Superfund Construction Project – Funding Pending

Southeastern Wood Preserving Superfund Site
Canton, Mississippi

Site Description

The Southeastern Wood Preserving site is located in Canton, Mississippi. Several wood-treating companies conducted operations from 1928 and 1979. The companies used coal tar, creosote and pentachlorophenol as wood preservatives. Operators constructed three unlined wastewater holding ponds for disposal of wood preserving treatment sludges and process wastewater. Before 1977, the facility reportedly discharged 50,000 gallons of wastewater directly into Batchelor Creek. From 2007-2009, during the site's addition to the National Priorities List (NPL) and as multiple removal actions were performed, EPA discovered dense non-aqueous phase liquid and elevated concentrations of semivolatile organic compounds in site soil and creek sediments. EPA added the site to the NPL in 2012 because of soil, surface water and sediment resulting from facility operations.

Site Status and Cleanup Actions to Date

- In 2010, EPA installed a 1,500 ft long and 30 ft deep subsurface barrier wall along the Batchelor Creek's southern bank to prevent further DNAPL migration into the creek.

- From January 2013 through June 2014, based on soil results obtained during site investigation activities, EPA removed 19 residential and commercial properties' surface soil through a time-critical removal action. An estimated 1,700 cubic yards of soil were stockpiled on the former facility to be incorporated into the final site remedial action.

- EPA signed a record of decision in 2016, which includes a longer and deeper barrier wall to be constructed surrounding a nearly 8-acre portion of the site. Shallow contaminated soil from the barrier wall's exterior will be excavated and placed within the barrier wall, which will be covered with a composite low permeability cap and cover. Stormwater controls and long-term maintenance of the containment area and cap will be required. The treated stockpile will be transported off site, treated (if required) and disposed of at an approved landfill.

- EPA approved the remedy's design in 2018.

Project Pending Funding, as of the end of Fiscal Year 2019

This work consists of barrier wall construction and excavation, disposal and capping of contaminated soils.

Funding Through Fiscal Year 2019

EPA has provided approximately $11 million for cleanup activities at the site.