



# EPA

# DEL NORTE COUNTY PESTICIDE STORAGE AREA SUPERFUND SITE

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • MAY 2005

## U.S. EPA Reviews Cleanup at Site

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is conducting a five-year review of the protectiveness of the remedial action at the Del Norte County Pesticide Storage Area Superfund Site, located near Crescent City, CA. This review is conducted every five years to ensure the remedial action remains protective of human health and the environment. From April through August 2005, the U.S. EPA will conduct a review of groundwater monitoring results at the Del Norte County Pesticide Storage Area Superfund Site. The U.S. EPA invites the community to learn more about this review process and how to get involved. This fact sheet explains the five-year review process and gives an update on the groundwater monitoring results.

### Five-Year Review

Superfund law requires that, if a clean up or remedial action leaves contaminants at a Superfund site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure, the remedial action must be reviewed every five years. The purpose of the review is to make sure the remedial action continues to protect human health and the environment. During the review, the U.S. EPA studies information about the site and conducts a site inspection. The methods, findings and conclusion of the review are documented in a five-year review report. The report includes the following:

- a site background and history,
- an explanation of the remedial action in place,
- an explanation of documents and laws reviewed and their relevance to the site,
- an explanation of the site inspection conducted and sampling results,
- an explanation of how U.S. EPA incorporates the community's input to the review,
- past actions conducted from previous reviews,
- site recommendations if warranted and
- a statement of protectiveness.

The statement of protectiveness explains whether the remedial action continues to be protective of human health and the environment and can recommend improvements to ensure that the remedial action continues to be effective.



Figure 1: Del Norte Superfund Site

### How Can You Become Involved?

Community members can call our toll-free message line at (800) 231-3075 to let us know that they are interested in participating in the review process. The public is invited to contribute its knowledge and observations of the performance of the remedial action or any issues and concerns about the remedial action. Upon completion, the five-year review report will be available for public review at the Site's information repositories (see reverse side for locations), and U.S. EPA will publish a notice in the local newspapers. U.S. EPA will accept comments from the community regarding the remedial action until June 15, 2005.

## Site Background and Update

The Del Norte County Pesticide Storage Area Site is located one mile northwest of Crescent City, next to the Jack McNamara Field airport. Del Norte County operated the Pesticide Storage Area as a repository for pesticide and herbicide containers generated by the local agriculture and forestry industry from 1970 until 1981. The Site was intended to be an interim or emergency storage area for pesticide containers, which previously had been triple-rinsed and punctured. Unfortunately, the pesticide and herbicide containers were improperly handled and wastes and rinse water were improperly disposed of into an unlined sump. Approximately 1,600 drums that held the wastes and rinse water were recovered and recycled by the County Agricultural Department. Groundwater and soil were found to be contaminated with various pesticides, herbicides, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

In September 1985, U.S. EPA selected a remedy to address the Site contamination. In 1987, the U.S. EPA removed 300 cubic yards of contaminated soils that were considered to be the source of groundwater contamination. An air stripping groundwater treatment system was built in 1989 and successfully lowered the pesticide 1,2-Dichloropropane (1,2-DCP) level from 2,000 parts per

billion (ppb) to 38 ppb in the groundwater prior to discharge to the municipal wastewater treatment system. After 1994, because there was no further reduction of 1,2-DCP via the air stripping treatment system, U.S. EPA selected an alternate cleanup remedy of monitored natural attenuation. A February 2000 Fact Sheet labeled "U.S. EPA proposes plan to select an alternate cleanup remedy," discussed the reasons for discontinuing the air stripping groundwater treatment system and changing to an alternate cleanup remedy.

The Del Norte Pesticide Storage Area was deleted from the National Priorities List (NPL) in July 2002. However, because the remedy for the Site allowed contaminants in groundwater to remain above Drinking Water Standards indefinitely, U.S. EPA will continue to conduct a review every five years to ensure the remedial action remains protective of human health and the environment.

The current Site remedy consists of containing the contaminated groundwater, semi-annual groundwater monitoring, and land use restrictions. The Site groundwater contamination appears to be decreasing through natural physical chemical and/or biological processes. The land use restrictions ensure that the groundwater is not used for drinking water as long as contaminants remain above safe standards. California U.S. EPA is currently the lead at the site and will continue to monitor levels of contaminants in the groundwater at the Site until they are below the Drinking Water Standards.

## For More Information

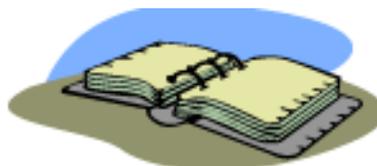
The repositories for Del Norte County Pesticide Storage Area Superfund Site are:

### **U.S. EPA Records Center**

95 Hawthorne Street, Suite 403S  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 764-4948

### **Crescent City Library**

190 Price Mall  
Crescent City, CA 95531  
(707) 464-9793



If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact any of the people listed below.

### **U. S. Environmental Protection Agency**

75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

If you would like to receive future publications, please leave your name and address on our toll-free line: **(800) 231-3075**.

### **Cameron McDonald (SFD-3)**

U.S. EPA Community  
Involvement Coordinator  
(415) 972-3236  
[mcdonald.cameron@epa.gov](mailto:mcdonald.cameron@epa.gov)

### **Kevin Mayer (SFD-7-2)**

Remedial Project Manager  
(415) 972-3176  
[mayer.kevin@epa.gov](mailto:mayer.kevin@epa.gov)

### **Yvonne Fong (SFD-7-2)**

Remedial Project Manager  
(415) 947-4117  
[fong.yvonnew@epa.gov](mailto:fong.yvonnew@epa.gov)

 **(800) 231-3075 Toll-Free Message Line** 