

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

American Creosote Works Site

Pensacola, Florida



April 2017

Public meeting scheduled to discuss the proposed Cleanup Plan

Wednesday April 26, 2017 at 6:00
p.m.

Sanders Beach-Corinne Jones Resource
Center
913 South I Street

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites the public to comment on a Proposed Plan to clean up the American Creosote Works (ACW) Superfund Site, located in Pensacola, FL. This fact sheet discusses EPA's Proposed Plan to address the environmental impacts resulting from Site-related contamination. The public is encouraged to comment on the Cleanup Plan during the comment period. The Cleanup Plan and associated documents related to the ACW Site activities are available in the Administrative Record of the Information Repository housed at the West Florida Genealogy Branch Library in Pensacola, FL. Additional copies will be available at Sanders Beach-Corinne Jones Resource Center, 913 South I Street, Pensacola, FL 32502.

Background

The 18-acre ACW Site was a former wood-treating facility that operated from 1902 until 1981. The land use in the area includes high density residential to the south and west with commercial/industrial properties to the north and east. The former wood-treating facility used coal tar creosote and pentachlorophenol (PCP) in the treatment process. Four surface impoundments were located in the western portion of the ACW facility. The Main and Overflow ponds, located adjacent to L St., were used for disposal of process wastes. During operations, liquid process wastes were stored in the two unlined surface impoundments. Prior to 1970, waste water in these ponds presumably discharged through a spillway, flowed through the streets and storm drains into a ditch on the Pensacola Yacht Club (PYC) property into Bayou Chico and Pensacola Bay. In later years, liquid wastes were drawn off the larger lagoons and collected in the smaller Railroad Impoundment and Holding Pond or were spread out on the ground on the facility. Additional discharges occurred during periods of heavy rainfall and flooding when the ponds overflowed the containment dikes. Contaminants found in the soil, sediment, and groundwater are a result of the spills, overflows, and facility operations.

Previous Records of Decision

The Site has historically been divided into three operable units (OUs) to facilitate the EPA's response actions in addressing the cleanup of various media contaminated by the former facility wood treating and preserving operations. Contaminants of concern (COCs) have been identified in the soil, groundwater, and sediment. OU1 addresses the surface soil, sediments, and sludges on the former facility and in associated storm water drainage ditches to the east and south of the property. OU2 includes all subsurface areas directly impacted by non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL; i.e., creosote product) along with dissolved groundwater contamination. OU3 was established in 2007 to address the off-facility residual surface soil contamination.

We want your comments!

The EPA relies on public input to ensure the concerns of the community are considered in selecting an effective remedy for each Superfund Site. The public is encouraged to comment on the documents from:

April 22, 2017, to May 22, 2017

In 1985 the first Record of Decision (ROD) to stipulate a Remedial Action (RA) for the site was prepared for OU1, which selected soil excavation with on-facility encapsulation in a landfill. In 1989, this remedy was amended and bioremediation was selected for the OU1 soil remedy.

The 1994 OU2 (*subsurface contamination*) ROD selected a phased approach to address the creosote NAPL and the dissolved contamination. Direct NAPL extraction from wells and recycling was chosen for the Phase I remedy for the creosote NAPL. *In situ/ex situ* bioremediation was selected for Phase II dissolved groundwater contamination. The OU2 Phase I remedy was constructed in 1999 and operated intermittently for 12 years. In September 2011, the EPA decided to terminate operations of the NAPL recovery system, pending the selection of a new remedy in a Site-wide ROD. At the time of the system shut down, approximately 180,000 gallons of creosote NAPL had been recovered from the subsurface at the Site. The remedy was effective but was reaching diminishing returns.

A ROD Amendment (AROD) for OU1 was completed in 1999 that incorporated all the site-related contaminated soils, sludges, and sediments under a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-approved cap located on the ACW property. The remedy also included a provision for storm water controls and institutional controls. Several off-facility removal actions have been performed since 1999, with approximately 40,000 cubic yards (cy) of excavated soil from adjacent residential and commercial properties currently stockpiled on the ACW facility.

EPA'S Preferred Cleanup Remedy

The preferred remedy presents a site-wide remedy approach, combining all three OUs. For purposes of evaluating and selecting remedial alternatives for the ACW Pensacola site, contaminated soil, sediment, and groundwater were segregated into five distinct contaminated media zones (CMZs). The preferred cleanup remedy is a combination of specific remedial alternatives that were developed for distinct CMZs. The main source zone (CMZ-1) is characterized by the highest mass of contaminants identified as free-phase and residual creosote NAPL and NAPL-stained soils located on facility, that also has a competent clay confining layer beneath it. CMZ-1 is located along the western portion of the facility where the former impoundments and main process facilities were located. CMZ-2, located just south of CMZ1, also contains a NAPL plume but it does not have an underlying clay confining unit. CMZ-2 is subdivided into 2 components. CMZ-2A is located entirely on the ACW property and CMZ-2B is located off-facility. The secondary source zone area, CMZ-3, represents the on-facility area containing NAPL stained soils with significant leachable soil concentrations. All contaminated surface soils at the site were grouped into CMZ-4, with CMZ-4A representing surface soils located on facility and CMZ-4B representing surface soils off-facility. The contaminated groundwater plume (CMZ-5) extends beneath the source zones.

The preferred cleanup plan for CMZ-1 is a subsurface barrier wall. The barrier will completely surround the zone, extending from the ground surface down to and key into the underlying clay layer. At the surface, the entire area will be covered with a low permeability cap and vegetated cover, to prevent rainwater from infiltrating into the containment system. The preferred cleanup plan for CMZ-2A/2B (both on and off-facility) is thermal-enhanced NAPL recovery using steam-enhanced extraction with an overlapping multiphase extraction capture zone. The preferred cleanup plan for CMZ-3 includes a combination of *in situ* chemical oxidation (ISCO) and *in situ* enhanced bioremediation (ISEB) to treat soil and groundwater. An upgradient ISEB treatment zone along the northern CMZ-3 facility boundary will treat any contaminants on-facility and a combined ISCO/ISEB treatment barrier along the southern edge of the CMZ will address any contaminants that are migrating south towards the Bayou. The preferred cleanup plan for CMZ-4 is excavation of surficial soils. The on-facility soils to be excavated from CMZ-4A will be encapsulated within the barrier wall constructed for CMZ-1. The off-facility soils to be excavated from CMZ-4B will be placed on-facility and covered with a 2-foot protective soil cover. CMZ-4B includes a 10,000 cy spoils pile of NAPL impacted soil previously recovered from the PYC and 30,000 cy spoil stockpile that is currently located on-facility. The interim remedy preferred for CMZ-5 includes an extension of the CMZ-3 preferred remedy, the ISCO/ISEB treatment barrier. The groundwater remedies might be selected as the final remedies in the future. The groundwater will continue to be monitored to see if any additional activities are required. Institutional controls (i.e. limits to land and groundwater use) will be placed on the property.

Public Comment

EPA relies on public input to ensure the concerns of the community are considered in selecting an effective remedy for each Superfund Site. The public comment period runs from April 22, 2017, through May 22, 2017. The Administrative Record and Information Repository for the ACW Site is located at the West Florida Genealogy Branch Library, 5740 N 9th Ave, Pensacola, FL 32504.

EPA will host a public meeting on Wednesday, April 26, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. at the Sanders Beach-Corinne Jones Resource Center, 913 South I Street, Pensacola, FL 32502. Representatives from EPA will present the details of the Proposed Plan to address the environmental impacts at the ACW Site, and answer any questions the public may have regarding the preferred cleanup remedy. You may email your comments to thorpe.peter@epa.gov or, if you prefer to submit written comments, please mail them, postmarked no later than May 22, 2017, to Pete Thorpe at US EPA, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, 11th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30303.

After EPA has received comments and questions during the public comment period, EPA will summarize the comments and provide responses to all questions and comments in the Responsiveness Summary which will be part of the Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will select the final remedial action and will provide the rationale of EPA's selection.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

EPA Remedial Project Manager

Pete Thorpe (404) 562-9688
thorpe.peter@epa.gov

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator

LaTonya Spencer (404) 562-8463
Spencer.LaTonya@epa.gov
spencer.latonya@epa.gov

www.epa.gov/superfund/acw

Information Repositories

West Florida Genealogy Branch Public Library
5740 N 9th Ave, Pensacola, FL 32504

U.S. EPA Region 4 Office Records Center
61 Forsyth St, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303





Your input on the Proposed Plan for the ACW Superfund Site is important in helping EPA select a remedy for the Site. You may use the space below to write your comments, then fold and mail. A response to your comment will be included in the Responsiveness Summary.

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ACW SUPERFUND SITE

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Place
Stamp
Here

Peter Thorpe, Remedial Project Manager
U. S. EPA, Region 4
Restoration and Sustainability Section
61 Forsyth St., SW
Atlanta, GA 30303