



## FACILITY CLEANUP

*EPA REGION 4*

*RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT  
CORRECTIVE ACTION PROGRAM*

*CAVENHAM FOREST INDUSTRIES, GULFPORT, MS*

**Number 1**

**August 2013**

### INTRODUCTION

The facility, Cavenham Forest Industries (CFI) is located at 9502 Creosote Rd, Gulfport, MS 39503. CFI is a former wood treating plant that operated over 80 years, from 1906 to 1987. As a result of manufacturing, the CFI property has soils and groundwater that are polluted. The contaminants include: creosote, pentachlorophenol (PCP), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), dioxins and petroleum products, such as diesel fuel.

### COMMUNITY

The host area of CFI is historic Turkey Creek, a historic community that was settled in 1866 by a small group of recently emancipated African-Americans. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has documented community concerns to include: the impact from flooding and current CFI site remediation activities on Turkey Creek and Bernard Bayou Seaway. In 2006, a locally-led multi-stakeholder watershed team of 15 local, state, and federal organizations developed and began using a watershed plan to clean up existing pollution and build a proposed 1,000-acre greenway in the community.



**Earth-moving equipment constructs special trench and wall to reduce pollution entering Turkey Creek.**

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Both the State environmental agency, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and the EPA have jurisdiction on regulating CFI pollution. The MDEQ regulates the discharge of wastewater from the site through a water pollution permitting program. The MDEQ also regulates a closed surface waste impoundment as well as the cleanup of associated groundwater contamination, through a state-issued Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) post-closure permit. On a Federal level, the EPA regulates the CFI facility using a Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) issued permit that addresses the investigation and remediation at the site where hazardous constituents are found. The EPA RCRA Corrective Action Program, also known as the Facility Cleanup program, has been on-going at the Site since the early 1990's under the HSWA Permit. Work completed at the site includes the installation of a complex groundwater recovery and treatment system, hydraulic containment at a former creosote pond by slurry walls, extraction wells to recover contamination within the slurry wall and on-site waste water treatment.

### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Presently there is on-going cleanup of two HSWA Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) located adjacent to Turkey Creek. These activities are being delivered through an approved work plan and construction design. The design requires: 1) the installation of soil cover over contaminated wood waste; 2) a 2,000 foot long slurry wall around these areas to prevent



**EPA will continue to promote community engagement.**

groundwater impacted with creosote from migrating into Turkey Creek; 3) sheet piling for bank stabilization; and 4) a diversion ditch from Turkey Creek to Bernard Bayou to prevent erosion. Turkey Creek waters and sediments are being filtered using carbon particles to adsorb semi volatile organic compounds, like creosote. Groundwater contamination is being taken from extraction wells and being treated. An engineering analysis has been conducted to meet the No Rise Certification. The cleanup design includes constructing an emergent wetland and open water in order to achieve this certification. The plans dictate that trees will be planted across the site.

### **DRAFT PERMIT NOW AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW**

The EPA's new draft HSWA permit and the accompanying Technical Fact Sheet will be shared with the public. Renewal of HSWA permits is required every ten years. During the planned August 20th public meeting to discuss the permit and cleanup progress, copies will be available for public comment. The permit is available locally and on-line (see text box "For More Information") and the **deadline for public comments is October 7, 2013.**

The new permit has modifications, which include: eliminating the Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU); adding financial assurance requirements; and adding four new Areas of Concern (AOCs; these include Dioxin Impacted Soil, Turkey Creek, Former Creosote Tank and Barge Slip, and groundwater at Old Pond SWMU #6.)



**Sheet piling, using interlocking metal plates, are installed in Turkey Creek for bank stabilization.**

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Several community meetings have been held by the EPA, the MDEQ and the facility. Community leaders are kept informed of remediation activities through ad-hoc meetings scheduled with the EPA and facility representatives. The Sierra Club is very active in the oversight of on-going work at the facility. One community organization, the Turkey Creek Homeowners Association, actively participates in environmental discussions associated with CFI and has hired an environmental consultant to review data from remediation activities.

There are many community and non-governmental stakeholders. These include, but are not limited to: Turkey Creek Watershed Implementation Team (Steering Committee), Turkey Creek Homeowners Association Turkey Creek Community Initiatives, North Gulfport Community Land Conservancy, Sierra Club, Audubon Mississippi, Land Trust for Mississippi Coastal, White Civic Organization, Mt. Pleasant UMC, Environmental Ministry, and Center for Environmental and Economic Justice.

### **For More Information**

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**Refer on-line to:** [http://www.epa.gov/region4/foiapggs/readingroom/rcra\\_community/cavenham.html](http://www.epa.gov/region4/foiapggs/readingroom/rcra_community/cavenham.html)

**Information Repository:** Orange Grove Public Library, 12135 Old Highway 49, Gulfport, MS; 228-832-6924