

In an effort to address some of your concerns, MDEQ and EPA will periodically distribute brochures containing answers to questions posed by the community. If you have any questions regarding the site, please contact **Jerry Banks, MDEQ, at (888) 786.0661** or **(601) 961-5221** or **Humberto Guzman, EPA, at (800) 435-9234** or **(404) 562-8942**.

Question 1: *Has the city's drinking water been contaminated by the wood treating chemicals?*

No. MDEQ tested the drinking water for wood treating chemicals in February 2004. There were no wood treating chemicals found in the samples.

Question 2: *Is the groundwater at the site contaminated?*

Yes. Groundwater contamination was found at the site. There is a layer of clay 100-300 feet thick between the groundwater contamination and the drinking water supply that likely will act as a barrier to keep contamination from reaching the drinking water. EPA will further evaluate groundwater contamination as part of its ongoing investigation.

Question 3: *What were the main contaminants found at the site?*

The main contaminants found at the site were creosote, pentachlorophenol, and dioxins/furans. Fact sheets containing more detailed information about the chemicals, exposure routes, and associated health effects can be found at www.atsdr.cdc.gov.

Question 4: *What is creosote?*

Creosote is a complex mixture of many chemicals. Most of the chemicals found in creosote are called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons or PAHs.

Question 5: *What is the source of the PAHs on site?*

PAHs are found at hazardous waste sites, especially those that performed wood treating with creosote. PAHs are also found at forest fires, residential wood burning sites, and in exhausts from automobiles and trucks, crankcase oil (used motor oil), and cigarette smoke.

Question 6: *How can one be exposed to PAHs?*

The main source of exposure is inhalation or breathing air that contains the PAHs such as cigarette smoke, vehicle exhaust, and other contaminated air that may be encountered at hazardous waste sites. Other exposure can come from contact with soils or water contaminated with PAHs.

Question 7: *How can PAHs affect my health?*

PAHs can be harmful to your health under certain circumstances. Several of the PAHs have caused tumors in animals. Some studies indicate that some people exposed to PAHs and other compounds are at risk for developing cancer. Most PAHs that enter the body leave in a few days, primarily in the feces and urine.

Question 8: *What is pentachlorophenol?*

Pentachlorophenol is a synthetic or man-made substance that is made from other chemicals. Some of the toxic impurities of concern found in pentachlorophenol are commonly called dioxins/furans.

Question 9: *What are the most common sources of pentachlorophenol?*

The most common source of pentachlorophenol is as a wood preserving chemical. Other minor sources are its uses in household pesticides.

Question 10: *How can one be exposed to pentachlorophenol?*

The exposure routes are air emissions from wood preserving plants that use pentachlorophenol and contact with surface water, groundwater, or soils contaminated by this process.

Question 11: *How can pentachlorophenol affect my health?*

The most obvious health effect is chloracne, a severe skin disease characterized by acne-like lesions. Exposure to pentachlorophenol may also cause skin, eye, and/or mouth irritations.

Question 12: *Were residents in the nearby community exposed to wood preserving chemicals?*

Residents living near the site may have been exposed to wood preserving chemicals if they were in direct contact with soils or sediments in the ditch adjacent to the site, on the site itself, or in the creeks containing the wood processing chemicals.

Question 13: *Will residents possibly be exposed to the contaminants of concern when cleanup at the site begins?*

Although there will be odors associated with the cleanup, residents will not be exposed to harmful levels of contaminants from the site.

Question 14: *How long will the ongoing investigation and final cleanup of the site take?*

The process will take many years and is dependent on funding from the potential responsible party and federal and state governments. The EPA is currently funding the ongoing investigation and feasibility studies to determine the appropriate method or methods for cleanup of the site. Once this is done, the site will be ready for the actual remedy design and cleanup to begin. Additional funding decisions will be made at this time and the state will have to provide ten percent of the cleanup costs.

Question 15: *Does the community have any input into the decisions being made concerning the cleanup of the site located in our neighborhood?*

Yes. There are several opportunities for the community to have input into decisions being made to clean up the site. When sampling is complete and several remedies have been identified, a public comment period and public meeting will be held. The community and other interested stakeholders at the site will be able to submit written comments on the proposed remedy and alternatives.

Question 16: *Is there some type of educational material to help the community understand the Superfund process and the risks associated with the site?*

Yes. EPA has training available to help the community understand the Superfund process. A video has been developed to increase the community's awareness of the risk assessment process used at Superfund sites.



If you believe that you have been exposed to creosote or pentachlorophenol and are experiencing adverse health problems, we recommend that you contact your physician.

If you have any additional questions, please contact:

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Mississippi Department of ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**PROPOSED
CLEANUP PLANS**
for the former Wood
Treating, Inc. site
in Picayune

April 2004



MDEQ strives to preserve
and protect Mississippi's air,
land, and water through fair
and responsible regulation.



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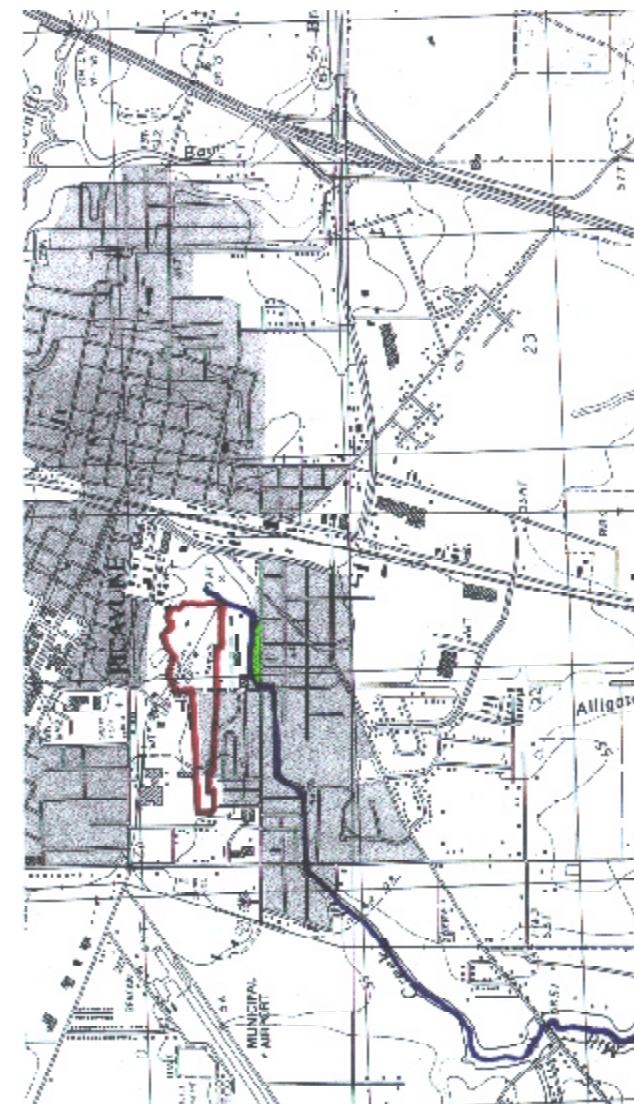
The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are publishing this information to answer questions about the site and to inform the citizens of Picayune and the surrounding area about the ongoing investigation of the former wood preserving plant, Picayune Wood Treating, Inc., located at 403 Davis Street in Picayune, Pearl River County, Mississippi.

Site History

Timber and lumber related operations began in the early 1900s, but the wood treating operation most likely began around 1946. The Crosby Products Company pressure-treated yellow southern pine wood with preservative chemicals (creosote and pentachlorophenol). In 1973, Wood Treating, Inc. purchased the facility and continued to pressure treat wood until 1999. Residential, commercial, and industrial areas presently surround the site.

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulated the Wood Treating, Inc. facility under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) from 1981 to 1999. Several enforcement actions were taken against the facility during that time.

A plan to treat groundwater was implemented in 1996 and continued until 1999 when Wood Treating, Inc. closed its business.



WOOD TREATING, INC.
PICAYUNE

- SITE
- PARK