



Ketchikan Pulp Company Site Uplands Operable Unit Ketchikan, Alaska

June 2000

KPC Cleanup Decision Made

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) have signed a **Record of Decision (ROD)** describing the final cleanup plan for the former Ketchikan Pulp Company (KPC), Uplands Operable Unit. The ROD was signed June 7, 2000. The Uplands Operable Unit includes the pulp mill area, the wood waste and ash disposal landfill, former storage areas along the water pipeline access road, and other land areas that may have been affected by pulp mill operations. The ROD also includes a **Responsiveness Summary**, which responds to all the public comments received on the earlier proposed plan for cleanup. EPA issued a separate ROD for the Marine Unit (Ward Cove) on March 29, 2000.

The ROD will be available at the locations listed on page 3 by the end of June.

Background

In 1997, the agencies began investigating the nature and extent of contamination at the KPC site. The investigation included studies to find out what risks there might be for humans and the environment if contamination were not cleaned up.

Human health risks to workers on site were found related to arsenic and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). Lead in soils was found to be above industrial cleanup goals. Petroleum compounds and their constituents were above State of Alaska cleanup standards. An additional study was done to determine risks from naturally-occurring arsenic in soils. These risks were determined to be in the moderate range. However, because this arsenic is in a form that is less likely to be absorbed into the body from soils, the actual risks may be lower. No unacceptable risks to human health were found in residential areas. No unacceptable ecological risks were identified.

Many Cleanup Actions Already Complete

Cleanup actions at the site involving soil excavation and off-site disposal are already done. No more removal activities are expected. These "early" cleanup actions are a large part of the final cleanup remedy. All the early cleanup areas had unacceptable risks to workers under an industrial/commercial land use, potential for contamination to move off site, or were being considered for redevelopment. Cleanup is complete at the following areas:

- Access Road Ditch
- Railroad Track Area
- Compressor Area
- Paint Shop/Formal Maintenance Shop
- Former Bulk Fuel Area
- Former Storage Area along Water Pipeline.

The wood waste and ash disposal landfill has been capped. The cap helps prevent water



from migrating through the landfill and isolates contaminants. A system also is in place to collect and treat any water that flows out of the landfill. Also, roof cisterns in the vicinity of the mill have been cleaned out.

What Work Still Needs to Be Done?

The remaining parts of the cleanup plan are summarized below.

Limits on future site activities: An "Institutional Control Plan" will be put in place to protect public health and the environment over the long term. The plan will restrict land use to commercial/industrial, except for the water pipeline access road where it will be restricted to recreational. Use of groundwater will not be allowed. Excavation or demolition activities will require sampling, characterization, and proper management of the soil.

Arsenic management plan: The landowners will control and limit exposure to arsenic from crushed rock used on the site. Information is now available in the locations listed on the last page, about the potential risks from naturally occurring arsenic in the Ketchikan area, and ways to reduce exposure.

Long-term monitoring and care of the landfill: Most of the landfill has already been closed. Proper closure of the last landfill cell is required when it reaches capacity, probably in 2001. The landowner must then develop and carry out an operation and maintenance program, and conduct long-term monitoring of the landfill.

Why Did the Agencies Choose this Remedy?

The agencies selected this remedy after evaluating it against specific criteria under EPA's Superfund Program. They found that the

selected remedy protects human health and the environment, complies with relevant state and federal requirements, is cost effective, and uses permanent solutions to the maximum extent practicable. These evaluations are described in the Proposed Plan (issued May 1999) and in the ROD.

The agencies also considered public input when selecting this remedy. The agencies encouraged the public to comment on the proposed plan from May 17 to July 19, 1999. Seven pieces of correspondence were received comprising 40 comments. Additionally, six people gave oral comments at a public meeting on May 26, comprising 15 comments. A summary of each comment, and the agencies' responses to those comments, are contained in the Responsiveness Summary, part of the ROD.

EPA is negotiating an enforceable legal agreement with KPC, its parent company, Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, and the new owner of the former KPC mill site, Gateway Forest Products, Inc. This legal agreement is called a Superfund Remedial Design/Remedial Action Consent Decree. The Consent Decree will outline how KPC will perform cleanup work, monitor progress in reaching cleanup objectives, and implement institutional controls, with oversight from EPA, under the authority of the federal Superfund law.

If an agreement is reached, the Department of Justice will hold a 30-day public comment period on the proposed Consent Decree. Notice of the proposed Consent Decree will appear in the Federal Register, and EPA will mail a Fact Sheet to the site mailing list. Comments will be submitted to and reviewed by the Department of Justice.



For More Information:

The Record of Decision, the Responsiveness Summary, the Institutional Control Plan, and other documents related to the KPC Project can be found at the following locations:

Ketchikan Public Library
629 Dock Street

Ketchikan ADEC Office
540 Water Street

Juneau ADEC Office
410 Willoughby Avenue

EPA Records Center
1200 Sixth Avenue, 7th Floor, Seattle

If you have questions, please contact:

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*KETCHIKAN PULP COMPANY SITE
UPLANDS OPERABLE UNIT
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA*