

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

October 2004

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 of the 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 facility has been active from 1950 to the present day.

Some of the lumber at the Facility 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 Facility 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 Facility until the 1970s.

Testing has indicated that the soil and groundwater at some areas of the site are impacted with PCP, TCP, dioxins, furans, and petroleum hydrocarbons.

On November 13, 2003, a new Cleanup and Abatement Order was issued to SPI by the NCRWQCB, and the previous cleanup and abatement order was rescinded.

RECENT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Since the last Environmental Activities Update (June 2003), numerous environmental activities have been conducted at the site and some are ongoing. These activities include soil and groundwater investigations, preparation of on-site human health risk assessment, an interim remedial measure to remove PCP-impacted soils, completion of a final feasibility study for remediation of the anti-stain/anti-fungus chemicals, implementation of a pilot study for the proposed remedial action, working to complete the off-site human health and ecological risk assessment, and groundwater monitoring. Two major activities and ongoing groundwater monitoring are summarized below.

Between May and November 2003, sampling and excavation activities took place in the former green chain area of the Facility where the anti-stain/anti-fungus solutions containing PCP and TCP were applied. The excavation was conducted to remove the residual source of PCP in soil at the Facility. Detailed information is presented in the report entitled "*Report on Interim Remedial Measures: Source Area Removal*", dated December 1, 2003, prepared by Geomatrix Consultants, Inc. (Geomatrix) and MFG, Inc.

On December 2, 2003, the final feasibility study that presents an evaluation of alternatives for remediation of the anti-stain/anti-fungus chemicals at the site was submitted to the NCRWQCB. The proposed alternative was source removal and monitored natural attenuation. Detailed information is presented in the report entitled "*Final Feasibility Study for Remediation of Wood Surface Protection Chemicals*", dated December 1, 2003, prepared by Geomatrix. On March 1, 2004, the NCRWQCB issued a letter that approved the final feasibility study and required a pilot study to demonstrate that natural attenuation is occurring. After completion of the pilot study, the NCRWQCB will consider adopting the proposed alternative as the final remedy. A pilot study work plan was developed by Geomatrix and submitted to the NCRWQCB on April 29 2004. On June 9, 2004, the NCRWQCB issued a letter

approving the pilot study work plan. Implementation of the pilot study has begun, and will be completed in 2006. Information on pilot study progress is included in the routine quarterly groundwater monitoring reports.

Groundwater monitoring at the site is ongoing. Further information is included in the report entitled, "Groundwater Monitoring and Progress Report, Second Quarter 2004", dated July 27, 2004, prepared by Geomatrix.

UPCOMING SITE ACTIVITIES

Additional sediment and fin fish sampling activities are scheduled for September and October 2004. The information gathered from these activities will be incorporated into the off-site human health and ecological risk assessment.

The pilot study to demonstrate that natural attenuation of PCP is occurring will be completed in 2006. Upcoming activities include preparing a Site Management Plan in 2004 and additional groundwater chemical analysis in 2005 and 2006.

Groundwater monitoring is ongoing and currently is performed on a quarterly frequency.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

The Public Participation Plan (PPP) was prepared on May 9, 2003 and submitted to the NCRWQCB. The NCRWQCB approved the PPP in a letter dated May 23, 2003. The PPP solicits community interest in Facility activities and identifies methods to keep the community involved and informed throughout the investigation and cleanup process.

INFORMATION REPOSITORY

The PPP and copies of technical decision-making documents for the Facility 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 offices and web site. The PPP and relevant technical decision-making documents can be reviewed at the following locations:

Humboldt County Health and Human Services Department—Division of Environmental Health

100 H Street, Suite 100, Eureka, CA 95501
 Hours:
 Monday through Friday
 8:30 AM-12:00, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Humboldt County Library Arcata Branch

500 - 7th Street, Arcata, CA 95521
 Hours:
 Tuesday 12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM
 Wednesday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
 Thursday 12:00 Noon to 8:00 PM
 Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

California Regional Water Quality Control Board—North Coast Region

5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
 Santa Rosa, CA 95403
 Hours:
 Monday through Friday
 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
 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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