

Fact Sheet
Simpson Plywood Mill (Old)
1200 West Del Norte Street, Eureka, CA

Site History

Since the late 1800's, the site has been used as a lumberyard or mill facility. From 1863 until 1950, Dolbeer and Carson Lumber Company owned the property and operated the site as Eureka Redwood Lumber Company, Mill 4. In 1950, Pacific Lumber Company acquired the property and operated the mill until 1952, when M&M Wood Working Company purchased the property and operated the site as the Eureka Plywood Mill. In 1956 Simpson Redwood Company (Simpson Lumber Co.) bought the property and operated the plywood mill. In 1963, Simpson Redwood Co. merged with Simpson Lumber Co. and operated the site as Eureka Plywood until 1968. In 1973 the plywood plant was abandoned and the site was leased to Halvorsen Properties until 1975. In 1981, the property was transferred from Simpson Timber Co. to Simpson Redwood Co. (Simpson Logging Co. of Michigan). In 1984, Simpson sold the site to Halverson Properties. In 1991, the site was purchased and is currently owned by Preston Properties. Since the late 1970's, automobile repair, storage yards and similar small businesses have operated at the site under lease from the property owner.

After the rough plywood panels were cut to finished dimension, they were sanded. Depending on customer needs, the panels could be edge sprayed with a solvent-based waxy edge seal, or coated with a pentachlorophenol solution (Woodlife). Edge seal was applied to the panels in a spray booth located onsite. Woodlife was also apparently sprayed on the panels. Spray product may have been mixed in a 10,000 gallon above ground storage tank located on the eastern edge of the site. There is anecdotal evidence that an underground storage tank may have stored the pentachlorophenol.

Investigations

Contaminant investigations at the site began in 1989. Numerous soil borings have been completed at the site. Over ten monitoring wells have been installed. Over time, and based upon sampling data from the soil borings and monitoring wells, several larger scale soil removals have occurred to remove the source of the contamination. The most recent soil removal occurred in September 2003 and involved excavating soil from an area on the eastern side of the site and from a drainage ditch between the site and the railroad tracks. Approximately 1,130 cubic yards were excavated during this work. The excavated soil was transported to a permitted disposal facility.

Site Monitoring

In 2004 a monitoring and reporting program was issued by the Executive Officer. This monitoring and reporting program updated and replaced a monitoring and reporting program that was issued for the site in 2001. The 2004 plan required the sampling of six monitoring wells twice a year (once during seasonal high and once during seasonal low groundwater). Contaminants analyzed for include total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (TPH-g), pentachlorophenol (PCP), tetrachlorophenol (TCP), BTEX, MTBE, and PAH's. In July 2005, the RWQCB approved the proper abandonment of monitoring well MW-04A, and the removal of well GP-01B from the monitoring schedule. In

August 2005, the RWQCB approved the proper abandonment of wells MW-01B, MW-02B and MW-03B. One sample location from the drainage ditch along the eastern edge of the site was to be sampled for PCP/TCP monthly when there is flow in the ditch. In May 2004, it was recommended that sampling of the ditch be discontinued based on post-remediation results. This recommendation was approved by the RWQCB. The location of this sample point is where the ditch goes into the culvert at the edge of Del Norte Street.

Additional onsite soil and groundwater investigations have been conducted at the site including dioxin analysis of groundwater of the A (shallow zone) aquifer. As monitoring data are evaluated and new information becomes available additional onsite or offsite monitoring may be required.

Future Actions

Preparation of an Ecological Risk assessment will be needed prior to the development of a final feasibility study/final remedial action plan for the site.

Full public participation during critical milestone determinations will be implemented.