

CITY OF LAREDO

go file



November 5, 1991

Mr. Chet Clarke
Texas Water Commission
P. O. Box 13087
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Re: Laredo International Airport
LPST I.D. No. 95021

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Thank you for the assistance your department has given the City of Laredo in regards to the hydrocarbon groundwater contamination at the airport.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter dated October 29, 1991, from Col. Michael H. Fellows with the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Environmental Restoration Division. Col. Fellows' letter is encouraging in that it sets the Corps' work schedule for the Laredo project.

It is unfortunate that the Corps did not react any sooner. An earlier response by the Corps would have saved the added expense to the City.

We believe that once the Corps does their work that it will show the source of contamination being the abandoned UST(s) and the past operating practices by the Army and the Air Force which includes disposing of fuel contaminated water at gravel pits at the site. The City has documented 20 reasons why it believes the Army and the Air Force contaminated the site.

We will keep you informed of the City and Corps' activities.

Sincerely,

Peter H. Vargas
City Manager

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xc: C. Villarreal, Assistant City Manager
H. Domeracki, Assistant City Manager
J. Aranda, Transportation Director
J. L. Flores, Airport Manager
A. McGettrick, City Attorney
Anne Miller, TWC-Austin
Bill Morris, TWC-Weslaco

twc/ltr8

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

29 OCT 1991

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Military Programs

Mr. Peter H. Vargas
City of Laredo
P.O. Box 579
Laredo, TX 78042-0579

Dear Mr. Vargas:

This is in response to your letter of September 12, 1991, regarding the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS), Site No. K06TX021301. In your letter you requested that the Corps of Engineers assign rapid response status to subject site and assist the City in the remediation of the contaminated groundwater.

The Corps of Engineers rapid response contract is restricted in its use, due to cost considerations, to situations that pose an immediate danger to human health or the environment. It is our opinion that this situation does not warrant such action, nor would the rapid response process allow us to circumvent technical or regulatory requirements.

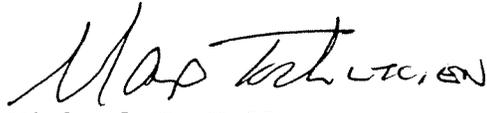
The Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (the design agent for this site) has completed much of the preliminary work; the design for removal of the USTs is underway with a completion date of December 1991; and the remedial action contract will be awarded before end of March 1992. Under the current schedule the USTs will be removed in less time than it would take to initiate a rapid response contract.

After the USTs have been removed and the soil tested for contaminants, along with the soil vapor tests proposed by the City of Laredo, sufficient data should be available to determine the source of the free product. Based on these findings, a determination of eligibility and authority for further work at this site under the DERP-FUDS program will be made.

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Suggest that the above information be relayed to the Texas Water Commission as an indication of good intent and clean up progress on the site. If you have further questions on this matter, please contact Mr. Mark Simmons at (817) 334-9923; his address is: Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, CESWF-ED-GH, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300.

Sincerely,

FOR 
Michael H. Fellows
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Chief, Environmental Restoration
Division
Directorate of Military Programs