

ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



St. Maries Creosote Site, St. Maries, Idaho

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

November 2006

Your Comments Are Requested by January 5, 2007 on EPA's Revised Cleanup Plan for the St. Maries Creosote Site

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites your comments on its revised Proposed Plan for cleaning up contamination at the St. Maries Creosote Site in St. Maries, Idaho. **Beginning December 6**, you can review the revised Proposed Plan at the St. Maries Public Library (*see page 5*). EPA will consider all comments received during the public comment period, **from December 6, 2006 to January 5, 2007**, before choosing a final cleanup plan.

Mail or e-mail your comments, postmarked no later than **January 5, 2007**, to

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Come to the Public Meeting

Your verbal and written comments will help shape the final cleanup plan and will be taken at the meeting, to be held:

Wednesday, December 13, 2006
7:00 — 9:00 p.m.
Avista Building
502 College Street
St. Maries, Idaho

About the Revised Proposed Plan

In July 2005, EPA issued a Proposed Plan for the site. During the public comment period, the site's potentially responsible parties submitted a technical proposal for EPA to consider. After this proposal was further developed, EPA revised the Proposed Plan to identify a new proposal as the preferred cleanup alternative — Alternative 9A.

The revised Proposed Plan compares the previous preferred cleanup alternative (Alternative 8) with the new preferred alternative (Alternative 9A). You can find descriptions of the other cleanup alternatives EPA considered in the July 2005 Proposed Plan and in the Feasibility Study. These documents are on the EPA Web page (*see page 5*). **Your comments are welcome on all alternatives.**

What will be cleaned up?

Studies done by EPA, the City of St. Maries, and Carney Products Company, Ltd. found that soils, sediments, and groundwater have been contaminated with creosote and its constituents, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), from the former pole-treating plant which operated at the site. Exposure to subsurface soils or drinking groundwater at the site poses a risk to people's health. In addition, contaminated sediments pose a risk to organisms living in the St. Joe River sediments, the fish that eat them, and potentially to some animals that eat the fish.

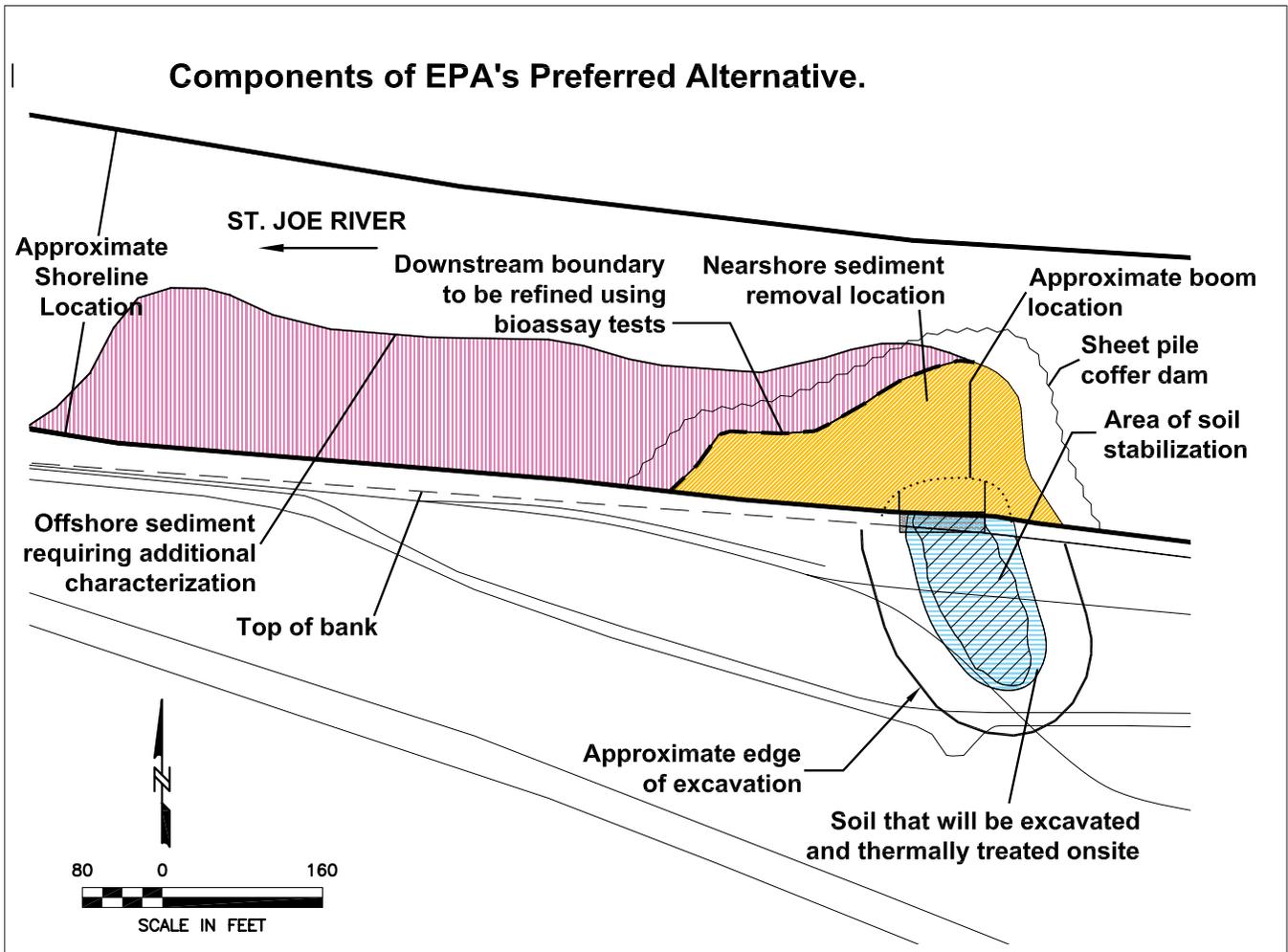
About creosote

Creosote, derived from coal tar, has been the most commonly-used wood preservative in the United States. It is made up of many chemicals, including PAHs, which can cause cancer. For more information, go to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) ToxFAQs website: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts85.html>

What is EPA's new preferred cleanup alternative?

Before selecting Alternative 9A as the preferred cleanup alternative, EPA evaluated and compared it to Alternative 8, the alternative EPA had selected previously. Using nine established criteria (*at right*) EPA selected Alternative 9A because it protects people's health and the environment, and complies with cleanup requirements. EPA believes that Alternative 9A would achieve the best balance in meeting the nine criteria.

- Criteria for Evaluating Cleanup Alternatives**
- 1 Overall protection of human health and the environment
 - 2 Compliance with state and federal laws known as "Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs)"
 - 3 Short-term effectiveness
 - 4 Long-term effectiveness
 - 5 Reduction of mobility, toxicity, and volume of contaminants through treatment
 - 6 Implementability or ability to carry out the alternative
 - 7 State/Tribal acceptance
 - 8 Community acceptance
 - 9 Cost



About New Preferred Cleanup Alternative 9A

Upland Soils

The top twenty feet of creosote-contaminated upland soils would be excavated and thermally treated. Then, the treated soils would be deposited on site. Contaminated upland soils deeper than twenty feet would be stabilized in place into a solid block. This would significantly reduce the amount of contaminants mixing with groundwater, which in turn carries contaminants into the St. Joe River. Land use in the cleanup area would be restricted to protect the cleanup. *(See diagram on page 2 for actions for each subarea in Alternative 9A)*

(See diagram on page 4 for a side view of potential contaminant pathways.)

Nearshore & Shoreline Sediments and Bank Soils

Contaminated bank soils, as well as contaminated shoreline and nearshore sediments in the St. Joe River would be excavated, dewatered, and thermally treated. Sediments and soils that are excavated would be replaced with clean materials. The treated sediments and bank soils would be placed on site with the treated upland soils. Water collected from dewatering the sediments would be treated and discharged to the St. Joe River, in compliance with surface water quality standards. If necessary, deeper nearshore sediments, shoreline sediments, and bank soils may be stabilized in place, or capped.

Groundwater

Contaminated groundwater captured during the upland soils excavation would be treated and discharged to the St. Joe River, in compliance with surface water quality standards.

Offshore Sediments

Offshore sediments would be further studied to define the extent and depth of contamination, determine site-specific cleanup levels, and determine how likely the sediments are to erode during flooding. Offshore sediments may be left in place, selectively removed, and/or covered with erosion-resistant materials to withstand flooding.

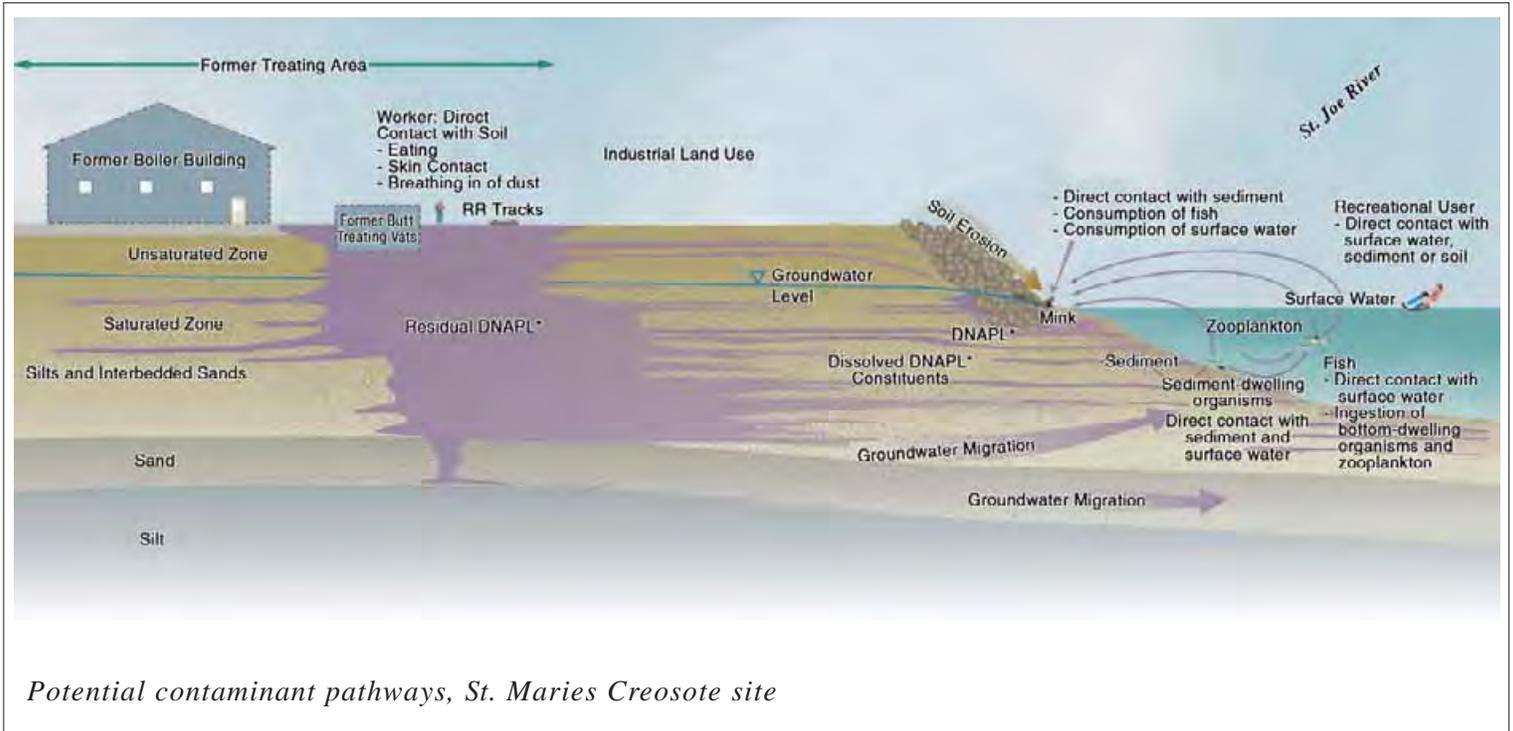
Site history

The St. Maries Creosote site is on the edge of the City of St. Maries, Idaho, along the south bank of the St. Joe River. The City of St. Maries and Carney Products Company, Ltd. own the site, located within the boundaries of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation. Carney Products leased a portion of the site from the City as well. From the late 1930s until 1964, a creosote pole-treating plant operated at the site. It was also used for peeling, sorting, and storing untreated wooden poles until it shut down in early 2003.

In 1998 and 1999, under a Unilateral Administrative Order, the City and Carney Products Company, Ltd., two of the potentially responsible parties, removed some creosote seeps and contaminated soils along the riverbank. They hauled about 195 tons of debris and contaminated soils to a hazardous waste landfill.

In December 2000, the site was proposed for EPA's National Priorities List of the nation's most contaminated sites targeted for cleanup. Although EPA has not finalized listing of the site, cleanup has moved forward consistent with Superfund process.

In August 2001, the City of St. Maries and Carney Products Company, Ltd. signed a consent order with EPA, agreeing to study the site and evaluate cleanup options. The study is called a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. The City and Carney Products have taken about 190 soil, sediment, groundwater, and river water samples. Creosote was found in upland soils, groundwater, and in St. Joe River sediments, especially along the riverbank and shoreline in front of the site. EPA, in consultation with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, has overseen this work.



Potential contaminant pathways, St. Marie's Creosote site

The preferred alternative is based on current information. New information or public comments could change this remedy and how it is carried out.

What are the next steps?

EPA will consider all comments received during the public comment period before choosing a final cleanup plan. The final plan, and responses to public comments, will be documented in the Record of Decision.

Find the cleanup plan

Beginning December 6, you can review the revised Proposed Plan and the Administrative Record (documents that support the cleanup decision) at:

The St. Maries Public Library
822 W. College Avenue
St. Maries, Idaho
Call 208-245-3732 for hours.

EPA Records Center
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington
Call 800-424-4372 for an appointment.

Find the revised Proposed Plan on EPA's website: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/stmaries>

If you would like a copy of the Revised Proposed Plan, contact **Debra Sherbina**.

For more information

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If you need materials in an alternative format, please call Debra Sherbina. TTY users, call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.



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St. Maries, Idaho
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