

ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



Taylor Lumber and Treating Superfund Site
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

Sheridan, Oregon
Summer 2009

Taylor Lumber and Treating Cleanup Completed

The Environmental Protection Agency has finished the final environmental cleanup at the Taylor Lumber and Treating Superfund site in Sheridan, Oregon. EPA's long-term cleanup of the site occurred throughout the summer and fall of 2007, with final cleanup completed in September 2008.

The soils, groundwater, and ditch sediments were contaminated with toxic chemicals (arsenic and pentachlorophenol) from historic wood-treating operations at the site. Contaminated soils from almost 5 acres were excavated and disposed at an off-site hazardous waste landfill. After testing confirmed that cleanup levels were met, the excavated areas were backfilled to allow continued use by the current property owner and operator.

All ditches and gullies adjoining the site were also cleaned. Over 26,000 tons of soils that had been stockpiled onsite during earlier excavations were also sent to an off-site landfill. Many groundwater wells that were no longer needed for monitoring at the site were closed.

A low permeability asphalt cap was placed over a 7-acre area. The purpose of the asphalt cap is to keep rainwater from soaking into the area enclosed by the underground barrier wall. The cap also prevents people from coming into contact with contaminated soil underneath it. The underground barrier wall was built in 2000 to control the movement of contaminated groundwater.

Air monitoring was performed throughout the cleanup. In the 253 air samples taken during cleanup activities, arsenic and other pollutants were always below the health standards.



Contaminated soils are excavated and taken to an off-site hazardous waste landfill.

Now that the cleanup is completed, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) will take over long-term operations and maintenance of the site. ODEQ will operate the groundwater extraction system which maintains hydraulic control to prevent contaminants from migrating beyond the barrier wall. ODEQ will also monitor groundwater outside the barrier wall and maintain the asphalt cap. EPA will continue to monitor the site to make sure that the cleanup is working well and remains protective of human health and the environment.

Site Background

Taylor Lumber and Treating operated a wood-treating plant at the site from 1946 to 2001. Toxic and cancer-causing chemicals, primarily arsenic and pentachlorophenol, were used to preserve wood. Over the years, many chemical spills and drips contaminated the soil and groundwater at the site.

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EPA added the site to the National Priorities List in 2001. EPA conducted several emergency cleanup actions at this site to protect on-site employees, local residents, and the South Yamhill River from contamination at the site. EPA completed the final cleanup for the site in September 2008.

The property is now owned and operated by Pacific Wood Preserving of Oregon (PWPO). PWPO is now producing treated wood products using copper- and borate-based treating solutions, which are safer for their employees and for the environment.

For More Information

For general information, contact **Suzanne Skadowski**, Community Involvement Coordinator, at 206-553-6689 or 800-424-4372 or skadowski.suzanne@epa.gov

For technical questions, contact **Karen Keeley**, Project Manager, at 206-553-2141 or 800-424-4372 or keeley.karen@epa.gov

Web Site: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/tlt>

Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommodation, please call Suzanne Skadowski at 206-553-6689. TTY users, please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.