



Capt. Darrell Chinn, executive officer at Longhorn, talks about Harrison Bayou (in the background).

Cleanup continues at ammunition plant

By REEVES FEILD
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Since the early 1940s, the Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant at Karnack, Texas, supplied the weapons of war.

The facility officially became inactive last year, and beginning in late 1994, much of the work on this 8,500-acre tract along the shores of upper Caddo Lake has been devoted to cleaning it up.

With a \$50,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Subra Company of New Iberia was hired to provide technical assistance in the cleanup at Longhorn after it was listed as a federal Superfund site.

"It has a large number of individual units, as opposed to most Superfund sites," said Wilma Subra, president of the

environmental consulting firm. "Various sites are in various phases (of cleanup)."

She said one of the major problem areas was Landfill 16, where trichloroethylene (TCE), a suspected carcinogen that is used for degreasing, migrated from the landfill into the groundwater.

It was detected at one location along Harrison Bayou, which flows into Caddo, but has not been found anywhere else along the tributary or in the lake itself.

"From our investigations, there is no evidence of anything from here going into Caddo," said Capt. Darrell Chinn, the Army's executive officer at Longhorn. That includes the mercury found in bass and other fish sampled on the upper end of the lake.

Near Landfill 16, contractors are putting in extraction wells and

pumping the contaminated groundwater to the surface for treatment.

Another site with contamination problems was Burning Ground 3. Trenches are being dug around the area to capture groundwater before it reaches Harrison Bayou, Subra said.

Amine T. Bou Dink, project manager at Longhorn for Dow Environmental Inc., said that because the soil there is not very permeable, contaminants leaching into the groundwater move very slowly toward those tributaries flowing into Caddo Lake.

He said water and soil treatment plants now under construction there will remove metals and solvents from the captured groundwater, treating it until it equals or exceeds drinking water standards.