

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Koppers Site Fact Sheet: Site Cleanup Update

Former Koppers Wood Treating Site

Carbondale, Illinois

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For more information:

Please contact these team members:

Rafael P. Gonzalez

U.S. EPA Public Affairs Specialist
Land and Chemicals Division
312-886-0269

gonzalez.rafaelp@epa.gov

Carolyn Bury

U.S. EPA Project Manager
Land and Chemicals Division
312-886-3020

bury.carolyn@epa.gov

U.S. EPA toll-free: 800-621-8431,
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., weekdays

EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Information Repository and Website:

A file containing official documents
about the Koppers site is available at
the Carbondale Public Library,
405 W. Main St.

or visit:

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

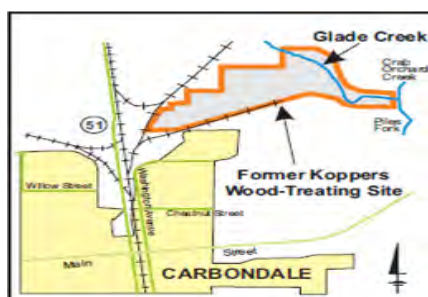
SUMMARY: Neighborhoods near the former Koppers Wood Treating Plant will be protected from any potential contamination from the site regardless of any re-use of the property. The property has been demolished and cleaned up based on regulatory standards.

Contaminated materials were removed from the site and other contaminated materials isolated in-place. The site is inspected, monitored, and maintained by the owner. A caretaker visits the site at least three times per week to perform maintenance duties, removals, and inspections. The management plan and containment measures remain in effect under EPA oversight. Any site owner will be required by law to monitor and maintain the property and to follow rules regarding how the site can be redeveloped. The owner must keep the contamination in place and away from surrounding neighborhoods permanently.

Off-site sampling in 2005, 2006 and 2012 by EPA, Beazer East, and the City of Carbondale found no Koppers' site-related contamination in the nearby neighborhood.

Koppers Clean-up History

The former Koppers Wood-Treating Plant operated from 1902 until 1991, treating wood products like railroad ties with chemicals to prevent decay. Beazer East, Inc., (Beazer) became the owner of the facility in 1988 and is responsible for the environmental issues on and around the property. In 2004, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) selected a remedial strategy of managing wastes on-site, including soil, sediment and debris at the Koppers site. This strategy is used at contaminated sites across the country as the most effective approach way to mitigate contamination at those sites. Additionally, Beazer continues to extract liquid creosote from the ground which is shipped off-site for disposal or recycling. Most former industrial sites have residual contamination which is why they can only be re-used for new industrial development, or for certain commercial uses where exposures are controlled.



Former Koppers Wood Treating Site

General Site Re-use Criteria

- No housing, churches or daycare.
- No well construction or use of groundwater for drinking, cooking, bathing, etc.
- Groundwater must be monitored
- No excavation in specified areas
- No disturbance of soil covers or CAMU (Corrective Action Management Unit)
- Any erosion or degradation of remedies must be repaired
- Local land-use approvals and restrictions apply

Potential Koppers Site Re-Use Options

- Limited commercial
- Limited industrial
- Limited storage
- Renewable energy
- Educational

How Remediation Works

In the case of a former industrial site, such as Koppers, the level of clean-up depends upon how a site will be reused. Remediation, which is subject to regulatory requirements:

- Isolates contaminated material
- Restricts future use of the site to non-residential uses
- Requires permanent monitoring of groundwater
- Requires permanent inspection and maintenance of the soils covers, the CAMU, and the overall property condition

Koppers Site Remediation

Contamination at the wood-treating plant was caused mainly by releases and spills of creosote, heavy metals, and pentachlorophenol. Remediation includes:

CAMU: The Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU) encapsulates dug up soil, creek bed materials, waste piles, and some demolition debris. The CAMU was designed per regulatory requirements and holds 30,000 cubic yards of material. A double liner and liquid collection system prevent release of liquids and contain the materials. The cover system reduces rainwater infiltration and prevents people and wildlife from coming into contact with contaminated materials within.

The owner has spent \$12 million on cleanup and restoration of the Koppers site through 2012



Koppers Site Containment Unit

Soil Remediation: Soils soaked with creosote where wood was treated were placed in the CAMU. In addition, 37 acres of soil are held in place beneath low-permeability covers with at least one foot of soil, and grass or roadway surfaces. Much of the covered area includes an additional engineered layer. Soil covers, which are a standard remedy at contaminated sites, prevent people and wildlife from coming into contact with the contamination. The soil covers are regularly inspected for cracks, holes and erosion.

Monitoring Wells: Groundwater inspection wells are placed around the site. Groundwater is tested in a laboratory every year to assess whether contaminated groundwater stays within the property boundaries.

Glade Creek Clean-Up and Restoration:

This remedy involved:

- Relocating a contaminated creek channel to a clean area
- Digging a trench near the old channel location to collect underground creosote
- Sending creosote off-site for re-use or disposal
- Excavating 9,000 cubic yards of downstream soil, mixing it with stabilizing materials, and placing it in the CAMU

Overall Health Management

- During construction, dust was controlled by water spray-trucks
- Air quality was monitored to protect workers and surrounding neighborhoods
- Beazer and the EPA will continue risk assessments to guide decisions about any necessary additional cleanup

For additional information and updates, visit
www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/rcra/koppers/.