

CITY OF LAREDO

September 12, 1991

Dr. G. Edward Dickey
Acting Principal Deputy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
Room 2E570
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Re: DERPS-FUDS Site No. K06TX021301
Laredo International Airport

Dear Mr. Dickey:

During October 1990, our congressional delegation contacted your office on the City's behalf and urged your agency to determine what assistance the Corps of Engineers could provide to the City of Laredo.

Colonel William D. Brown, District Engineer of the Fort Worth, Texas District Office, provided the response.

Colonel Brown indicated in his letter dated November 20, 1990, that Laredo Air Force Base is eligible for a DERPS-FUDS project and that the City of Laredo will receive help in implementing the Texas Water Commission's mandate to determine the full extent of the groundwater contamination. The letter also suggests that funding would be made available for remediation activities.

The dilemma facing the City of Laredo is that the Texas Water Commission has on August 28, 1991 given notice to the City that remediation efforts should commence at once and has given the City 30 days to respond with a remediation plan of action or face fines of up to \$10,000 per day for non-compliance.

The Army Corps of Engineers has been very helpful in assisting us address this problem. The Corps Fort Worth Office has indicated that they will remove the non-beneficial abandoned tanks and clean the contaminated soil.

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The Corps has requested that the City conduct additional upgradient soil vapor tests. If the vapor tests confirm an upgradient source of contamination, the Corps indicated that remediation of the entire site would be eligible.

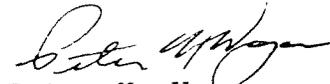
The Corps has to date only completed a general site assessment based on site visits and information provided by the City and its consultants.

The City on September 1990 provided the Corps Fort Worth District Office with 12 reasons that suggest the Army and Air Force are the responsible parties. The Corps indicated that the information constituting the 12 reasons was over whelming and supported the City's contention.

The City of Laredo requests that the Corps of Engineers assign to DERPS-FUDS Site No. K06TX021301 rapid response status and assist the City with the remediation of the contaminated groundwater, so that this project can commence before January 1, 1992.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Peter H. Vargas
City Manager

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

NOV 20 , 1990

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Honorable Phil Gramm
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-4302

Dear Senator Gramm:

Reference your letter dated October 29, 1990, regarding a request by the city of Laredo for assistance in remedial action for cleanup of contamination at the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS), Laredo Air Force Base, Laredo, Texas.

The Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers has completed a preliminary assessment of the site under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP). The Inventory Project Report detailing the findings of the assessment has been completed and forwarded for approval. The site assessment confirmed that Laredo Air Force Base is eligible for a DERP-FUDS project. The facilities not being used by present owners, such as buildings, fuel tank farm, waste disposal site and concrete foundations are eligible for cleanup under the program.

The Texas Water Commission has been contacted by us and notified of the involvement of the Corps of Engineers and time requirements for receiving funding to continue the site investigation and remediation activities at Laredo Air Force Base.

The city of Laredo will receive help in implementing the Texas Water Commission's mandate to determine full extent of the ground-water contamination once the project has received approval and is funded for a site investigation.

As requested, we are enclosing the letter from the city of Laredo dated October 18, 1990, and the letter from the Texas Water Commission dated October 9, 1990.

If we can be of any further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely,

William D. Brown
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Enclosures

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