



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 3
DELAWARE, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SAUNDERS SUPPLY COMPANY

SUPERFUND SITE COMMUNITY UPDATE

CHUCKATUCK, SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA

JULY 2009

EPA Transfers Treatment System to the Commonwealth of Virginia

EPA is planning to transfer operation and maintenance of the groundwater treatment system to the Commonwealth of Virginia on July 15, 2009 for the Saunders Supply Company Superfund Site in Chuckatuck, Suffolk, Virginia.



Background

While EPA was designing the cleanup system for the site, it was discovered that the pentachlorophenol (PCP) contamination in the groundwater had begun to migrate away from the Saunders property and toward Godwin's Mill Pond Reservoir. In order to protect this source of drinking water for the city of Suffolk, EPA utilized its Emergency Removal authority to design and construct a groundwater collection and treatment system.

The system was placed in operation in April 1998, and went through a startup phase until July 15, 1999 when EPA declared that it was operational and functional. By law, EPA can only operate such groundwater cleanup systems

for a maximum of ten years after being declared operational and functional. As such, EPA will be transferring the operation and maintenance of the system to the Commonwealth.

EPA's Involvement will continue

This transfer of responsibility does not mean that EPA will no longer be involved at the site. The Commonwealth will continue to issue yearly reports which EPA will review. In addition, EPA performed a Five-Year Review in December 2004, and the next one is scheduled to be completed by December 2009. EPA will continue to perform these Five-Year Reviews until the groundwater cleanup levels are met.

Site History

The Saunders Supply Company Site is a 7-1/3 acre former wood treating plant on Godwin Boulevard near Kings Highway in Chuckatuck. The wood treating operations ceased in June 1991, but it remains an active lumber yard today. Between 1964 and 1984, a mixture of PCP and fuel oil was used as the wood preservative. In 1974, the chromated copper arsenate process was added. Part of the spent PCP/oil sludge was disposed of by means of burning in an unlined pit or a conical burner on site, resulting in the generation of dioxin compounds. Also, some of the PCP sludge was sprayed around the site to control weeds. The soil and groundwater at the site were contaminated with arsenic, chromium, and PCP from the wood treating operations. The groundwater flow in the aquifer is towards Godwin's Mill Pond Reservoir, a primary source of drinking water for the city of Suffolk.

In 1996, a final cleanup remedy was selected by EPA and concurred on by The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The remedy included offsite incineration and disposal of the soil and operation of the groundwater treatment system. By changing the remedy previously selected in 1991, EPA was able to significantly reduce the time required to implement the remedy, thus reducing the impact on the ongoing operations at the Saunders Supply Company and the business on the adjacent property.

What is PCP?

Pentachlorophenol was widely used as a pesticide and wood preservative. Since 1984, the purchase and use of pentachlorophenol has been restricted to certified applicators. It is no longer available to the general public. It is still used industrially as a wood preservative for utility poles, railroad ties, and wharf pilings.

Pentachlorophenol is a manufactured chemical that does not occur naturally. Pure pentachlorophenol exists as colorless crystals. Impure pentachlorophenol (the form usually found at hazardous waste sites) is dark gray brown and exists as dust, beads, or flakes.

For more information about PCP visit the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) website at www.atsdr.gov.

Why a Five-Year Review?

EPA inspects sites every five years to ensure that cleanups remain fully protective of human health and the environment. These regular reviews, which are required by law when contaminants remain at a site, include:

- Inspection of the site and cleanup technologies.
- Review of monitoring and operating data, and maintenance records.
- Determination if any significant new health standards have been established since EPA selected a cleanup plan for the site.

The third Five-Year review for the Saunders Supply Company Superfund Site is expected to be completed in December 2009.

Community Participation

EPA's Five-Year review process may include interviews with community members if there is interest. Please contact Vance Evans to schedule an appointment.



For More Information

EPA's Administrative Record can be examined at the following locations or on-line at <http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/VAD003117389/index.htm>

Suffolk Public Library

443 Washington Street

Suffolk, VA 23434

Telephone: 757-514-7323

Hours:

Monday – Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday – Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Closed on Sunday

U.S. EPA Region 3

Public Reading Room

1650 Arch Street – 6th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Telephone: 215-814-3157

Hours by Appointment

Saunders Supply Company Superfund Site – July Update



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Your EPA Representatives

**If you have any questions or concerns regarding the
Saunders Supply Company Superfund Site, please contact:**

**Superfund Hotline
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