

FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COX ROAD SITE

1. What is The Cox Road Group?

At this stage The Cox Road Group (CRG) includes three companies: ExxonMobil Corporation, The Lubrizol Corporation and United States Steel Corporation. These companies have responded to a notice by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and assumed a leadership role in performing and funding the work needed to conduct a remedial investigation of the Cox Road Site. These companies have committed to working with the State to perform an environmental assessment of the Site and the necessary work as a result of this assessment. They may be joined later by as many as 52 other companies whose industrial wastes also were disposed of at the Site.

2. What's in the Cox Road Site?

The 83-acre site (also known as the Liberty Waste Disposal Landfill) is a former industrial landfill. It contains industrial wastes from a variety of companies.

3. How did it get there?

Originally the Site was owned and legally operated by Joiner Oil Company. Joiner or its affiliates such as Liberty Waste Disposal used the facility as a disposal site for itself and other industrial customers from 1969 through the mid-1970s. It was closed in 1983. During its operation the facility was permitted and inspected by the State of Texas. When the Site was closed, it was covered with three feet of topsoil.

4. Can the Site harm nearby neighbors?

The focus of the CRG's upcoming investigation is to determine whether the site poses risks to the neighboring areas. Repeated testing of area residential surface soil samples and water wells by the TCEQ, EPA and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has consistently indicated **no apparent public health hazard**.

5. Why wasn't the Site taken care of earlier?

A series of earlier studies of the site by various agencies indicated no threat to human health or the environment. Subsequent residential development in the area triggered TCEQ to take a closer look. As a result of these studies, TCEQ notified former landfill customers of their concerns in late 2004, whereupon the three companies of the CRG met with TCEQ and agreed to participate in the Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP). Work is in progress to perform the necessary investigation.

6. What's being done now to rectify the situation?

The site will be investigated under the Texas Risk Reduction Program (TRRP), under oversight by the State, and the CRG must comply with laws governing this process. The TRRP process is very specific. The work will be performed by licensed engineers, geologists and other environmental professionals. Immediate preliminary steps include site mowing and brush-cutting so that surveying and boundary-marking can be done accurately. Then new fencing will be installed, and warning signs in English and Spanish posted every 200 feet around the site. The steps to investigate the site under TRRP include drilling and sampling of soil and groundwater to determine the contamination boundaries. This data, combined with compiled chemical data, will be used to determine the risks associated with this site. Following this work, a remedial action plan is prepared and submitted to the TCEQ.

7. What is the timetable for getting this done?

The process has already been started. The CRG has been working with the State since late 2004 to complete agreements and plans, and now has access to the site from the current land owner (Joiner Liquidating Trust). Contractors are being engaged for site clearing, fencing and investigative work. Engineers and geologists have been engaged, and they are preparing plans as required by the State before work can begin. The proposed timetable calls for site investigative work to be completed, and an Affected Property Assessment Report (APAR) filed with the State, by the end of June 2007. An action plan will be prepared after the State reviews the APAR. This should occur sometime in late 2007 or early 2008. CRG will implement the action plan following review by the State.

8. What do I need to do?

Area residents are asked to cooperate with CRG and honor the "No Trespassing" signs on the property, and to watch for progress reports at the CRG web site (www.coxroadlandfill.com). This website is designed to keep neighbors apprised of what's happening with the project. Interested parties may also view pertinent documents in county offices at Liberty County/Dayton Annex, 1300 W. Clayton, Dayton, TX. The CRG's objectives are to conduct a thorough remedial investigation under the oversight of the State, to execute any needed remedial work to the required health and safety standards, and to be a good community neighbor. The latter objective includes communicating well and often with people in the community.