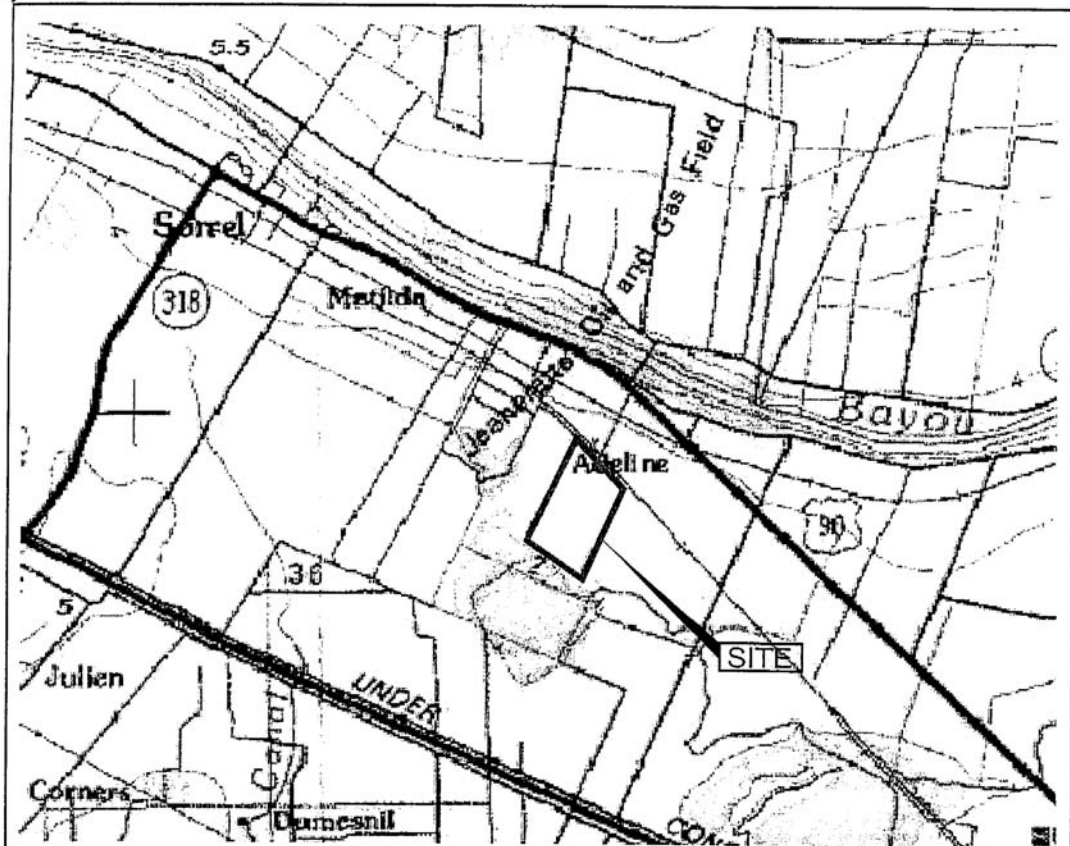
Sincerely,

Darcie Olexia, MSPH  
Environmental Health Scientist Coordinator  
Louisiana Office of Public Health  
Section of Environmental Epidemiology & Toxicology

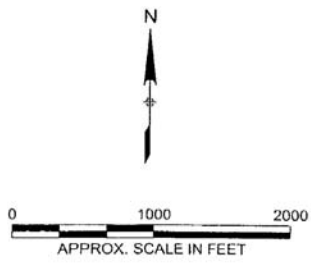
Kathleen G. Aubin, MSPH  
Environmental Health Scientist Supervisor  
Louisiana Office of Public Health  
Section of Environmental Epidemiology & Toxicology

**Appendix 1: Figures [1]**

Figure 1: Site Location Map



SOURCE:  
USGS 7.5 MINUTE FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA QUADRANGLE MAP, DATED JULY, 1983.




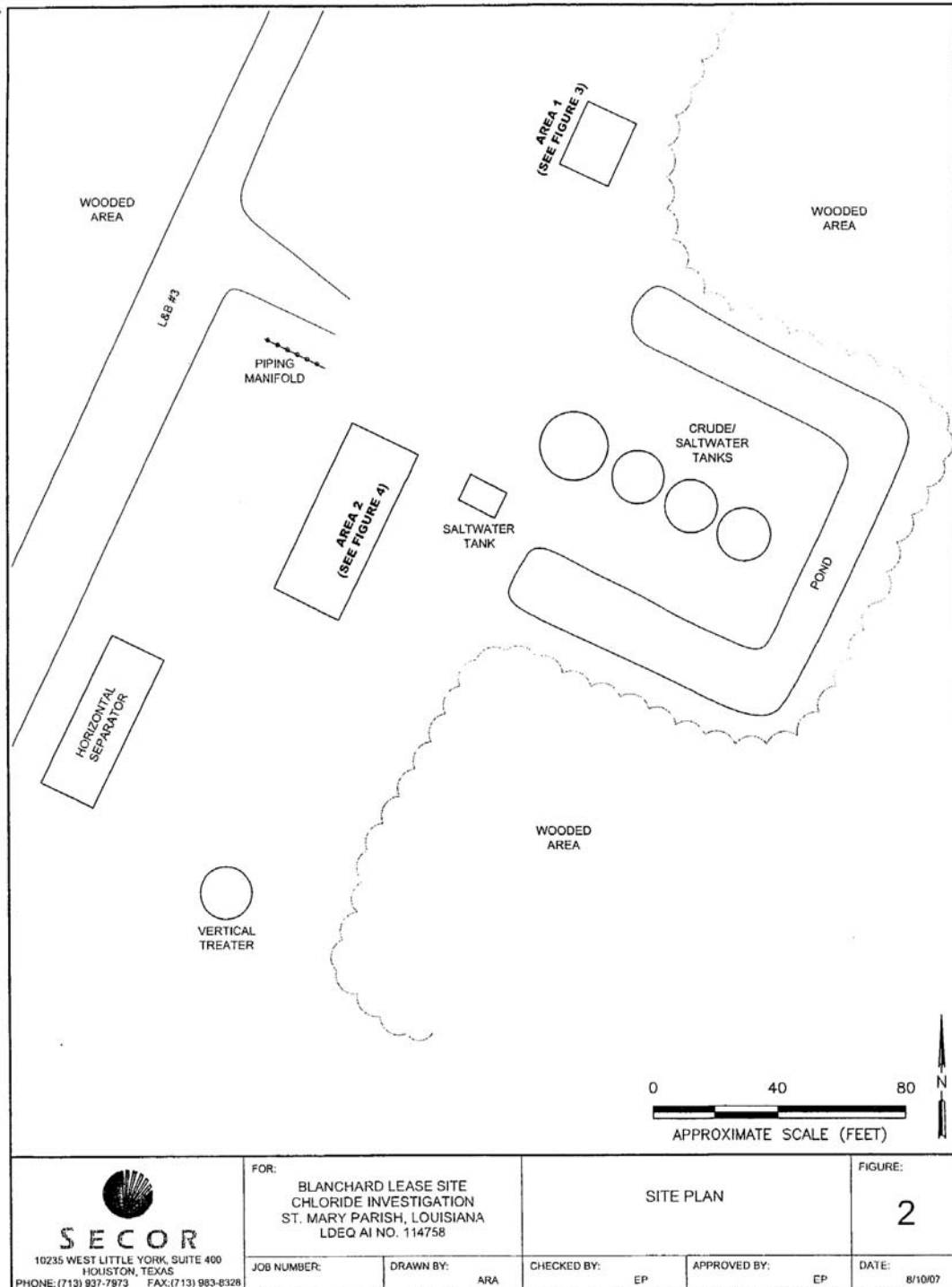
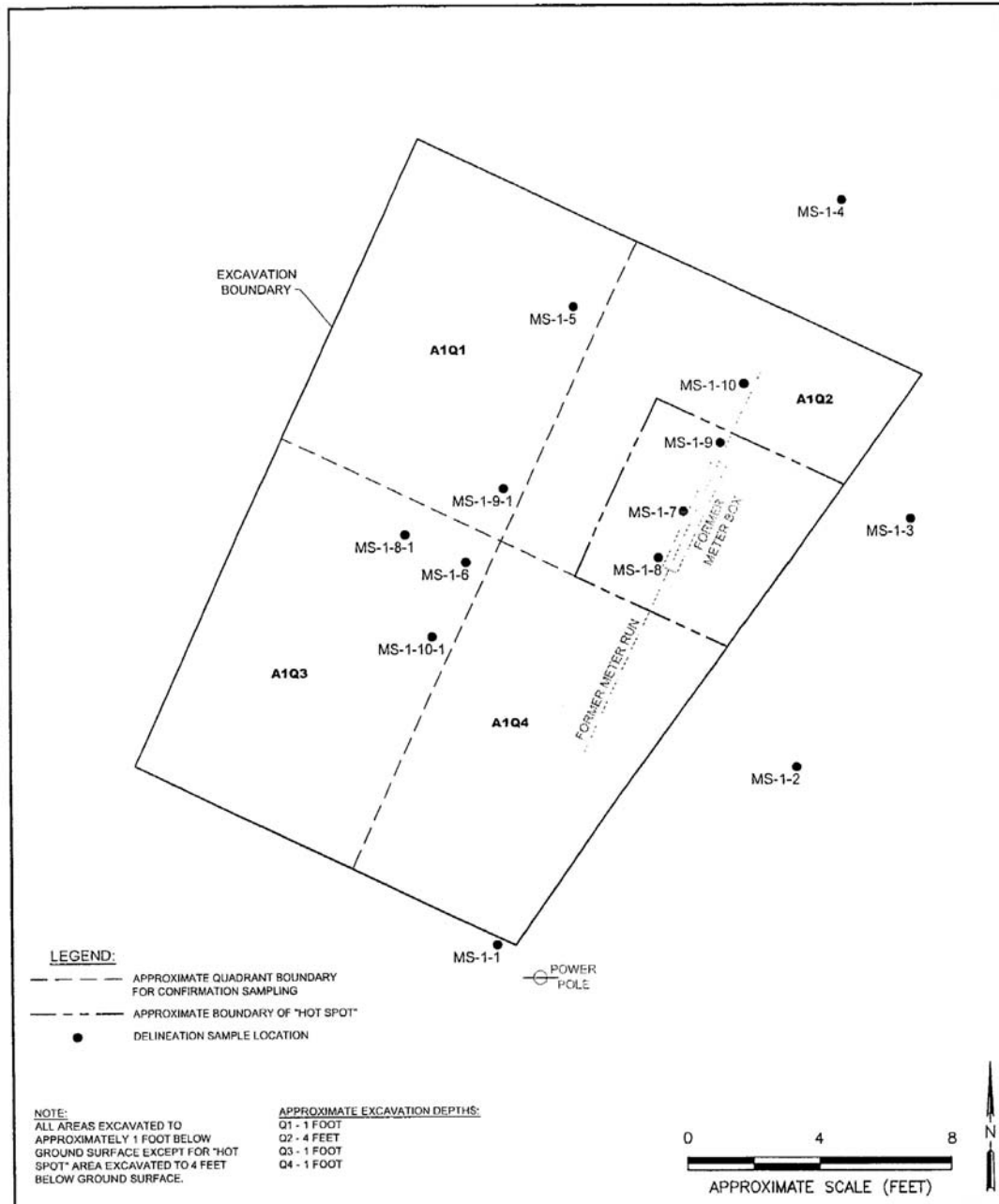
 <p>SECOR 10235 West Little York, Suite 400 Houston, Texas PHONE: (713) 937-7973</p>	PREPARED FOR: BLANCHARD LEASE PROPERTY  SAINT MARY PARISH, LA LDEO AI NO. 114756	SITE LOCATION MAP		FIGURE:  <b>1</b>
	JOB NUMBER: 89BP-48628.00	DRAWN BY: HPIN	CHECKED BY:	APPROVED BY:


Figure 2: Site Plan



FILEPATH:K:\CADD Files\Other offices work\HOUSTON\Enc Page\Blanchard Lease site\nad83\_utm\_zone\_15n\_feet-eric add.dwg\andrews\Aug 10, 2007 at 14:58\Layout: site plan

Figure 3: Excavation Plan- Area 1

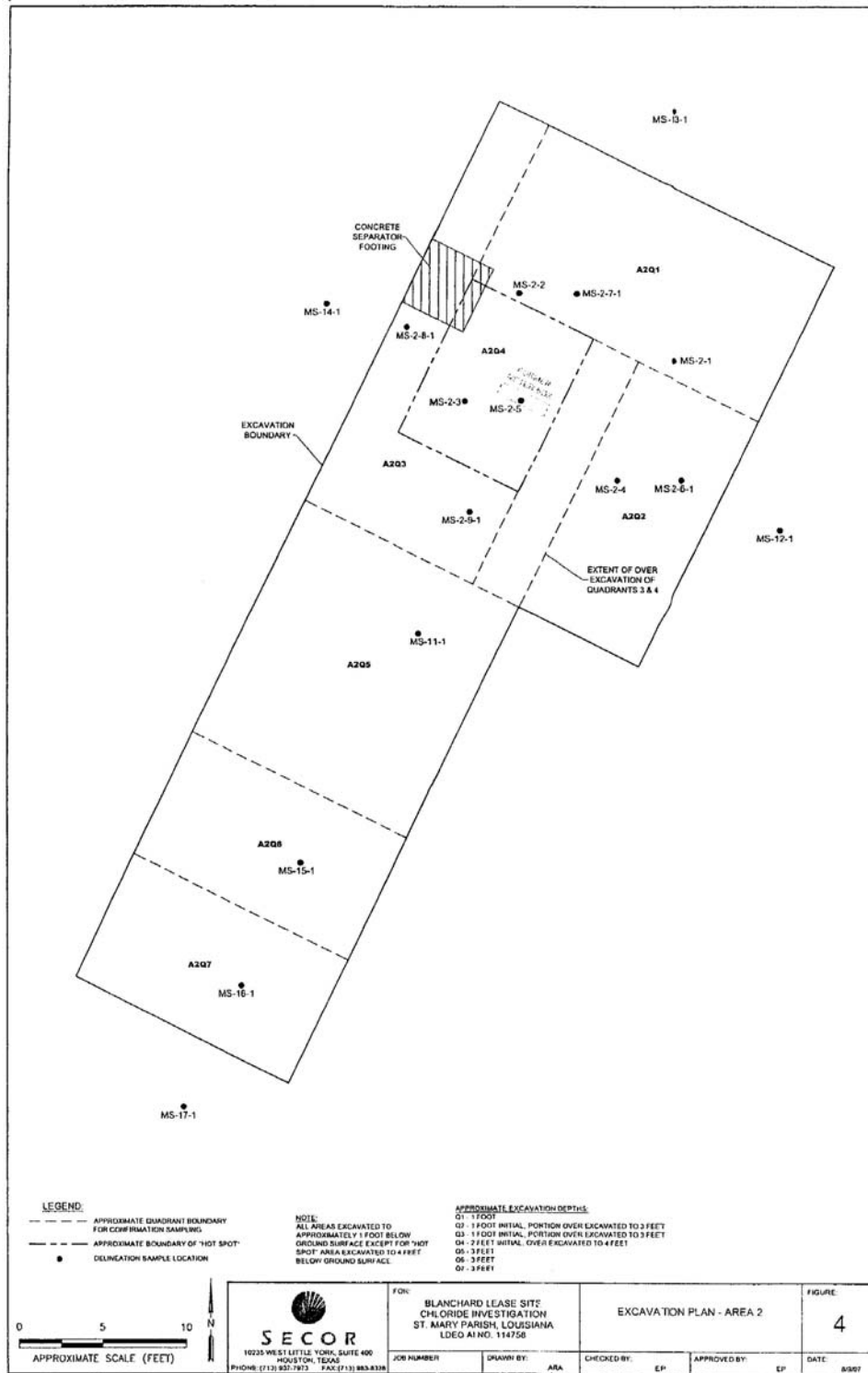


 <b>SECOR</b> 10235 WEST LITTLE YORK, SUITE 400 HOUSTON, TEXAS PHONE: (713) 937-7973 FAX: (713) 983-8328	<b>FOR:</b> BLANCHARD LEASE SITE CHLORIDE INVESTIGATION ST. MARY PARISH, LOUISIANA LDEQ AI NO. 114758	<b>EXCAVATION PLAN - AREA 1</b>	<b>FIGURE:</b> 3
	<b>JOB NUMBER:</b>	<b>DRAWN BY:</b> ARA	<b>CHECKED BY:</b> EP
			<b>DATE:</b> 8/9/07

FILEPATH:K:\CADD files\Other offices work\HOUSTON\Enc Page\Blanchard Lease site\nod83\_utm\_zone\_15n\_foot-eric add.dwg\jaandrews\Aug 10, 2007 at 14:58\Layout AREA 1



Figure 4: Excavation Plan- Area 2



## **Appendix 2: Site Visit Photos**

Site visit conducted by SEET and a representative of LDEQ on December 13, 2007.



Photo 1:

Location of excavation and remediation in area 1. December 13, 2007.



Photo 2:  
Location of excavation and remediation in area 2. December 13, 2007.



Photo 3:  
No trespassing notice posted at main entrance gate. December 13, 2007.



Photo 4:  
Gated main entrance of the BLP site. December 13, 2007.

## References

1. Deutsch, Kerrigan & Stiles, L.L.P. RECAP Management Option 1 Remedial Action Report, Blanchard Lease Property, AI Number 114758, Mercury Meter Locations, St. Mary Parish, Louisiana. October 5, 2007.

## Certification

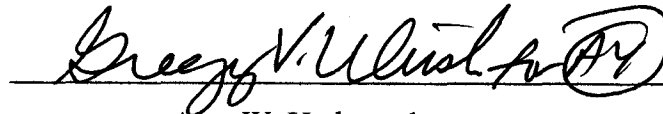
This health consultation for Blanchard Lease Property was prepared by Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals under a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). It was completed in accordance with approved methodology and procedure existing at the time the health consultation was initiated.



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Jeff Kellam  
Technical Project Officer  
Division of Health Assessment and Consultation (DHAC)  
ATSDR

The Division of Health Assessment and Consultation (DHAC), ATSDR, has reviewed this health consultation and concurs with its findings.



Alan W. Yarbrough  
Cooperative Agreement Team Leader, DHAC, ATSDR