

9. CONTINUING ISSUES

MtBE and other gasoline components from the initial slug of contamination on March 11-12 dissipated from Lake Tawakoni waters by April 14. SRA was concerned about the possibility of subsequent rainfall flushing additional slugs of MtBE into the reservoir. To provide advance notice in the event of additional contamination, East Caddo Creek has been monitored on a regular basis since March 29 at four locations from IH 30 downstream to SH 34 near the reservoir. On at least ten occasions since the spill occurred, more than one inch of rain has fallen in a 24-hour period in the East Caddo Creek watershed. A storm on June 4 deposited more than five inches of rain on the spill site and the upper reaches of East Caddo Creek in a several-hour period. Monitoring after each of these events has shown no significant increase of MtBE in the reservoir.

Given these results, SRA is confident that no significant additional contamination from the gasoline spill will reach the reservoir as a result of rainfall events. However, as a precaution, the westernmost portion of Caddo Inlet, the city of West Tawakoni's raw water intake, and the lower reach of East Caddo Creek continue to be monitored. Additionally, water samples at these locations are collected and analyzed after any significant rainfall event. Eight rain gauges have been installed by Explorer along the creek at points from the spill site down to the reservoir. When measurable precipitation is recorded in any of the rain gauges, SRA is alerted and samples are collected if necessary. This monitoring program will continue on a routine basis until remediation of the spill site and East Caddo Creek are completed under TNRCC's guidelines.

SRA will continue to monitor the remediation activities at the release site. As plans are developed for the remediation of East Caddo Creek, SRA will evaluate the proposed activities and make recommendations determined to be necessary to protect the reservoir from additional MtBE contamination.