



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.


USET Resolution No. 2002:077

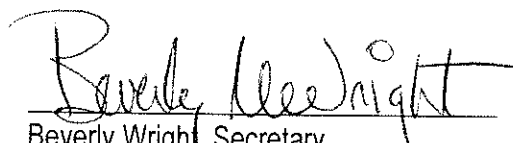
### BUCKEYE KNOLL (DUPONT) SITE, VICTORIA, TX

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Galveston District, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) excavated the remains and associated funerary objects of at least 79 American Indian individuals from property owned by the DuPont Corporation along the banks of the Victoria Barge Canal and known as the Buckeye Knoll Site, Victoria, TX (site number 41VT98); and
- WHEREAS,** the Galveston District, USACE, in the process of this undertaking, conducted no consultation with Tribes before this excavation took place, as they were required to do by Presidential Executive Order, and has begun analysis of the remains, contrary to the express wishes of the interested USET Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Texas has no state law concerning the disposition of human remains and remains disinterred from private lands; and
- WHEREAS,** under basic property rights law, the materials excavated from private lands belong to the property owner (in this case, the DuPont Corporation); and
- WHEREAS,** the DuPont Corporation has expressed a willingness to rebury all of the human remains and associated funerary objects in their original locations; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors condemns the USACE for its unnecessary and unwarranted excavation, resulting in the desecration of this cemetery/burial ground; and, therefore, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors calls upon the DuPont Corporation immediately to retrieve these human remains and associated funerary objects from USACE, without any further analysis, and turn them over to those Tribes which have expressed an interest in them, for proper and expeditious reinterment.

### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Nashville, TN, Thursday, June 13, 2002.

  
Keller George, President  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

  
Beverly Wright, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.