



KOPPERS Co, INC. SUPERFUND SITE UPDATE

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • AUGUST 2002

EPA STARTS REVIEW OF CLEANUP AT THE KOPPERS SUPERFUND SITE

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting a review of the cleanup at the Koppers Superfund site in Oroville, CA. This review is conducted every five years to ensure that the cleanup remedy remains protective of human health and the environment. From now through December 2002, the EPA will conduct a review of the soil remedy and the groundwater system cleanup actions at the Koppers Superfund site. The EPA invites the community to learn more about this review process and how you can get involved. This fact sheet explains the five-year review process and gives an update on the soil and groundwater cleanup.

FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

According to Superfund law, if a cleanup results in contaminants at a Superfund site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure, the cleanup will be reviewed every five years. During the review, the EPA studies information about the site and does a site inspection. The methods, findings, and conclusions of the review are documented in the five-year review report. The report can include the following: a site background and history, an explanation of the cleanup measures in place, an explanation of documents and laws reviewed and why, an explanation of the site inspection conducted and sampling results, if taken, an explanation of how the community will be notified about the review, past actions conducted from previous reviews, site recommendations and a statement of protectiveness. The statement of protectiveness explains whether the cleanup continues to be effective and can recommend improvements to ensure that the cleanup continues to be effective.

HOW CAN THE COMMUNITY BECOME INVOLVED?

The community can be involved by calling us on our toll-free line at (800) 231-3075 to let us know if you are interested in participating in the review process.

One way to become involved is to call us and tell us how you feel

about the cleanup conducted so far. Upon completion, the five-review report will be available for public review at the site's information repositories (see back page for locations), and EPA will publish a notice in the local paper.

To get more site information look up the Web page: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/overview.nsf>, under Koppers Industries Inc. (Oroville Plant).



UPDATE ON SOIL REMOVAL WORK

In 1997 and 1998, any accessible contaminated soil was removed and placed in an on-site landfill. Contaminated soil under the plant's wood treating process area was to remain until the plant ceased operations. In March 2001, Koppers Industries, Inc. ceased active wood treating and has worked to close the plant in accordance with federal and state laws. Beazer East, Inc. (Beazer), a former owner, retains the responsibility for completing the removal of contaminated soils. Beazer is scheduled to complete the soil removal by the end of this year.

GROUNDWATER STATUS

The groundwater monitoring reports show that the area of off-property contaminated groundwater at the site is shrinking (see next page). As a result, the EPA has returned 27 of the original 34 residential wells to domestic use. Residents are removed from the water subsidy program when their well, tested for a full year, is free of contamination and the water meets federal and state drinking water standards. Quarterly groundwater monitoring is conducted and the EPA continues to review the site's groundwater monitoring reports.

SITE BACKGROUND

Since 1948, the 200-acre Koppers Company, Inc. site was used to treat wood to prevent deterioration by insects or fungi. The facility closed on March 15, 2001. Chemical and wastewater handling procedures and wood treatment and storage operations have contaminated the soils and the groundwater. Fires at the Koppers facility occurred in 1963 and 1987, causing increased contamination at the site. Groundwater has been contaminated with pentachlorophenol (PCP). PCP is a wood preservative shown to increase the risk of cancer in laboratory animals and could possibly be associated with cancer in humans. Soils on the site have been contaminated with PCP and other hazardous substances used in Koppers' wood treating activities.

The contaminated groundwater is beneath the site and off-property south of the Koppers site. In 1973, PCP was discovered in nearby residential drinking water wells. In 1988, the Koppers Company, Inc. was bought by the parent company of Beazer East, Inc. Beazer later sold the wood treating plants to Koppers Industries, Inc. which is the current owner. However, Beazer is the recognized potentially responsible party for the cleanup. Beazer has installed two treatment systems to pump out and treat contaminated groundwater on the property and off-property. The off-property treatment system was turned off due to significant progress in the cleaning up of the groundwater. Since 1998, certain nutrients have been added to the site's monitoring wells to increase the growth of microorganisms that break down the chemical PCP to a non-hazardous substance.

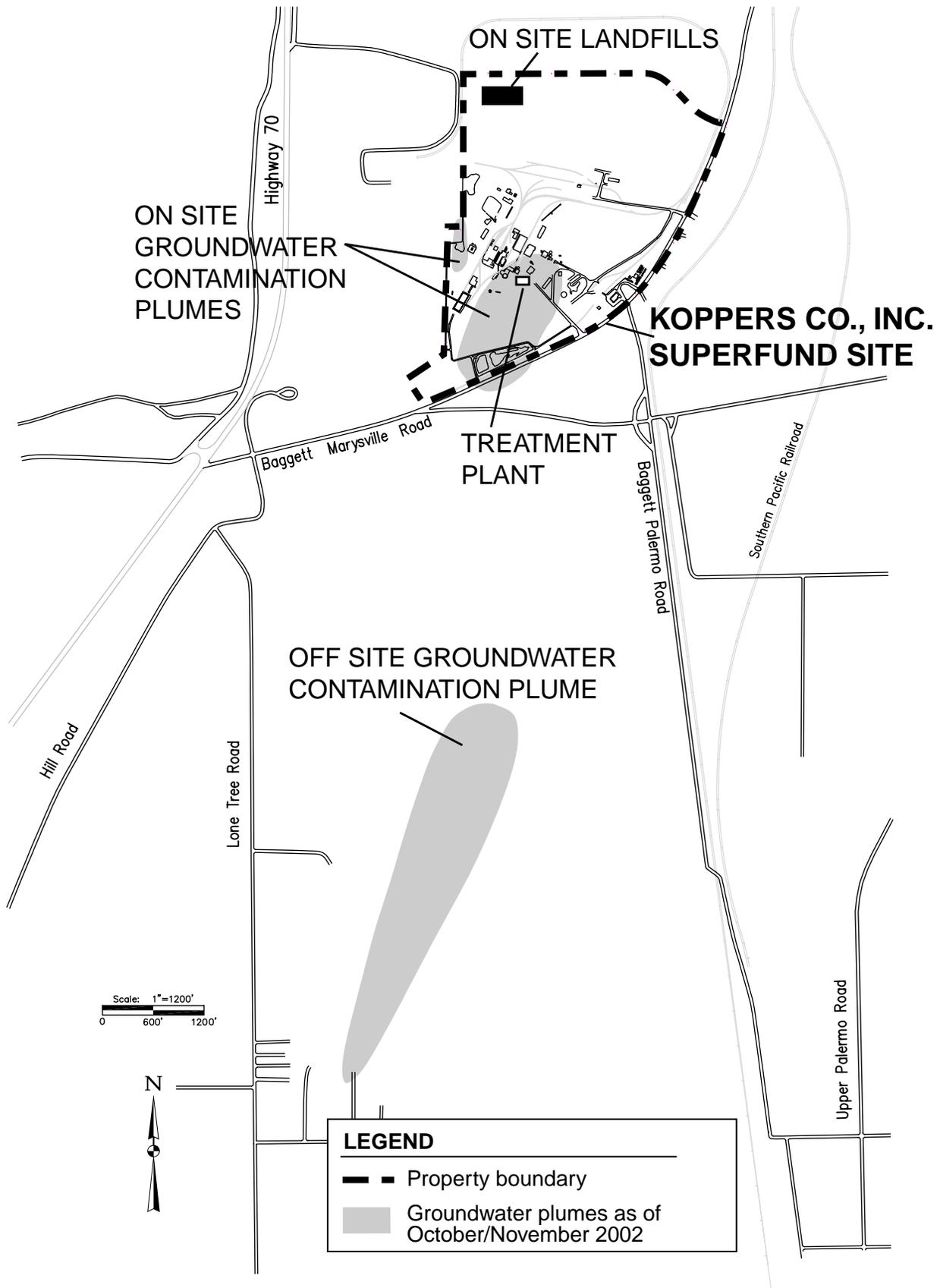
FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions or comments, please call Jackie Lane, EPA community involvement coordinator, toll-free at (800) 231-3075 or directly at (415) 972-3236.

If you did not receive this fact sheet through the mail but would like future publications, you can leave your name and address on the toll-free line as well.

You can also contact Charles Berrey, Remedial Project Manager, by calling him directly at (415) 972-3146 or leave a message at (800) 231-3075.





Koppers Co., Inc. Superfund Site map (A more detailed map can be viewed on EPA's Web site, referenced on page 1.)

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INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

EPA maintains two information repositories in the Oroville area and the Superfund Records Center in San Francisco which contain project documents, fact sheets and other reference materials:

Butte County Public Library

1820 Mitchell Avenue
Oroville, CA 95966
(530) 538-7641

Meriam Library

California State University at Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0295
(530) 898-5720



Superfund Records Center

95 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
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