



## Ketchikan Pulp Company Ward Cove Mill

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation • Division of Spill Prevention and Response

### Site Description

The Ketchikan Pulp Company (KPC) mill was located on the north shore of Ward Cove, five miles north of Ketchikan. The mill operated from 1954 to 1997. The predominant waste products from the mill were ash, wood waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and wastewater.

The KPC site is divided into two administrative units: the Upland Operable Unit (OU) and the Marine OU. DEC and the Environmental Protection Agency are jointly responsible for cleanup oversight of the Upland OU. EPA, with DEC input, is responsible for cleanup oversight of the Marine OU. This summary addresses the Upland OU only.

### Threats and Contaminants

The pulp process generated wastewater discharges and air emissions containing chemical by-products. Sludge, boiler ash, wood waste disposal, and various spills and releases of oil and hazardous substances in and around the mill site contributed to contamination problems.

Arsenic, lead, manganese, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, dioxins, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and petroleum hydrocarbons were identified as contaminants of potential concern.

### Public Health and Environmental Concerns

People and wildlife were possibly exposed to contaminants through inhalation; skin absorption; or accidental ingestion of contaminated ash, soil, or surface water.

### Response Actions

#### 1997

- Three-party agreement for investigating and cleaning up the facility signed by DEC, EPA, and KPC.
- Sampled soils, nearshore groundwater, and surface water seeps in and around the mill.

- Initiated cleanup of petroleum contamination in the railroad track area.

#### 1998

- Conducted human health and ecological risk assessments.
- Completed remedial investigation report.
- Conducted additional cleanup in the railroad track area.
- Removed contaminated soil in the access road ditch and compressor area.
- Closed Dawson Point wood waste landfill and engineered a new disposal cell.

#### 1999

- Initiated cleanup at the former storage area along the water pipeline.
- Initiated cleanup at the paint shop area.
- Completed cleanup at the bulk fuel tank area.
- Issued Proposed Plan for long-term management of residual contamination.

### Site Status

Additional investigation and some cleanup may still be required at the paint shop and along the water pipeline to ensure all contaminants above risk-based levels have been excavated.

Based on the information generated in the human health risk assessment and ecological screening evaluation, EPA and DEC determined that cleanup objectives would be met by completing early actions and implementing institutional controls to manage residual contamination.

The Record of Decision (ROD) is being drafted and expected to be issued in early 2000. The ROD will document the decision and supporting rationale for selected response actions.