

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2009
From: Jose Negron, On-Scene Coordinator

To: Matt Taylor, USEPA R4 ERRB
Jim Webster, USEPA R4 ERRB
Richard Ball, MS DEQ
Shelby Johnston, EPA

Subject: Initiation of Removal Action
Southeastern Wood Preserving
Covington Drive and Hargon Street, Canton, MS
Latitude: 32.6181000
Longitude: -90.0161000

POLREP No.:	2	Site #:	041L
Reporting Period:	08/26/09-09/01/09	D.O. #:	0042
Start Date:	8/31/2009	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	8/26/2009	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:	MSD000828558	Contract #	EP-S4-07-03
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

BACKGROUND

The Southeastern Wood Preserving Site is an abandoned wood preservation plant facility which operated from 1928 until it filed for bankruptcy in early 1979. The Site covers approximately 20 acres and is located in a predominantly commercial/residential area just east of downtown Canton, Madison County, Mississippi. Batchelor Creek and Illinois Central Gulf Railroad border the Site to the north. The railroad is no longer operational. The City of Canton's drinking water well field lies just south of the Site. An abandoned industrial area lies to the east and a residential area borders the Site to the west.

The production process involved debarking of the Southern Yellow Pine timbers and placing them in retort cylinders for drying and pressure treatment using creosote and pentachlorophenol as preservatives. Prior to 1977 and the Clean Water Act, the facility reportedly discharged approximately 50,000 gallons of wastewater directly into Batchelor Creek. In May of 1977, the company was hooked into the City of Canton sewage system. The wastewaters were to be pre-treated prior to discharge into the City lagoons. On several occasions the City ordered the facility to cease discharge due to failure to adequately treat the wastewaters.

Batchelor Creek flows through a City park approximately 1 mile downstream from the Site, passes through a residential area and then continues through downtown Canton before leading into the Big Black River approximately 10-12 miles downstream. There is evidence of fishing and recreational usage in the Big Black River.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS

The Site has a long history of EPA involvement. The Emergency Response and Removal Branch (ERRB) of the EPA initiated an emergency response in early 1986 in order to stabilize three unlined surface impoundments that were overflowing on-site. Each impoundment contained creosote sludge and waters. The response action consisted of pumping 30,000 gallons of water from flooded areas of the Site, treating it, and discharging it into Batchelor Creek. Subsequent to this response, it was evident that the Site would be referred to ERRB for a removal action.

The initial Action Memo was signed in May 1986. It requested that site activities be addressed and funded in two phases. The scope of the first phase consisted of excavating and stockpiling hazardous waste on-site. The contaminated soils and sludges in the vicinity of the former lagoons were stabilized with lime kiln dust, placed in a stockpile and fenced. The second phase of the action was to consist of on-site treatment or off-site disposal of the material, but this action was delayed for several years.

In 1988 the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) contacted EPA after observing oily waste leaching into the Creek from the Southeastern Wood Preserving Site. SCS had designed a soil erosion prevention plan that called for excavating and widening Bachelor Creek. Through an Interagency Agreement, SCS contributed \$190,000 towards the excavation work. The Creek was widened according to Plan and a geofabric liner was placed in the bed of the Creek. The bed and the banks were then covered with rip rap in order to prevent erosion.

An exemption from the twelve-month statutory limit and ceiling increase as approved in August of 1989 in order to address the second phase of the removal action. A composite sample from the waste pile indicated a PAH concentration of 5016 ppm and a phenol concentration of 62 ppm. The 8000 cubic yard on-site stockpile was to be treated through bioremediation landfarming techniques. A ceiling increase and \$2 million exemption was approved in 1990 once proposals were received. The RCRA Land Ban treatment standards and air emission standards required a slurry phase treatment due to the health based risk associated with the Site's surrounding residential/commercial areas. The removal action required the treatment of the contaminated soil to the K001 waste code Land Disposal Requirements (LDR) standards. The contractor proposed to utilize a batch bioremediation process consisting of screening, mixing with water, slurrying in two parallel biological slurry reactors (BSRs), and final treatment and drying in a double lined land treatment unit (LTU).

In 1992 An Amendment to Removal Action Memoranda Requesting a Treatability Variance was approved. After several failed attempts to reach the K001 LDR Standards with the bioremediation technique, it became apparent that a treatability variance would be necessary. The clean-up levels for phenanthrene and pyrene were adjusted without compromising the goals of the Removal Action by maintaining concentration of total PAHs below 100 ppm.

On February 26, 2003, representatives from the EPA and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) met at the Site for a reconnaissance. During the reconnaissance the non effective treated soil was observed. It was noted that the pile had sunken over the years and could possibly be leaking into Bachelor Creek.

Current Activities

Starting on August 25, ERRS personnel mobilized to the Site. Site preparation started promptly on September 28 and continues. Site preparation consist primarily on the construction of an access road to leading into Bachelor creek and the construction of a temporary cell to stage contaminated soils and sediments excavated from the creek.

Other activities include the removal and segregation of rocks from the banks of Bachelor Creek and the establishment of a site office.

In an attempt to facilitate post removal restoration activities, the OSC met with personnel from the Us Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service to obtain drawings and contours from previous bank stabilization actions conducted by SCS

Planned Removal Actions

ERRS will install curtain and absorbent boom downstream of the excavation. Construct dam to re-route water from flowing flow into the excavation zone. Water flow will be diverted by pumping from behind the dam around the excavation zone and discharged back into Bachelor creek downstream of the excavation area.

Next Steps

Initiate removal of contaminated soils and sediments from the bottom of Bachelor Creek.

Key Issues

None

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$1,000,000.00	\$13,219.84	\$986,780.16	98.68%
Intramural Costs				
USEPA - Direct (Region, HQ)	\$100,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$98,500.00	98.50%

Total Site Costs	\$1,100,000.00	\$14,719.84	\$1,085,280.16	98.66%
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* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

response.epa.gov/SoutheasternWood

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