

# West Dallas Community Issues Report

Published by Senator Royce West with assistance from the West Dallas Environmental Advisory Committee, and the West Dallas Neighborhood Development Corporation.  
Contact the West Dallas Neighborhood Development Corporation at (214) 688-1596 or the Office of State Senator Royce West at (214) 467-0123 for more information.

February 2001

## A Letter from State Senator Royce West

Dear Friends:

*I have been honored to work with you over the past year to bring the issues of West Dallas to the attention of the State of Texas. You have spoken to me about the history of West Dallas and the history of your families. There are three issues that I am focused on with regard to fixing what is wrong in West Dallas.*

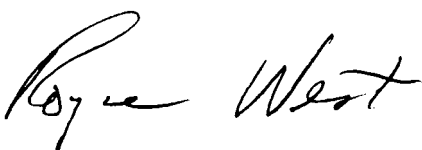
*My first goal is to make sure that the on-going RSR Clean-up will not do further harm to the citizens of West Dallas. My second goal is to ensure that the community is a clean and safe place for my constituents and their families to live and work. My third goal is to find some avenue by which West Dallas residents may seek medical testing and care for their pollution-related illness.*

*It is my hope that through the work of my West Dallas Environmental Advisory Committee in Dallas, and my work in the Legislature during this session, that great progress will be made towards these three goals.*

*This newsletter will be published periodically to update you on the progress of the RSR Smelter clean-up as well as our progress on the other two goals. As always you can contact me by calling my District Office at (214) 467-0123, or my Capitol Office at (512) 463-0123. You may also e-mail me at [royce.west@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:royce.west@senate.state.tx.us).*

*Thank you for your participation in your community!*

Sincerely,



Royce West  
State Senator  
District 23

## Carta del Senador Estatal Royce West

Queridos amigos:

*He tenido el honor de trabajar con ustedes durante el año pasado para presentar los temas relativos a West Dallas a la atención del Estado de Texas. Ustedes me han hablado de la historia de West Dallas y la historia de sus familias. Estoy enfocado en tres temas principales en cuanto a arreglar lo que está mal en West Dallas.*

*Mi primera meta es asegurar que la actual limpieza de RSR no haga más daño todavía a los residentes de West*

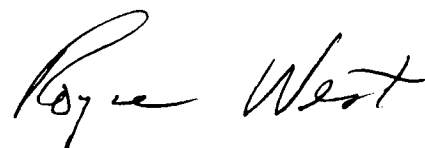
*Dallas. Mi segunda meta es asegurar que el comunidad sea un lugar limpio y seguro para que mis constituyentes y sus familias vivan y trabajan. Mi tercera meta es encontrar la manera en que los residentes de West Dallas puedan solicitar exámenes y atención médica a sus enfermedades relativas a la contaminación.*

*Es mi deseo que, a través del trabajo de mi Comité Asesor del Medioambiente para West Dallas (West Dallas Environmental Advisory Committee) y mi trabajo en la Legislatura durante la presente sesión, se pueda obtener un progreso importante en cuanto a estas tres metas.*

*Este boletín se publicará periódicamente para informarles sobre el progreso de la limpieza de la fundición RSR Smelter, así como sobre el progreso en nuestras otras dos metas. Como siempre, puede contactarse conmigo llamando a mi oficina de Distrito: (214) 467-0123, o mi oficina en el Capitolio: (512) 463-0123. También puede mandarme correo electrónico a [royce.west@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:royce.west@senate.state.tx.us).*

*Gracias por su participación en la comunidad.*

Sinceramente,



Royce West  
Senador Estatal  
Distrito 23



## What's New in West Dallas

**RSR Superfund Clean-Up:** The process of tearing down the old RSR smelter site is underway. Work began in November 2000 and should be finished in April 2001. ENTACT, Inc. has been hired to dismantle and clean up the RSR site. During the clean up, air monitoring sites have been set up through-



*Residents of West Dallas attend one of Senator West's Town Hall meeting focusing on contamination in West Dallas"*

out West Dallas. Soil tests taken in the area will indicate if any soil recontamination has taken place during the clean up. The West Dallas Neighborhood Development Corporation has received a grant to monitor air test results and make them available to the community. Information on the air test results and the progress of the tear down are available at the Dallas West Branch Library (2332 Singleton) and the West Dallas Neighborhood Development Corporation (2907 N. Hampton Rd.)

**West Dallas Contamination:** At the request of Senator Royce West, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) agreed to take additional soil samples from the area surrounding the old smelter site. All of these tests have been completed and residents have been notified of their test results. Any yards that have lead levels above 500 ppm will be cleaned up by the EPA and the TNRCC. A commercial site with suspected lead contamination was also brought to the attention of Senator West and the TNRCC. This site was confirmed to be contaminated and it will be cleaned up. If you know of additional areas of contamination in West Dallas, please call the TNRCC at 1-800-687-4040 or (817) 588-5800, or the Office of Senator West at (214) 467-0123.

**Community Health Care:** Senator West is committed to finding a health care solution for those West Dallas residents experiencing health problems as a result of industrial pollution. He will be working throughout this Legislative Session to find a way to accomplish this goal. Look for further updates in future newsletters.

## Novedades en West Dallas

**Limpieza del RSR Superfund:** El proceso de demolición de la vieja fundición RSR está en funcionamiento. Se empezó a trabajar en noviembre del 2000 y debería estar terminada en abril del 2001. La empresa ENTACT Inc. ha sido contratada para dismantelar y limpiar la instalación RSR. Durante el tiempo de su limpieza, se han colocado dispositivos en todo West Dallas para análisis del aire. Los exámenes del suelo en el área indicarán si ha ocurrido una recontaminación del suelo durante la limpieza. La Corporación para el Desarrollo del Barrio de West Dallas (West Dallas Neighborhood Development Corporation) ha recibido fondos en subsidio para constatar los resultados de exámenes del aire y hacerlos disponibles a la comunidad. La información sobre los resultados de estos exámenes del aire y el progreso del desmantelamiento está disponible en la biblioteca Dallas West Branch

Libray (2332 Singleton) y en West Dallas Neighborhood Development Corporation (2907 N. Hampton Rd.)

**Contaminación en West Dallas:** A pedido del Senador Royce West, la Comisión de Conservación de Recursos Naturales de Texas o TNRCC (Texas Natural Resource Conservation Comisión), y la Agencia de Protección del Medioambiente o EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), aceptaron tomar muestras adicionales del suelo en el área que rodea a la vieja fundición. Se han completado todos los exámenes y se ha informado sobre los resultados a los residentes. Toda yarda (91,44 cm.) con niveles de plomo arriba de los 500 ppm (partes por millón) será limpiada por la EPA y TNRCC. El Senador West y la TNRCC fueron también informados de un sitio comercial sospechoso de estar contaminado con plomo. Se confirmó que el sitio estaba contaminado y se procederá a su limpieza. Si usted sabe de otras áreas contaminadas en West Dallas, por favor llame a TNRCC: 1-800-687-4040 ó (817) 588-5800, o a la oficina del Senador West: (214) 467-0123.

**Asistencia médica a la comunidad:** El Senador West está comprometido a encontrar soluciones para la asistencia médica de los residentes de West Dallas que tienen problemas de salud a consecuencia de la contaminación industrial. El va a trabajar durante esta Sesión Legislativa para hallar una manera de lograr esta meta. Habrá más información en boletines futuros. Para más información llamada Teresa Moreno en la oficina del Senador West a (214) 467-0123.

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## **WDNDC Receives Technical Assistance Grant**

In October 2000, the West Dallas Neighborhood Development Corporation (WDNDC) was selected as the recipient of a fifty thousand dollar (\$50,000) Technical Assistance Grant or "TAG" by the legal firm, Strasburger & Price, L.L.P., legal counsel for the twelve potentially responsible parties paying for the clean up of the Revere Smelting and Refining (RSR) Superfund Site (OU-4). The purpose of the TAG is to inform and directly involve citizens of the West Dallas community in monitoring the remediation of the RSR Superfund Site (OU-4).

A TAG Action Plan and Public Information Plan or "PIP" was also prepared by WDNDC in December 2000, and copies were made available to the public. Both documents are available for review at the Dallas West Branch of the Public Library, in the offices of WDNDC, and on the corporation's website at [www.wdncd.bigstep.com](http://www.wdncd.bigstep.com). Anyone who wishes to comment on the documents is invited to do so.

In addition, WDNDC will be scheduling meetings or "Availability Sessions," during the First Quarter of 2001 for the West Dallas community with representatives from oversight agencies such as EPA and the TNRCC. The purpose of these meetings is to provide West Dallas residents with an opportunity to get information firsthand about the RSR remediation or cleanup.

For more information on the TAG,  
contact Stan Solamillo,  
WDNDC Special Projects Manager, at  
214-688-1596.

## **Community Involvement**

A community body composed of West Dallas residents, property owners and interested citizens was formed by Senator Royce West in November 2000. Named the West Dallas Environmental Advisory Committee, the group was charged with bringing public attention to unresolved environmental and health issues in the West Dallas community. In December 2000, two subcommittees were formed, dealing specifically with West Dallas Health and Environmental Clean Up. The Environmental Clean Up Subcommittee is chaired by West Dallas Neighborhood Development Corporation Executive Director, Shallice Bey. The Health Care Subcommittee is co-chaired by Mrs. Patricia Stephens and Mrs. Victoria Taft.

## **Senate Committee on Natural Resources Comes to West Dallas**

The Natural Resources Committee came to West Dallas to hold a public hearing on Tuesday, November 28, 2000, in the auditorium of the Thomas Edison Middle School. The hearing allowed the citizens of West Dallas to talk directly to the State of Texas environmental decision makers about the contamination of their community. Of the meeting Senator West said, "I know that our voices were heard by the Senate Committee. We have accomplished our goal. They understand what has happened here."

Testimony was given by a committee assembled by Senator West to present the environmental history of West Dallas. Research for this presentation was con-

ducted by WDNDC staff as a part of their TAG. The presentation provided additional information to West Dallas Citizens and property owners about the nature of the contamination of the RSR facility as well as other potential point sources of West Dallas contamination and the inherent health, environmental, and economic risks posed by contamination. The presentation demonstrated that West Dallas has historically been home to polluting industry. Testimony was also given by citizens of West Dallas who told the committee about the health problems in their families and in their community. The hearing was taped and is available on the News & Media section of the Senate website ([www.senate.state.tx.us](http://www.senate.state.tx.us)).

## **Air Sampling Results**

Since November 2000, ENTACT, Inc. has transmitted laboratory results, twice a week, of samples that are taken from air monitoring stations that are located throughout the West Dallas area to the Region 6 Office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC). The City of Dallas, Environmental and Health Services Department, conducts independent air sampling tests using mobile monitoring units and also furnishes this data via e-mail to interested parties upon request. WDNDC receives both sets of data as part of its function as the TAG recipient and conducts an independent review of the information with the assistance of a Technical Advisor (TA.) Afram Environmental International, Inc. (AEI) was retained in the Third Quarter of 2000 as the TA for WDNDC.

The TA's role is to substantiate the validity of information that is supplied by ENTACT, Inc. by comparing it with data supplied by the City of Dallas and other monitors, including EPA and the TNRCC. Currently, the data is in "raw" or tabulated form and is available for public scrutiny at the Dallas West Branch of the Dallas Public Library and at the offices of WDNDC. AEI will be issuing data summaries that result from their technical review of the information by March of 2001.

## **Progress Report:**

### **What's Going On at the RSR Site Right Now?**

ENTACT, Inc., an environmental consulting and remediation company based in Irving, Texas, was hired by the "OU-4 Group" to perform the remediation (cleanup and dismantling) of the RSR facilities, known as OU-4 or "Operable Unit No. 4." Beginning the work in November 2000, the company has remained on schedule in its contract.

Six structures associated with the site have been demolished. They include a Gas Station, Vehicle Maintenance Building, Pole Shed Storage, Café, Hog Storage, Office/Lab Complex, Bag House Building, and Electrical Building. Five remaining structures, including the smelter stack, are currently being razed and all of them are in various stages of remedial action. The full cleanup of the RSR facility is expected to be complete by April 2001. A photograph of the site is available for viewing at the Dallas West Branch of the Dallas Public Library and at the offices of WDNDC. In addition, the photograph can also be viewed on the corporation's website at [www.wdncd.bigstep.com](http://www.wdncd.bigstep.com).

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# Senator Royce West

**State Senator Royce West**  
**5787 S. Hampton Road, Suite 385**  
**Dallas, TX 75232**

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During the remediation of the RSR facility, an EPA inspector is present every day at the site to monitor the progress of the work as well as to ensure compliance with environmental regulations. In addition, air monitoring stations are located in close proximity to the site to insure that dust or Particulate Matter (PM) do not exceed levels established by the EPA during the work (See Air Sampling).

After the buildings have been demolished, one foot of top soil in paved areas and two feet of top soil in unpaved areas will be removed from the entire site. Corresponding one and two-foot layers of clay fill will be brought in, deposited on the site, compacted and graded so that the site will drain. Utility trenches will also be filled with clay fill to appropriate depths. Then a six inch layer of top soil will be distributed over the entire site and seeded with hydromulch.

For more information on the RSR Remediation, contact Stan Solamillo, WDNDC Special Projects Manager, at 214-688-1596.

## What's Next for the RSR Smelter Site?

In November 2000, the City of Dallas began work to create a Community-Developed Land Use Plan for the RSR Superfund Site (OU-4) in West Dallas as well as other sites contaminated by the operation of the facility.

The purpose of the land use plan is to propose "economically viable new uses" for the RSR properties so that the sites will not remain vacant after they have been cleaned up. The site cannot be utilized for uses such as housing because the cleanup levels at the end of the remediation will be only to industrial and not residential standards.

For more information on the RSR Superfund Sites Land Use Plan, contact Marilyn Avinger, Manager, Economic Development Department, at 214-670-1685.

¿Desea que su patio o jardín sea analizado por contaminación de plomo?

¿Sabe de otros lugares en West Dallas que estén contaminados?

Llame a la Corporación de Desarrollo del Barrio West Dallas (West Dallas Neighborhood Development Corporation) al 214-688-1596

Llame al Senador West al 214-467-0123

DO YOU WANT YOUR YARD TESTED FOR LEAD CONTAMINATION?

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY OTHER PLACES IN WEST DALLAS THAT ARE POLLUTED?

CALL THE WEST DALLAS NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AT 214-688-1596

CALL SENATOR ROYCE WEST AT 214-467-0123

## HELPFUL NUMBERS

- West Dallas Neighborhood Development Corporation (Shallie Bey or Stan Solamillo) ..... (214) 688-1596
- Office of State Senator Royce West (Jennifer Wichmann) ..... (214) 467-0123
- Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission ..... 1-800-687-4040 or (817) 588-5800
- Environmental Protection Agency (Office of External Affairs) ..... (214) 665-2200
- City of Dallas, Environmental and Health Services Department ..... (214) 670-5216