





# THE SAN JACINTO RIVER WASTE PITS SUPERFUND SITE

By: Jackie Young  
Executive Director  
Texas Health and Environment Alliance



**Our Mission:** To protect water resources, public health, and Galveston Bay from the harmful effects of toxic waste.

**We ARE:**

❖ 501.c.3 Non-Profit

**We use:**

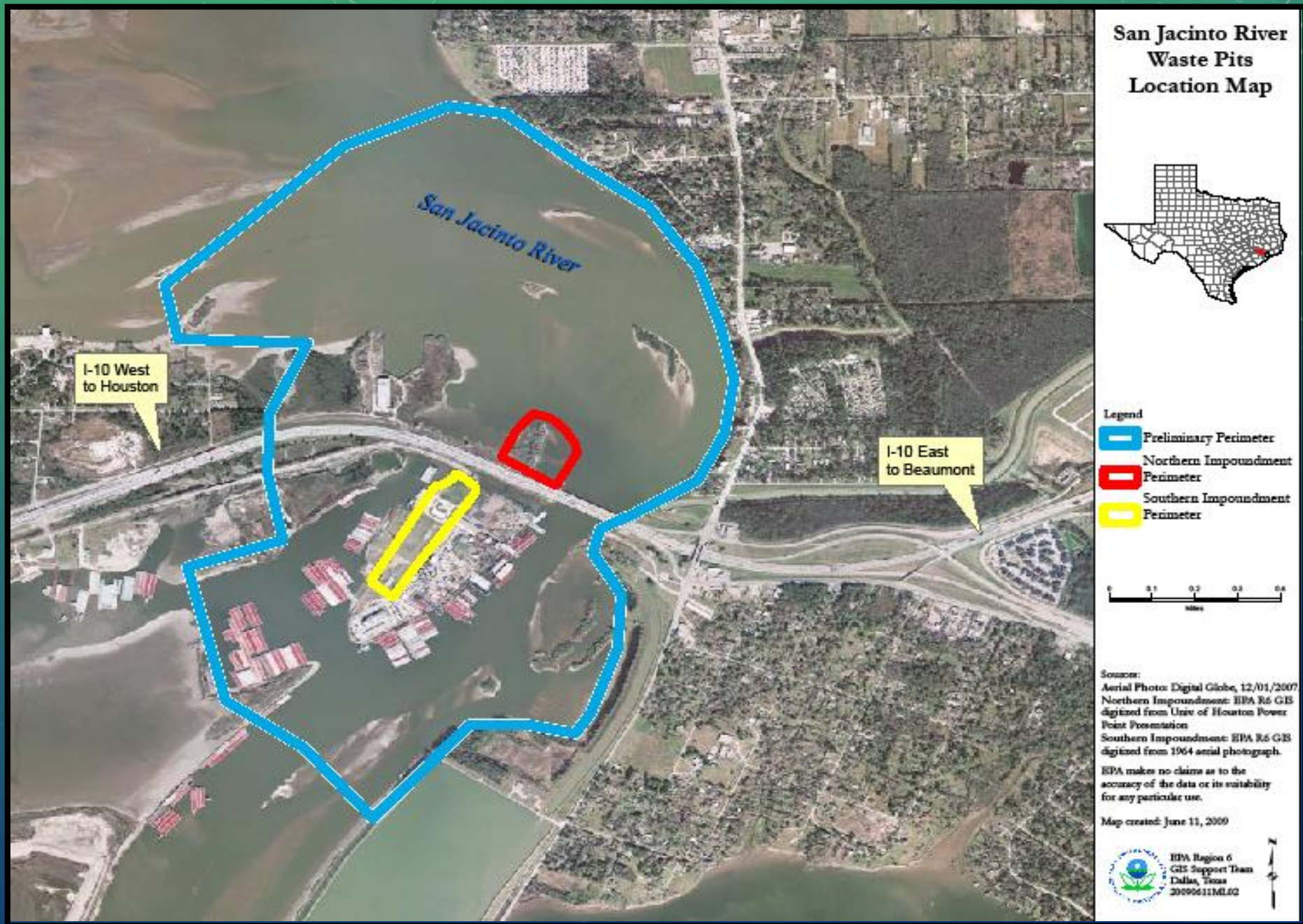
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Science
- ❖ Media Exposure

**We work with:**

- ❖ Drinking Water Quality
- ❖ Toxic Waste











**Danger  
PCBs**  
(Polychlorinated  
biphenyls)



Hg

80  
200.59

Mercury

LETS GO BACK IN TIME





# The Waste Pits During Creation in 1965





1966



1978



1995



2010





# WASTE PITS IN 2005

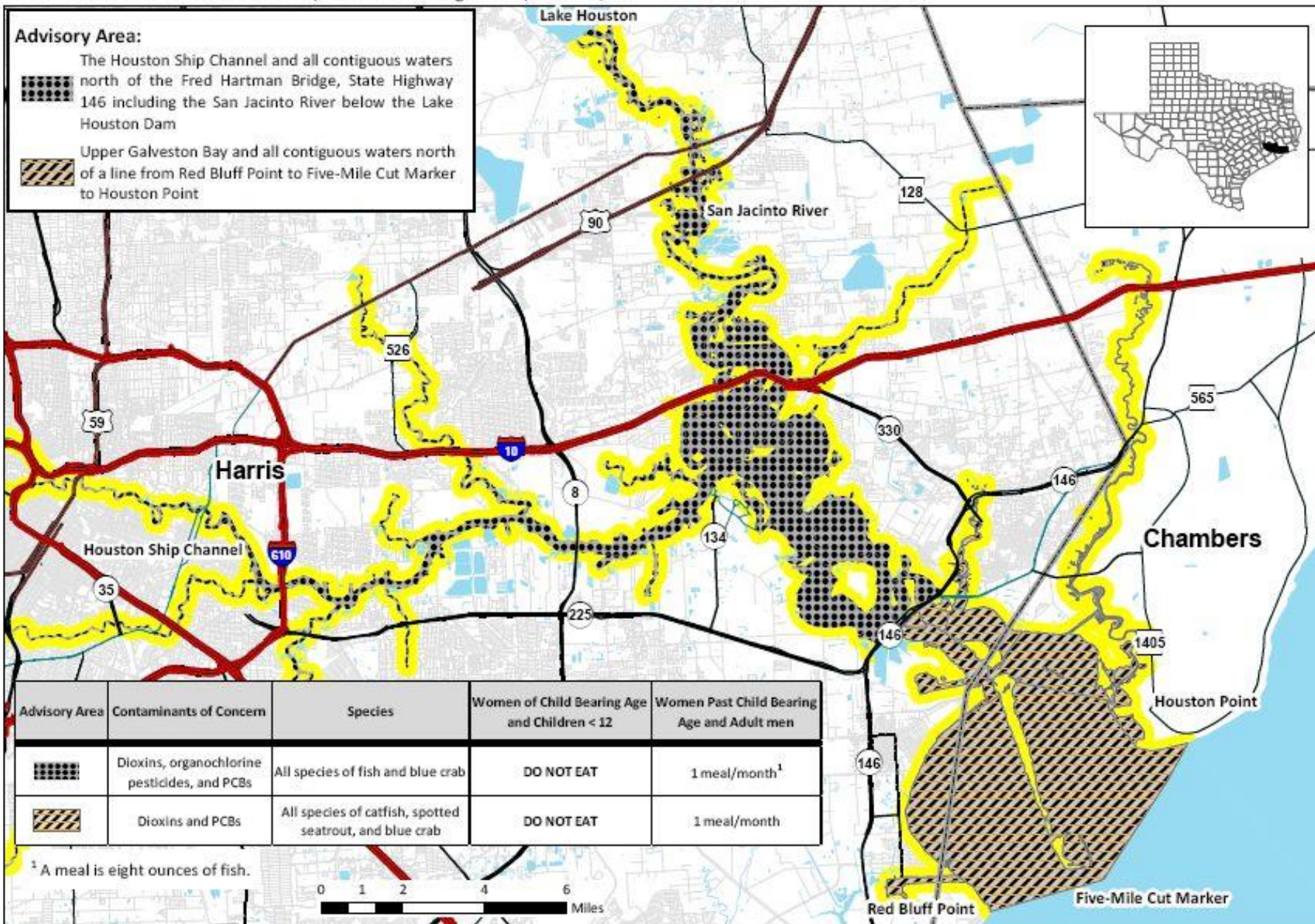




# Galveston Bay Estuary (Map 1) – Houston Ship Channel, San Jacinto River, and Upper Galveston Bay

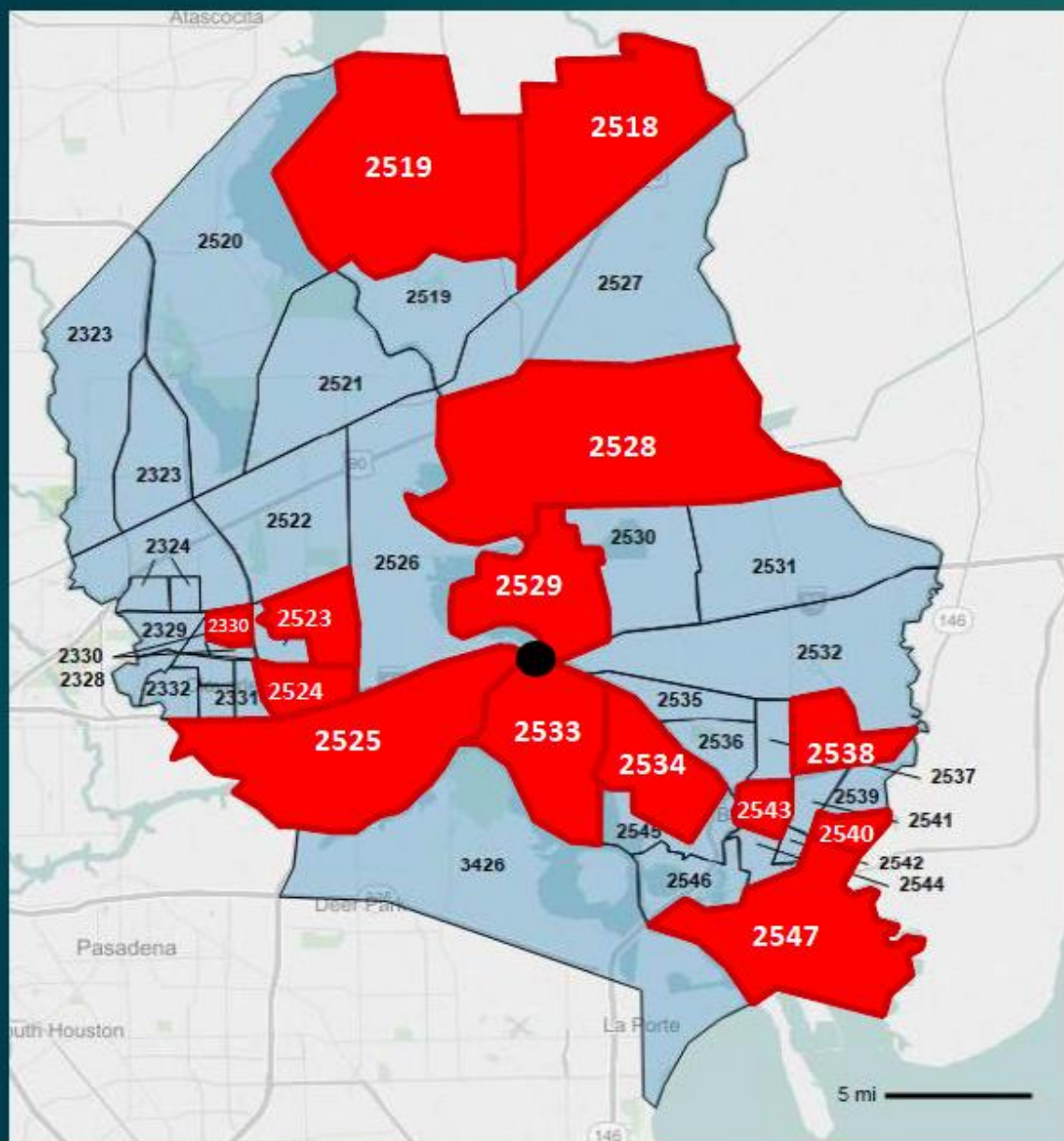
Chambers and Harris Counties

ADV-49 and ADV-50 Issued June 26, 2013 Rescinding ADV-3, ADV-20, and ADV-35





# Selected Census Tracts (2000) For East Harris County



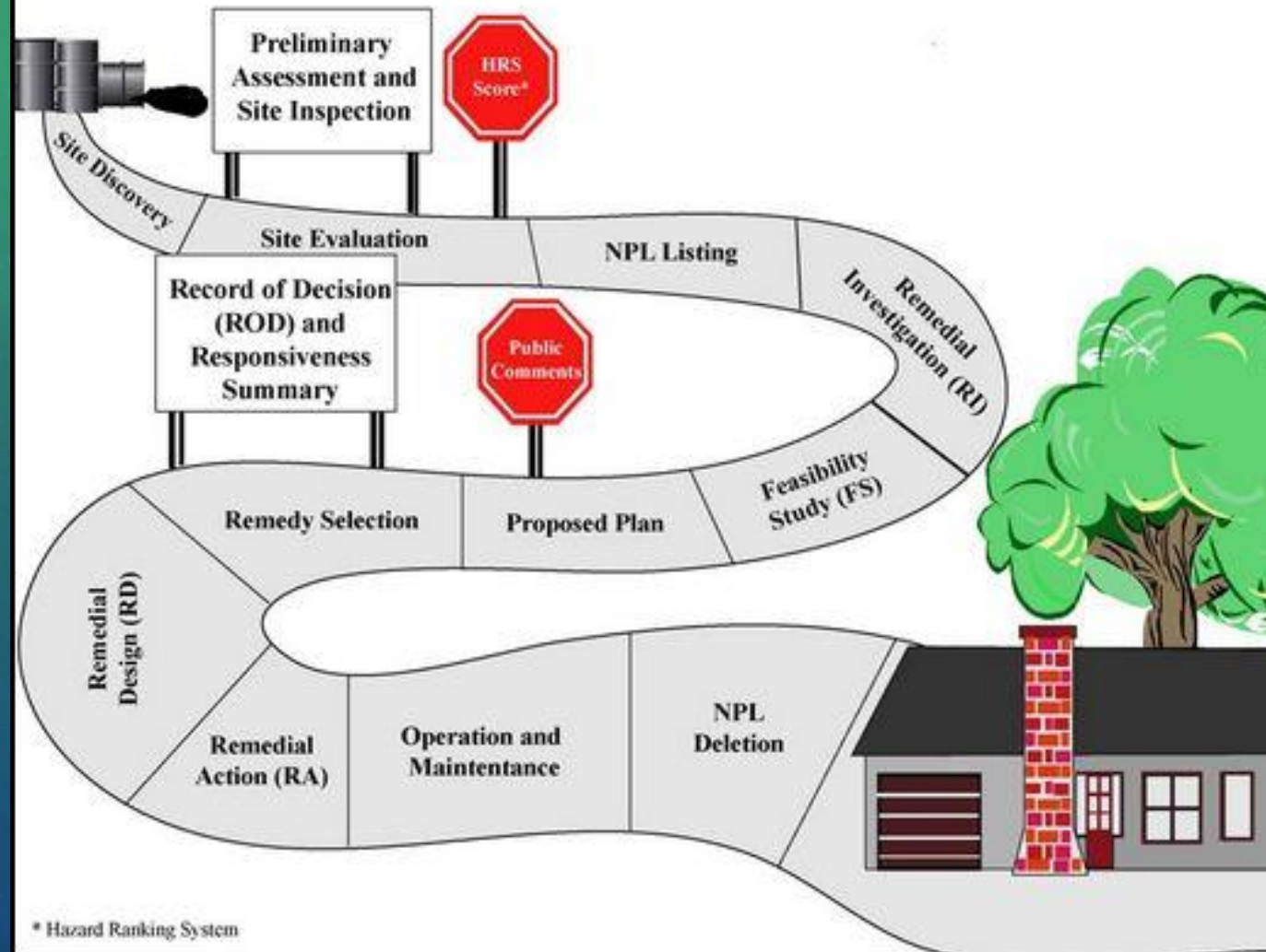
## All Ages

Cancer Type	Census Tract	Observed	Expected	SIR	95% CI
Brain	2330	18	9.3	1.94	(1.15, 3.07)*
	2519	23	13.5	1.71	(1.08, 2.57)*
	2533	10	4.8	2.10	(1.01, 3.86)*
Female Breast	2528	77	60.1	1.28	(1.01, 1.60)*
	2538	78	60.5	1.29	(1.02, 1.61)*
	2547	33	22.0	1.50	(1.03, 2.11)*
Male Breast	2523	<5	<1	5.08	(1.05, 14.85)*
Cervix	2330	19	9.2	2.06	(1.24, 3.22)*
	2518	7	1.5	4.81	(1.93, 9.91)*
	2525	8	3.3	2.43	(1.05, 4.80)*
	2529	13	6.4	2.02	(1.07, 3.45)*
	2534	<5	<1	3.91	(1.27, 9.13)*
Kidney	2529	33	21.2	1.55	(1.07, 2.18)*
Leukemia	2528	21	11.7	1.80	(1.11, 2.75)*
	2543	13	6.8	1.91	(1.02, 3.27)*
Liver	2524	13	6.8	1.91	(1.02, 3.27)*
	2543	13	5.7	2.29	(1.22, 3.91)*
Lymphoma	2543	28	17.7	1.58	(1.05, 2.29)*
Myeloma	2540	9	4.1	2.2	(1.00, 4.17)*

\* Indicated Observed Number of Cancer Cases is Statistically Significantly **Higher** than expected



# The Superfund Process









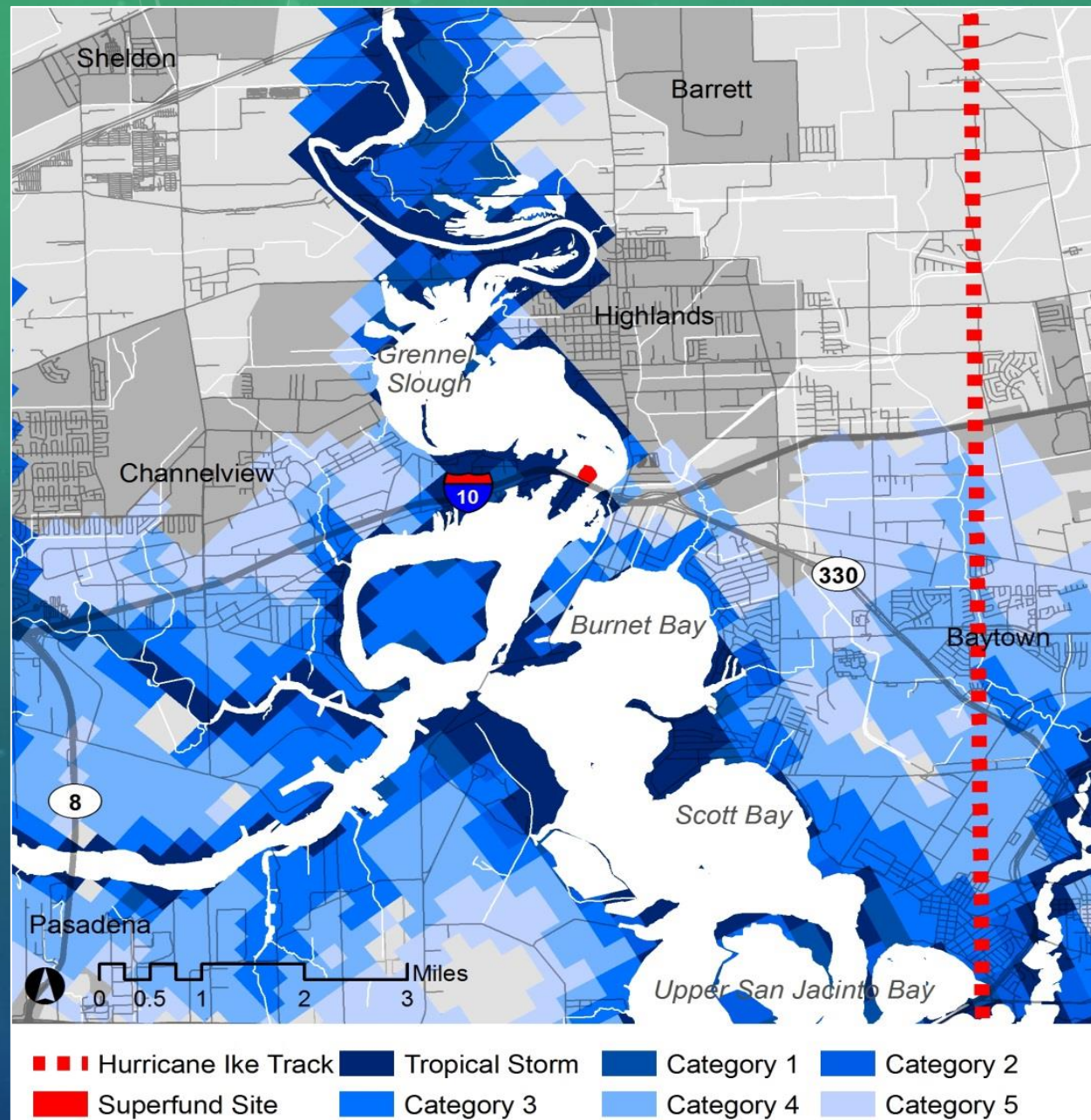
Notable Damage to cap:  
December 2015  
Hurricane Harvey  
June 2018

EPA & Others Estimate the  
Waste Would Not Degrade  
in Toxicity for 750+years



**Shallow sample from damaged cap.**





*A Flood Risk Assessment by Dr. Sam Brody*



# 7 Similar Superfund Sites Across the Nation

Located in tidally influenced waterway

Dioxin and PCB contamination

Fish Consumption Advisory

**EPA REQUIRED REMOVAL OF ALL 7 SITES**



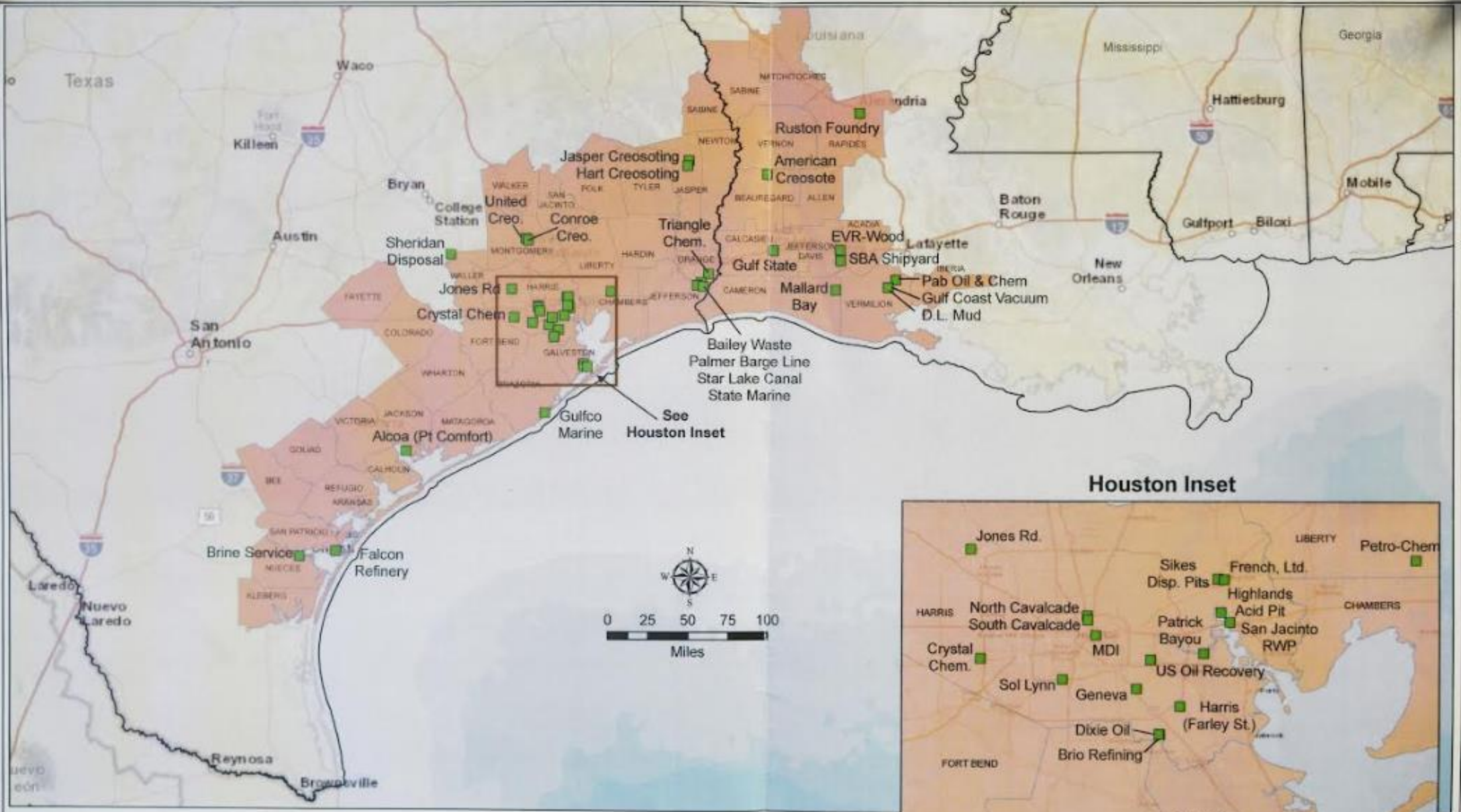
# HURRICANE HARVEY



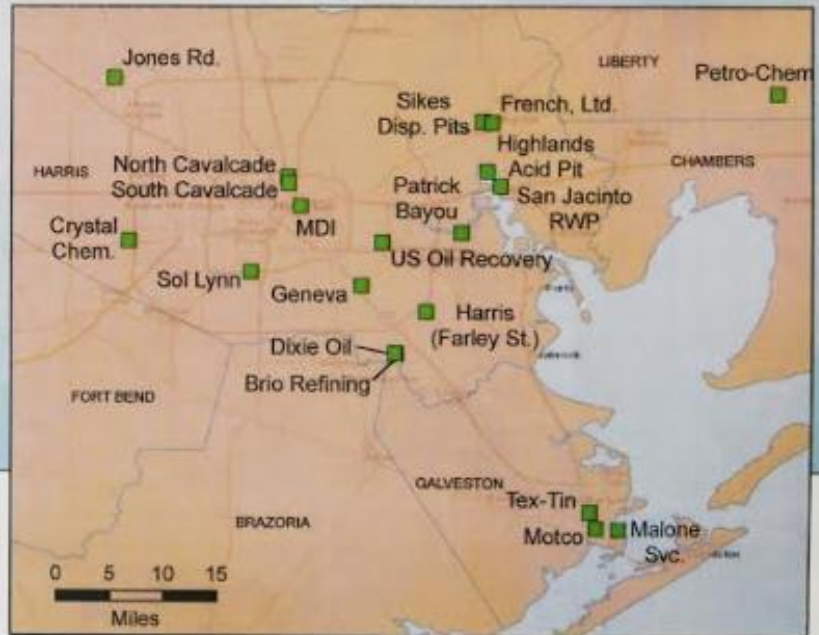








**Houston Inset**



■ NPL Site within Federally Declared County/Parish  
 Federally Declared County/Parish

Declared Areas of Category A and B, 1600 9/1/2017.  
 EPA 106 National Priorities List current as of 8/3/2017.

### NPL Sites in Federally Declared Counties/Parishes Post Hurricane Harvey

EPA Region 6 SF, GIS Support, 9/1/2017.



# ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT VISITS THE PITS



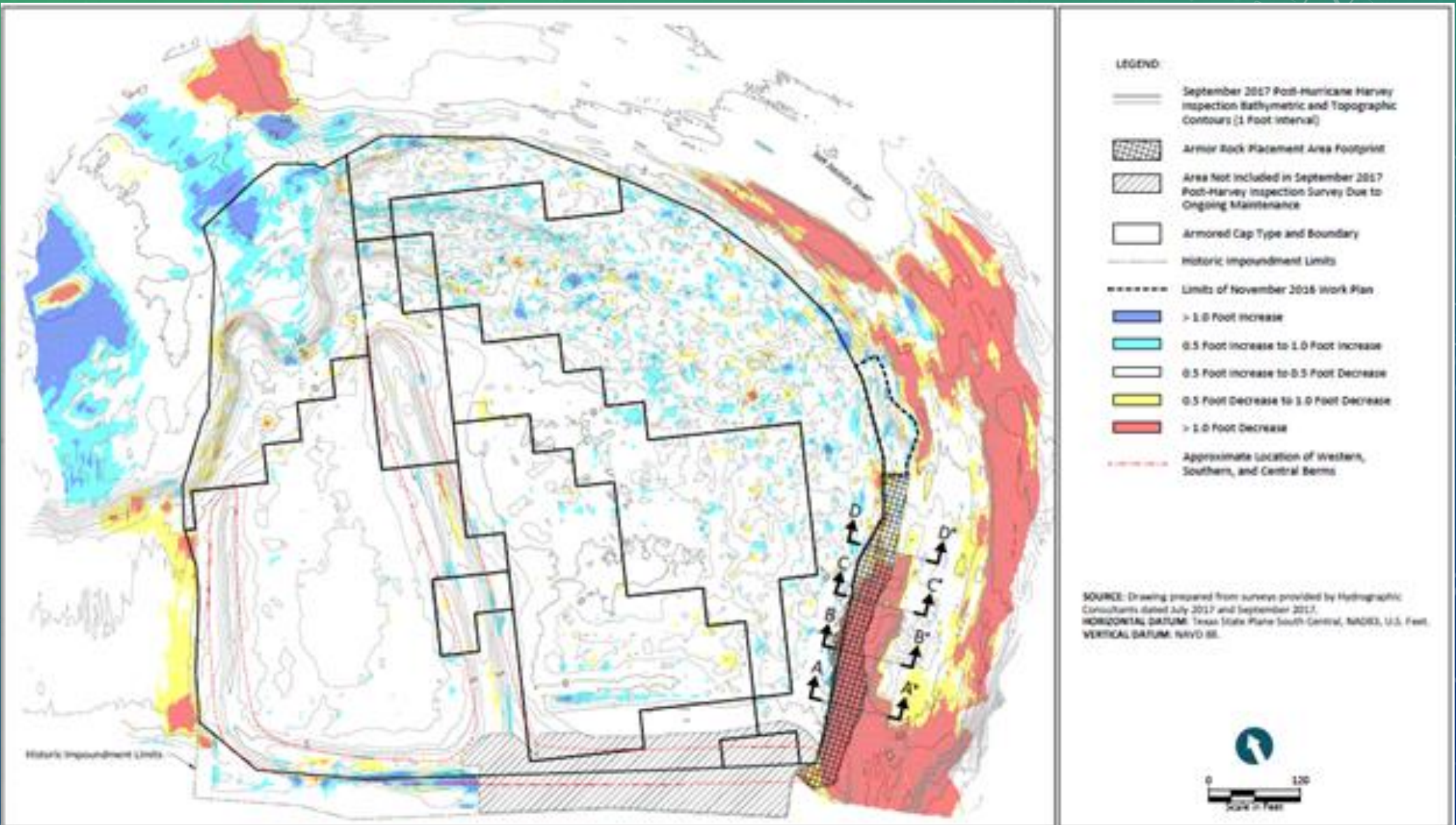


# OCTOBER 2017 EPA VISITS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

- 70,000 ppt dioxin found in samples taken from EPA dive team following Hurricane Harvey
- Over 6,500 ft<sup>2</sup> of the cap eroded
- Over 20,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of surrounding riverbed eroded
- Stability of site undermined









# Administrator Pruitt Signed the Record of Decision on October 11, 2017





# Record of Decision (ROD) – What's the Plan?

- Removal of 212,000 cubic yards of contaminated material
- Isolating the Pits with a cofferdam
- Dewater the Site
- Excavate the contaminated material
- Dispose of material at a permitted, permanent, & stable facility
- Estimated price: \$115 million





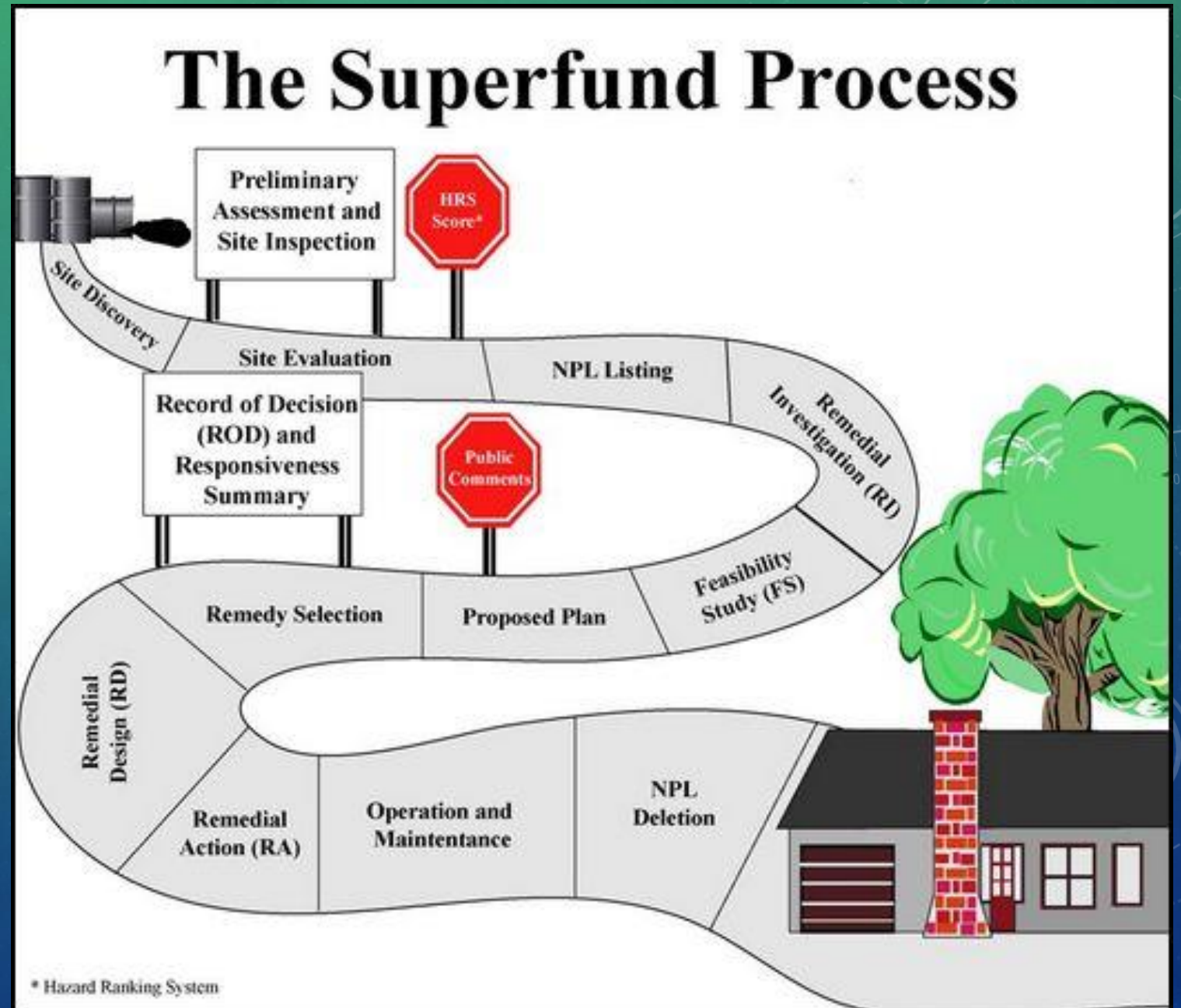
# Best Management Practices (BMP)





## DESIGN PHASE

EPA COORDINATING WITH  
ARMY CORPS FROM  
DIFFERENT REGIONS  
EPA CLEAN WATER  
DIVISION  
EPA CONTRACTORS  
RP CONTRACTORS





ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish
1	<b>San Jacinto River Waste Pits RD</b>	<b>876 days</b>	<b>Wed 4/11/18</b>	<b>Wed 9/2/20</b>
2	Settlement Effective Date	0 days	Wed 4/11/18	Wed 4/11/18
3	Authorization to Proceed	15 days	Thu 4/12/18	Thu 4/26/18
4	<b>First Phase Pre-Design Investigation (PDI)</b>	<b>182 days</b>	<b>Fri 6/8/18</b>	<b>Fri 12/7/18</b>
5	Draft First Phase PDI Work Plan Submitted	0 days	Fri 6/8/18	Fri 6/8/18
6	Agency Review Work Plan	47 days	Sat 6/9/18	Wed 7/25/18
7	Final Work Plan Subitted	0 days	Fri 8/24/18	Fri 8/24/18
8	Agency Approval of Work Plan	15 days	Sat 8/25/18	Sat 9/8/18
9	Conduct Field Work for First Phase PDI	90 days	Sun 9/9/18	Fri 12/7/18
10	<b>Remedial Design Work Plan (RDWP)</b>	<b>135 days</b>	<b>Sat 9/8/18</b>	<b>Mon 1/21/19</b>



# What's Next?

If good faith offer accepted, it will be embodied in a Consent Decree for Remedial Design/Remedial Action (Consent Decree)

Consent Decree needs approval from both the EPA and Department of Justice (DOJ)

Lodged in Federal Court

Meanwhile---Upon completion of the final engineering design, the lead agency must issue a fact sheet and provide a public briefing, as appropriate, prior to beginning remedial action.

NCP 40 CFR 300.435(c)(3)





**Donald J. Trump** ✓

@realDonaldTrump

Follow



I have accepted the resignation of Scott Pruitt as the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Within the Agency Scott has done an outstanding job, and I will always be thankful to him for this. The Senate confirmed Deputy at EPA, Andrew Wheeler, will...

12:37 PM - 5 Jul 2018

15,175 Retweets 65,217 Likes



23K 15K 65K



**Donald J. Trump** ✓ @realDonaldTrump · Jul 5

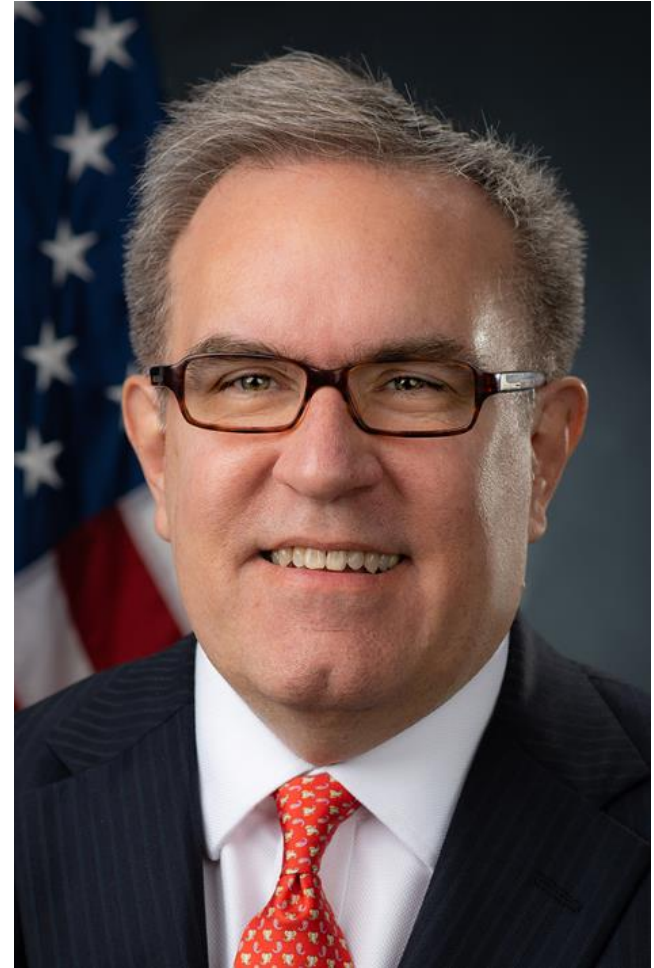
...on Monday assume duties as the acting Administrator of the EPA. I have no doubt that Andy will continue on with our great and lasting EPA agenda. We have made tremendous progress and the future of the EPA is very bright!

11K 9.5K 46K





EPA ACTING  
ADMINISTRATOR  
ANDREW (ANDY)  
WHEELER





# Questions?

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