

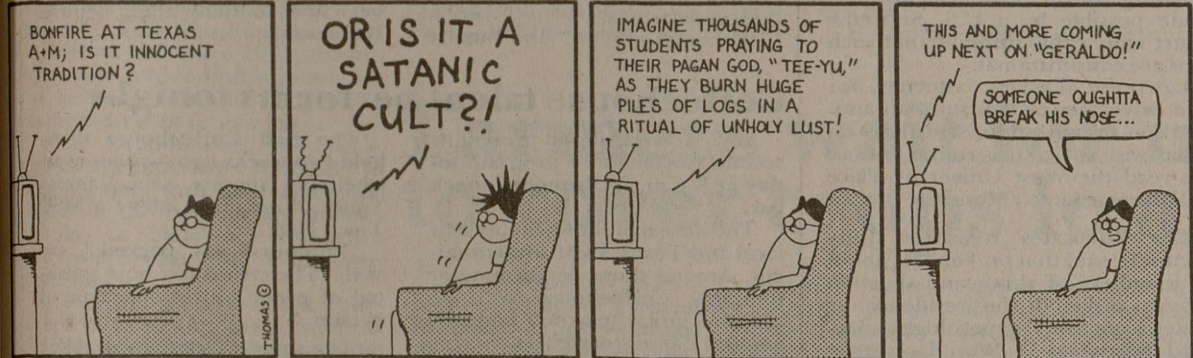
Warped

by Scott McCullar



Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



# Official doesn't doubt EPA in cleanup of Texarkana site

DALLAS (AP) — An Environmental Protection Agency official says he has no reason to doubt the quality of a contractor's or the agency's work regarding a cleanup plan for a Texarkana toxic waste site on which 78 homes are located.

"We believe the... decision we reached is appropriate," said Larry Wright, acting chief of the Superfund Enforcement Branch of the EPA's Dallas regional office.

Wright reacted to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concern that numerous flaws exist in a contractor's investigation of the site, which had a bearing on the EPA's selection of a cleanup method.

Roy Irwin, an environmental contaminants specialist with the wildlife service's Fort Worth office, visited the site and reviewed EPA documents. In a 19-page letter to the

agency dated Nov. 3, Irwin said such flaws could have resulted in an underestimation of the long-term hazards posed by contaminants.

The 62-acre site is scheduled for cleanup under the EPA's Superfund program within the next few years. Its soil is tainted with creosote, a wood preservative linked to cancer.

The Carver Terrace subdivision occupies the northern half of the tract, where a wood-preserving plant operated for half a century before closing in 1961. The fenced southern half is owned by a sand and gravel company that was ordered to stop digging in 1984.

The EPA's proposal to excavate only the most contaminated parts of some yards in Carver Terrace does not provide residents with sufficient protection against cancer and other diseases, critics charged.

The EPA, asked by some residents to buy their homes, has decided instead to proceed with a cleanup that may cost \$8 million.

Irwin's task was to assess possible effects of the toxins on fish and wildlife.

"One of our primary concerns is that many of the chemicals in creosote are hazardous to fish and wildlife at low levels," Irwin told the *Dallas Times Herald*. "The location and concentrations of many of the chemicals of most concern have not been fully identified or quantified."

Of greatest concern are polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, dioxins and dibenzofurans. Varieties of all three have been linked to cancer. Types of dioxins and dibenzofurans also have been linked to birth defects.

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