

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Brunswick Wood Preserving

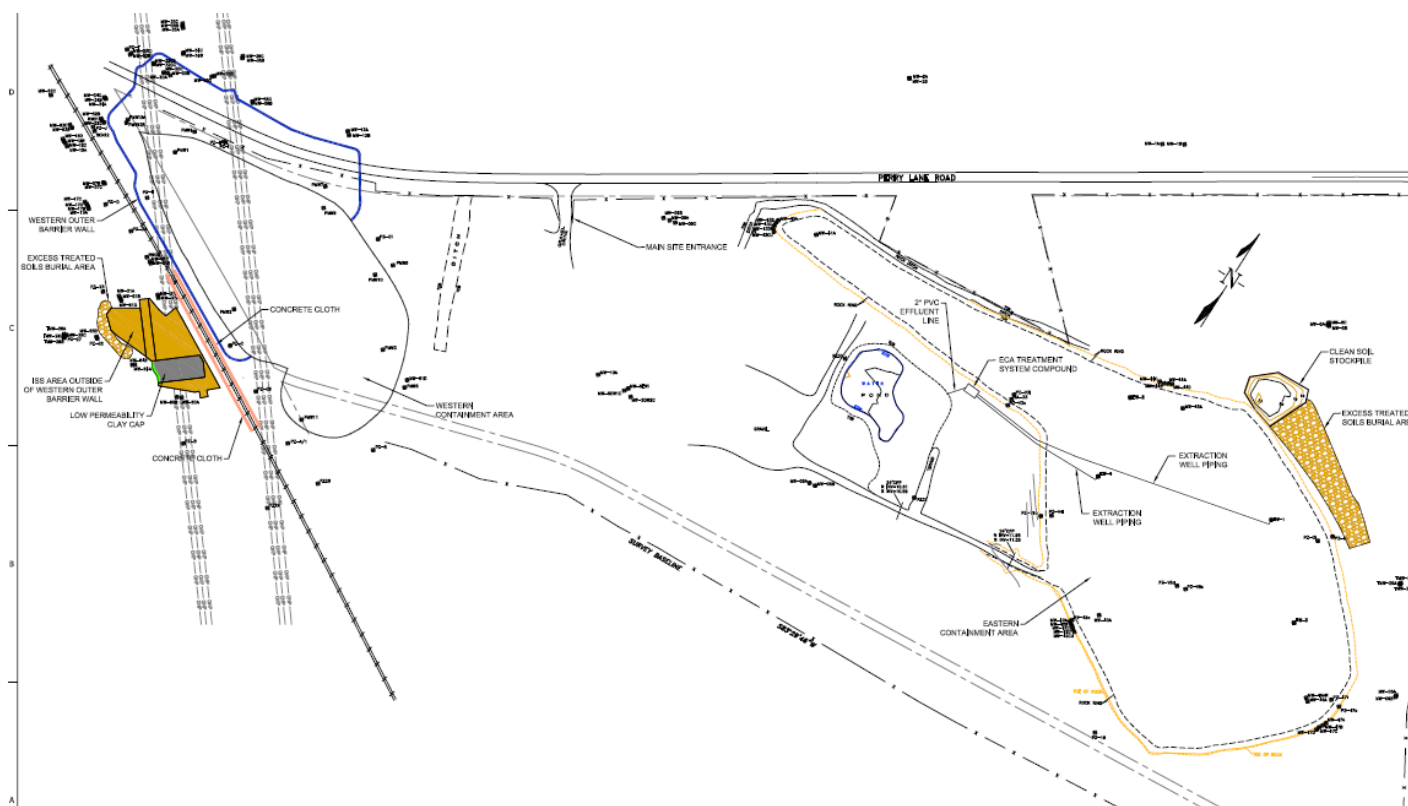
Superfund Site

Brunswick, GA



Fact Sheet

May 2018



Background

The 84-acre Brunswick Wood Preserving site is in Brunswick, Glynn County, Georgia. Railroads border the site to the east and west, Perry Lane Road borders the site to the north and residences and wooded areas border the site to the south. Burnett Creek, a tidally influenced stream, is located on the western end of the site. Public and private wells near the site draw water from the deeper aquifer. From 1958 until 1991, wood treating operations were conducted at the site, including creosote, pentachlorophenol (PCP) and chromium/copper/arsenic (CCA). EPA placed the site on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1997 because of contaminated groundwater, soil and sediment, resulting from facility operations. Work at the site has been divided in two Operable Units (OUs); OU1 addresses contaminated soil, sediment and groundwater, and OU2 addresses ecological risks, primarily to Burnett Creek. EPA and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) have investigated site conditions and taken steps to clean up the site in order to protect people and the environment from contamination. Site contamination does not currently threaten people living and working near the site.

Remedial Actions

In 1989, a major spill of diesel fuel, contaminated with pentachlorophenol, occurred to Burnett Creek. In 1991, the State of Georgia completed an investigation of the site shortly before the facility caught on fire and ceased operations. Between 1991 and 1995, EPA used Superfund's removal authority to address short-term risks at the site. Activities included demolishing and removing several structures from the site; removing water from sludge on site; treating wastewater; disposing of wastes off site; and digging up contaminated soils and storing them in four waste cells on-site. During 1996 and 1997, Georgia's Environmental Protection Division also completed several cleanup activities, including installation of a new railroad spur to facilitate cleanup activities and transporting for off-site disposal materials from three of the four waste cells that EPA had constructed on-site. In 2002, EPA issued a cleanup remedy for OU1 (Record of Decision-ROD); in addition, two Explanation of Significant Differences were issued for OU1 in 2011 and 2015. The OU1 remedy called for containment cells to contain and isolate contamination at the site. The eastern and western containment cells (ECA, WCA) subsequently constructed at the site consist of below ground barrier walls surrounding the former pond areas, solidified and stabilized site soils and sediments from Burnett Creek used as subcaps, and engineered caps. The WCA also includes a secondary subsurface barrier wall and cap that was constructed in 2011.

In 2012, the OU2 ROD selected a remedy of No Action, due primarily to decreased contaminant levels found in Burnett Creek sediments in 2011.

From 2011 to 2013, EPA operated a treatment system on the western end of the site using *in-situ* chemical oxidation to treat contamination in the shallow groundwater. Treatment was successful in the northern portion of the groundwater plume; however, in two areas creosote remained in the subsurface outside the WCA. In 2016, EPA remediated contaminated shallow subsurface soils with in-situ solidification. Deeper creosote located east of the creek at Perry Lane Road is not widespread and will be monitored in place.

In 2013, performance monitoring of water levels within the ECA and WCA had indicated fluctuating water levels inside the cells. From 2014 to 2017, EPA conducted hydraulic studies to investigate the need to control the fluctuating water levels. In 2015, a water extraction/treatment system was installed at the ECA, then upgraded in 2017 for long-term use.

Current Site Status

In August 2017, EPA finalized the second Five-Year Review of the site. As of March 2018, the State of Georgia will assume its Operation & Maintenance responsibilities for the site. Those responsibilities will include site maintenance, operation of the ECA water extraction/treatment system, and performance monitoring of the water levels inside and outside the ECA and WCA.

Until 2022, EPA will continue its responsibilities for the long-term groundwater restoration outside the WCA and ECA. Those responsibilities will include monitoring of contaminant levels in both monitoring and residential wells. EPA has sampled private wells regularly since 1991 and determined that contamination has not affected private wells in the site vicinity.

For more information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/brunswick-wood-preserving>

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