

# **RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

## **NEWS RELEASE - October 26, 2006**

MICHAEL L. WILLIAMS  
*Commissioner*

ELIZABETH A. JONES  
*Chairman*

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### **RRC'S VOLUNTARY CLEANUP PROGRAM HELPS CORPUS CHRISTI COMPANY PREPARE FORMER OILFIELD SITE FOR VETERAN'S CEMETERY**

AUSTIN—Corpus Christi refiner, Flint Hills Resources, successfully remediated land once used for oil production through the Texas Railroad Commission's Voluntary Cleanup Program— readying that property for donation to Nueces County for a Veteran's cemetery.

The 54.8 acre tract on Carbon Plant Road (See enclosed location map.) in Corpus Christi is owned by Flint Hills Resources, a Wichita, Kansas-based refining and chemicals company. Flint Hills was never involved in activities that resulted in contamination at the site, which was historically used as pasture and for oil production. The company has voluntarily spearheaded the site's cleanup by removing a former tank battery's remains and associated hydrocarbon-impacted soil.

The RRC granted Flint Hills Resources a Certificate of Completion Sept. 19 as part of the agency's Voluntary Cleanup Program. Landowners who have not contributed to oil and gas exploration-related contamination at a site are eligible to participate in the Voluntary Cleanup Program. Once cleanup at a site is successfully completed, the RRC will release the current and subsequent landowners from liability to the state for historical contamination at a site. Since the program began in 2002, 16 sites throughout Texas have earned a certificate of completion.

RRC Chairman Elizabeth Ames Jones said, "Typically, if a responsible oil and gas operator can be found, they must clean up a polluted site. However, oil and gas exploration has gone on for more than 100 years in Texas, and this program provides landowners, who may have acquired former oil and gas production tracts, with a mechanism to restore land. Companies such as Flint Hills Resources show their commitment to environmental stewardship by taking part in this RRC program."

RRC Commissioner Michael L. Williams said, "The Voluntary Clean-up Program gives landowners, who want to redevelop former oil and gas production sites, a way to encourage redevelopment, enhance property values and benefit a community while limiting company liability to the state from any future contamination."

RRC Commissioner Victor Carrillo said, "Along with the Commission's other cleanup programs, including the Operator Cleanup Program, the State-Managed Cleanup Program and the Brownfield's Response Program, the Voluntary Cleanup Program helps our agency provide a comprehensive, yet flexible variety of tools to remove pollution from abandoned sites as well as active oil and gas sites."

Dave Allen, vice president and manufacturing manager for Flint Hills Resources, said, "Flint Hills Resources, though never part of the historical production at the site, is committed to doing the right thing. This program at the Railroad Commission has allowed us to remediate this property and prepare it for future use as 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.”

An hourly fee for RRC oversight pays for the program implementation. Additional funding in support of the Voluntary Cleanup Program is provided through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Brownfield Redevelopment Grant. Brownfields are sites where development potential is hindered by a perceived or real threat of contamination and associated liability.

For more information or to apply to the Voluntary Cleanup Program, contact the Site Remediation Section of the RRC’s Oil and Gas Division at (512) 463-6765.

