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**GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION APPLAUDS NEW EPA TIMETABLE
FOR CRITICAL SAN JACINTO RIVER DIOXIN CLEANUP**
GBF Retains Legal Counsel to Press Responsible Companies for Compliance

Webster -- The Galveston Bay Foundation (“GBF”) today applauded a new Environmental Protection Agency timetable requiring two companies to clean up a submerged industrial dumpsite that has been leaking a cancer-causing chemical, dioxin, into the San Jacinto River and Galveston Bay.

Under the new EPA order announced last month, McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corp. (which was acquired by Waste Management) and International Paper Co. must act within six months to secure the waste pits, which are located just north of Interstate 10 on the San Jacinto River.

To ensure continued progress towards this critical public safety objective, GBF also announced it has retained the counsel of Jackson, Gilmour & Dobbs PC, a law firm that specializes in contaminated sediments and waterways across the country.

“As this site presents an imminent and substantial danger to the environment, the bay, and the citizens utilizing the bay, it is imperative that these pits are cleaned up as soon as possible,” said Bob Stokes, president of the Galveston Bay Foundation. “By itself, this Superfund site accounts for as much as 70 percent of the dioxins in Galveston Bay and is a major source contributing to the fish consumption advisory affecting all of Galveston Bay. What does or doesn’t happen with this site affects thousands of people in our area every day.”

In July 2008, the Texas Department of State Health Services issued a fish consumption advisory for all of Galveston Bay that stated that individuals should limit consumption of catfish and spotted seatrout to no more than one eight-ounce meal per month.

A 2004 TCEQ study found that health based standards for dioxins were exceeded in 97% of the fish samples and 95% of the crab samples taken in the area.

Despite these warnings, local citizens continue to fish near the San Jacinto Waste Pits, even fishing from areas that lie directly along the Waste Pits.

Long-term exposure to dioxin is linked to impairment of the immune system, the developing nervous system, the endocrine system and reproductive functions. Chronic exposure of animals to dioxins has resulted in several types of cancer.

“We applaud the EPA’s decision to seek interim action and stabilization of the submerged pits, as well as the efforts to stop further discharges of dioxins into Galveston Bay,” said GBF counsel Bill Jackson. “The Galveston Bay Foundation is pleased with EPA’s efforts to move this cleanup forward, but will continue aggressively monitoring the progress – or lack thereof – to ensure full and complete compliance with the EPA orders.”

About Galveston Bay Foundation

The mission of the Galveston Bay Foundation is to preserve, protect and enhance the natural resources of the Galveston Bay estuarine system and its tributaries for present users and for posterity. The Foundation was incorporated in 1987, and is a non-profit organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. GBF is located at 17330 Highway 3 in Webster, TX. For further information contact GBF at 281-332-3381 or visit the website at www.galvbay.org.

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