



Voluntary Cleanup Program

Site Remediation | Oil and Gas Division



A 19.4-acre historic oil field site that is now the location of a new Wal-Mart in Kilgore, Texas.

The Voluntary Cleanup Program was created in 2002 by the 77th Texas Legislature's adopted Senate Bill 310 to provide an incentive to remediate properties contaminated by oil and gas related activities that may otherwise hamper future real estate transactions or redevelopment projects. The program is open to parties that did not cause or contribute to the contamination and provides these parties, as well as future landowners, lenders, developers, and operators, with a release of liability to the state in exchange for a successful cleanup. The goal of the program is to restore these properties and make them economically productive or beneficial to their local communities.

Staff of the Voluntary Cleanup Program provide technical assistance in the investigation and remediation activities at each property to ensure that all contamination on site has been appropriately assessed and remediated to standards outlined in the Texas Risk Reduction Program per the applicants desired closure strategy for the property. When cleanup is completed, the RRC will issue a Certificate of Completion that embodies the release of liability to the state for the applicant.

Since the creation of the program, the RRC's Voluntary Cleanup Program has provided technical guidance at

145 sites, of which 82 have successfully completed the program and been issued Certificates of Completion. As of September 2019, the program is overseeing investigation and remediation efforts at 43 Voluntary Cleanup sites.

Success stories of the Voluntary Cleanup Program include the 54.8-acre property in Corpus Christi that had hydrocarbon impacted soils around an abandoned tank battery. The property was purchased by Flint Hills Resources, Inc., who entered into the program to remediate the impacted soils and remove the tank battery. Upon completion of the program, Flint Hills donated the property to Nueces County for a Veteran's Cemetery. Nueces County Judge Terry Shamsie said, "Teamwork from the Railroad Commission, Flint Hills Resources and the County has resulted in revitalizing this vacant land and benefiting the local community and more importantly, our nation's veterans."

The Voluntary Cleanup Program utilizes an application process with an initial \$1,000 application fee, as well as a \$1,500 surcharge, which is applied to the costs associated with staff oversight of the cleanup. Staff of the Voluntary Cleanup Program encourage all parties interested in the program to consider applying.

Email us at SR-VCP-BRP@rrc.texas.gov for more information.