

Buddy Garcia, *Chairman*
Larry R. Soward, *Commissioner*
Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., *Commissioner*
Mark R. Vickery, P.G., *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

June 17, 2009

Re: TCEQ Complaint Tracking No. 122182, TCEQ Investigation No.: 742744, Alleged Exxon Mobile Decommissioned PCB Containing Transformers, Located at Exxon Kelsey Plant Property, FM 755, Near Encino, Brooks County, Texas.

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Harlingen Region Office has completed a final investigation in response to your concern regarding the complaint at the above-referenced facility. Enclosed is a copy of the final report indicating the results of the investigation.

Thank you for contacting the TCEQ with your concerns. If you have questions feel free to contact Mr. Paul Cordova of my staff at (956) 430-6031. For your information, any reference to your name or address has been omitted in an effort to enhance confidentiality. Your interest in the quality of our environment is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jaime Garza".

Jaime Garza, Section Manager
Air, Water, and Waste Programs
Harlingen Regional Office

JG/pc

Enclosure: Incident Form

REPLY TO: REGION 15 1804 W. JEFFERSON AVE. HARLINGEN, TEXAS 78550-5247 956-425-6010 FAX 956-412-5059

P.O. Box 13087 • Austin, Texas 78711-3087 • 512-239-1000 • Internet address: www.tceq.state.tx.us

printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink

TCEQ Complaint Report06/16/2009
5:07:42PM

Incident No: 122182
Media Type: Waste
Start Date: Unknown
Received Date: 04/01/2009
Method : PHONE

Staff Member: PCORDOVA
Status: Closed
Status Date: 06/16/2009
Priority: Within 14 Calendar Days

Regulated Entity: Kelsey Camp Dump Sewage
RN101646719

Address: 23 Mi West Of
 Rachal, Brooks County, TX 78353
Physical Location: 23 mi W of, Encino, TX

Responsible Party: Exxon Mobil Corporation
Address: PO Box 4358, Houston, TX 77210
Work Phone: (361)877-9456

Title: Compliance Coordinator

Number Complaining: 1
Frequency: Current
Alleged Source: Kelsey Camp Dump Sewage

Program Group: Industrial &
 Hazardous Waste - High Level

Nature: Industrial
Effect: Property

Initial Problem:

COMPLAINANT CONCERNED ABOUT DECOMMISSIONED TRANSFORMERS LEFT ON GROUND AT RANCH THAT IS CURRENTLY USED FOR GAS AND OIL EXPLORATION. TRANSFORMERS ARE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE RANCH AND WILL NEED GUIDANCE TO FIND THEM.

Action Taken / Closure Comments:

Complainant is concerned about decommissioned transformers that were left on native soil near the Exxon Mobil Kelsey site. Exxon Mobil Kelsey site, located 23 miles west of the intersection of US Highway 281 and FM 755, near Encino, Brooks County, Texas.

There is no record of a previous investigation at this site or with this regulated entity.

On April 7, 2009, Mr. Paul Cordova, TCEQ Harlingen Region Field Investigator, attempted to conduct an on-site investigation of the alleged complaint site at the location described above.

A sampling event, for the purpose of sampling for unauthorized discharges of possible contaminants from the decommissioned transformers, was scheduled and completed with Exxon Mobil on May 19, 2009. The Texas Railroad Commission, who was contacted via telephone regarding this complaint, stated that they had previously conducted an investigation at this site, participated in the May 19, 2009 TCEQ sampling event. The Texas Railroad Commission investigated the site under their jurisdiction related to oil and gas exploration regulations.

During the May 19, 2009 investigation, Mr. Cordova documented the following potential violations and requested the following records:

Exxon Mobile was asked to provide analytical results (using test method 8082 and report results on a dry-weight basis) to the TCEQ Harlingen office to determine if the electrical transformers noted at the site contained liquid below the federal PCB contamination threshold (40 CFR 761).

Scrap wood and wood pallets located in the center of the property in question (storage yard), within

TCEQ Complaint Report

06/16/2009
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an earthen pit of approximately sixty feet in length x forty feet wide x five feet deep (60'x40'x5'), may constitute unauthorized disposal. The regulated entity was advised to provide documentation to demonstrate the origin and intended use of the scrap wood and pallets.

Soil samples were collected at points of interest, including the areas that contained electrical transformers and storage areas containing, or once containing, oil and gas exploration equipment. The results of the soil samples are pending and will determine if further action is required.

Violations Found:

Pending further investigation and sample results.

Conclusion/Recommendation:

During this investigation, a preliminary investigation was conducted on April 7, 2009 and a sampling event was scheduled and completed on May 19, 2009. The sampling results and potential violation records request are pending and will be documented and tracked by Mr. Cordova via the TCEQ Harlingen Regional Office Waste Program (CCEDS investigation No.: 749317).

Investigation #: 742744

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Investigation Report

EXXON MOBIL CORPORATION
CN600123939

KELSEY CAMP DUMP SEWAGE
RN101646719

Investigation # 742744

Incident # 122182

Investigator: PAUL CORDOVA

Site Classification

LARGE QUANTITY GENERATOR

Conducted: 04/07/2009 -- 04/21/2009

SIC Code: 9999

Program(s): INDUSTRIAL AND
HAZARDOUS WASTE
GENERATION

Investigation Type : Compliance Investigation

Location : 23 mi W of, Encino, TX

Additional ID(s) : TXD000779090
36734

Address: 23 MI WEST OF;
RACHAL, TX 78353

Activity Type : REGION 15 - HARLINGEN
IHWCMPL - Complaint investigation

Principal(s) :

Role	Name
RESPONDENT	EXXON MOBIL CORPORATION

Contact(s) :

Role	Title	Name	Phone
Participated in Investigation	COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR	MR STEVEN JOHNSON	Work (361) 877-9456
Notified		MR ARNOLD OTT	Work (361) 701-2101

Other Staff Member(s) :

Role	Name
Supervisor	JAIME GARZA
QA Reviewer	FRANCISCO CHAVERO JR.

Associated Check List

Checklist Name
IHW COMPLAINT

Unit Name
Exxon Mobile Complaint

Investigation Comments :**INTRODUCTION**

Exxon Mobil Kelsey site, located 23 miles west of the intersection of US Highway 281 and FM 755, near Encino, Brooks County, Texas.

Complainant is concerned about decommissioned transformers that were left on native soil near the Exxon Mobil Kelsey site.

BACKGROUND

There is no record of a previous investigation at this site or with this regulated entity.

GENERAL ENTITY AND PROCESS INFORMATION

Upon review of the regulated entity's TCEQ industrial and hazardous waste registration records

INFORMATION COPY

(TCEQ Notice of Registration), it was discovered that Exxon Mobile Corporation's "Kelsey Camp Dump Sewage," was once registered as a large quantity generator (LQG) of hazardous waste at or near the complaint site. The regulated entity's current hazardous waste generator registration status is "inactive," and according to TCEQ records, the last update to their NOR was performed on February 14, 2005.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On April 7, 2009, Mr. Paul Cordova, TCEQ Harlingen Region Field Investigator, attempted to conduct an on-site investigation of the alleged complaint site at the location described above. The following observations were noted at the site:

A preliminary investigation was conducted for the purpose of locating the site and obtaining permission from the property owner or manager to access the alleged complaint site.

The complaint site, where the reported decommissioned transformers were stored, is in a rural area and the immediate transformer storage area consisted of a barbed-wire fenced area and was estimated to encompass five (5) acres. The actual storage area acreage could not be confirmed at the time of the investigation.

On this day Mr. Cordova met with the complainant and visually investigated the site from the perimeter of the complaint site and observed electrical transformers and other gas exploration equipment consisting of piping and tanks placed on native soil, within the approximate 5 acre fenced area.

On April 8, 2009, Mr. Cordova conducted an interview, via telephone conversation, with Mr. Steve Johnson, Exxon Mobil representative, and informed Mr. Johnson of the purpose of the complaint investigation. Mr. Johnson stated that he was familiar with the site in question and would grant Mr. Cordova access to the alleged complaint site.

A sampling event, for the purpose of sampling for unauthorized discharges of possible contaminants from the decommissioned transformers, was scheduled and completed with Exxon Mobil on May 19, 2009. The Texas Railroad Commission, who was contacted via telephone regarding this complaint, stated that they had previously conducted an investigation at this site, participated in the May 19, 2009 TCEQ sampling event. The Texas Railroad Commission investigated the site under their jurisdiction related to oil and gas exploration regulations.

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Scrap wood and wood pallets located in the center of the property in question (storage yard), within an earthen pit of approximately sixty feet in length x forty feet wide x five feet deep (60'x40'x5'), may constitute unauthorized disposal. The regulated entity was advised to provide documentation to demonstrate the origin and intended use of the scrap wood and pallets.

Soil samples were collected at points of interest, including the areas that contained electrical transformers and storage areas containing, or once containing, oil and gas exploration equipment. The results of the soil samples are pending and will determine

if further action is required. See Attached TCEQ Analysis Request Form.

Violations Found:

Pending further investigation and sample results.

TCEQ Complaint Report06/16/2009
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Rachal, Brooks County, TX 78353**Physical Location:** 23 mi W of, Encino, TX**Responsible Party:** Exxon Mobil Corporation**Address:** PO Box 4358, Houston, TX 77210**Work Phone:** (361)877-9456**Title:** Compliance Coordinator**Number Complaining:** 1**Frequency:** Current**Alleged Source:** Kelsey Camp Dump Sewage**Program Group:** Industrial &
Hazardous Waste - High Level**Nature:** Industrial**Effect:** Property**Initial Problem:**

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Violations Found:

Pending further investigation and sample results.

Conclusion/Recommendation:

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Investigation #: 742744

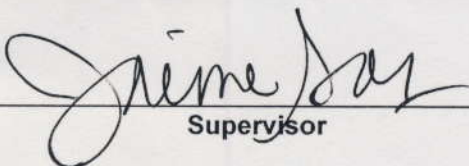
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No Violations Associated to this Investigation

Signed 
Environmental Investigator

Date 6/16/2009

Signed 
Supervisor

Date 6/16/09

Attachments: (in order of final report submittal)

- Enforcement Action Request (EAR)
- Letter to Facility (specify type) : _____
- Investigation Report
- Sample Analysis Results
- Manifests
- NOR

- Maps, Plans, Sketches
- Photographs
- Correspondence from the facility
- Other (specify) : _____
- _____
- _____