

COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

You May Review the Draft Feasibility Study for the Central Portion of the Former Mill Site in Fort Bragg

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) wants to update you on the cleanup progress in Operable Unit (OU) E at the former Georgia-Pacific Mill Site (Mill Site). The Mill Site is located west of Highway 1 along the Pacific Ocean coastline in the City of Fort Bragg, CA 95437.

To help organize the investigation and cleanup, DTSC divided the Mill Site into five geographic areas called operable units (OUs A, B, C, D and E). We now have about three quarters of the original 415-acre property, including OUs A, B, and portions of C and D, ready for new land uses.

Topics included in this update are responses to common resident questions, a summary of the Feasibility Study for OU-E, and ways to get involved in the decision making process.

Do Dioxins Present a Risk at the Former Mill Site?

Dioxins are toxins formed by burning or bleaching of materials. At the Mill Site, Dioxins are formed by burning wood for power in the Power Plant.

Dioxins above residential standards are present in the pond sediments. However, the levels present a low risk. At the Mill Pond (Pond 8) for example, visitors will only have exposure to these dioxins if they jump into the pond repeatedly for over 25 years and eat sediment as they wade around the pond. People's use of the ponds are far different than the scenarios DTSC uses to determine residential risks.

Repeatedly jumping into the pond over many years leads to an increased risk of two potential cancers among one million people exposed to these dioxins for over 25 years. This level is only one potential cancer above DTSC's criteria for no cleanup action.

The highest level of dioxin at the Mill Site is in OU-E soil. Georgia-Pacific, under our oversight, will remove that soil in August.

Open House and Meeting



July 25 -- Open House from 2 to 5 PM, Meeting, 6:30 to 9 PM

Town Hall
363 N. Main Street
Fort Bragg CA 95437

If you have questions or concerns, please contact:

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Will the Cleanup Protect Future Residents, Workers, or Visitors at the Site?

Yes, DTSC will make sure that the cleanup protects all future residents, workers, and visitors. Whether a site is cleaned up to residential, recreational or commercial cleanup standards, the cleanup standards make sure that no one will be exposed to on-site chemicals that will harm them. Plus, we oversee every step of the cleanup process from the initial investigation to the final digging out and transporting for final disposal. After cleanup, DTSC oversees the long-term management of contaminants that might remain on site. We use all of our engineering, geological and toxicological knowledge to make sure that Georgia-Pacific does the cleanup safely and completely.

Will DTSC Involve Residents in the Decision Making Process?

On July 25, 2017, DTSC will hold an Open House and Town Hall Meeting on the draft OU-E Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study evaluates different alternatives and proposes a cleanup action. Residents may review and comment on the different alternative cleanup proposals long before a cleanup alternative is selected and presented in a draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP).

Before DTSC has any public meeting and public comment period on the draft RAP, we will announce it with a fact sheet and place a notice in the *Fort Bragg Advocate-News*.

We will hold a public meeting in which you will have time to comment about any proposed decision about cleaning up the Mill Pond, other ponds, soil and groundwater. You will have at least 30 days to review and comment on all aspects of the OU-E cleanup. You may comment by letter, e-mail, or at the public meeting. Also, you may contact DTSC staff with any of your questions or concerns before we make any decision. Since we consult with the City of Fort Bragg regularly on the cleanup, you may also contact them.

Feasibility Study for OU-E

A Feasibility Study looks at different ways for cleaning up contamination at a site and proposes one of the alternatives for the cleanup. Georgia-Pacific submitted the draft OU-E Feasibility Study to DTSC in May 2017. The Feasibility Study evaluates different cleanup alternatives

for sediment in Ponds 6 and 8 and groundwater in the area east of Pond 8. The Feasibility Study also includes additional cleanup alternatives for the OU-E Removal Action Workplan (RAW) areas if that cleanup does not meet residential cleanup standards. Federal and State laws require that each alternative or option is compared to nine Criteria. For an alternative to be selected, it must meet the first two threshold Criteria, which are:

1. Will the alternative protect the public and the environment?
2. Does it comply with all laws and regulations that apply to this situation?

Criteria three through seven provide comparisons between the alternatives and identify tradeoffs between them:

3. How will the alternative protect over time?
4. Is treatment of the contamination included in the alternative?
5. Does the alternative cause short term risks?
6. Can we implement the alternative easily?
7. How much will the option cost?

Criteria eight and nine are the two modifying criteria that consider acceptance by state agencies and Fort Bragg community.

8. Do different State agencies like the Regional Water Quality Control Board, or Fish and Wildlife accept the option?
9. Do the City of Fort Bragg and the local residents accept the alternative?

Pond 6 and the North Pond Sediment

The Feasibility Study looks at several alternatives for Pond 6 and the North Pond including:

1. No Action -- a Feasibility Study must include this alternative and we use it to provide a comparison to the other option;
2. Restricting the use of the ponds to recreation and open space, limiting access and having plans to manage the sediment if disturbed in the future;
3. Removal and off-site disposal of contaminated sediment;
4. Covers that eliminate contact to sediment.

Georgia-Pacific proposes using the second alternative, restriction on use of the ponds and other controls, as the cleanup action.

Pond 8 Sediment

The Feasibility Study looks at several alternatives for Pond 8 including:

1. No Action;
2. Restricting the use of the ponds to recreation and open space, limiting access and having plans to manage the sediment if disturbed in the future;
3. Mixing cement into the sediment to create a concrete substance that will stop human contact and stop contamination from moving;
4. Removal and off-site disposal of contaminated sediment;
5. Covers that eliminate contact to sediment.

Georgia-Pacific proposes using the second alternative, restriction on use of the pond and other controls, as the cleanup action.

Groundwater

Groundwater alternatives include:

1. No Action;
2. Prohibiting the use of contaminated groundwater;
3. Natural Attenuation - Monitoring the gradual cleanup of groundwater through natural processes;
4. Bioremediation - Using microorganisms under the ground to clean the groundwater;
5. In-Situ Chemical Oxidation - Using chemicals under the ground to clean the groundwater;
6. Groundwater Extraction and Treatment - Pumping the groundwater out of the ground and removing contaminants by treating the groundwater.

Georgia-Pacific proposes using a combination of the second and third alternatives; restricting the use of contaminated groundwater and Natural Attenuation.

Other OU-E contaminated sites are included in the DTSC approved OU-E RAW. This cleanup will begin in August 2017. The Feasibility Study considers land use restrictions for the OU-E RAW sites that, after removal of contaminated soil or sediment, meet cleanup goals for a park but do not meet residential cleanup standards.

The draft OU-E Feasibility Study is now available for public review at the locations and online on DTSC's Envirostor website (please see below). After DTSC's approval of a Final Feasibility Study, DTSC will prepare a draft OU-E RAP for public review and comment. We plan to hold that public review in the summer of 2018.

DTSC Sponsored Community Meeting and Open House

DTSC will hold a Community Meeting and Open House July 25, 2017. DTSC staff will be available for questions and discussion from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Town Hall. DTSC will also present the OU-E Feasibility Study and answer community questions at a 6:30 pm meeting at Town Hall that same evening.

Where to Find Documents

Documents on the Georgia-Pacific Mill Site cleanup are available for public review at these locations:

Fort Bragg Library • 499 East Laurel Street • Fort Bragg, CA 95437 • (707) 964-2020

Sunday, Monday Closed • Tuesday, Thursday 10:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m. • Friday & Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday: Noon to 8:00 p.m.

Fort Bragg City Hall • Planning Counter • 416 N.

Franklin Street • Fort Bragg, CA 95437
(707) 961-2823 *Monday through Friday 9 to 5 p.m.*

Department of Toxic Substances Control • 700 Heinz Avenue • Berkeley, CA 94710-2721 • (510) 540-3800
(please call for an appointment) *Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*

You may also access these documents on the DTSC EnviroStor website:

<http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/> (select "Site/Facility Search" on the left pane, enter "23240008" in the "Site Code" search field for the Site).

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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