DEQ: Public review, comment invited on cleanup options for Prinevilleâ€™s American Pine Products

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Comments Due By April 30, 2009

PRINEVILLE, Ore. -- The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is providing notice for a public opportunity to review and comment on the draft Record of Decision for the American Pine Products site in Prineville.

A Record of Decision is a public document that explains the cleanup alternatives used to clean up a contaminated property. The document contains a description of the site history, site characteristics, contaminants present, an evaluation of the potential cleanup options, and a recommendation on a final remedy that will protect human health and the environment.

The American Pine Products site at 1948 North Main St. has been in nearly continuous use as a wood-products manufacturing facility since at least 1938 to the current day. Historic spills of pentachlorophenol, a common wood preservative, have contaminated both soil and groundwater. The process included dipping wood into a mixture of mineral oil and pentachlorophenol. Exposure to pentachlorophenol can irritate the skin, eyes, and mouth. Long-term exposure to low levels can cause damage to the liver, kidneys, blood, and nervous system.

The recommended remedial action or cleanup proposal at American Pine Products consists of preventing human exposure by prohibiting the use of groundwater in specific areas on three properties, prohibiting future residential use of the mill property in a specific area, continuing the removal of floating product from the groundwater, and long-term groundwater monitoring. Long-term monitoring confirms that these measures are effective in reducing risk and protecting the public.

The draft Record of Decision as well as more information concerning site-specific investigations and remedial actions is available in DEQâ€™s Environmental Cleanup Site Information (ECSI) database located on the web at http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/ecsi/ecsi.htm under Site ID 4212.

Site-specific information is also available by contacting Katie Robertson, DEQâ€™s project manager for this site. The Administrative File for this facility is located at DEQâ€™s Pendleton office. It is available for review in person by contacting project manager at the number below to arrange for an appointment.

The public comment period will extend from April 1 to April 30, 2009. Upon written request by ten or more persons or by a group with a membership of 10 or more, DEQ will schedule a public meeting to receive verbal comments.

DEQ will consider all public comments received before finalizing the Record of Decision for the American Pine Products site. Upon request, DEQ will provide written responses to all public comments received.

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