

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

RCRA SHOWCASE PILOT REGION 10

Name: Taylor Lumber & Treating Inc.

RCRA ID#: ORD 00904 2532

Location: Sheridan, Yamhill County, Oregon

The Taylor Lumber & Treating Inc. facility (Taylor) is a sawmill and wood treating plant that has been implementing corrective action under a RCRA section 3008(h) order since 1995¹. Region 10 is proposing Taylor as a RCRA showcase pilot project in order to create innovative approaches that will expedite cleanup and achieve control of both human exposure and ground water release at this site by the end of 2005 where we have not otherwise projected these goals will be met. The Taylor project is innovative in using Superfund authorities because the facility owner has limited funds. We will speed the achievement of environmental indicators as the RCRA and Superfund programs will be working together to implement site characterization strategies that efficiently assess environmental indicators and conduct interim actions to achieve controls. This pilot project will work because the site is proposed to the National Priorities List and the full range of Superfund authorities will be available when the facility owner does not have the resources to achieve the environmental indicators and final cleanup of the site.

This project will showcase the benefits of some new approaches to program integration for other RCRA facilities. The RCRA and Superfund programs will continue to work together to incorporate data from previous investigations into the remedial investigation and feasibility study. The RI/FS will expand the RCRA facility investigation into a full assessment of off-site releases to neighboring residences, surrounding habitat, waterways, and sediments. Any future Superfund enforcement case will build upon the existing RCRA 3008(h) order to preserve the agency's claims during bankruptcy proceedings. This project will also showcase the environmental and economic benefits of accessing Superfund resources for removal and interim remedial actions where necessary to protect human health and the environment when the Taylor Lumber owners lack the resources to do all the corrective action required. Taylor Lumber filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in July 2001 so the RCRA and Superfund programs will have to work closely together to achieve the GPRA environmental indicator goals by 2005. We will also showcase the community benefits including more involvement in plans for cleanup, access to a Superfund technical assistance grant and a role in the future use decisions for the site.

Region 10 has worked with Taylor, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Health Division, the City of Sheridan, and the Sheridan Federal Correctional Institution in developing this project. This project has been developing

¹Consent Decree in Civil Action No. 93-858-JO entered by the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon on April 11, 1995.

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since the summer of 1999 when Region 10 determined the need for a Superfund integrated site assessment. That assessment led to an Action Memorandum for a time-critical removal to address the imminent problems. EPA then issued a CERCLA Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) to Taylor to perform some of the time-critical work. Taylor performed only a portion of the work required by the UAO, alleging that it lacked financial resources to comply fully. From November 1999 to November 2000, EPA conducted a Superfund removal action and oversaw the limited removal activities and associated facility modifications performed by Taylor during the same period. At the same time, EPA was evaluating the more detailed data gathered during the integrated assessment. On the basis of the integrated assessment, EPA determined that the Taylor Site qualified for listing on the NPL and prepared a listing package. The Taylor listing proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on December 1, 2000. The owners and operators have been supportive of the idea of using Superfund removal actions and testing innovative approaches to meeting corrective action goals for cleanup.

Region 10 has the lead for this project. There is a Taylor project coordination effort that includes the Offices of Environmental Cleanup, Waste & Chemicals Management, Water, Environmental Assessment, Ecosystems & Communities, and Regional Counsel. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration is assessing natural resource damage. The Grand Ronde tribes are natural resources trustees. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality supports the NPL proposal, reviews and comments on EPA’s cleanup and RCRA program activities, and implements the NPDES program at Taylor. The Oregon Health Division and the City of Sheridan monitor the South Yamhill River drinking water that contributes part of the City’s supply. Taylor conducts the corrective action investigations, NPDES storm water treatment system operation and partial removal actions, as their limited finances allow.

We believe that other wood treater sites may potentially employ some of the innovative approaches developed at Taylor. There is evidence of releases of waste materials including arsenic, PCP and creosote at other facilities that continue RCRA operations under the wood treater rules. This pilot may also benefit other facilities that apparently lack the immediate resources necessary to cleanup their historical contamination.

Milestones:

Phase 1 Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Start.....	May 2001
Community Involvement Plan Update.....	June 2001
Phase 1 RI/FS Complete.....	December 2001
Additional Removal or Interim Actions Complete.....	November 2002
Phase 2 RI/FS Complete.....	December 2002
Environmental indicators re-evaluation.....	January 2003

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Record of Decision Complete.....	August 2003
Remedial Design Complete.....	May 2004
Environmental Indicators Achieved.....	July 2005
Remedial Action Complete.....	November 2005

EPA has a long history with the Taylor Lumber facility. Since 1995, Taylor has been implementing corrective action under a Consent Decree and incorporated Administrative Order on Consent (AOC/CD). This AOC/CD resolved a complaint filed under RCRA alleging violations arising from illegal disposal of hazardous waste. The CD required Taylor to pay a penalty, close the area of illegal disposal, and, pursuant to an AOC attached to the CD and incorporated by reference, perform RCRA corrective action at the facility to clean up spilled wood treating chemicals impacting soil, surface water, ground water, and air on and off the facility. The AOC required Taylor to implement interim corrective measures to deal with the most pressing problems at the site. These interim corrective measures ultimately identified construction of a storm water treatment system to address the high levels of contaminants entering the South Yamhill River through storm water runoff. Taylor's storm water treatment system began operating in November 2000. The EPA removal program constructed a slurry wall around the contaminant plume underlying the wood treatment plant and covered the area with an asphalt cap. Another asphalt cap was placed over arsenic contaminated soils in the log storage area.

Pilot progress will be measured using the quarterly corrective action progress reports submitted by Taylor along with Superfund remedial investigation progress reports. The Taylor project coordinator will gather and summarize these reports along with oral reports from project participants and prepare quarterly progress updates for the showcase pilot web site. Region 10 will continue project oversight under the AOC/CD, as well as NPL site management and coordination with state programs.

Regional Contacts:

Mike Slater	Project coordinator	(503) 326-5872	slater.mike@epa.gov
Bruce Long	RCRA Site Manager	(503) 326-3686	long.bruce@epa.gov
Loren McPhillips	NPL Site Manager	(206) 553-4903	mcpillips.loren@epa.gov
Jennifer Byrne	Regional Counsel	(206) 553-0050	byrne.jennifer@epa.gov
State Contacts:			
Marilyn Daniel	State Site Manager	(541) 686-7838	DANIEL.Marilyn@deq.state.or.us
Bryson Twidwell	NPDES Permit Manager	(503) 378-8240	TWIDWELL.Bryson@deq.state.or.us