



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
August 2000

**EPA Announces Public Comment Period on
Proposed Settlement Agreement
for the Ketchikan Pulp Company Site,
Ketchikan, Alaska**

An agreement is proposed between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and three parties that would implement the recent Records of Decisions for the Ketchikan Pulp Company (KPC) site. The agreement would require cleanup of the KPC site and would resolve the Superfund liability issues of KPC, its parent company Louisiana-Pacific Corporation (L-P), and Gateway Forest Products Inc. (Gateway). Gateway is the new owner of much of the Site. The comment period runs from August 17 to September 18, 2000.

The public is invited to comment on a proposed settlement agreement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and KPC, L-P, and Gateway. The proposed agreement, called a federal *Consent Decree*, would settle certain liabilities of these parties under the Superfund law at the Ketchikan Pulp Company site in Ward Cove near Ketchikan, Alaska.

This fact sheet is being distributed to notify the affected community and to invite public comment on the proposed consent decree. Written comments should refer to United States v. Gateway, KPC, and L-P (DOJ Ref. # 90-11-3-1726). Comments should be sent by September 18, 2000 to:

Assistant Attorney General
Environment & Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice
Post Office Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), which represents EPA in matters before the court, has lodged the proposed consent decree in federal district court in Anchorage. Prior to the approval of this agreement, however, the consent decree is subject to 30 days of public comment. DOJ will provide to a federal judge all public comments and EPA's responses to those comments. The judge will determine whether to approve the consent decree only after the public comments have been addressed and/or responded to.

Summary of Proposed Consent Decree

The proposed consent decree would require KPC and L-P to complete the cleanup process at both the site's Uplands Operable Unit (OU) and Marine OU. The Uplands OU includes contaminated soil and ground water at the facility. The Marine OU includes contaminated marine sediments in Ward Cove adjacent to the former pulp mill.

The primary remaining task for the cleanup of the Uplands OU is closure of the remaining cell of the wood waste and ash disposal landfill and implementation of an Institutional Controls Plan. The Institutional Controls Plan will ensure that site use remains commercial/industrial and that future activities are consistent with requirements designed to protect public health and the environment over the long term. The proposed consent decree also requires remedial design, remedial action, and long-term monitoring for the Marine OU. Remedial action includes dredging and disposal of contaminated sediments, capping or mounding of sediments, and natural recovery. In addition, KPC/L-P have agreed to pay EPA \$371,057 to resolve their liability for costs previously incurred by EPA, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and DOJ.

The settlement does not resolve the defendants' liability for natural resource damages. The settlement requires the defendants to provide access to their properties and cooperate fully with parties performing the remedial action and long-term monitoring.

The proposed consent decree is available for public review...

At the following locations:

Ketchikan Public Library
629 Dock Street

Ketchikan ADEC Office
540 Water Street

Juneau ADEC Office
410 Willoughby Avenue

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

On the internet:

www.epa.gov/r10/earth
click on "index"; click on "K" for Ketchikan Pulp Company

In the Federal Register:

Information is also available in the Federal Register dated August 17, 2000
(65 Fed. Reg. 50217).

Background

KPC owned and operated a pulp mill at the Site from 1953 until its shutdown in March 1997. Hazardous substances were released into the environment at and around the KPC facility as a result of activities associated with the operation of the pulp mill.

Based on results of environmental remedial investigations and feasibility studies, EPA issued Proposed Plans for both operable units in the summer of 1999. Subsequently, EPA issued a Record of Decision for the Marine OU in March 2000 and a Record of Decision for the Uplands OU in June 2000. The consent decree provides for implementation of both Records of Decision.

For more information

Community Involvement Coordinator:

Andrea Lindsay, 206-553-1896, lindsay.andrea@epa.gov

Toll-Free Telephone Number:

1-800-424-4372

EPA Region 10 Internet Homepage:

www.epa.gov/r10earth

click on "Index"

click on "K" for Ketchikan Pulp Company

Documents:

The Administrative Record is a file that contains all information used by EPA to make decisions on cleanup actions from the beginning of the site's history through the signing of a Record of Decision. The administrative records for the KPC site are available at the Ketchikan Public Library and EPA's Records Center; addresses are listed above.