

# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



Colville Post & Poles, Inc., Colville, Washington

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

May 2005

## EPA Work Goes Forward at Colville Post & Poles, Inc.

In January, EPA removed wood-treating chemicals, as well as contaminated liquids and sludge, that created potential environmental risks at Colville Post & Poles, Inc. EPA site investigations found pentachlorophenol (penta) and other hazardous materials in soils, sediment and water that could be harmful to human health and the environment. Colville Post & Poles had operated a wood-treating business on the site, where they used a mixture of penta and diesel to treat fence posts and rails.

*(For more information about possible effects of penta exposure, see the back page.)*

### About the Site

For more than 50 years, wood-treating companies operated at the site on Highway 395, outside of Colville. The most recent was Colville Post & Poles, Inc. Several EPA investigations, beginning in 2002, found the company to be operating in violation of hazardous waste and oil-spill-prevention regulations. The company decided to close its business at the end of 2004.

Although EPA removed wood-treating chemicals and other hazardous wastes in January of this year, contamination remains in soils, sediment, surface and groundwater. The Agency also fenced the area of greatest risk.

### For more information

Documents that EPA used to make cleanup decisions will be available this summer at:

Colville Public Library, 195 Oak St., Colville, WA.  
Call 509-684-6620 for hours.

U.S. EPA Record Center, 1200 Sixth Avenue,  
Seattle, WA 98101-1128. Please call ahead for an  
appointment: 800-424-4372.

You can find EPA site documents on the Web:  
[www.epaosc.org/colvillepostandpole](http://www.epaosc.org/colvillepostandpole).

### What's Next?

EPA plans to do more sampling in June. The Agency will test soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater, and will install a network of monitoring wells. The testing will tell us more about the extent of contamination on site and will indicate if contamination has spread beyond the site. The results will help shape EPA decisions about cleanup and future use. Work to clean up soils could begin as early as late summer.

Or contact EPA On-Scene Coordinator,  
**Mike Boykin**, at 206-553-6362 or  
800-424-4372, ext. 6362  
[boykin.michael@epa.gov](mailto:boykin.michael@epa.gov)



*Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommodation, please call Mike Boykin. TTY users, please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.*



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*Cleanup Continues at  
Colville Post & Pole Site  
Colville, Washington  
May 2005*



### **About Pentachlorophenol**

Pentachlorophenol (penta) is a manufactured, restricted-use pesticide. It is used as a wood preservative for utility poles, railroad ties and wharf pilings. Exposure to high levels of penta can damage the human liver, the immune system, and may have reproductive and developmental effects.

Penta can be found in the air, water and soil as a result of evaporation from treated wood surfaces, industrial spills, or from disposal at uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. For more information about possible health effects, see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry (ATSDR) Web page: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts51.html>.