

**FACT SHEET #1: COX ROAD SITE  
LIBERTY COUNTY, TEXAS  
JUNE 2006**

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*Prepared by The Cox Road Group (CRG), including ExxonMobil Corporation, The Lubrizol Corporation and United States Steel Corporation. CRG is working under the supervision of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to assess environmental conditions of the site under the Texas Voluntary Cleanup Program.*

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**Site Background**

The Cox Road Site (also known as Liberty Waste Disposal Landfill) is an 83-acre former industrial waste facility located in Liberty County, Texas, near the City of Dayton. The site is one mile north of Farm to Market Road (FM) 1413, along the west side of Cox Road. It is bordered by an open field to the north, a county landfill to the south, Cox Road and an open field to the east, and the Esperson Dome oil field to the west.

The current owner is the Joiner Liquidating Trust. Originally the facility was owned and legally operated by the Joiner Oil Company. Joiner Oil Company, or its affiliates such as Liberty Waste Disposal, used the facility beginning in 1969, and continuing through the mid 1970's, for the disposal of industrial wastes. At the time of its active usage, the facility was permitted and inspected by the State of Texas. In 1983 the landfill was covered with three feet of topsoil. At some locations this cover has eroded over time, causing some wastes to be exposed.

In 2004, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) determined that conditions at the site required re-evaluation. Unable to rely on the site owners, TCEQ began to contact former customers of the waste facility. Three of these companies formed The Cox Road Group (CRG), and notified TCEQ of its intent to cooperate with the State. In April 2006, the CRG formally notified TCEQ that it would voluntarily investigate and address site conditions. Eventually, 52 additional companies were identified as former customers of the landfill. In the future, some of these companies may become part of CRG.

Recently, in March 2006, the Federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) published its report of a health consultation study prepared by the Texas Department of State Health Services at the request of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). ATSDR concluded the site poses no public health hazard.



## **Past Investigations and Regulatory Actions**

Between 1990 and 2005, the site was the subject of several investigations by TCEQ, EPA and the Texas Department of Health. Visual inspections were conducted, and samples of soil, surface water, and groundwater were collected both on the site and outside the site boundaries. Organic compounds consistent with past operations were identified on the site. No off-site impacts or threats to human health have been identified by any of these agencies.

In 1990 and again in 2003, the EPA assessed the site for designation as a Federal Superfund Site. The site's ranking did not reach the level for Federal Superfund designation. In February 2006, TCEQ proposed the Cox Road Site for the State Superfund Program. Since CRG has volunteered to perform the environmental investigation (called a remedial investigation), the site will be addressed under the Texas Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) instead of as a State Superfund project.

## **Current Status**

CRG has finalized an agreement with the State to proceed under the VCP. CRG has engaged an environmental engineering firm to plan the investigation, and has obtained permission from the owners to access the site. Immediate plans are to replace fencing around the property, post new signs, and conduct preliminary work to prepare the site for the remedial investigation. The site assessment plan will be reviewed by the State.

## **Next Steps**

When the remedial investigation plan is satisfactory to the State, a professional assessment of the site will be performed. This assessment will provide the State and the public with an effective scientific evaluation.

## **For More Information**

CRG is committed to keeping the community informed. Also, CRG has established a repository of information in county offices at: Liberty County/Dayton Annex, 1300 W. Clayton, Dayton, TX. Official documents, including ATSDR's Health Consultation Report, are available for public inspection.

(See also the Frequently Asked Questions document accompanying this fact sheet.)

### **For more information, contact:**

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