

Superfund NEWS

June 2017

Pollution Pioneer supports San Jacinto River Coalition efforts with donation

Channelview's Concerned Citizens Against Pollution

At their monthly meeting last Tuesday night, the San Jacinto River Coalition heard from a pioneer in this area's fight against environmental pollution.

David Killgore was living in Channelview in 1992, when a company formed by Kay Crouch announced a plan to build an incinerator on land near the DeZavala Elementary school, and to process and burn waste products from all over the United States.

After researching the process, and realizing that the incinerator would pollute the air and affect the health of those living close by, including the children in the school, Killgore formed an organization, Concerned Citizens Against Pollution to try to stop the project.

With the help of then State Senator Gene Green, the legislature passed a bill opposing the project, and it was signed by Governor Ann Richards. In spite of this, the EPA issued a permit for the project and Killgore's group went to court to stop it. Their attorney, Jim Blackburn, got an injunction to stop the in-



DAVID KILLGORE DISPLAYS A POSTER from the 1990s, when his CCAP group fought against an incinerator project for Channelview.



TO SUPPORT THE SJRC in their fight against the Waste Pits, David Killgore presents a check to Jackie Young for \$863, the balance of funds from the CCAP organization.

cinerator, but it was fought by Crouch and her investors for the next 8 years. The investors spent \$21 million dollars versus CCAP's \$50,000. After the 8 years, and facing more court costs, the investor group abandoned the proposal, and Killgore's CCAP had won.

Killgore and his wife Margaret now live in Ruidoso, New Mexico and he remarks about how clean the air is, compared to Houston.

Because the CCAP still had an active bank account, Killgore decided to donate all the remaining funds, \$863 to the San Jacinto River Coalition for their efforts to clean up the Waste Pits and other

environmental problems.

In her review of the latest update from the Dallas Office of the EPA, regarding the San Jacinto Waste Pits, Executive Director Jackie Young noted that the PRP will replace 69 signs that have aged too much. She also noted that a quarterly inspection had been made, with no visual damage present. Topographic and bathymetric surveys were also conducted, but their results were not yet announced.

Both Young and Killgore expressed concern that the EPA budget under President Trump may be cut a great deal, slowing or stopping some environmental

Superfund clean-ups. She indicated that several groups nationally were considering a coalition that would be stronger than one, and able to negotiate better with the EPA. To further this action, she said SJRC should make a list of issues for national attention, from our own local experience. Members of the audience then made suggestions. Young indicated they would continue this effort until the end of the month.

Suggestions included making studies independent of industry backing; and the elimination of conflict of interest situations for those within government that must make environmental decisions.

Who is involved in the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund?

US EPA

The federal Environmental Protection Agency is the lead in dealing with the Superfund site. Congress has designated them with the responsibility to solve the problem.

PRP

Potential Responsible Parties include successors to the perpetrators of the Waste Pits. These include International Paper, and Waste Management.

US CONGRESS

Most legislators whose district includes the San Jacinto River, have expressed the need to remove the Waste Pits. This includes Congressmen Gene Green, Brian Babin, Ted Poe and others.

HARRIS COUNTY

County Attorney Vince Ryan led a lawsuit to make the Responsible Parties pay for remediation of the site. He won a \$29.2 million dollar judgement to be spent on environmental improvements in the area.

SJRC/THEA

A Citizens movement, led by previous Highlands resident Jackie Young, has been the leading voice to have the Waste Pits totally removed. She heads San Jacinto River Coalition, and the new Texas Health and Environmental Alliance, Inc.

KEEPITCAPPED

A Citizens Group named San Jacinto Citizens Against Pollution located in Baytown has a web site espousing its belief that a permanent cap is the best solution. Thomas Knickerbocker is their attorney, but the leadership is anonymous.

Environmental Warnings

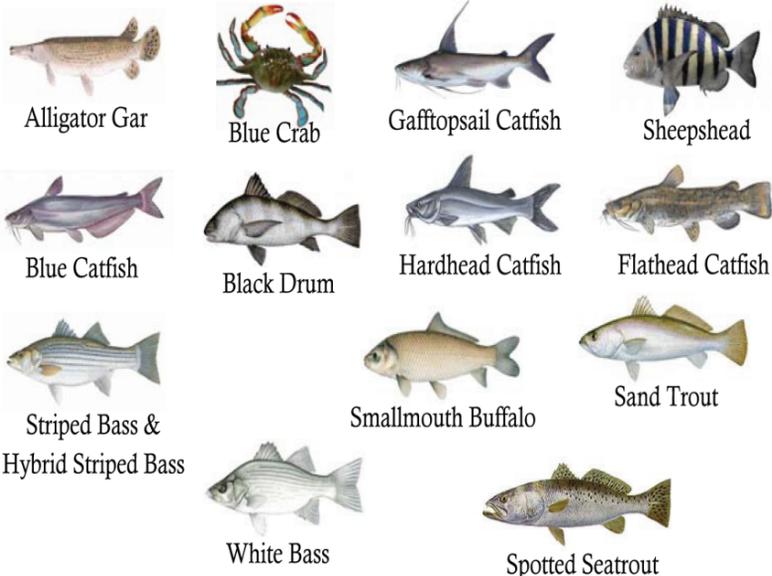
Revised and Updated FISH ADVISORIES

"Come early, fish late, know what's safe to put on your plate"

A fish consumption advisory is in place for fish caught in the Houston Ship Channel, San Jacinto River (below the Lake Houston Dam), and all connected waters north of the SH 146 bridge. The *contaminants of Concern: Dioxins and Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)*. For more specific information and a map for the advisory please visit:

<http://www.dshs.texas.gov/seafood/advisories-bans.aspx>

High Risk



Medium Risk



All fish caught in these bodies of water are contaminated. Please follow the recommended fish consumption guidelines. To find a copy of the Fish Advisory for the Houston Ship Channel and San Jacinto River visit www.dshs.texas.gov/seafood/

March 2017



What is a fish consumption advisory?

A fish consumption advisory recommends limited consumption of fish or shellfish from a particular area. It is not illegal to eat fish or shellfish from an area with a consumption advisory, but people should not eat more than the amount recommended in the advisory.



Serving Sizes

For **adults**: One serving is 6-8 ounces of uncooked fish (size of an adults hand)

For **children**: One serving is 2-4 ounces of uncooked fish (size of adults palm)

The 3C's To Safer Fish

1. Choose fish that are low in chemicals.
2. Clean away the fat, skin, and organs. This is where PCBs and dioxins are stored.
3. Cook fish on a grill or rack so fat can drip away.

Women who are pregnant or may become pregnant and children less than 12 years of age should NOT eat any fish or blue crab from these bodies of water.



Some may be more susceptible to health problems related to eating contaminated fish including:

- * People that eat a lot of fish or shellfish caught in areas known to have contamination,
- * Pregnant women or women of childbearing age,
- * Children under the age of 12, and
- * People with pre-existing medical conditions or diseases.

For more information about fish advisories in Texas, contact the

Texas Department of State Health Services

Seafood and Aquatic Life Group

512-834-6757 or www.dshs.texas.gov/seafood/

Who is involved in the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund?

USArmy COE

The Army Corps of Engineers has completed Technical Studies on the Environmental impact of 6+ strategies to Cap or Remove the toxic wastes. Their recommendations are included in a 237 page report, favoring a modified cap over removal, but stating either is possible.

TPWD

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was designated by the Legislature, with the help of Representative Wayne Smith, to administer \$10 million of the lawsuit settlement funds for environmental projects along the River.

HC PCT 2

Pct. 2 received \$10 million of the \$29.2 million settlement, and plans to use it for environmental projects within 5 miles of the Waste Pits, according to Commissioner Jack Morman.

HARRIS COUNTY

Various departments are involved, including Grants Administration, Pollution Control, and Public Health.

GBF

Galveston Bay Foundation maintains a website with information on all of the Waste Pits parties actions, and other matters of interest to the environmental health of the River and Galveston Bay.

OTHERS

- TCEQ
- US Coast Guard
- Private Attorneys
- Houston Chronicle
- City of Baytown
- KRIV ch26
- Star-Courier