

# SUPERFUND

## Fact Sheet

TAYLOR LUMBER & TREATING SITE  
Sheridan, Oregon



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

June 2002

## New Owner To Continue Site Cleanup

Pacific Wood Preserving Companies, the largest treater of low-environmental-impact wood in the United States, recently purchased Taylor Lumber and Treating's wood treatment plant. A "Prospective Purchaser Agreement," which relieves the new company from Superfund liability for past contamination, was finalized on May 15, 2002. Over the past several months, EPA has been negotiating with parties in the Taylor bankruptcy and with Pacific Wood Preserving to reach a financial agreement. EPA will work closely with the new owner to continue to address soil and water contamination at the Taylor site.

Pacific Wood Preserving will not use any of the treatment chemicals that Taylor used, such as creosote or pentachlorophenol. Instead, the new company will use borate- and copper-based products for wood treatment, which are generally less toxic to people and the environment. The new company will continue to operate the pollution control equipment at the site, including an extraction system that prevents groundwater pollution from flowing into the South Yamhill River. The new company is looking at ways to use treated storm water and extracted groundwater by recycling it directly into the treatment process.

Pacific Wood Preserving expects to replace some of the jobs lost when the Taylor facility closed last summer. The company is planning to begin plant modifications immediately, and plans to have 25 to 40 people on its payroll when fully operational.

## Next Steps for the Cleanup Study

EPA is developing a comprehensive, long-term cleanup strategy to address contaminants in soil, sediments, groundwater, surface water, and possibly the South Yamhill River.

Last month, the agency gathered more groundwater samples from existing wells at the site. This summer, EPA will test soil and sediment from the site, and also from residential yards and ditches in the area. Additional sampling wells will be drilled, which will help EPA to identify whether any contamination is leaving the site. Water elevations are being measured each month to make sure the slurry wall is preventing further flow of contaminated groundwater towards the river. Results from these tests will fill in information that is missing from previously-gathered site data and will help EPA design a thorough cleanup plan.

After the cleanup study is finished, EPA will evaluate cleanup alternatives and recommend a final remedy for the site. At that time, we will hold a public comment period and hearing to gather community input on all alternatives before a final remedy is chosen.

## Cleanup Findings To Date

EPA has completed the first part of the cleanup study, which is called the Remedial Investigation (RI) Report. Here are some findings:

- Arsenic naturally occurs in soils around the area. While elevated arsenic levels have been found on the Taylor Lumber site, tests show that the arsenic in soils in nearby surrounding areas is similar to background arsenic concentrations.
- EPA's removal work at the site has temporarily addressed the most highly contaminated areas (see "Site Background").
- Most of the contaminated groundwater has been contained by an underground barrier wall installed in 2000. The groundwater outside the barrier wall is moving toward the river and will continue to be monitored.
- EPA needs to continue investigating the remaining areas of concern to determine the most appropriate permanent cleanup remedy.

The final Phase I Remedial Investigation Report is available at the information repository at the Sheridan Library.

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## Community Involvement Plan

EPA's Taylor Lumber Community Involvement Plan summarizes ways local citizens and officials said they wanted to stay informed about the site and participate in the decision making process. As community concerns and questions may change over the course of this project, the plan can be amended to meet community needs. It is available for review at the Sheridan Public

Library, and is also posted on the Taylor webpage (see end of this fact sheet for the web address). If you have questions or comments, or would like to find out more about how to get involved, please call **Debra Sherbina**, EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, at **(206) 553-0247**, or toll-free at **1-800-424-4372**, extension **0247**.

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## Site Background

The Taylor Lumber & Treating Site is about one mile west of Sheridan, Oregon at the intersection of Rock Creek Road and Oregon State Highway 18. Chemicals used for lumber treatment have been found in high concentrations in the soil, groundwater, and drainage ditches surrounding the facility. These chemicals include: arsenic, creosote, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and pentachlorophenol (PCP). Dioxin was also found at the site.

A lot of cleanup work has already been done at the site. During 2000, EPA and Taylor removed 4,200 tons of contaminated soil from ditches around the facility to keep it from washing into Rock Creek and the South Yamhill River. To prevent further movement of contaminated groundwater, EPA also built a slurry wall and an asphalt cap around the main treatment plant.

The cap will minimize any additional water seepage into the ground, where it could be contaminated by woodtreating chemicals in the soils. A second asphalt cap was built in the treated pole storage area. Both caps will limit airborne dust, which contains contaminants such as arsenic.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) and EPA share responsibilities for making sure environmental rules will be followed by Pacific Wood Preserving at the old Taylor site. ODEQ issues permits for air emissions and water discharges. EPA oversees hazardous waste management and site cleanup work. In June 2001, the Taylor site was added to EPA's National Priorities List. This is the list of the nation's most contaminated hazardous waste sites, identified for long-term cleanup.

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## For more information

Future documents related to cleanup activities will be placed in the site information repository at the Sheridan Public Library, 142 N.W. Yamhill Street, Sheridan, Oregon.

### **If you have any questions, please contact one of the following people:**

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## Online Information

If you would like to find out about other news at EPA Region 10, see our web page at: <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>. EPA also has developed a web page with information on the Taylor site. To find it, go to the EPA Region 10 web page, click on "Index," then click on "T."

*Please contact one of the numbers listed above for large-print documents, sign language interpretation, and other services.*