

Sierra Pacific Industries Arcata Division Sawmill 2593 New Navy Base Road, Arcata, California Environmental Activities Update

June 2003

INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet has been prepared to inform interested community members about recent environmental activities at Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) Arcata Division Sawmill, located at 2593 New Navy Base Road, Arcata, California (Facility).

Environmental activities conducted at the SPI Facility are being supervised by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (NCRWQCB).

SITE HISTORY

The site was undeveloped land, consisting of sand dunes and mud flats, until approximately 1950 when it was converted into a lumber mill by SPI. Site conversion included filling in portions of the Mad River Slough on the eastern, northern, and southern sides of the site. SPI began operations at this facility before these areas were completely filled in. Filling of portions of the Mad River Slough and expansion of the mill site continued into the early 1970s. The site has been an active mill from 1950 to the present day.

Some of the lumber was treated with anti-stain/anti-fungus solutions as a special product line. Use of pentachlorophenol (PCP) and tetrachlorophenol (TCP) containing anti-stain/anti fungus solutions began at the site in the early to mid-1960s and was discontinued in September 1987.

Used oil from equipment maintenance activities was stored in an underground storage tank at the site until the 1970s.

On October 31, 2001, a Cleanup and Abatement Order was issued to SPI by the NCRWQCB.

RECENT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Numerous soil and groundwater investigations have been conducted at the site and are on-going. In addition, the used oil underground storage tank and petroleum hydrocarbon impacted soil has been removed. Testing results indicated that the soil and groundwater at some areas of the site are impacted with PCP, TCP, dioxins, furans, and petroleum hydrocarbons.

In June 2002, a sensitive site receptor survey and a study of tidal influence on groundwater were conducted for the site. Results of these investigations indicated that the closest residential community is approximately 500 feet from the site boundary; no water supply wells are known to exist within 1,000 feet of the site; one water supply well used exclusively for dust control and log deck sprinkling is located on the site; and no significant tidal effect on groundwater movement is anticipated within the zone impacted by PCP at the site. Detailed information is presented in reports entitled "Results of the 2nd Quarter 2002 Groundwater Monitoring and Sampling Event, Study of Tidal Influence on Groundwater, and Sensitive Site Receptor Survey (Revised)" dated November 22, 2002 and Results of the Remedial Investigation for Sierra Pacific Industries – Arcata", dated January 30, 2003, prepared by Pacific Northwest EnviroNet Group, Inc. (EnviroNet Consulting (EnviroNet)) in Santa Rosa, California.

In addition, in June 2002 and October 2002 a preliminary assessment of dioxins and PCP in commercial oyster beds in Arcata/Humboldt Bay was performed. The results of the assessment can be found in reports entitled, "Evaluation of the Results of Dioxin and Pentachlorophenol Testing of Commercial Oyster Beds in Humboldt Bay, California," dated July 18, 2002 (Environ International Corporation (ENVIRON)) and in "Evaluation of the Results of Dioxin and Other Chemical Testing of Commercial Oyster Beds In Humboldt Bay, CA from June and October, 2002", dated February 11, 2003 (EnviroNet and ENVIRON). In October 2002, tissue, infauna assessment, and sediment toxicity and bioaccumulation sampling were initiated. In October 2002, sediment samples were collected from the Mad River Slough, and Arcata and Eureka Bay areas. The tissue, infauna and sediment data collected will be used to implement ENVIRON's Revised Work Plan for Performing a Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment at the Sierra-Pacific Industries, Arcata Division Sawmill, Arcata, California, dated December 18, 2002 and ENVIRON's Sampling and Analysis Work Plan for October 2002 Sediment and Biota Sampling in the Mad River Slough and Arcata Bay, California, dated February 21, 2003.

UPCOMING SITE ACTIVITIES

Remedial alternatives utilizing some of the prevalent technologies to treat soil and groundwater impacted by chlorophenols are presented in the Interim Feasibility Study. Further evaluation of these and other applicable technologies is under way. Additional investigation of potential soil and groundwater impacts of petroleum hydrocarbons in the vicinity of the former used oil underground storage tank is also underway. A Final Feasibility Study will be prepared based on the results of these studies.

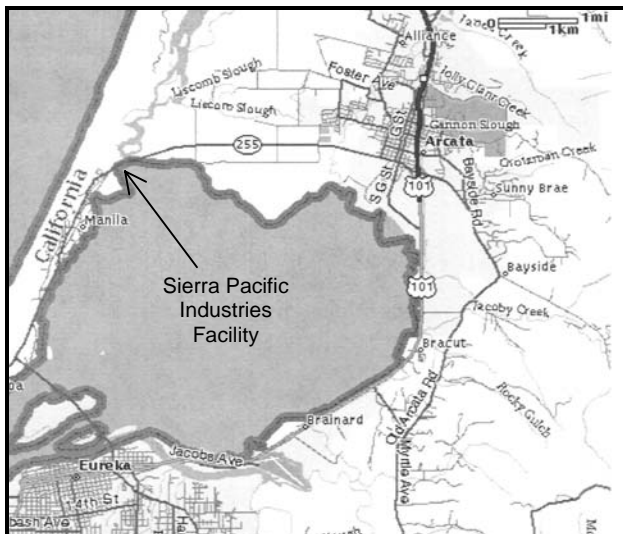
Based on the Final Feasibility Study, a proposed Remedial Alternative will be selected. Upon receipt of approval of this selected Remedial Alternative, a Remedial Action Plan will be submitted.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

A Workplan for a Public Participation Plan was submitted in January 2003 to the NCRWQCB and a draft Public Participation Plan (PPP) was submitted on May 14, 2003. The NCRWQCB provided approval of the PPP in a letter dated May 23, 2003. The PPP solicits community interest in site activities and identifies methods to keep the community involved and informed throughout the site investigation and cleanup process.

INFORMATION REPOSITORY

The PPP and copies of technical decision-making documents for the site will be available for public review at the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services – Division of Environmental Health, City of Arcata Library, and the NCRWQCB. The PPP and relevant technical decision-making documents can be reviewed at the following locations:



Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services

-Division of Environmental Health

100 H Street, Suite 100
Eureka, California

Business Hours:

Monday	8:30am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 5:00pm
Tuesday	8:30am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 5:00pm
Wednesday	8:30am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 5:00pm
Thursday	8:30am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 5:00pm
Friday	8:30am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 5:00pm

City of Arcata Library

500 7th Street
Arcata, California

Business Hours:

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	2pm - 5pm
Wednesday	1pm - 8pm
Thursday	10am - 5pm
Friday	10am - 5pm
Saturday	10am - 5pm
Sunday	Closed

California Regional Water Quality Control Board - North Coast Region

5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, California 95403

Business hours:

Monday	1:30am - 4:30pm
Tuesday	8:30am - 11:30am & 1:30pm - 4:30pm
Wednesday	8:30am - 11:30am & 1:30pm - 4:30pm
Thursday	8:30am - 11:30am & 1:30pm - 4:30pm
Friday	8:30am - 11:30am

Information is also available at:
www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb1/geninfo/sp/sierrapac.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to discuss the recent environmental activities at the SPI facility with someone, please contact:

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5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, California 95403
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