



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10  
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

January 2000



# KPC Project Newsletter



Welcome to the January 2000 KPC Project Newsletter. This newsletter is to help keep you up-to-date about environmental work happening at the KPC site and in Ward Cove. Your comments about this newsletter or the KPC Project are always welcome.

## Mill Site Cleanup Work Successful; Final Decision Document Out Soon

Work continues in the *Uplands Operable Unit*, which includes the KPC pulp mill area, the landfill, and other off-site areas. Preparation of the Record of Decision (ROD) is progressing. The ROD is the document that summarizes the investigation of the site. It also outlines decisions that were made based on that information, as well as cleanup activities. The ROD will include the Responsiveness Summary, which is the agency response to the comments received during the Proposed Plan public comment period. The ROD is anticipated to be available in the information repositories (listed at the end of this document) in spring.

Cleanup is nearing completion. Six areas in this unit were chosen for cleanup actions: the access road ditch, railroad track area, compressor area, former bulk fuel area, former paint shop area, and water pipeline area. Work is now complete at all areas except the water pipeline area. Following is information about the work at the mill site's former paint shop, which was just recently completed, and the water pipeline area.

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- Agencies Preparing Site Controls
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## Paint Shop Soils Removal



Soil Excavation Is Complete In The Paint Shop Area

Removal of contaminated soils from the paint shop area is now complete. Between March and October of 1999, about 480 cubic yards of soil were dug up and transported to an out-of-state disposal facility. These soils were contaminated with PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and lead. The remaining soil now meets cleanup goals (10 mg/kg of PCBs and 1000 ppm lead) at all sampling locations, with the exception of several bedrock samples that did not meet these goals. No additional soil could be removed from these locations. The estimated amount of PCB contaminated soil that remains at the bottom of the excavations is less than 1 cubic yard. The summary report can be reviewed at the information repositories listed at the end of this document.

## Pipeline Soils Removal

The removal of PCB contaminated soils from the water pipeline right-of-way is almost done. Lead contaminated soils, identified during the PCB removal sampling program, are being dug up and sent out for disposal. Investigations and soil removal actions are completed at three of the four areas along the pipeline corridor. These areas were identified in the Proposed Plan. A fifth area along the pipeline corridor, dubbed the Orphan Drum area, has also been cleaned up---five drums were removed, and sampling confirms that no contamination remains.

Work at Area 2, the remaining pipeline site, is nearly done. During the initial excavation at Area 2, the original estimated extent of excavation grew dramatically with the discovery of a set of capacitors, 28 drums, and PCB contaminated soils. More than 280 cubic yards of soil has now been removed, which is

over four times the original estimated amount. The last excavation occurred in November. We are waiting for sampling results to confirm that the area is fully cleaned up.

The pipeline road area will be subject to *Institutional Controls* to prevent any potential residential use of the property. Institutional controls are restrictions on future activities (see next article). Land ownership issues are currently being sorted out for this area.

The final summary report for the pipeline soil removal is expected to be available in the information repositories in February.

## **Agencies Preparing Site Controls**

A draft *Institutional Control Plan*, or ICP, is expected to be available for informal public review in late February or early March. A significant part of the final work for the KPC Uplands Operable Unit is the development of an ICP for the facility. This ICP outlines the legal and administrative controls that will protect human health and the environment at the facility over the long term. Examples of controls could include zoning and deed restrictions, easements or covenants, and future sampling requirements.

The ICP is a component of the selected remedies for the KPC

site, and it supplements the removal actions discussed above. Institutional controls will remain in effect as long as land use is restricted. Land use at the KPC mill site is restricted to industrial use, and the site was cleaned up to a level which is protective under that land use scenario. For the landfill, institutional controls are designed to restrict access to make sure that nothing interferes with the landfill cap and leachate collection system.

The ICP will be attached to the Record of Decision for the Uplands Operable Unit. Watch for the draft ICP in the information repositories listed on the last page. Although the agencies are not holding a formal public comment period, input from the public on this document will be considered. Feel free to contact Dianne Soderlund at 907/271-3425.

### **KPC Purchase, Demolition Activities**

Changes continue to happen at the former KPC pulp mill site. Gateway Forest Products completed purchase of the KPC mill site in November 1999. Gateway Forest Product's veneer plant is scheduled to be up and running by August 2000. The heavy-duty building at the saw mill site is being demolished to make way for the building of the veneer plant.

After the demolition of the pulp prep building, concrete and brick determined to be non-hazardous were removed to the former chip storage area to construct a new pad. Scrap metal removed from the pulp prep building and other demolition projects at the former pulp mill site has been barged south to Seattle for recycling.

### **EPA's Final Ward Cove Cleanup Decision Expected Soon**

EPA is now preparing a *Record of Decision* that contains the agency's final decision for dealing with sediments in Ward Cove. EPA released the *Proposed Plan* for cleaning up Ward Cove sediments on July 12, 1999. The public comment period closed on September 9, 1999. EPA received 12 comment letters. Additionally, at a public meeting held in Ketchikan on July 29, EPA received two written comments and recorded verbal comments from four individuals.

As part of the Record of Decision, EPA will respond to public comments in a *Responsiveness Summary*. The public comments generally support the proposed sediment cleanup for Ward Cove. Commentors generally agree that there are no significant, long-term risks to human health or wildlife in Ward Cove. Commentors also generally agree that thin-layer capping or "island mounding" is an appropriate remedy for the types of sediments and contaminants found in the Cove.

Commentors requested clarification on how Alaska's water quality standards apply to the sediment cleanup project, and on the status of source control measures in Ward Cove. Commentors also requested more evaluation of the impacts to water quality from bottom sediments. Further, commentors requested that future land use restrictions and other controls be clearly identified for Ward Cove. Some commentors felt that monitoring Ward Cove sediments after completing the cleanup is crucial to evaluating the success of the cleanup.

EPA expects to complete the Record of Decision in early 2000. The earliest that cleanup could start in Ward Cove would be late Fall 2000.

### **Community Involvement Survey Update**

EPA and ADEC wish to thank all the Ketchikan residents who participated in a recent survey. Last fall, 10 individuals participated in focus groups to discuss EPA's and ADEC's community involvement activities related to KPC. Written surveys also

were randomly mailed to hundreds of Ketchikan residents to help the agencies measure how effective our public involvement work has been.

This effort is part of a larger initiative to measure the success of EPA's community involvement program nationally. The goal is to learn what works and what doesn't work, what needs to be changed, and how it needs to be changed.

Early indications are that the community involvement program at Ketchikan is viewed, overall, as fairly successful. The final report will summarize findings, identify areas for improvement, and make specific recommendations for changes. The final report will be placed in the information repositories when it is available.

### **ATSDR Continues to Evaluate Health Concerns**

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is a public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR is working at the request of some members of the Ketchikan community to determine whether environmental pollutants in the Ketchikan area have been impacting the community's health.

ATSDR has reviewed all available environmental data for soil, air, cisterns, leachate, sediment, and biota in the KPC area. ATSDR is now evaluating that data to determine the potential for adverse health effects from exposure to contaminants. ATSDR is also evaluating available health outcome data to determine, if possible, whether the rates of cancer, asthma, and other health outcomes in the community are different from those found in the state of Alaska or in the rest of the United States. This evaluation is undergoing final internal ATSDR review. ATSDR will make it available for public comment by spring 2000.

ATSDR completed reviews and concurred on the "Proposed Plan For The Uplands Operable Unit, Ketchikan Pulp Company" and the "Proposed Plan For The Ward Cove Operable Unit, Ketchikan Pulp Company."

For more information about this site, you can contact Karen Larson, ATSDR Regional Representative in Seattle, at (206) 553-6978, or Theresa Kilgus, ATSDR Health Assessor, toll free, at 1-888-422-8737. You may also request to be placed on the ATSDR mailing list for the Ketchikan Pulp Company site by calling the same number, 1-888-422-8737 (1-888-42-ATSDR).

### **Who's Who on the KPC Project**

There have been some staffing changes on the KPC Project. Marcia Combes, once the Uplands Project Manager for EPA, now serves as Director of EPA's Alaska Office. Dianne Soderlund is filling behind Marcia on this project. Also, Bill Janes of ADEC has replaced Ron Klein as the ADEC Uplands Project Manager. A current staff listing follows.

EPA Uplands  
Project Manager:  
**Dianne Soderlund,**  
907/271-3425

ADEC Uplands  
Project Manager:  
**Bill Janes,**  
907/465-5208

EPA Ward Cove  
Project Manager:  
**Karen Keeley,**  
206/553-2141,  
1-800-424-4EPA

EPA Community  
Involvement Coordinator:  
**Andrea Lindsay,**  
206/553-1896,  
1-800-424-4EPA

ADEC Project Coordinator:  
**Mary Siroky,**  
907/465-5355

## For more information...

Documents related to the KPC Project can be found at the following locations:

Ketchikan Public Library  
629 Dock Street

Ketchikan ADEC Office  
340 Water Street

Juneau ADEC Office  
410 Willoughby Avenue

EPA Records Center  
1200 Sixth Avenue, 7th Floor, Seattle

If you have questions or would like to request a mailing list change, please contact either of the following individuals:

Mary Siroky  
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 105  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
email: [msiroky@envircon.state.ak.us](mailto:msiroky@envircon.state.ak.us)  
907/465-5355

Andrea Lindsay  
US EPA Region 10  
1200 6th Ave, ECO-081  
Seattle, WA 98101  
email: [lindsay.andrea@epa.gov](mailto:lindsay.andrea@epa.gov)  
206/553-1896 or 1-800-424-4EPA

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United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

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EPA Region 10  
Community Relations and Outreach  
1200 Sixth Avenue, ECO-081  
Seattle, Washington 98101-1128