

Battleship Texas to make historic move Wednesday

BY JOHN HACKER
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The battleship Texas, pictured here in June 2009, will undergo a year of repairs to its hull. GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

A historic ship in Texas will be towed this week for a dry dock and about a year of repairs before setting sail again for a new home.

The battleship Texas, which has been berthed at the San Jacinto Battle-ground State Historic Site in LaPorte, Texas, since 1948, will be pulled from its berth Wednesday and towed to Galveston to the Gulf Copper Co.'s new dry dock, a distance of about 35 miles.

There, the 32,000-ton battleship will be lifted from the water to have rusted and thinning hull plates replaced and other repairs made to its hull.

It's a trip the battleship made once before. In 1989, it was towed to Galveston for major hull work for the first time in 43 years. But this time, when the work is finished, it will not return to the San Jacinto Park.

"We're just not very visible, we're not easy to get to, (and) we're in the middle of a petrochemical industrial area," said Bruce Bramlett, executive director and chief operating officer of the Battleship Texas Foundation. "Then we had the fire a couple of years ago, and you couldn't get out on the ferry, you couldn't get out Independence Parkway, and all the orders were shelter in place, and we're going, 'Thank goodness we didn't have 1,000 school kids on the ship that day because what would we do with them?' It needs to be in another location."

Bramlett said the foundation is in discussions with the cities of Baytown, Beaumont and Galveston about finding a new, more visible home for the ship, one that will allow for enough visitors for the ship to support itself financially without major support from the state of Texas.

Bramlett said that was one of the conditions imposed by the Texas Legislature when it appropriated \$35

million to help with the repairs.

"That 2019 funding wasn't just 'hey, here, go do the work,'" Bramlett said. "It came with some conditions, and one of the conditions was when you pull it out of San Jacinto State Park, you don't bring it back. You find a new home where it's more accessible, and there was no budget for that. You don't just pull up and throw a rope over a post."

This week's move depends on good weather and could be delayed if conditions are not ideal, the Battleship Texas Foundation said in a written release issued Aug. 22.

"A livestream video of the departure will be available for the public to view for free on the BTF YouTube channel and Facebook group page," the foundation said. "... On the departure day, live updates will be posted on the foundation website and on social media. Check in for live tracking, livestreams, and more."

HISTORY

The Texas was built in 1914 and was, for a short time, the most powerful naval weapon afloat, with 10 14-inch guns in five twin turrets, two turrets on the front part of the ship, two on the back and one in the middle of the ship that could be fired to either side.

It was called a super-dreadnought. A dreadnought battleship was so named because of Britain's

HMS Dreadnought, which launched in the first decade of the 20th century and revolutionized naval warfare at the time.

It carried 10 12-inch guns when nearly all other battleships carried four larger-caliber guns with batteries of medium-caliber guns. The Dreadnought was also powered by turbine engines, which made it much faster than previous battleships.

The Texas served in World War I and became part of the British Grand Fleet after the U.S. entered the war against Germany in 1917.

It was in the Atlantic Ocean when the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, yanking the U.S. into the war with Japan, Germany and Italy, and served in the Atlantic throughout most of its World War II service. It provided heavy escort for convoys of supply ships sailing the Atlantic to England and other theaters of war in Africa and the Mediterranean Sea and bombarded shore targets in support of amphibious invasions in North Africa in 1942 and off the Normandy coast for D-Day in 1944.

In 1945, it was transferred to the Pacific, where it bombarded Japanese positions on Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

It became the first post-World War II museum ship in 1948 when it was towed from Baltimore and turned over to the state of Texas at the San Jacinto Battlefield.

Parts of Mississippi capital without running water

Treatment plant has long-standing problems

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi's capital city is grappling with multiple water problems — too much on the ground after heavy rainfall in the past week and not enough safe water coming through the pipes for people to use.

Parts of Jackson were without running water Tuesday because flooding exacerbated long-standing problems in one of two water-treatment plants. The city of 150,000 had already been under a boil-water notice for a month because the Health Department found cloudy water that could cause digestive problems.

Restaurant owner Derek Emerson told The Associated Press on Tuesday that water problems "are making it impossible for us to do business in Jackson, Mississippi." Emerson and his wife, Jennifer, own the upscale Walker's Drive-In, and he said they have been spending \$300 a day for ice and bottled water in the past month.

"I love doing business in Jackson, and I like the people of Jackson," Emerson said. "I just — I hate dealing with the problems."

Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves said late Monday that he's declaring a state of emergency for Jackson's water system, and he issued the proclamation Tuesday. The state will try to help resolve problems by hiring contractors to work at the treatment plant, which was operating at diminished capacity with backup pumps after the main pumps failed "some time ago," Reeves said.

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba said Jackson's water system is troubled by short staffing and "decades of deferred maintenance."

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Derek Emerson
Restaurant owner

He said the influx of water from torrential rain changed the chemical composition needed for treatment, which slowed the process of pushing water out to customers.

Lumumba is Democrat and was not invited to the Republican governor's Monday night news conference. Although the two politicians are often at odds, Lumumba said Tuesday that he's having productive discussions with the Health Department and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and he's grateful for the state's help.

Like many cities, Jackson faces water system problems it can't afford to fix. Its tax base has eroded the past few decades as the population decreased — the result of mostly white flight to suburbs that began after public schools integrated in 1970. The city's population is now more than 80% Black, with about 25% of its residents living in poverty.

Low water pressure left some people unable to take showers or flush toilets, and officials said the low pressure caused concern for firefighting. Those who did have water flowing from the tap were told to boil it to kill bacteria that could make them sick.

Jackson schools held classes online Tuesday, and some restaurants closed. Jackson State University brought in temporary

restrooms for students, and Jackson State football coach Deion Sanders said the water crisis left his players without air conditioning or ice at their practice facility. In a video that one of his sons posted to social media, Sanders — also known as Coach Prime — said he wanted to move players into a hotel so they could shower.

"We're going to find somewhere to practice, find somewhere that can accommodate every darn thing that we need and desire to be who we desire to be, and that's dominate," Sanders said. "The devil is a lie. He ain't going to get us today, baby."

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters Tuesday that the federal government is prepared to help Mississippi respond to the water crisis.

"We stand ready and we are eager to assist further as soon as we receive an official request from the state," she told reporters aboard Air Force One. She said the state had not asked FEMA for help with trucking in drinking water and declined to say why. Jean-Pierre said White House officials have been in contact with local officials and the state Health Department.

Reeves said later Tuesday that the state is requesting a federal disaster declaration. He also said the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency will start distributing both drinking water and nonpotable water, and he activated the National Guard to help.

The problems at the water treatment plant came after the city appeared to largely avoid widespread flooding from a Pearl River swollen by days of heavy rain. One home was flooded Monday but the mayor said the water did not rise as high as expected. Earlier projections showed about 100 to 150 buildings in the Jackson area faced possible flooding.



PUBLIC NOTICE

**Administrative Record File Available
Removal Action at the
Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt NPL Superfund Site
Jasper County, Missouri - August 2022**

EPA Region 7: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Nine Tribal Nations

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 has compiled the Administrative Record File (AR) for a Time-Critical Removal Action at the Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt National Priorities List (NPL) Superfund Site. EPA recently remediated additional residential yards in Joplin and Webb City to clean up lead contamination in soils. The AR is the official site file that contains technical documents with respect to response actions at the site. This document collection is being developed by EPA to form a clear understanding of the site.

Site project information is available to the public at web repositories.

Please visit EPA's Site Profile Page at

www.epa.gov/superfund/oronogoduenwegmining to view cleanup documents (see ARs under Site Documents & Data). Anyone without internet access can view these documents online at this location:

Joplin Public Library, 1901 E. 20th St., Joplin, MO 64804 (417-623-7953).

For additional information about this response action, visit:

response.epa.gov/odebler.

For more information about the Remedial Site, EPA posts Fact Sheets for Missouri sites at: www.epa.gov/mo/missouri-cleanups.

If you have questions about the site, please contact **Amelia Holcomb**, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at holcomb.amelia@epa.gov or 913-551-7952.

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