

Culpeper Wood Preservers Inc. Superfund Site



Community Involvement Plan

Culpeper, Virginia Prepared by: Cherokee Nation Assurance, LLC Prepared for: U.S. EPA Region 3

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1 - Introduction

Under the federal Superfund program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is overseeing a comprehensive environmental investigation and cleanup at the Culpeper Wood Preservers, Inc. Superfund Site (Site). Since 1953, the Site has featured various owners and operators on both its North and South Plants, producing various chemicals and solvents. Due to the presence of arsenic and chromium compounds in the groundwater, the Site was added to the National Priorities List (NPL) on October 4, 1989, making it eligible for long-term investigation and cleanup.



Throughout the Superfund process, EPA is committed to involving the public and keeping the community informed about cleanup activities and how these activities may impact them. In keeping with that commitment, this Community Involvement Plan (CIP) has been developed to facilitate two-way dialogue between the community affected by the Culpeper Wood Preservers Inc. Site and EPA to encourage dynamic participation throughout the cleanup process. The CIP is a site-specific resource for EPA staff, state and local partners, and the community that provides general Superfund program information; describes the Site and impacted community; identifies and assesses community needs, concerns, and expectations; and shares

Community Involvement Goals

- Provide the community with accurate, timely, and understandable information about the cleanup in a manner that is considerate of their preference and culture;
- Facilitate opportunities for public input and ensure community needs and concerns are considered; and
- Respect and consider community input and feedback on EPA's process as it is being carried out.

planned participation activities and communication options.

This document was prepared in accordance with regulations and guidance documents for conducting community involvement activities related to environmental restoration. The CIP is an evolving document and will be updated as needed to ensure the community remains informed and involved throughout the cleanup process.

2 - Superfund Overview

2.1 - What is Superfund?

To participate in or follow the Superfund process as it unfolds in your community, it is important to know what Superfund is and how it works. EPA's Superfund program, created in 1980 under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and amended in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), is responsible for cleaning up some of the nation's most contaminated land and responding to environmental emergencies, oil spills, and natural disasters. To protect public health and the environment, the Superfund program focuses on making a visible and lasting difference in communities, ensuring that people can live and work in healthy, vibrant places.

The Superfund cleanup process is complex and involves many steps. First, the Site Assessment program determines if a site poses an urgent risk needing immediate, short-term action that should be taken by EPA's Superfund Removal Program, or if a site poses less critical risk and should be placed on the National Priorities List (NPL). Some sites require no further action or may be referred to state agencies, but sites placed on the NPL undergo extensive investigation before appropriate cleanup plans can be determined and implemented. This long-term process is conducted by EPA's Superfund Remedial program. However, even during Remedial program activities, the Removal program can take immediate actions at any time if needed and/or beneficial.

While investigating or addressing a site, EPA is committed to ensuring that those who are responsible take the lead in cleanup, when appropriate, throughout the Superfund process. These parties are called potentially responsible parties (PRPs).

EPA also partners with states and tribes and takes steps to keep affected community members involved. It is important that community members know that EPA works to ensure that cleanup actions are conducted safely and provide long-term protection of human health and the environment.

For more information, please visit:

- EPA's Superfund website https://www.epa.gov/superfund
- This is Superfund: A Community Guide to EPA's Superfund Program <u>https://semspub.epa.gov/src/</u> document/HQ/175197
- Additional web resources are provided in <u>Appendix G</u>.

2.2 Components of the Superfund Remedial Process



Site Discovery and Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation (PA/SI)

This stage includes reviewing historical information and visiting a site to evaluate the potential for a release of hazardous substances. EPA determines if the site poses a threat to human health and the environment and whether hazards need to be addressed immediately or if additional site information will be collected.

National Priorities List (NPL) Site Listing

The NPL is an information resource that identifies sites that warrant cleanup. It is a list of the worst hazardous waste sites identified by the Superfund program. The list is largely based on the score a site receives from the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) during the Site Assessment process.

Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS)

This stage involves an evaluation of the nature and extent of site contamination and an assessment of potential threats to human health and the environment. It also includes the evaluation of the potential performance and cost of treatment options identified for a site.

Proposed Plan

The Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) summarizes the RI/FS and identifies the preferred cleanup remedy that EPA thinks balances all considerations.

Record of Decision (ROD)

Following a PRAP public comment period, a final ROD is issued, explaining which cleanup alternative(s) will be used at the site.

Remedial Design (RD) and Remedial Action (RA)

Detailed cleanup plans are developed and implemented during this stage. RD includes development of engineering drawings and specifications for a site cleanup. RA follows design and involves the actual construction or implementation phase of site cleanup.

Five-Year Review (FYR)

This is an analysis prepared every five years to determine if site cleanup remedies remain protective of human health and the environment. A five-year review is required when hazardous substances remain on site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure. The community is notified of the fiveyear review and asked to provide any information it has about the operations of the as-built remedy or any issues and concerns that have arisen regarding the cleanup.

Operation and Maintenance

After EPA determines that the physical construction at a site is complete, activities are put in place to ensure that the cleanup actions will protect human health and the environment over the long-term. For example, these activities may include routine maintenance at the site, such as making sure signs and fences are intact, ensuring treatment systems are running smoothly, and enforcing any long-term site restrictions.

NPL Deletion

Once cleanup goals have been achieved and a site is deemed fully protective of human health and the environment, EPA deletes it from the NPL.

Site Reuse

EPA's goal is to make sure site cleanup is consistent with the likely future use of a site. Consideration of reuse and redevelopment at a site can occur at any point in the Superfund cleanup process. EPA works with communities to make sure a site or portions of a site are used safely and in a beneficial way for the community.

3 - The Site: Overview & History

3.1 - Site Overview

The Culpeper Wood Preservers, Inc. Site, located in Culpeper County, Virginia, is an active 20-acre wood treatment facility that formerly used the chromated copper arsenate (CCA) waterborne treatment process. Early on in the plant's operation, pressure-treated lumber was placed on an uncovered drip pad. As the lumber dried, CCA-contaminated water dropped directly to the ground. In early 1981, approximately 100,000 gallons of CCA-contaminated wastewater were released from an unlined, on-site waste impoundment, contaminating neighboring surface waters. In January 1982, the Virginia State Water Control Board (SWCB) determined that the groundwater had become contaminated with arsenic and chromium from the wood treatment processes. The Site was formally added to the NPL on October 4, 1989 making it eligible for federal cleanup funds.

3.2 - Site History

In 1981, EPA and the Commonwealth of Virginia required that Culpeper Wood Preservers, Inc., the PRP, improve site conditions to control contaminated runoff. These improvements included removing a portion of contaminated soil, constructing newly covered drip pads, and reconstructing the waste impoundment. In addition, trenches were dug down gradient from the impoundments to catch leachate.

Culpeper Wood Preservers entered into a Consent Order with EPA to conduct a site-wide study to determine the extent of contamination and to identify alternative technologies for the cleanup at the site. Sampling of the surface water and sediments in the wetland areas down gradient from the site occurred in the spring of 2007. The bulk of the sampling (groundwater, soil, surface water, and sediments) on and near the Site occurred in August of 2007. Residential well sampling and additional soil sampling occurred in August 2008. Follow-up residential well sampling occurred in November 2008. Based on the residential well sampling, Culpeper is now supplying several homes with bottled water.

The Remedial Investigation was finalized on September 22, 2016 and the Feasibility Study report was finalized on May 13, 2019. On October 2, 2019, EPA determined that the release and threatened release of hexavalent chromium and arsenic from the Site may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health or the environment. EPA began work on a removal action at the Site in 2019, which will include installing a water line to connect many residents living near the Culpeper Wood Preservers Site to public water. Currently, the plans and timeline for this project are being developed. Work is expected to begin in the Summer of 2020 after public outreach, such as door-to-door visits and public meetings.

4 - The Community

4.1 Community Demographics & Economic Profile

Culpeper County, Virginia Demographics

According to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 2013-2017 Estimates, there were **49,795 people** living in **16,837 households**.

The gender breakdown was 50% male and 50% female.

Population by Age:





Race of Individuals Who Identified as One Race:



*Less than 1%



Households by Household Income:



4.2 Community Feedback

EPA has met or spoke via phone with the vast majority of the owners, residents, and employees of the businesses that will be connected to the municipal waterline. Almost all individuals strongly support connecting to the waterline and have expressed concerns regarding the long-term use of bottled water which has been provided by the potentially responsible party. Approximately 20% of the individuals contacted are of Hispanic descent and several individuals primarily speak Spanish. EPA will perform outreach activities in both English and Spanish to ensure all citizens have an opportunity to engage in the cleanup process.

5 - Community Involvement Action Plan

The foundation of Superfund's Community Involvement program is the belief that members of the community affected by a Superfund site have the right to be informed and involved in EPA's decision-making process. EPA recognizes the benefits that an engaged public brings to the Superfund cleanup process and is committed to providing and encouraging public participation so that the people whose lives have been impacted by hazardous waste sites and EPA's actions to clean them up, have a say in what happens in their community. EPA's Community Involvement program strives to maintain a consistent community presence and

build relationships with the residents, local stakeholders, tribes and federal, state and local government agencies.

This Community Involvement Action Plan highlights EPA's key objectives, methods, and timeline for conducting site-specific activities. Which ones are used and how frequently they occur usually reflect the For more information about available resources and opportunities, visit:

EPA's Superfund Community Involvement Website

https://www.epa.gov/superfund/ superfund-community-involvement

stage in the process and level of interest expressed by the community. To establish this plan, EPA considers several factors, including federal requirements and EPA policy that assess the nature and extent of known or perceived site contaminants and known community needs, concerns, and recommendations.

EPA Points of Contact

Evelyn Sorto Remedial Project Manager

U.S. EPA Region III 1650 Arch Street - 3SD23 Philadelphia, PA 19103 Phone: (215) 814-2123 Email: <u>sorto.evelyn@epa.gov</u> Katie Page Community Involvement Coordinator U.S. EPA Region III 1650 Arch Street - 3RA22 Philadelphia, PA 19103 Phone: (215) 814-2409 Email: page.katherine@epa.gov

Community Involvement Action Plan

Community Involvement Objectives	Tools & Methods	Status
Maintain points of contact	Points of contact (see <u>Appendix A</u>), Site website	Completed
Establish a location for the community to access key Site information	Information repository in community and at EPA (see <u>Appendix E</u>)	Completed
Maintain a consistent community presence to build relationships, especially among those directly affected by contamination and cleanup and non- English speaking families	Phone calls and door-to- door outreach to residents and businesses near the Site, factsheet distribution, Site website updates. Write and distribute news releases and public notices. Notify media for public comment periods, meetings, and information sessions. Have outreach materials and engagement events in English and Spanish to accommodate Hispanic population.	Door-to-door outreach; ongoing as needed
Conduct early, frequent, and meaningful community involvement activities using a wide variety of tools and strategies to engage and communicate ongoing and planned site activities with the community		Ongoing as needed
Explain technical site activities and findings in a format that all can understand	Fact sheets, Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC), Community Advisory Group (CAG), and Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)	Ongoing as needed
Evaluate community involvement and outreach efforts and adjust as necessary	Update Community Involvement Plan	April 2020; Periodically throughout the cleanup process
Coordinate with local authorities	Meetings and updates via phone	Ongoing as needed

Opportunities to get Involved and get Support

Community Advisory Group (CAG)

(https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-advisory-groups)

Self-governing stakeholder group that meets regularly to learn about EPA's cleanup process, discuss issues and concerns, and provide feedback to EPA. EPA can provide support to the CAG by attending meetings, making presentations, procuring meeting rooms, advertising the meetings, and providing copies of site-related documents.

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)

(https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-grant-tag-program)

 Competitive federal grant awarded to an incorporated nonprofit organization of community members affected by a site. Recipients contract with independent technical advisors to interpret, review, and evaluate siterelated technical information.

Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC)

(<u>https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program</u>)

• Program that provides independent educational and technical assistance to communities affected by a site. Such assistance helps communities to better understand the hazardous waste issues confronting them and make them well-informed while participating in the decision-making process.

For questions, please contact: **Gina Soscia, EPA Region III's CAG/TAG/TASC Coordinator** (215) 814-5538 <u>soscia.gina@epa.gov</u>

Appendix A - EPA and Other Agency Contacts

EPA

Evelyn Sorto

Remedial Project Manager U.S. EPA Region III 1650 Arch Street – 3SD23 Philadelphia, PA 19103 Phone: (215) 814-2123 Email: <u>sorto.evelyn@epa.gov</u>

Charlie Fitzsimmons

On-Scene Coordinator USEPA Environmental Science Center 701 Mapes Road – 3SD31 Fort Meade, MD 20755 Phone: (410) 305-3027 Email: <u>fitzsimmons.charlie@epa.gov</u>

Kevin Clark

On-Scene Coordinator USEPA Wheeling Office 1060 Chapline Street, Suite 303 - 3SD31 Fort Meade, MD 20755 Phone: (304) 234-0251 Email: <u>clark.kevin@epa.gov</u>

Katie Page

Community Involvement Coordinator

U.S. EPA Region III 1650 Arch Street—3RA22 Philadelphia, PA 19103 Phone: (215) 814-2409 Email: <u>page.katherine@epa.gov</u>

Gina Soscia CAG/TAG/TASC Coordinator

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Mark Ferrell State and Congressional Liaison USEPA Wheeling Office 1060 Chapline Street, Suite 303 - 3RA20 Wheeling, WV 26003 Phone: (304) 542-0231 Email: ferrell.mark@epa.gov

ATSDR

Karl Markiewicz

1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19103 Phone: (215) 814-3149 Email: <u>markiewicz.karl@epa.gov</u> www.atsdr.cdc.gov

Virginia

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Angie McGarvey P.O. Box 1105

Richmond, VA 23218 Phone: (804) 698-4084 Email: <u>angela.mcgarvey@deq.virginia.gov</u> <u>https://www.deq.virginia.gov</u>

Virginia Department of Health - Office of Drinking Water Deborah Hoy

400 S. Main Street Culpeper, VA 22701 Phone: (540) 829-7332 Email: <u>deborah.hoy@vdh.virginia.gov</u> http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/drinking-water/

Virginia Department of Health - Rappahannock/Rapidan Health District Whitney Wright

98 Alexandria Pike, Suite 42 Warrenton, VA 20186 Phone: (540) 316-6275 Email: <u>whitney.wright@vdh.virginia.gov</u> <u>http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/rappahannock-rapidan/</u>

Appendix B - Elected Officials

Federal

Senator Time Kaine

231 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 Phone: (202) 224-4024 https://www.kaine.senate.gov

Senator Mark Warner

703 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: (202) 224-2023 https://www.warner.senate.gov

State

Governor Ralph Northam P.O. Box 1475 Richmond, VA 23218 Phone: (804) 786-2211 https://www.governor.virginia.gov

Senator Emmett Hanger, 24 District

Pocahontas Building Room No: E507 Senate of Virginia P. O. Box 396 Richmond, VA 23218 Phone: (804) 698-7524 https://apps.senate.virginia.gov/Senator/memberpage.php?id=S47

Representative Michael Webert, 18 District

Pocahontas Building 900 E. Main St, Richmond, Virginia 23219 Phone: (804) 698-1018 https://virginiageneralassembly.gov/house/members/members.php?id=H0247

Last Updated: April 2, 2020

Representative Abigail Spanberger 7 District 1239 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-2815 https://spanberger.house.gov

Appendix B - Elected Officials

Local

Town of Culpeper

400 S. Main Street Culpeper, VA 22701 Phone: (540) 829-8240 https://www.culpeperva.gov

Mayor Michael Olinger Phone: (540) 717-4575 Email: <u>molinger@culpeperva.gov</u>

Culpeper County

302 N. Main Street Culpeper, VA Phone: (540) 727-3427 https://www.culpepercounty.gov

Board of Supervisors

Brad C. Rosenberger, Chairman - Jefferson District Sue D. Hansohn, Vice-Chairman - Catalpa District C. Jack Frazier - Cedar Mountain District Alexa V. Fritz - Salem District Steven L. Walker - East Fairfax District Gary M. Deal - West Fairfax District William C. Chase, Jr. - Stevensburg District

Appendix C - Media Outlets

Newspapers

The Culpeper Star Exponent

122 West Spencer Street Culpeper, VA 22701 Phone: (540) 825-0771 https://www.starexponent.com

The Culpeper Times

206 S Main Street Culpeper, VA 22701 Phone: (540) 812-2282 http://www.culpepertimes.com

Television Stations

NBC 12 - WWBT 5710 Midlothian Turnpike Richmond, VA 23225 Phone: (804) 230-1212 https://www.nbc12.com

CBS 6 - WTVR 3301 West Broad Street Richmond, VA 23230 Phone: (804) 254-3600 https://wtvr.com ABC 8 - WRIC 301 Arboretum Pl Richmond, VA, 23236 Phone: (804) 330-9780 https://www.wric.com

PBS VPM - WCVE 23 Sesame Street Richmond, VA 23235 Phone: (804) 320.1301 https://vpm.org

Radio Station

88.9 WCVE—National Public Radio 23 Sesame Street Richmond, VA 23235 Phone: (804) 320-1301 https://vpm.org/listen

Appendix D- Potential Meeting Locations

Culpeper Board of Supervisors

302 N. Main Street Culpeper, VA 22701

Dulce Home Realty, Inc.

16126 Brandy Road Culpeper, VA 22701

Appendix E - Information Repositories

When EPA proposes a site cleanup plan, it collects the documents that were used or relied upon to develop the proposed action. This collection of technical documents is called the Administrative Record. The Administrative Record is available online and at the information repositories. The following information repositories have been established for the Culpeper Wood Preservers site:

Local Repository

Culpeper County Library

271 Southgate Shopping Center Culpeper, VA 22701 Phone: (540) 825-8691

EPA Office

U.S. EPA Region 3 Administrative Records Room 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19103 Phone: (215) 814-3157, by appointment

Online

https://semspub.epa.gov/src/collections/03/AR/VAD059165282

https://www.epa.gov/superfund/culpeper

Appendix F - Sample Interview Questions

General Information

- 1. Are you aware of the Culpeper site?
- 2. (For residents) How long have you lived in this community?
- 3. (For officials) Do you live in the area affected by the site?
- 4. When/how did you first learn about the site?
- 5. What have you heard about the site?
- 6. What/who is the source of this information?
- 7. Do you think this information is credible?
- 8. Who do you consider reliable sources of information about local environmental issues?
- 9. Are there environmental concerns in the community, other than this site?
- 10. Who are the major employers in this area?
- 11. Did you or others in the community take any actions to focus attention on conditions at the site? If so, what were your concerns or goals?
- 12. Do you or anyone you know work at the site?
- 13. What are your current concerns about the site?

Community Involvement Information

- 1. Do you think community members would be interested in forming a community panel to follow the work at the site and help keep the community-at-large informed?
- 2. Would you be interested in forming such a group?
- 3. Do you know others who might be interested in such a group?
- 4. Do you know of any environmental or special interest groups, such as sportsmen's groups, that may be interested in participating in a group or being kept informed of site-related activities?

Keeping Residents Informed

- 1. What are the best ways for us to communicate with you? (Mailings, Email, Meetings/Information Sessions, Public Notices, etc.)
- 2. What kinds of information do you want?
- 3. How do you usually get information about the community or local environmental concerns?

- 4. Does your municipality have a cable station, website, or newsletter to keep community members informed?
- 5. What newspapers are most popular in this area? (Are they daily, weekly, online, or hard copies?)
- 6. What TV stations cover local news?
- 7. What radio stations, if any, do you listen to most often?
- 8. Do you use the internet or other social media, such as Twitter or Facebook?
- 9. Do you know of any residents in the site vicinity who have communications differences, such as hearing or visual impairments?
- 10. Do you know of residents in the site vicinity who may require translation services?
- 11. Are there residents or areas in the site vicinity that could be characterized as disadvantaged (or environmental justice communities)?

Planning Community Events

- 1. If EPA wanted to hold a meeting or an open house, can you suggest any locations that are convenient for residents?
- 2. Are there any nights of the week that we should avoid when scheduling meetings?
- 3. Are there seasonal community activities that are important and widely attended?

Appendix G - Additional Websites & Resources

Culpeper Wood Preservers Superfund Site https://www.epa.gov/superfund/culpeper

EPA's Superfund Program

https://www.epa.gov/superfund

Superfund Community Involvement https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement

This is Superfund: A Community Guide to EPA's Superfund Program http://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/HQ/175197

ATSDR ToxFAQS page

http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp