

# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



**Colville Post & Poles, Inc., Colville, Washington**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

September 2006

## Cleanup Continuing at Colville Post and Poles

This month, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is starting another phase of the cleanup at the Colville Post and Poles, Incorporated (CPPI) site, located about four miles outside of Colville, Washington. The former wood-treating facility sits near the Colville River, only 200 yards away, creating the potential for further environmental harm and human health risks.

EPA's cleanup will involve digging up about 8,000 cubic yards of soil contaminated with wood-treating chemicals, consisting of pentachlorophenol (penta) and diesel. We will add top soil to areas of the site to encourage the growth of vegetation to reduce wind and water erosion. Also, EPA will use clean soil to restore the excavated areas.

EPA will dispose of contaminated materials in an off-site, government-regulated landfill. The cleanup will reduce potential human health exposure and environmental contamination from these hazardous substances. EPA expects the current work to complete this phase of the cleanup.

### Site History

For more than 50 years, wood-treating companies operated at this site. The most recent was CPPI. Several EPA investigations, beginning in 2002, found the company to be operating in violation of hazardous waste and oil-spill-prevention regulations. Penta and other hazardous materials were found at the site. The company closed its business in early January 2005.

Although EPA removed wood-treating chemicals and other hazardous wastes in January 2005,

contamination remained in soils, sediment, surface water and groundwater. EPA fenced the area of greatest risk.

Since 2005, EPA has continued sampling and monitoring on-site wells. We are sampling a total of 11 on-site monitoring wells. Recent sampling found significant levels of penta in some on-site wells, indicating a plume of contaminated groundwater on site. EPA has sampled 12 off-site drinking water wells and has not found any wood-treating chemicals.

### What's Next?

While cleanup activities are under way, additional wells will be installed and a three-dimensional computer model will be used to determine where contamination from this plume is going.

Following this fall's cleanup, EPA plans to continue monitoring groundwater. We will post results of the cleanup on our website as soon as they are available. Visit <http://www.epa.gov/region10/>. Click on Index A-Z, then click on C for Colville Post and Poles, Inc.

*(See contact information on back page)*



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*Colville Post and Poles, Inc.*  
*Colville, Washington*  
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You can view project information 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  
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