



# Koppers Superfund Site Site Update

Newport, New Castle County, Delaware

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III

Fact Sheet

OCTOBER 2004

## EPA Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Cleanup Plan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a Proposed Plan for cleaning up contaminated soils, sediments and ground water at the **Koppers Co., Inc. (Newport Plant) Superfund Site**, just outside of Newport, Delaware.

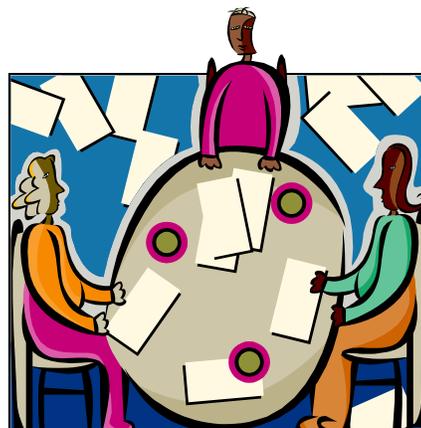
The plan outlines several options for cleanup, including the EPA's preferred cleanup option. EPA's preferred cleanup option addresses creosote contamination left behind from the operation of the former Koppers wood-treating plant. Creosote contamination has been found in Hershey Run; in numerous wetland areas; in soil; and in ground water.

### EPA's preferred cleanup includes:

- ✓ Consolidating all creosote-contaminated soils and sediments into two on-site containment areas.
- ✓ Collecting creosote contamination in the ground water.
- ✓ Long-term monitoring.
- ✓ Projected cost of \$52 million dollars.

This fact sheet summarizes the plan. If you would like to review the full plan document, please go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/>  
(Click on "Delaware", then "Koppers.")



## Public Meeting Planned

EPA will hold a public meeting to explain the Proposed Cleanup Plan and to receive oral comments.

**When?** Thursday October 21, 2004  
7:00-9:00 pm

**Where?** Peniel United Methodist Church, 115 E Market St  
Newport, Delaware

## We Want Your Opinion!

The public has 30 days to submit comments on EPA's Proposed Plan. Comments will accept from:

**October 7 to November 6, 2004.**

## Please mail comments to:

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA  
ATTN: Larry Johnson, 3HS43

You may also send them via email, to:  
[johnson.larry-c@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.larry-c@epa.gov)

## Summary of Cleanup Options

EPA considered five cleanup options. Some of the options were eliminated because they would not properly clean up the site. EPA's preferred cleanup is Alternative # 4.

Alternative 1: No Action.

Alternative 2: Covering upland soils; capping the sediment in Fire Pond, South Pond and K Pond; collecting sheetpile and NAPL (**Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid , a by-product of the creosote wood treatment process**) at Fire Pond and South Pond; monitored natural recovery in Hershey Run and adjacent wetlands; monitored natural attenuation of ground water contamination.

Alternative 3: Excavating, consolidating and capping shallow soils and shallow tidal sediments; capping Fire Pond, K and South Ponds; sheetpiling and collecting NAPL at Fire Pond and South Ponds; rechanneling Hershey Run; restoring wetlands; monitored natural attenuation of ground water contamination.

**Alternative 4: Excavating, consolidating and capping all contaminated soils and sediments; constructing a subsurface ground water barrier wall around consolidation area(s) with passive NAPL recovery; restoring ground water through excavation of NAPL-contaminated aquifer material outside of consolidation areas; rechanneling Hershey Run; wetlands mitigation; monitoring of ground water contamination.**

Alternative 5: Using steam to extract subsurface NAPL; excavating and off-site treatment of sediments and certain soils; restoring wetlands; monitored natural attenuation of ground water contamination.

## Detailed Summary of Alternative 4:

- Containment areas will be created near the worst creosote contamination. One containment area will extend into the Hershey Run marsh and include part of the existing channel. This will require rechanneling the upper reach of Hershey Run.
- Ground water barrier walls and collection systems will be built to prevent the spread of contamination.
- Wetlands will be created to replace those that may have to be filled in during the construction of the containment area. About one and one-half miles of Hershey Run and about four acres of wetlands will have to be dredged and the contaminated sediment will be consolidated in the containment areas.
- Contaminated soil will be removed from about 39 acres of uplands and create wetlands in some of these areas.
- New monitoring wells will be put in to enhance the existing monitoring network. Although no contamination has been found in the Potomac aquifer, the new wells will be able to more closely monitor the aquifer.
- Ground water and sediment will be monitored outside of the containment areas to make sure that the cap and barrier walls are working properly.
- Finally, legal restrictions called "institutional controls" will be put in place to make sure that any future land use will not interfere with the cleanup. Institutional controls will prevent putting in drinking water wells on the property. Once the cleanup is in place, the majority of the site can be beneficially re-used while the long-term monitoring takes place.

## EPA's Nine Criteria Analysis

**Before a final cleanup is chosen, all the options must be judged against nine criteria to make sure that EPA is selecting the best cleanup. The nine criteria are:**

1. *Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment*
2. *Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements*
3. *Long-term Effectiveness*
4. *Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume through Treatment*
5. *Short-term Effectiveness*
6. *Implementability*
7. *Cost*
8. *State Acceptance*
9. *Community Acceptance*

## Your Role in the Process

Community involvement is critical to EPA's decision making process. You have a voice in telling us what you think about our cleanup plan. Please review the plan and other site-related documents at:

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/>  
(Click on "Delaware", then "Koppers.")

**30-Day Public Comment Period and Public Meeting Opportunity:** You have 30 days (from October 7, 2004 to November 6, 2004) to comment on the cleanup plan. During that time, we will hold a public meeting to discuss the plan, and to record your comments for the official record. In addition, you may also submit comments in writing. (Comments should be postmarked by November 6<sup>th</sup>.) The date and time of the public meeting and the address to send in your comments are highlighted on the front of this fact sheet.

After the public comment period has ended and all the comments have been reviewed and carefully considered, EPA, in consultation with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, will choose the final cleanup plan for the site. The final cleanup will be described in a

## Record of Decision (ROD).

The answers to the public comments will be recorded in a document called the Responsiveness Summary, which is part of the ROD. If EPA gets any comments or information that change our preferred cleanup option, that will also be recorded in the ROD.

## For More Information

For more information about the plan or the documents and reports that were used in its development, or about the site in general, please visit any of the following locations:

### On the internet:

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/>  
(Click on "Delaware", then "Koppers.")

### Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Superfund Branch

391 Lukens Drive  
New Castle, DE, 19720  
(302) 395-2600

### Kirkwood Public Library

6000 Kirkwood Highway  
Wilmington, DE 19801

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3

EPA Administrative Records Room  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(Please call the Administrative Record Coordinator at (215) 814-3157 for an appointment).

## **Start a Community Advisory Group!**

Community Advisory Groups may be formed at any point and serve as a liaison between EPA and the community. Community members who wish to participate on a CAG should contact your Community Involvement Coordinator, Larry Johnson at (215) 814-3239 for more information.

## **Technical Assistance Grant**

EPA's Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program provides funds of up to \$50,000 to qualified citizens' groups affected by a Superfund site to hire independent technical advisors to help interpret and comment on site-related information. Since only one TAG may be awarded for a site, EPA encourages groups to consolidate to apply. For TAG information, please contact Amelia Libertz, TAG Coordinator at 1-800-553-2509

## **Historical View of Koppers Site**



## **United States Environmental Protection Agency**

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1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA  
19103  
Mailcode: 3HS43  
ATTN: Larry Johnson