MARION PRESSURE TREATING COMPANY UNION PARISH LOUISIANA

EPA REGION 6
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 05

Contact:
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Site ID: 0604491

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Background

Marion Pressure Treating (MPTC) is located at 3583 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive (State Highway 551) in Marion. Union Parish, Louisiana. The site is an inactive or abandoned wood treating facility that used creosote in its treatment process. The MPTC site began operations November 1, 1964, and ceased operations on October 10, 1989, due to bankruptcy. From the beginning of operation, creosote was used exclusively for the wood-preserving operations. Creosote-contaminated process wastewater was generated during wood treatment and disposed of within an on-site, unlined surface impoundment from 1964 until 1985. Several inspections were conducted by the LDEQ in the 1980s and early 1990s. In 1995, the EPA Technical Assistance Team (TAT) conducted a Removal Site Assessment following a request by the LDEQ. This assessment, and subsequent more detailed site assessments indicated elevated levels of creosote in soil and sediment samples. A time-critical removal action to provide source control was completed by EPA in 1997. During this removal action, several site structures and tank contents were removed from the site. Sections of surface soil contaminated with creosote near the main facility operations area were consolidated into an area onsite. The original site covered a 10-acre square lot. However, site operations extended beyond the original 10 acres. Currently, the former operational areas and areas where contamination has migrated cover approximately 22 acres. The EPA built a fence around the site to restrict access to areas where sampling and visual observations had shown the presence or potential presence of creosote-related contamination.

The contaminants of concern are polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). The majority of contamination was found in the consolidation area and in the former backfilled impoundment area.

Although located in a predominately rural area, the area adjacent to the site is residential. According to an assessment conducted by EPA and comments presented by town officials, the most likely future uses of the property would be as a park or for recreation.

The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on June 28, 2002 and consisted of 2 Operable Units (OU), contamination of the on-site soils and removal of contamination from the ground water. The selected remedy for cleaning up the Site is to excavate wastes; on-site thermal desorption; off-site stabilization and disposal of residual wastes; back-fill excavated areas and re-vegetate.

Current Status

- Approximately $5 million has been spent to complete the removal work, remedial investigation, and the remedial design.
- EPA has determined that this site does not pose an immediate threat to human health, and will continue to monitor this site for any changes that may trigger additional action.
- EPA funded new work in the form of additional investigations at this site in Fiscal Year 2010 (ends September 30, 2010). At this moment EPA has approved the proposed work plan to initiate this work.
- Field activities conducted in mid December 2010. The investigations were conducted by EPA's Remedial Action Contractor, EA Engineering Science and Technology, Inc.
- EPA and its contractor will be reviewing the selected remedy to explore if other remediation options are feasible. The Feasibility Study Re-assessment report will be completed in 2012.

Benefits

- Remediation of the contaminated media will reduce the health and ecological risk associated with the contaminants.
- The EPA is working with the city and the community to ensure the property will meet future planned land use.
- A removal action in 1997 eliminated immediate risks from above ground tanks and associated hazardous contents and overall addressed the short-term risks of an acute nature.
- Approximately 100,160 pounds of liquid sludges and creosote were disposed offsite, and approximately 10,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils and debris were excavated and placed in a capped consolidation area.

National Priorities Listing (NPL) History

Proposal Date: October 22, 1999
Final Date: February 4, 2000

Location: The former facility is situated on a 10-acre tract of land along State Highway 551, approximately 0.5 miles north of the junction of State Highways 551 and 33 in the town of Marion, Union Parish, Louisiana. Facility operations extended beyond the 10-acres and current areas of concern cover over 22-acres.

Setting: The facility, located in a rural area, is an inactive and abandoned wood treating plant that was in operation from 1964 to 1989. The facility treated wood products, including poles,

bridge pilings, fence posts, and other lumber, using a creosote pressure impregnation process.

Photos: 1999 2000

Population: Marion, one of the oldest towns in Union Parish, was settled by pioneers from Alabama, who named it after their old home county in that state. It was first incorporated on January 13, 1909. There is currently a reported population of 775. A population of approximately 1038 people is reported within a two mile radius.

The facility is bounded by forestland. Big Creek, a small surface water body, lies approximately 500 feet east-southeast of the facility. Big Creek empties into Bayou de Loutre approximately 7.5 miles south of the facility.

Bayou de Loutre is classified as a natural and scenic stream and is used for the recreational fishing of catfish, panfish, white perch, and bass. A State wildlife management area is located 4 miles north of Marion. The Upper Ouachita Wildlife Refuge is located approximately 5 miles east, and federally listed endangered species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker and the bald eagle are known to live there.

Principal Pollutants: Creosote and PAHs

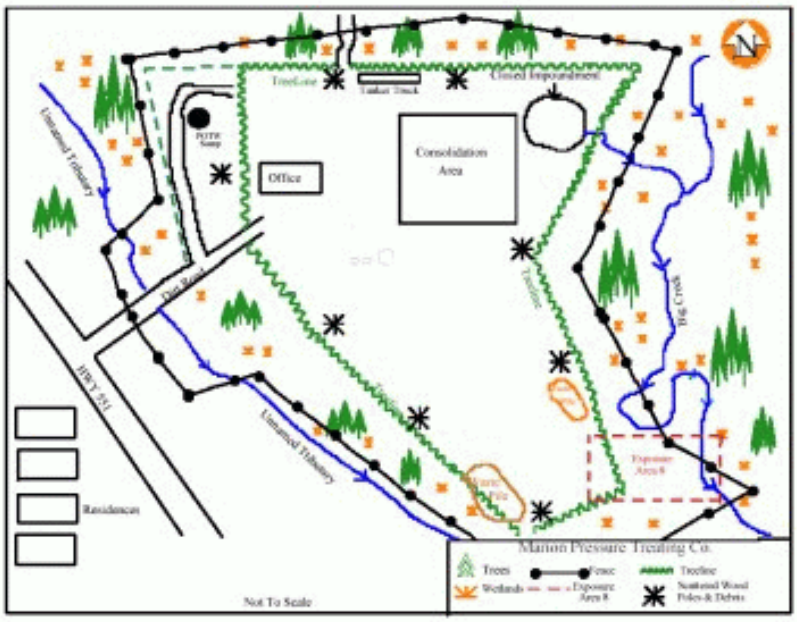
There are three source areas of possible concern:

Consolidation Area: Erosion has occurred on the eastern and western sides of the consolidation area, built during the removal action, threatening to undermine the integrity of the cap and surrounding fence. The liner covering the contaminated soil is exposed at several locations, and erosion could result in the further spread of contamination.

On-site Area: Soils may contain low levels of volatile and semivolatile organic compounds, specifically polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), in the former process area, tank product storage area, monitoring wells, and drainage pathways on the side of the former processing area. Several clusters of small creosote piles have also been identified in the woods, south of the facility, adjacent to and upgradient of the wetlands and Big Creek

Creek: Sediments on the creek, adjacent to and upgradient of the wetlands and Big Creek may contain low levels of creosote related organic compounds.

Site Map



Health Considerations

The potential for elevated health/ecological risk levels is due to various organic compounds associated with creosote and the wood treatment process.

These creosote related compounds, in on-site soil and the stream sediments are the leading concern at this site because of the ecological value of the creek.

Record of Decision (ROD)

The ROD was signed on June 28, 2002.

Site Contacts

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