

Crossett, Arkansas: Collaborative Community Action Planning at Work

U.S. EPA Region 6 Environmental Justice Summit
Dallas, Texas ~ August 10, 2016



Crossett, Arkansas

- Population of about 5,500 residents
- Located in southeastern Arkansas
- EPA Region 6 contacted regarding concerns about air emissions, water discharges, and more
- EPA Region 6, ADEQ, and ADH drafted a community action plan to address community concerns
- EPA-State-Local-Industry collaboration



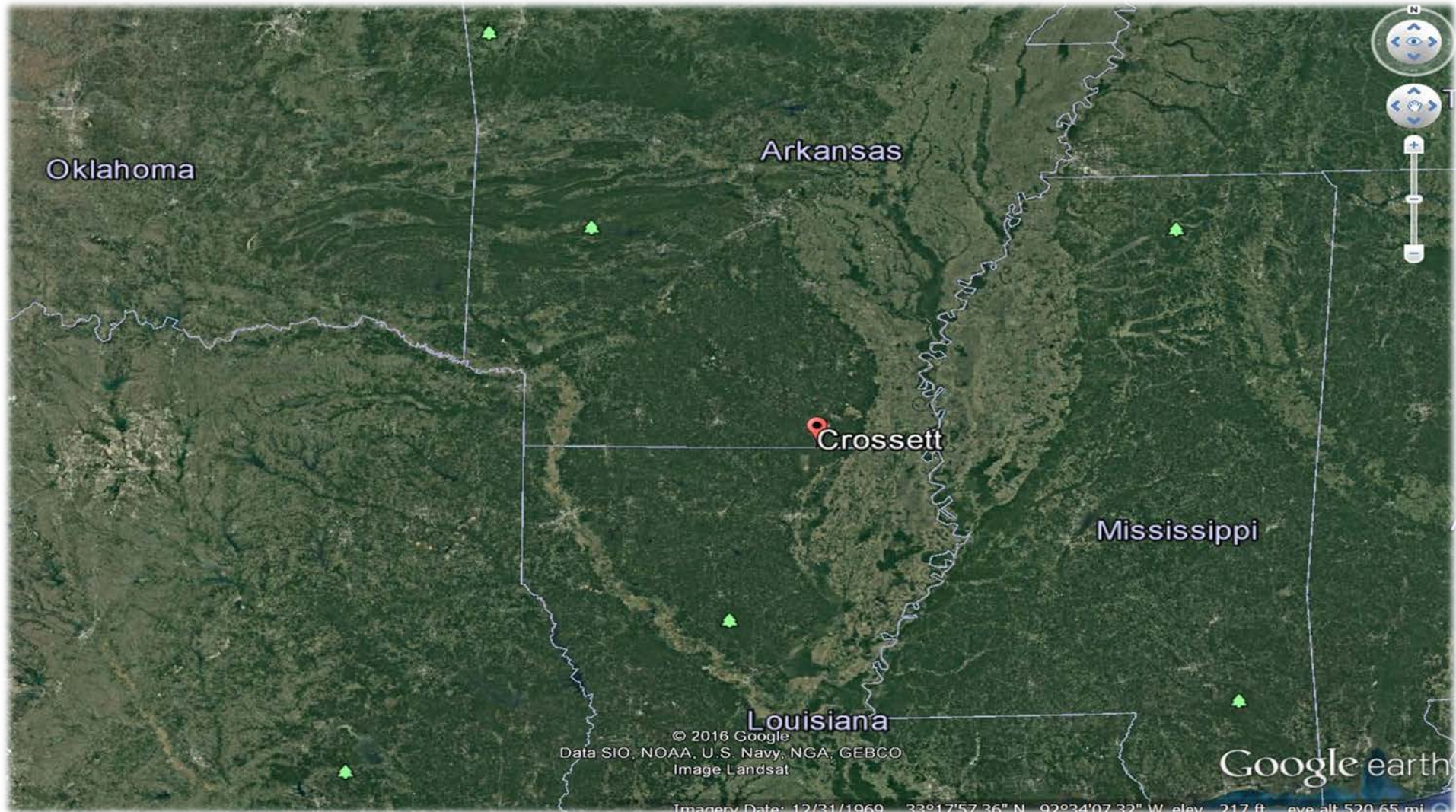
Georgia-Pacific, LLC Crossett, Arkansas

Traylor Champion, Senior Vice-President
Environmental Affairs and Product Safety





A community with a friendly atmosphere and hard-working spirit



Oklahoma

Arkansas

Crosssett

Mississippi

Louisiana

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Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat

Google earth

Imagery Date: 12/31/1969 33°17'57.36" N 92°34'07.32" W elev 217 ft eye alt 520.65 mi



West Crossett

Crossett

Lucas Pond

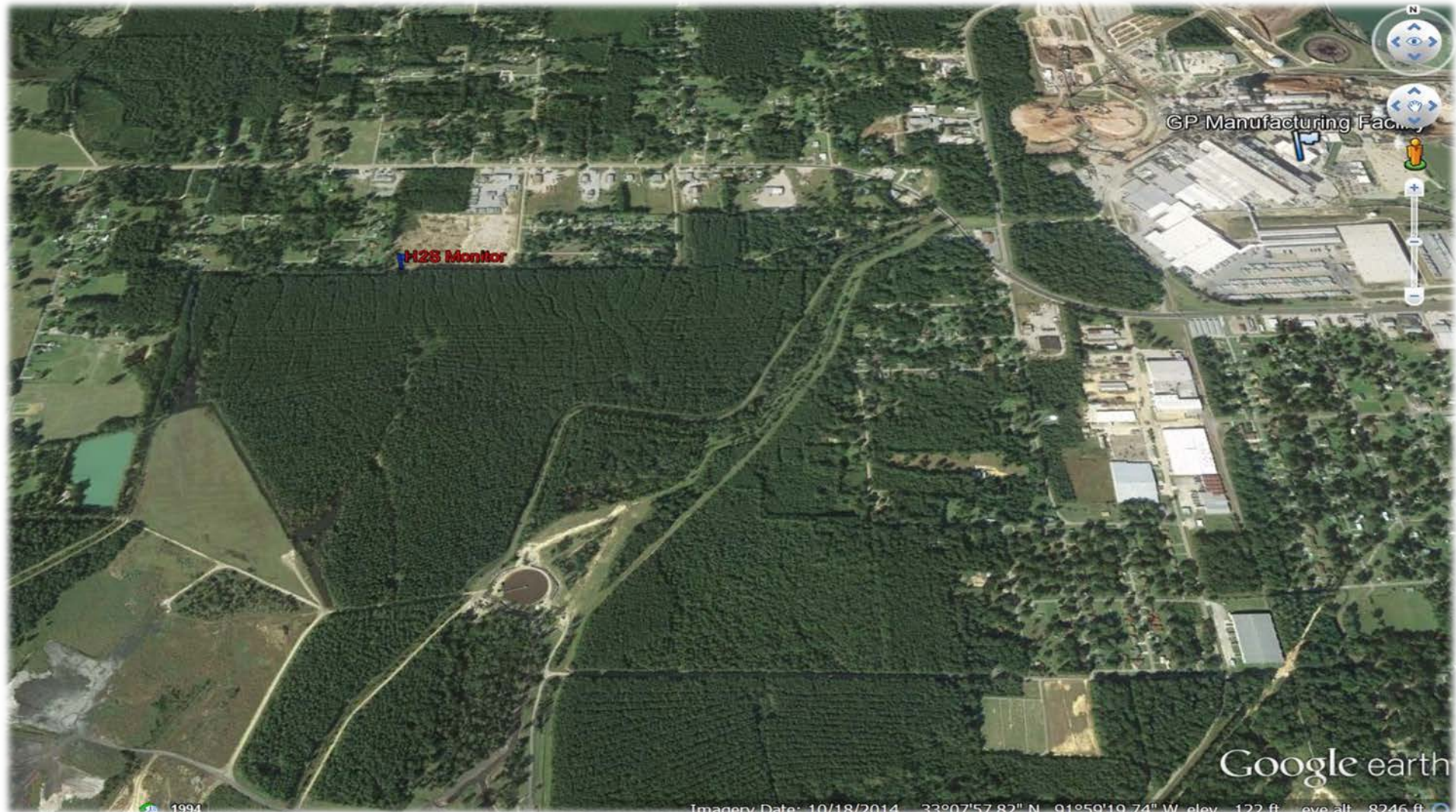
Mill Pond

© 2016 Google

Google earth

Imagery Date: 10/18/2014 33°07'28.79" N 91°59'34.49" W elev. 119 ft. eye alt. 25234 ft.

1994



H2S Monitor

GP Manufacturing Facility

Google earth

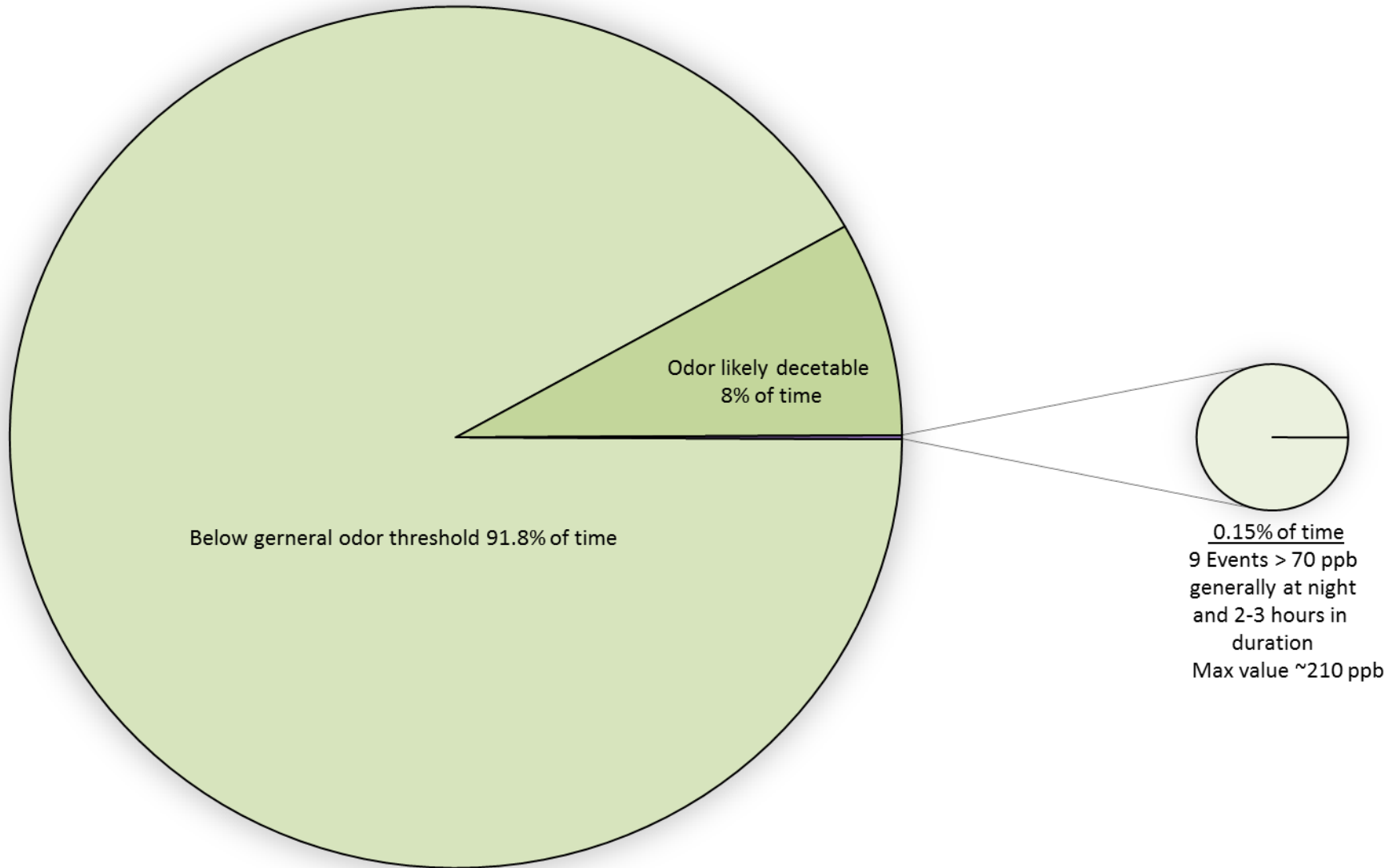
1994

Imagery Date: 10/18/2014 33°07'57.82" N 91°59'19.74" W elev. 122 ft eye alt. 8246 ft



Hydrogen sulfide monitoring equipment in Crossett

Crossett Ambient H₂S Monitoring (30 minute average) October 2014 - July 2016





Public Health's Participation in Crossett Community Concerns

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ADH Personnel Involved:

- Public Health Physician
- Engineering Director, Water Division
- ATSDR/Environmental Epidemiologists (Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry Cooperative Agreement Partner)
- Cancer Epidemiologists
- Public Information Officers
- Local Health Unit Nurses & Administrator

Drinking Water & Health Outcome Data (HOD) Review

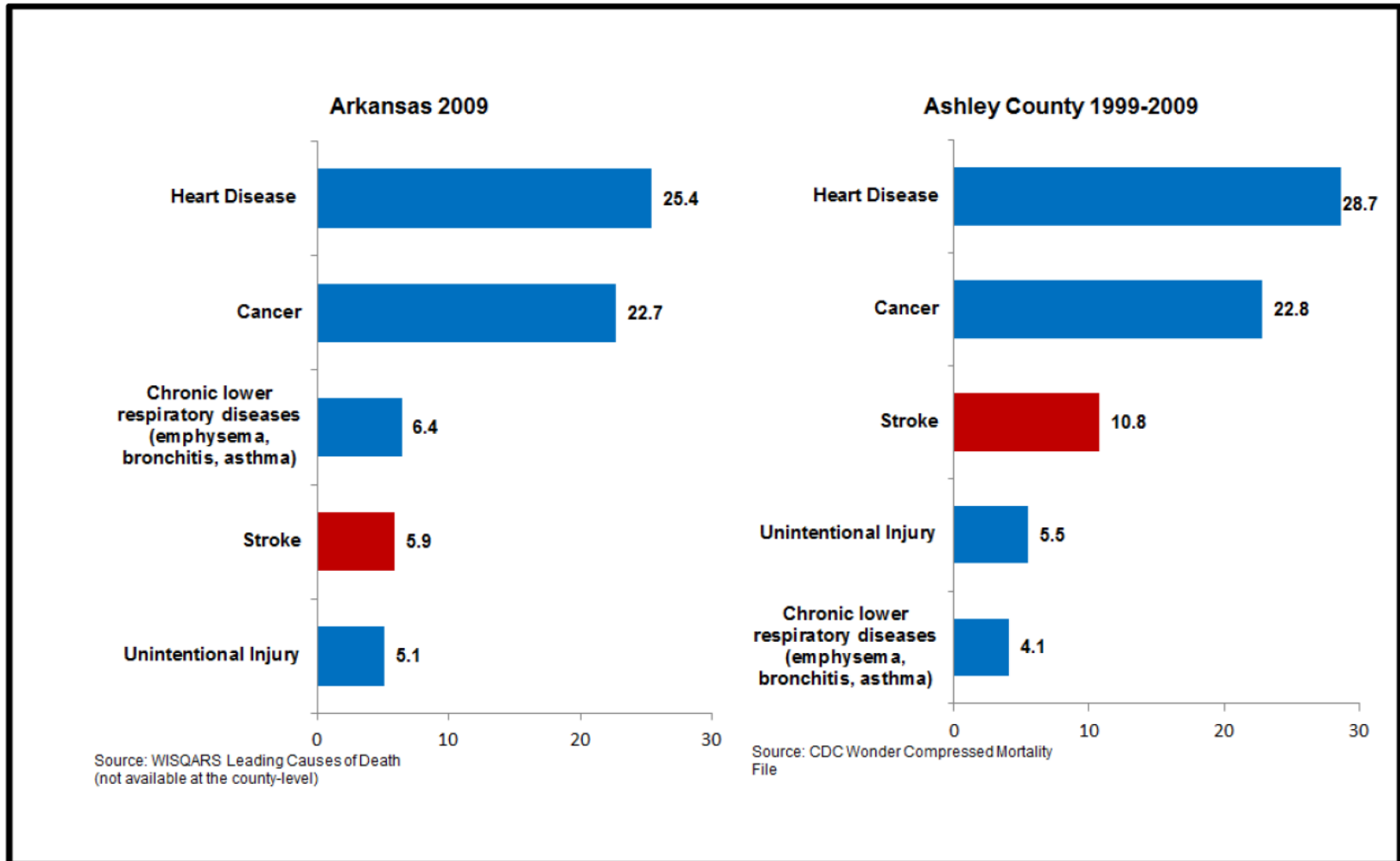
Conclusion 1: ADH and ATSDR conclude that substances (analytes) present in the public drinking water systems are not expected to harm people's health and pose no risk to public health. The exposure pathway for drinking water is eliminated since no contamination has been detected at levels of public health concern in the drinking water supplies.

Conclusion 2: ADH and ATSDR conclude there is no significant difference to indicate elevated cancer cases for Ashley County as compared with the state of Arkansas.

Copy of Crossett community evaluation document on ATSDR website:

http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/GeorgiaPacificCorporation/Georgia_Pacific_Corporation_Crossett_AR_HC_06-06-2016_508.pdf

Leading Causes of Death (All Ages), Arkansas 2009 and Ashley County 1999-2009



http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/GeorgiaPacificCorporation/Georgia_Pacific_Corporation_Crossett_AR_HC_06-06-2016_508.pdf

Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) Air Monitoring

Teledyne Advanced Pollution Instrumentation (TAPI) Model T101 UV
Fluorescence H₂S Analyzer

Detectable range of 0.4 – 500 parts per billion (ppb)

Odor threshold level = 0.5 ppb

(Odors can alert people that something may be harmful, but generally you can smell many chemicals before they are at levels that are harmful to your health.)

Background levels = typically less than 1 ppb

Acute screening level = 70 ppb



Source: EPA Region 6

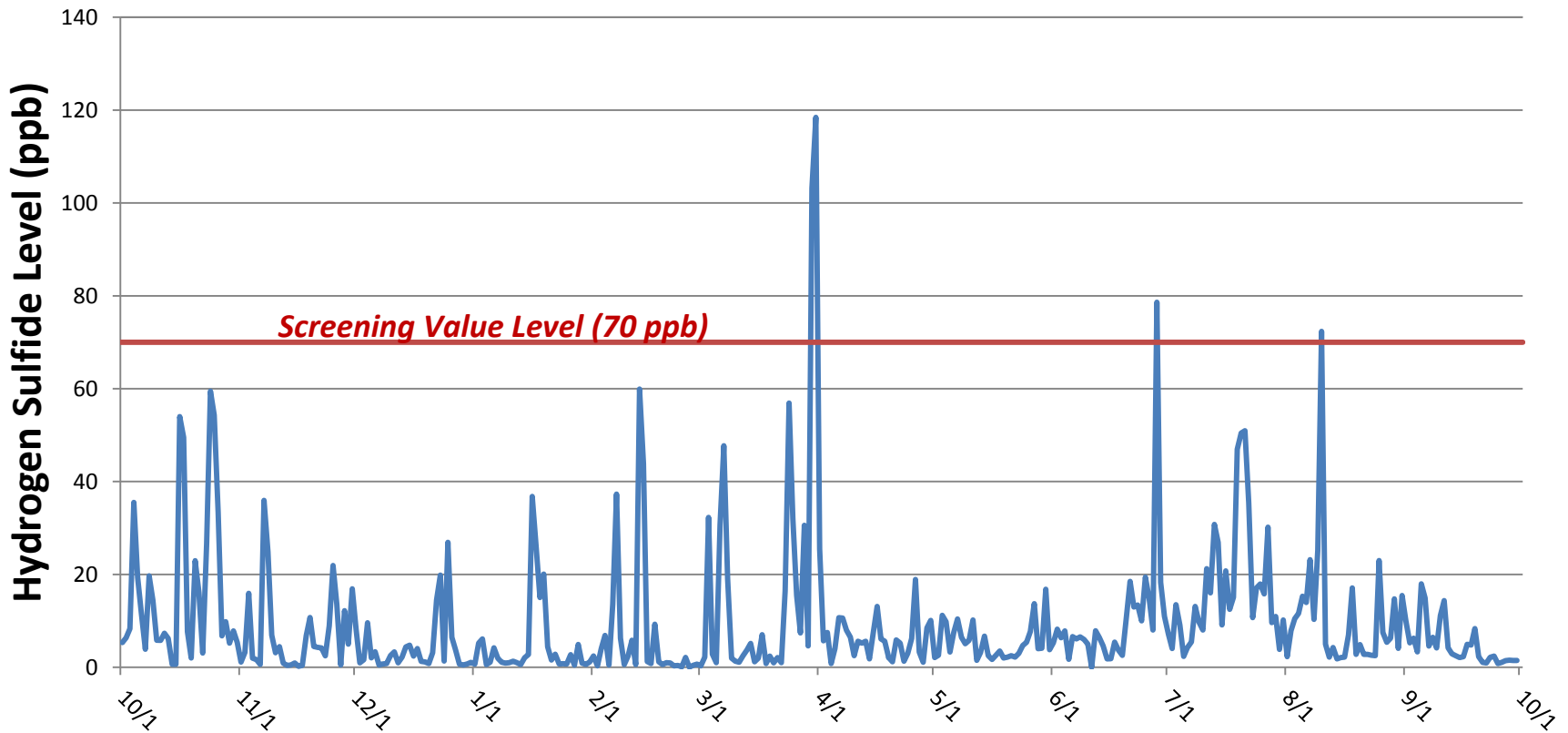
H₂S → **heavier-than-air, colorless gas with an odor of rotten eggs**

H₂S → **exposures at low levels have not been shown to result in any lasting health effects**

H₂S → **not known to cause cancer (*i.e.*, not a carcinogen)**

30-Minute Averages from October 2014 – September 2015

Peak Levels for 30-min Rolling Average



TRC. (2015). 30 Minute Rolling Average (Original Data). Retrieved by ADH on October 1, 2015.

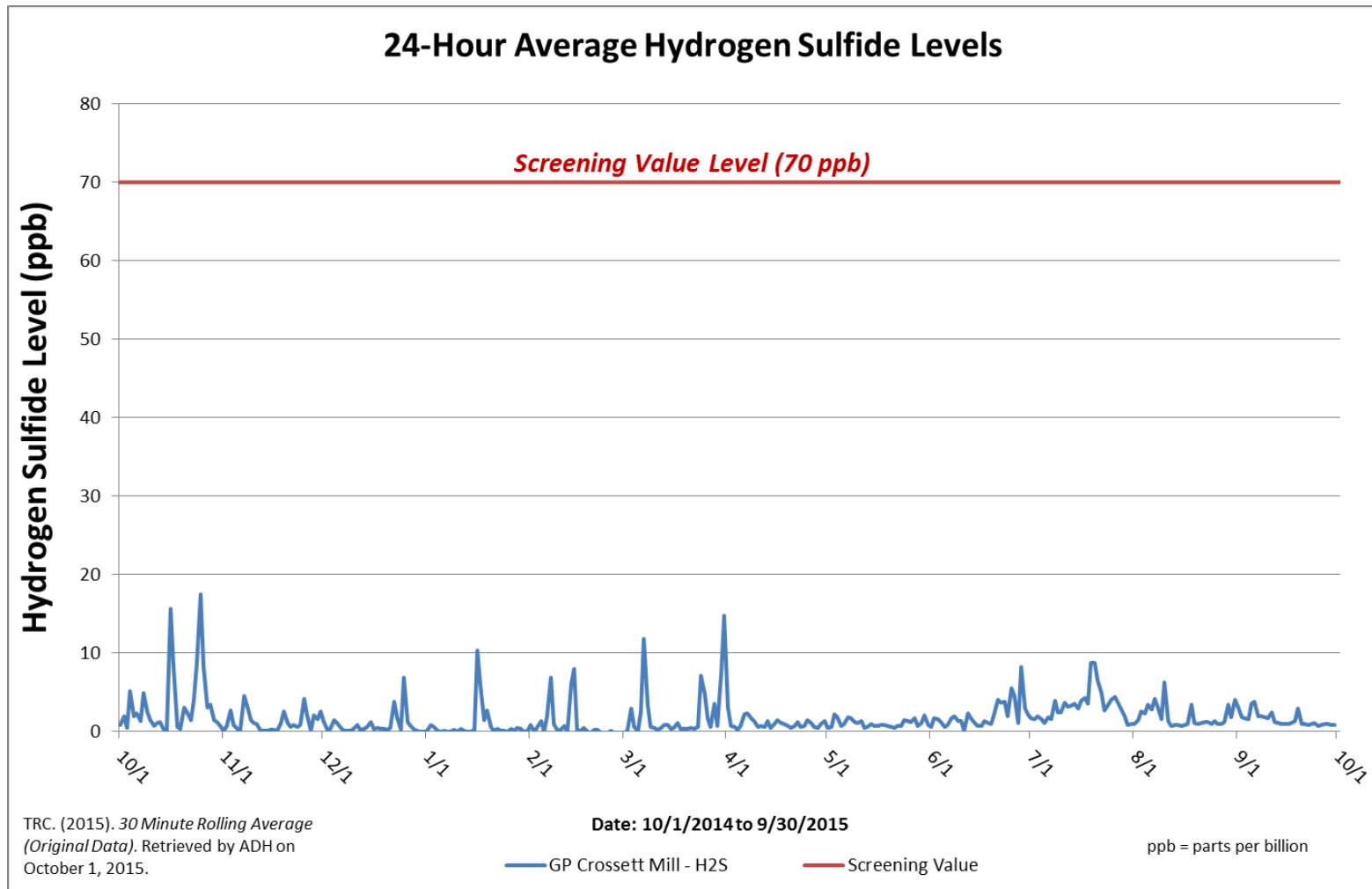
Date: 10/1/2014 to 9/30/2015

— GP Crossett Mill - H₂S

— Screening Value

ppb = parts per billion

Daily Averages from October 2014 – September 2015



Final Reports from ADH and TRC (GP Contractor) Sent to ADEQ Website for Public Viewing

ADEQ Home Page: Air Monitoring at Georgia-Pacific (<https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/>)

https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/air/compliance/georgia_pacific.aspx

The screenshot shows the ADEQ website header with the logo and tagline: "Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. We protect, enhance and restore the natural environment for the well-being of all Arkansans." Below the header is a navigation menu with items: Home, Databases, Divisions, Inspectors, Licensing, Permits, and Regu. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: Home / Divisions / Air / Compliance / Georgia-Pacific. On the left is a sidebar with links: Office of Air Quality, Compliance Monitoring, District Inspectors, Monitoring & Certification Databases, Smoke School, Yard Waste, and Hydrogen-Sulfide Testing at Georgia-Pacific in Crossett. The main article is titled "Hydrogen Sulfide testing at Georgia-Pacific in Crossett" and contains a detailed paragraph about the monitoring process. Below the article is a "Related Links & Documents" section with a link to "ATSDR Hydrogen Sulfide Fact Sheet". At the bottom, there is a "Biweekly Reports" section with a link to "TRC Biweekly Report".

Hydrogen Sulfide
Fact Sheet from
ATSDR

List of all data reports and
special reviews from ADH
and TRC



CROSSETT *AND* GEORGIA-PACIFIC

Stuart Spencer, *Associate Director*
Office of Air Quality

ADEQ

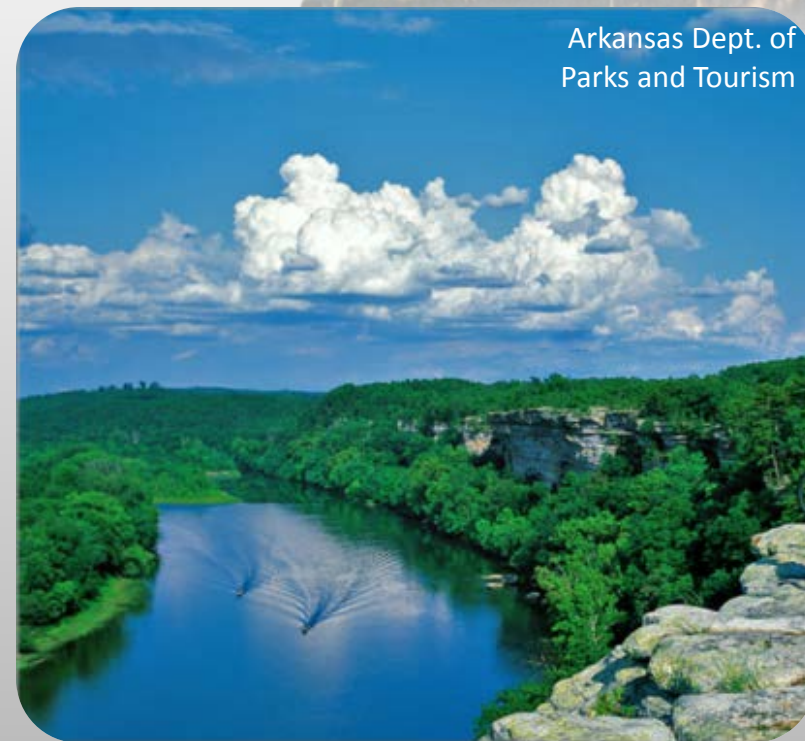
ARKANSAS
Department of Environmental Quality



Crossett photos by Arkansas Dept. of
Parks and Tourism

About ADEQ

- Located in North Little Rock and around the state
- Mission is “To protect, enhance, and restore the natural environment for the well-being of all Arkansans.”
- Regulatory, Education, Assistance



Mission, Office of Air Quality

- To “preserve and protect the air quality for the citizens of Arkansas through implementation and enforcement of applicable regulations in a fair and equitable manner.”



Permit Contents

- Facility description
- Emission rate limits
- Testing requirements
- Monitoring
- Recordkeeping and reporting

ADEQ currently has active air permits
for six facilities in Crossett.

Georgia-Pacific in Crossett

- GP Chemicals **AFIN 02-00028**
- GP Paper **AFIN 02-00013**
- GP Plywood/Stud Mill
(not operating) **AFIN 02-00005**



Crossett is in Ashley County.

GP Chemicals



GP Chemicals



- Latest Title V permit issued March 14, 2016 - March 13, 2021
- ADEQ held public hearing in Crossett on draft renewal in June 23, 2015
- Also ADEQ regulates for hazardous waste

GP Paper



GP Paper

- Latest Title V permit issued August 4, 2011
- Five year duration
- Received renewal application on February 5th, 2016
 - Administratively complete February 9th
- Draft permit is pending
- ADEQ held public hearing June 7, 2016 on proposal to modify
- Modified permit was finalized on July 11th.

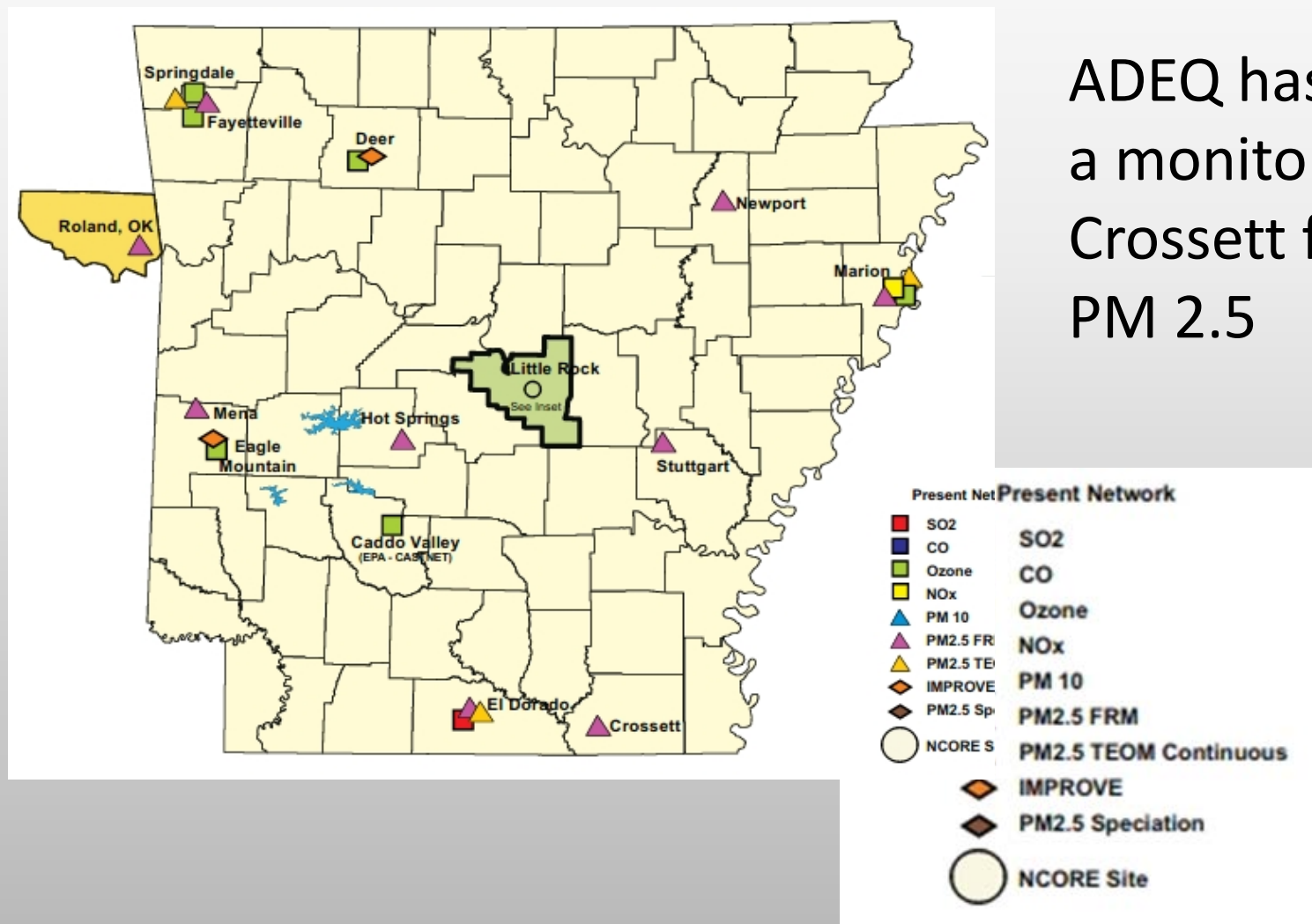


GP Plywood/Stud Mill

- Latest Title V issued March 13, 2012
- Valid through March 12, 2017
- GP submitted a request to revoke the Title V permit on August 2, 2016



Arkansas Ambient Air Monitoring Network



ADEQ has placed a monitor in Crossett for PM 2.5

Crossett Monitor

- In operation since 2001
- Has consistently reported low values
- Monitoring data available at <https://www3.epa.gov/airdata/>

2014 Community Action Plan

- ADEQ and other agencies tasked with actions to address Crossett community concerns.
- ADEQ's response to our commitments:



Air Concerns

Make available information on the facilities within Ashley County.



- ✓ Database of all permits issued by ADEQ available at www.adeq.state.ar.us searching by facility AFIN number, city, or county

From the homepage, select “Databases” from the top of the page. Then select “PDS”

Air Concerns

Make available information on the facilities within Ashley County.



- ✓ Additionally, ADEQ and other agencies conducted a public meeting in Crossett in August 2014 to provide information

ADEQ has conducted at least two public hearings on draft permit decisions since the 2014 meeting

Air Concerns

Inform community how to access information on permit renewal cycles and detail public participation process and opportunities



- ✓ Information about ADEQ website provided at the public meeting and later hearings

Air Concerns

EPA and ADEQ to determine whether more air quality monitoring should be conducted.



- ✓ GP has conducted voluntary temporary monitoring for hydrogen sulfide.

Communication

Community wants agencies and facility to provide information, be responsive to concerns.



- ✓ ADEQ, ADH, and EPA have coordinated meetings, training, access to information

Participation

- Citizens may submit comments during announced comment periods
 - When an application is considered administratively complete
 - When ADEQ issues a draft permit decision
- Citizens may request a public hearing and ask questions or make comments
- Citizens may contact ADEQ anytime about environmental concerns



Citizen Toolbox



- ADEQ website www.adeq.state.ar.us
- Sign up for updates and information
<https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/poa/pi/emaillists.aspx>
- Report concerns through the website
<https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/complaints/> and find information there about apps