



# EPA

# Koppers Superfund Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \$ Region 9 \$ San Francisco, CA \$ January 2008

## Five-Year Review Fact Sheet

This fact sheet provides an update of activities at the Koppers Industries, Inc. Superfund Site and also provides notice of the upcoming five-year review. It is being distributed to EPA's mailing list for the Koppers Site and other interested parties. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to be added, please contact one of the EPA staff listed at the end of this fact sheet.

### Five-Year Review

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is beginning the third five-year review for the Koppers Superfund Site in Oroville, CA and expects to complete the review in 2008. A five-year review is required by the Superfund law whenever the remedy for a site either leaves waste on site above levels that are safe for unrestricted use or will take longer than five years to reach cleanup goals. The purpose of the five-year review is to determine if the remedy is protective of human health and the environment.

For the Koppers site, the review is required because a) the soil cleanup goals were set at levels that allow for only commercial/industrial use (not residential use) and b) the groundwater remedy includes an area on the former Koppers property where EPA determined that it would be technically impracticable to achieve cleanup levels that allow for unrestricted use of the water. A copy of the Five-Year Review Report will be made available for the public to review both online and at the information repositories (see list on page 2).

### Past Five-Year Reviews

Two five-year reviews have been completed for the Koppers site. The first review was completed in December 1997. The review evaluated contamination levels and actions taken on the site up to that point in

time. The groundwater treatment and soil consolidation remedies were found to be protective of human health and the environment. The second five-year review evaluated the remedies and any changes at the site that had taken place between December 1997 and February 2003. The review concluded that cleanup remedies remained protective of human health and the environment. The review noted that the deed restriction to prohibit residential use of the Koppers property was not yet in place; that action was completed in November 2003.

### Remedy Selection for Koppers

A Record of Decision (ROD) for Koppers was signed in 1989 and has been amended twice, first in 1996 and again in 1999. The Koppers site is currently in the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) phase of the Remedial Action as described in the ROD and ROD amendments. Once the groundwater cleanup goals are met, the site will be de-listed.

### Site History

From 1948 until March 2001, the 205-acre Koppers Co., Inc. (Oroville Plant) site was used to conduct wood-treating operations to prevent wood deterioration by insects or fungi. Chemical and waste-water handling procedures, wood treatment and storage operations contaminated the soil and groundwater on and

off site. In 1973, pentachlorophenol (PCP) was discovered in nearby residential wells that were used as a source of drinking water. Fires at the Koppers facility occurred in 1963 and 1987 causing increased contamination at the site. Groundwater, surface water and soils on and off site were contaminated with pentachlorophenol (PCP) and other hazardous substances used in Koppers' wood-treating activities.

In November 2006, the former Koppers plant property (exclusive of those parcels where the site's two landfill cells containing contaminated soils, the groundwater treatment operation and the pond areas are located) was sold to a land developer for development as an industrial park.

## Chemicals of Concern

### Groundwater

- \$ Pentachlorophenol (PCP)
- \$ Dioxins and Furans
- \$ Boron
- \$ Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- \$ Heavy metals including copper, chromium and arsenic

### Site Soils

- \$ Dioxins and Furans
- \$ Pentachlorophenol (PCP)
- \$ Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- \$ Heavy metals including copper, chromium and arsenic

## Cleanup Actions

The site was addressed in two stages: immediate actions and a long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

### Immediate Actions

- \$ 1986 – An alternative water supply was provided to residents south of the site in areas of potential groundwater contamination
- \$ 1987 – EPA's Emergency Response personnel performed an emergency cleanup in response to a dioxin release that resulted from an on-site fire
- \$ 1994 – EPA directed Beazer East, Inc. (BEI) to build an on-site landfill for disposal of surface soils containing high levels of dioxin and other contaminants

## For More Information



Please visit the website: [www.epa.gov/region09/Koppers](http://www.epa.gov/region09/Koppers)

## Information Repositories

### Butte County Public Library

1820 Mitchell Ave.  
Oroville, CA 95965  
(530) 538-7642

### Meriam Library

California State University at Chico  
Chico, CA 95929-0295  
(530) 898-5862

### EPA Superfund Records Center

95 Hawthorne St.  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 536-2000





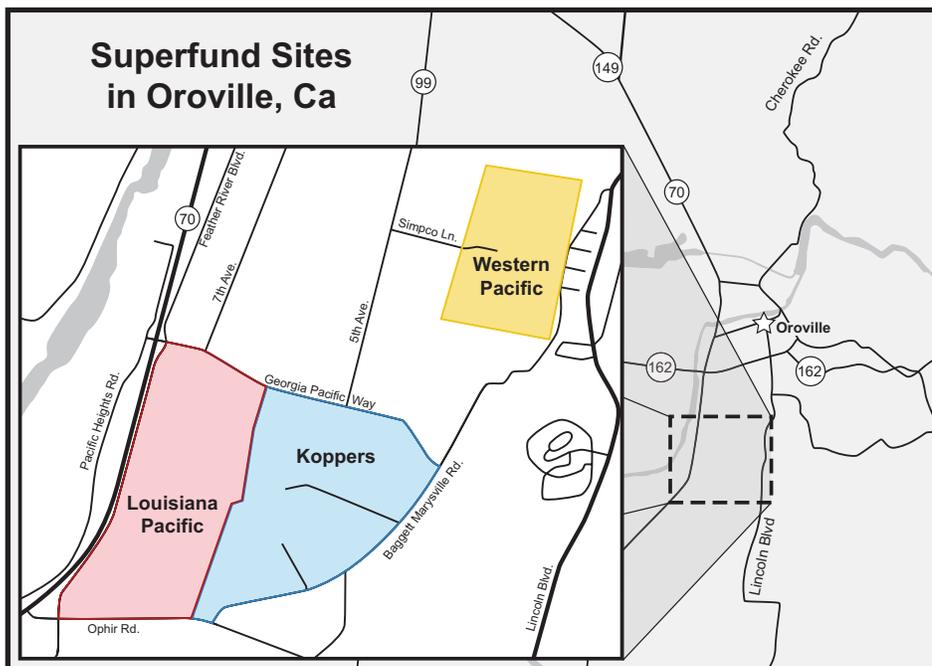
# EPA Superfund Sites in Oroville, CA

Koppers Industries, Inc., Louisiana Pacific Corp. and Western Pacific Railroad Co.

*This flyer provides an overview of the three Superfund sites in the community of Oroville, CA. It is being distributed to advise the public of current status, cleanup progress and future activities at these sites. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to be added, or if you would like additional information about these sites, please see the Additional Information section at the end of this flyer.*

In the City of Oroville, CA, there is one current Superfund Site (Koppers Industries, Inc.) with cleanup ongoing and two former Superfund Sites (Louisiana Pacific Corp. and Western Pacific Railroad Co.). In this flyer, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will give a brief overview of each site and its current status in the Superfund process.

The three sites are located south of downtown Oroville (see figure). Approximately 10,650 people live within a three-mile radius of these sites. These residents depend on groundwater as their source of drinking water, and four California Water Service Company wells are located within three miles of these sites. Water from the wells is blended with water from the Feather River to serve the company's 10,000+ customers. The nearest down-gradient private water supply well is just south of these sites, and there are numerous private water supply wells within three miles of the sites. Contamination of groundwater from site-related chemicals had extended two miles to the south of the sites, but the extent of groundwater contamination has been significantly reduced since cleanup work began at the sites.



## Western Pacific:

A former 90-acre railroad yard. Soil and groundwater cleanup was done by Union Pacific Rail Road, and a deed restriction limits future use of the site.

## Louisiana-Pacific:

A former saw mill, log deck and hardboard manufacturing plant. No cleanup activities were required and L-P has dismantled its facilities.

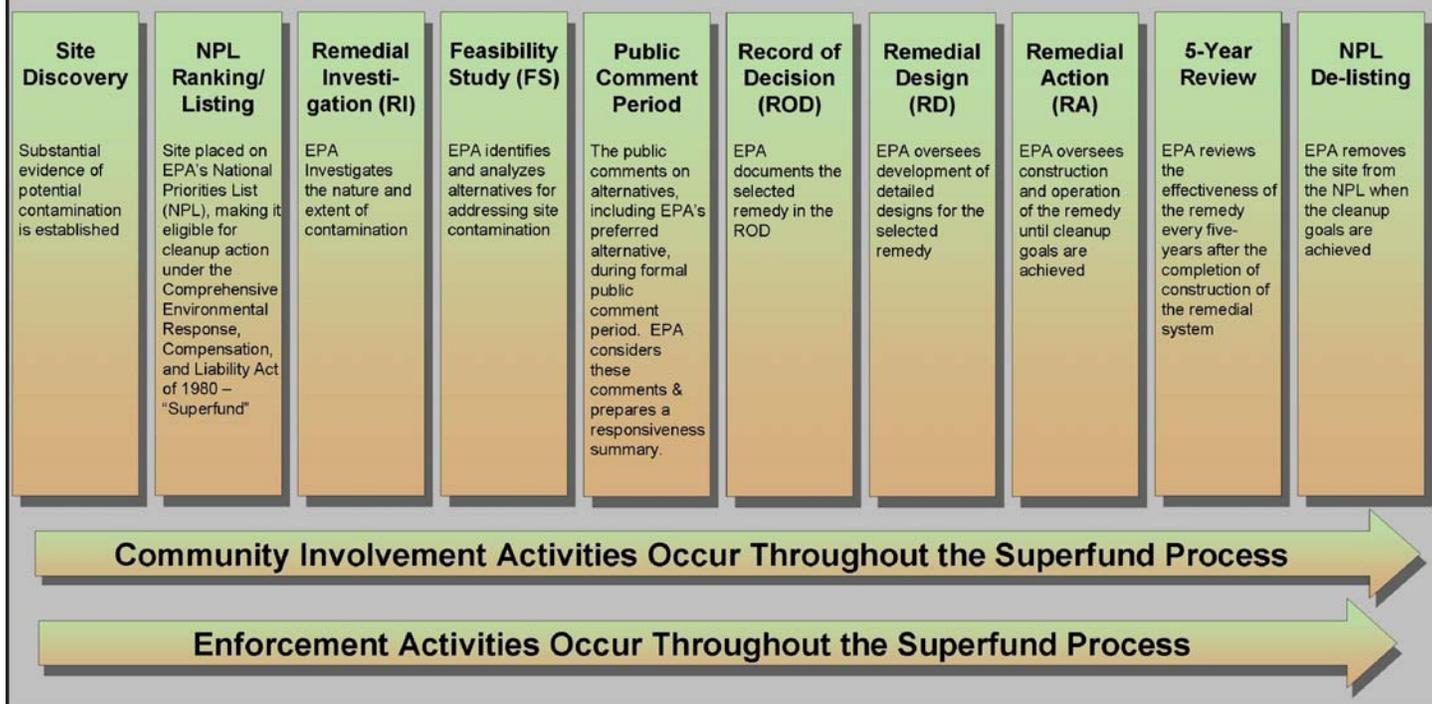
## Koppers:

A former wood treating plant. Soil cleanup has been completed and groundwater cleanup is ongoing.

## What is Superfund?

Superfund is the name given to the federal environmental program established to address abandoned hazardous waste sites; it is administered by the EPA. It is also the name of the cleanup fund established by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980. This law was enacted in the wake of the discovery of toxic waste dumps such as Love Canal and Times Beach in the 1970s. It allows the EPA to investigate such sites and make responsible parties either perform cleanups or reimburse the government for EPA-lead cleanups.

# The Superfund Process



## Site Progress

### Koppers Industries, Inc.

**Listed:** 1984  
**ROD:** 1989  
**RD/RA:** 1992  
**Five Year Review(s):** 1997, 2003 & 2008 (Planned)  
**Delisted:** N/A - Active

### Louisiana Pacific Corp

**Listed:** 1986  
**ROD:** 1995  
 (No Action Required)  
**Five Year Review(s):** N/A  
**Delisted:** 1996

### Western Pacific Railroad

**Listed:** 1990  
**ROD:** 1997  
**RD/RA:** 1997  
**Five Year Review(s):** 2003 & 2008 (Planned)  
**Delisted:** 2001

## Additional Information

Additional information is available for all three Superfund Sites. There are site-specific websites that are maintained by EPA. Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) and Community Involvement Coordinators (CICs) are available if you would like to contact them directly. For site-specific information please see below:

### Koppers Industries, Inc.

#### RPM

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#### CIC

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#### Web Site

[www.epa.gov/region09/Koppers](http://www.epa.gov/region09/Koppers)

### Louisiana Pacific Corp

#### RPM

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 415-972-3237

#### Web Site

[www.epa.gov/region09/Louisiana-Pacific](http://www.epa.gov/region09/Louisiana-Pacific)

### Western Pacific Railroad

#### RPM

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 415-972-3237

#### Web Site

[www.epa.gov/region09/WesternPacific](http://www.epa.gov/region09/WesternPacific)

## Long-term Remedial Actions

### Groundwater

- \$ Contain contaminated groundwater and restore the aquifer outside of the TI zone (see below) using pump and treat technology augmented by nutrient addition to enhance natural biological degradation of the groundwater contamination (ongoing)
- \$ Monitor a four-acre Technical Impracticability (TI) zone on the former Koppers property where EPA determined that achieving groundwater cleanup goals is not technically practical (ongoing)

### Soils

- \$ Consolidate remaining contaminated soil and debris into a second landfill cell (completed in 2002)
- \$ Deed restriction to prohibit residential use of the former Koppers property (completed in 2003)

### Institutional Controls

- \$ Deed Restriction to limit the use of the parcel where the two landfill cells are located (completed in 2006)

## Current Extent of Contamination

### Soils

Surface soils cleanup was completed in 2002 by placing contaminated soils in the two on-site landfill cells. The landfill cells were constructed in compliance with the requirements for a hazardous waste landfill under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA, the hazardous waste law regulating landfill design). The two landfill cells are lined and capped such that contaminated soils held within do not intermingle with non-contaminated soils and water cannot influence the contaminants that are bound to the soils within. A land-use-covenant that restricts the site to industrial use was put in place in 2003.

### Groundwater

Active treatment is addressing groundwater contamination within the site boundaries. At the start of the cleanup, PCPs had been detected in groundwater up to two miles south of the Koppers property. The off-property PCP plume has shrunk considerably, and the off-property groundwater treatment plant on Prince Road has been decommissioned.

## EPA Contacts

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# Koppers Co., Inc. Superfund Site Five-Year Review Fact Sheet

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