



Date: October 10, 2007
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NEWS RELEASE

HARRIS COUNTY JUDGE EMMETT TO TOUR PROPOSED SUPERFUND SITE WITH EPA TODAY

Residents Urged Not To Fish At Channelview Site

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett will join officials with the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality this morning for a tour of the dioxin-contaminated San Jacinto River Waste Pits.

The waste pits, contained within a 20-acre site on the western bank of the San Jacinto River just north of Interstate 10, are expected to be named an EPA Superfund site, meaning cleanup of the site would be paid for primarily through federal EPA funding.

"Although this property is no longer active as a waste site, it remains extremely dangerous," said Emmett. "We have reports of area residents fishing and crabbing in waters contaminated with dioxin and other extremely hazardous substances. We are asking the media to help us get the word out to residents to avoid the area and to please not fish or swim there."

The San Jacinto River Waste Pits site consists of three former disposal pits totaling 3.5 acres located along the San Jacinto River. The pits received waste sludge from paper mill activities associated with the Champion Paper Co. of Pasadena. Portions of the original pits are now underwater. Despite an advisory against eating crabs or fish from the area, many residents continue to fish and consume their catches from the site.

Emmett will tour the site beginning at 10:15 a.m. and will be available to meet with the media at the conclusion of the tour.

WHO: Ed Emmett, Harris County Judge
Donn Walters, EPA Community Relations
Marshall Cedilote, Project Manager, TCEQ
WHEN: 12:30 p.m. today, October 10, 2007
WHERE: 16560 Market Street,
Channelview, TX 77530