

PACIFIC WOOD TREATING



Agreed Order for Interim Action Proposed

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Port of Ridgefield have agreed to a Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Chapter 70.105D RCW) order to conduct interim actions at the Pacific Wood Treating site. An agreed order is a legal document formalizing an agreement between Ecology and potentially liable persons (PLPs), to ensure that proposed site cleanup activities are conducted in a timely fashion, in accordance with MTCA and other applicable laws and regulations.

Your comments on this agreed order are welcome through **September 21, 1996**. The public is also invited to an information meeting on **August 28, 1996**, to discuss the proposed work, ask questions, and offer comments/concerns. The box to the right provides information about where to review the agreed order, where to submit comments, and details about the meeting.

Site Background

The Pacific Wood Treating facility, approximately 41 acres, is located at 111 West Division in Ridgefield. It is bounded to the east by the Burlington Northern Railroad and to the west by Lake River. North of the facility is the Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge and Carty Lake. To the south lies the Ridgefield Marina. The City of Ridgefield sewage treatment plant is located within

facility boundaries and is approaching its capacity. The facility was constructed on lowlands associated with the Columbia River and its sloughs.

Pacific Wood Treating has used wood preservatives at its facility from 1964 to 1993. Pacific Wood Treating pressure-treated specialty wood products with either creosote, pentachlorophenol (PCP), or copper/chromium/arsenic (CCA) solutions. Pacific Wood Treating stopped wood treating operations in 1993, when the company (including its president and parent company, Niedermeyer-Martin) went bankrupt.

The treatment chemicals were used in and around the tanks and drip pads where wood treating was conducted. Releases of hazardous constituents occurred in various ways, including dripping treatment solutions onto the ground, spilling creosote or treatment solutions onto the ground, spilling granular PCP and stored wastewater onto the ground, and discharging and leaking wastewater, stormwater, and materials from the buried drain system carrying them. Past waste disposal methods used on-site have included an unlined surface impoundment (now covered), a buried french drainage system routed toward Lake River, and on-site sludge incineration. Stormwater runoff from the facility was and is currently

August 1996

FACT SHEET

Ecology Southwest Regional Office
Toxics Cleanup Program
300 Desmond Drive SE
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
(360) 407-6300 (voice)
(360) 407-6306 (TDD)
e-mail dale461@ecy.wa.gov

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON AGREED ORDER:

August 21, 1996 to
September 19, 1996

Written comments and requests for updates should be directed to Dan Alexanian, Site Manager, at the Ecology address listed above.

INFORMATION MEETING:

August 28, 1996, 7 - 9 p.m.
Ridgefield Community Center
210 North Main Street
(360) 887-0504

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The agreed order can be reviewed at the following locations:

Ecology Southwest Regional Office
address listed above.

Ridgefield Library
112 South Main Street
Ridgefield, WA 98642
(360) 887-8281

Printed on Recycled Paper

Continued on Page 2

If you have special accommodation needs, please call (360) 407-6300 or (360) 407-6306 (TDD).

Continued from Page 1

discharged through four outfalls into Lake River. It is likely that the drip pad area, retort area, tank farm, and stormwater run-off areas have all leaked wood treating chemicals during the operational history of this facility.

The release and threatened release of these chemicals led EPA and Pacific Wood Treating to enter into a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) agreed order in 1991, which required Pacific Wood Treating to characterize and remediate these releases. Pacific Wood Treating stopped conducting any work under the 1991 agreed order in 1993. The Port of Ridgefield, which had leased the property to Pacific Wood Treating for 30 years, acquired Pacific Wood Treating's buildings and equipment when Pacific Wood Treating went bankrupt in 1993. The wood treating chemicals (some 160,000 gallons) stored in tanks on-site have been sold to another wood treating business. The Port of Ridgefield sold the wood treating equipment in 1994.

In June and July 1995, EPA conducted site soil and ground water sampling, which confirmed contamination by wood treating chemicals, including PCP, metals, and a group of compounds known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). These compounds were found above Washington State cleanup levels in some areas of the site. A one-foot layer of free product was found in a monitoring well near the tank farm.

A settlement agreement was entered into in November 1995 between EPA, Department of Interior, Ecology, and the trustees of the Pacific Wood Treating/Niedermeyer-Martin bankruptcy estates. A percentage of the estate's proceeds will go to EPA (or its agent, Ecology) and the

Department of Interior to conduct cleanup activities and assess/restore natural resources damages

When Pacific Wood Treating was in operation, there were numerous complaints from adjacent homeowners to the Southwest Washington Air Pollution Control Authority about fumes coming from Pacific Wood Treating. Residents have voiced that airborne contaminants are possibly in their soil and in their garden foods. Ecology and the Washington Department of Health (WSDOH) researched this matter. WSDOH has determined that PAHs and PCP degrade or volatilize readily in soil, within weeks to months for PAHs, and within hours to days for pentachlorophenol. The uptake of PAHs and pentachlorophenol from soil to plants is generally quite low. The primary route of human exposure from contaminated soil is by ingestion. Eating washed homegrown produce is a remote route of human exposure. Because PAHs and pentachlorophenol degrade rapidly in soils and because the source has been eliminated, these substances deposited as airborne contaminants from the facility are unlikely to be detected today in garden soils of nearby residents.

What Is Being Done?

The agreed order requires the Port of Ridgefield to take the following interim actions:

- ▷ remove contaminated sludges and sediments from the stormwater system;
- ▷ maintain a clean stormwater system;
- ▷ demolish and remove tanks and additional equipment in the tank farm area (this activity is underway);
- ▷ dispose of chemicals in the tanks (this activity is underway);
- ▷ investigate the exposed tank farm area to determine the extent of soil and groundwater contamination;
- ▷ identify cleanup alternatives for free product under the tank farm area.

The Port of Ridgefield may conduct additional site investigations or cleanup not listed above if the additional work does not slow the work required by the agreed order and if Ecology approves the work. Public notice about the extra work will also occur. Ecology will oversee the project to ensure that all facets of the agreed order are fulfilled.

What Happens Next?

Public comment on the agreed order will be considered and the order may be modified, if necessary, based on the comments received. Work is expected to be completed by December 1997. Further formal opportunities for public comment will occur when final cleanup is proposed under a consent decree.

Continued on Page 3

If you have special accommodation needs, please call (360) 407-6300 or (360) 407-6306 (TDD).

Continued from Page 2

Ecology Wants Your Comments!

You are invited to review and comment on the agreed order through **September 21, 1996**. The public comment period presents an opportunity to have your ideas and comments heard by Ecology. Information repositories, which include the agreed order, have been set up at the locations listed in the box on page one. To review more detailed site documents than those in the information repositories, contact Ecology's regional records center at (360) 407-6365 to schedule an appointment.

An information meeting is also being held at the Ridgefield Community Center (210 North Main Street) on **August 28, 1996**, beginning at 7 p.m. This will be an opportunity to learn about the site and proposed agreed order, and to voice your comments or concerns to representatives of Ecology and the WSDOH.

Please submit your written comments to Dan Alexanian, Site Manager, at the Ecology address listed in the box on page one. Ecology will review and respond to all comments received, and may revise the agreed order. Updates of site activities will be provided to those who submit comments or request to be placed on the site mailing list.

If you have special accommodation needs, please call (360) 407-6300 or (360) 407-6306 (TDD).

**Ecology Southwest Regional Office
Toxics Cleanup Program
300 Desmond Drive SE
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775**