Introduction
The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is responsible for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for assessing the water quality of streams in the Houston area.

The study was conducted during low flow in a 38.7-mile reach of Buffalo Bayou, a 9.6-mile reach of Bear Creek, a 5.1-mile reach of Mustang Creek, and a 3.5-mile reach of Whiteoak Bayou. The study was designed to assess the water quality of these streams under natural conditions.

The two stream reaches overlap about 2.8 miles, from site B4 to station 08073500. The peak is the maximum dye concentration. The centroid, which typically occurs after the peak, is the point where the dye concentration is half of the peak concentration. The wake is the trailing edge of the dye cloud, which is defined as a dye concentration of 0.2 microgram per liter.

The EMPACT program was designed for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to work with communities to "make timely, accurate, and understandable environmental information available throughout the water column and (or) a substantial amount of the dye was lost to storage. Efforts to determine the time of travel in a 7.5-mile reach of Horsepen Creek were unsuccessful.

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