U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

Picayune Wood Treating Superfund Site

Picayune, MS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) continue working together to ensure that community involvement, environmental awareness, and technical grant assistance are available to Picayune residents regarding the cleanup of the former wood treating Superfund site, Wood Treating, Inc., in Picayune, MS.

EPA and MDEQ will host a Public Availability Session on Thursday, November 4, 2004, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The public is invited to come and review information about the cleanup and talk one-on-one to state and federal representatives who are knowledgeable about the site cleanup.

Later the same day, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., EPA and MDEQ will host a public meeting.   Speakers from state and federal agencies will present the latest information regarding the cleanup and follow-up information from the last public meeting conducted in April 2004.

Both sessions will be held at the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, 501 Weems Street, Picayune, MS.

The former wood treating site is located at 403 Davis Street in Picayune, Pearl River County, Mississippi. 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). 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.

EPA and MDEQ regulated the Wood Treating, Inc. facility under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) from 1981 to 1999. Several enforcement actions were issued to the facility during that time period.

In September 2002, EPA began a Remedial Investigation (RI) to determine the nature and extent of the contamination at the Site. EPA began sampling the groundwater in existing monitoring wells in January 2003. Shallow groundwater contamination was found at the site. However, there is a large layer of clay (100-300 feet thick) between the groundwater contamination and the drinking water supply aquifer that acts as a confining unit to keep contaminants from reaching the deeper drinking water aquifer.

A plan to treat groundwater was implemented in 1996 and continued until 1999 when Wood Treating, Inc. closed its business. EPA will continue to evaluate groundwater contamination. MDEQ tested Picayune's drinking water in February 2004 and no wood treating chemicals were found in the samples.

Additional site soil sampling for the RI was conducted in February and May of 2004. Approximately 100 soil samples and 60 water samples from the site, the surrounding area, and Mill Creek have been collected and analyzed. The information will allow EPA and MDEQ to determine where other samples must be collected. Several rounds of sample collection are expected during the RI to determine the full extent of the contamination. In August 2004 EPA contractors installed 20 new monitoring wells on and around the site and conducted community interviews to develop a community involvement plan.

If you have any questions or comments about the Picayune wood treating Superfund site, please contact a representative listed below. Reports and documents pertaining to the Site may be viewed at the Site Repository located at Margaret Reed Crosby Memorial Library, 900 Goodyear Blvd., Picayune, MS.

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