



# Test Results Show Neighborhood Soil is Safe

Former Koppers Wood-Treatment Site  
Carbondale, IL

June 2005

## Public Meeting – Aug. 2

EPA has scheduled a public meeting to present information about last winter's neighborhood soil tests, status of cleanup work and health concerns. Representatives from EPA, Occupational Medicine Clinic at Stroger Hospital of Cook County and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry will make presentations. Officials from Illinois Dept. of Public Health and Illinois will also be at the meeting and will be available to answer questions:

**Tuesday, Aug. 2, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Thomas School (gym)**  
**1025 N. Wall St.**  
**Carbondale**

For more information about the public meeting or cleanup activities contact:

### **Bri Bill**

Community Involvement Coordinator  
EPA  
77 W. Jackson Blvd. (P-19J)  
Chicago, IL 60604  
(312) 353-6646  
(800) 621-8431  
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays  
bill.briana@epa.gov

For health-related concerns, contact:

### **Lynn Stone**

Environmental Toxicologist  
Illinois Department of Public Health  
2309 W. Main St.  
Marion, IL 62959  
(618) 993-7010  
lstone1@idph.state.us.il.us

Files about the cleanup project are available for review at the site's information repository:

**Carbondale Public Library**  
**405 W. Main St.**

[www.epa.gov/region5/sites/koppers](http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/koppers)

Laboratory tests of soil collected just outside the southern property line of the old Koppers Wood-Treating plant show the soil to be free of wood-treatment chemicals. In response to concerns by local residents, a team from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois EPA collected 14 soil samples in March to see if properties near the former Koppers plant have been affected by contamination. The findings are good news for residents, as they mean it's unlikely that contamination on the Koppers property has spread to the neighborhood. EPA will discuss these results at an upcoming public meeting Aug. 2. See the box to the left for more information.

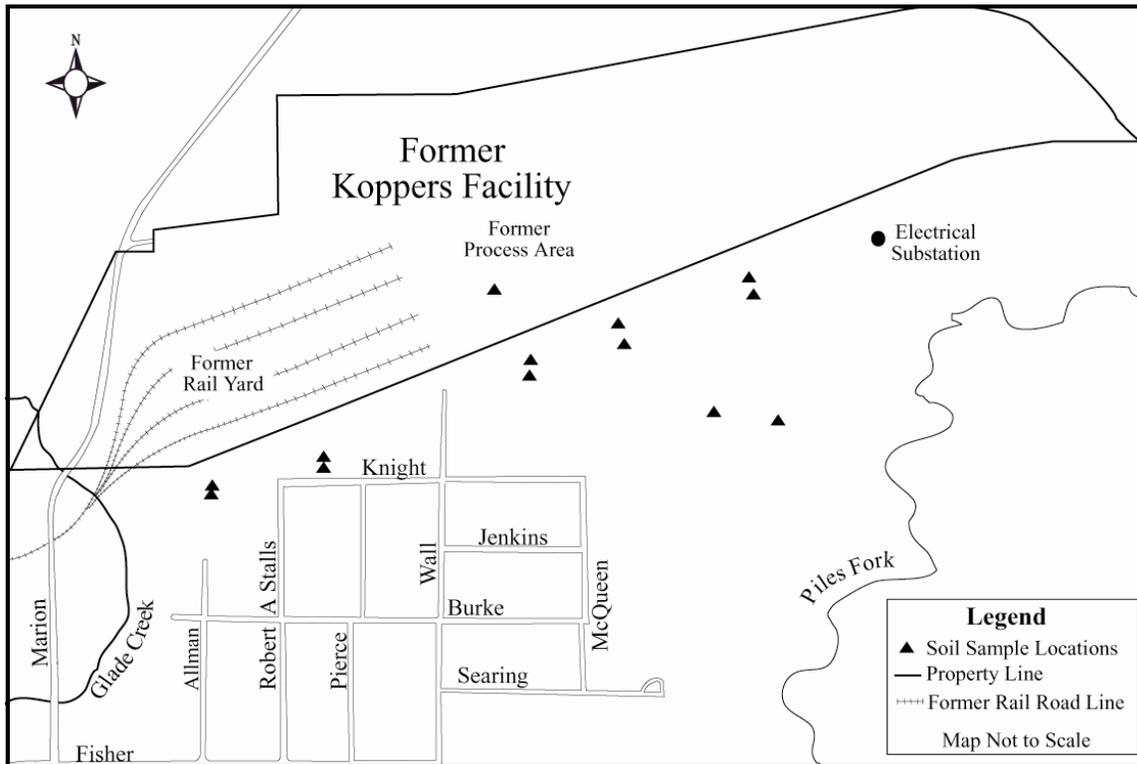
## Residents pointed out suspicious areas

Sampling locations were chosen after the team met with a group of residents who pointed out areas that had flooded in the past. These residents were concerned that flood water may have carried contamination into the neighborhood. In all, 14 soil samples were collected including 12 from vacant land outside the property, one just inside the property line and one from Oakdale Park, located about ½ mile "upwind" of the Koppers property. The results were compared against State of Illinois cleanup guidelines for residential soil, called *Illinois Tiered Approach to Corrective Action Objectives* or TACO. The contamination in one neighborhood sample slightly exceeded the guidelines, but a nearby sample closer to the neighborhood met the Illinois health standards as did other samples collected in the neighborhood. The test results are available to read at the library.

## Public meeting to discuss health concerns and cleanup

EPA's April 2005 mailer mentioned that the Agency was talking with other federal and state health officials to see what help might be available to address residents' health concerns. For the past few months, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry – a federal agency that studies how pollution affects people's health, and Illinois Department of Public Health have been in contact with Stroger Hospital of Cook County (Illinois) to see what services its Occupational Medicine Clinic might be able to provide to residents with health concerns. This clinic is staffed by doctors who specialize in health problems stemming from occupational (job-related) and environmental exposures to chemicals.

Besides a meeting for the general public, the agencies have set up informational sessions between a clinic physician and local doctors affiliated with Memorial Hospital in Carbondale. If you believe you have site-related health issues, you may wish to have your doctor contact Lynn Stone (see box at left) for more information about these meetings. In addition, the clinic specialist has agreed to make a presentation to the public about possible health effects associated with chemicals found at Koppers. Also at the meeting, EPA will provide a summary of the soil sample findings and give an update on cleanup efforts. The clinic doctor and representatives from the federal and state cleanup team will answer questions after the presentations. For more information about the meeting, contact Bri Bill (see box at left).



*In early March,, a team from U.S. and Illinois EPA collected soil samples just outside the southern boundary of the former Koppers Wood-Treating facility. An additional sample was collected from Oakdale Park, located approximately ½ mile southwest of the facility (not shown). Test results revealed that neighborhood soil is largely free of wood-treatment chemicals, and unaffected by the pollution on the Koppers property.*



Region 5  
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604

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