



# McNamara & Peepe Sawmill Site

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 9 • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA • SEPTEMBER 2000

## EPA TO CONDUCT SAMPLING

### INTRODUCTION

*The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be doing some sampling in the area of the old McNamara & Peepe sawmill site near Fifth Street in Crescent City, California. The sampling is scheduled for the week of September 11th - 15th, 2000. The community will not be disrupted or affected by this effort.*

*Previous sampling efforts by EPA and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) raised some questions about possible contamination in the area. EPA believes that it is important to answer these concerns for the community.*

### BACKGROUND

Chemicals that were used to preserve wood at the McNamara & Peepe sawmill while it was in operation have contaminated portions of the soil and sediment around the old sawmill. Records indicate that pentachlorophenol (PCP) and tetrachlorophenol (TCP) were used in the wood treatment process.

These chemicals were detected at the site in previous sampling by the NCRWQCB. The most recent sampling by the NCRWQCB also shows evidence of dioxins and furans in the soils at the old sawmill site.

The dioxins and furans are normally present in the solution used to preserve the wood. They are also formed as a result of combustion, such as might have occurred with treated wood in the teepee-style incinerators that were used at the sawmill. Dioxins were also detected in a sculpin, which is a bottom-feeding fish, that was sampled in Elk Creek in a prior EPA study.

### REASON FOR SAMPLING

These chemicals are of concern as they can cause cancer in humans. The chemicals have the potential for migrating from the original site into the surrounding plant and wildlife. Because of this potential, EPA believes that it is important to gather additional information that will help us in understanding if this migration has occurred.

### WHO IS WORKING ON THIS?

EPA established a working team on this site that includes ecological scientists from EPA, representatives from the NCRWQCB, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), Del Norte County Department of Public Health, California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), National Oceanographic and Aeronautics Administration (NOAA), and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

### WHAT WILL BE SAMPLED?

EPA contractors will collect samples from soil, from sediment in the ponds and streams, and from fish tissue. A laboratory under contract to EPA will analyze these samples for PCP and for the dioxin and furan compounds. The results of the analysis will be available upon request.

### WHAT WILL EPA DO AFTER THE SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS?

The results of the sampling will be used by the EPA to determine if the site is eligible for the federal Superfund list. This list, formally known as the National Priorities List (NPL), is a list of uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites which have been identified by EPA as a priority for cleanup under Superfund. As a result of this sampling, EPA expects to issue an Expanded Site Inspection Report (ESI) by January, 2001. Copies of the report will be available upon request.

Further, if the site is eligible for inclusion on the federal Superfund list, EPA will consult with the State and local

officials and other interested parties to decide whether to list the site. Or the site may be deferred to another cleanup program or agency.

If the site is not eligible for inclusion on the federal Superfund list, the State may still decide that cleanup under State law is preferred. Also, local agencies may apply to EPA under the Brownfields Program. That program provides funding for the environmental assessment of sites for potential redevelopment that are not eligible for inclusion on the federal Superfund list.

## WHAT IS SUPERFUND?

Superfund is the common name for the program created by Congress in 1980 under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The major goal of the Superfund program is to protect human health and the environment by cleaning up sites where hazardous waste contamination exists.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the sampling effort that will be conducted at the McNamara & Peepe Sawmill site, or want a copy of the sampling report or the ESI report, please call:

### Jeff Inglis

Site Assessment Manager

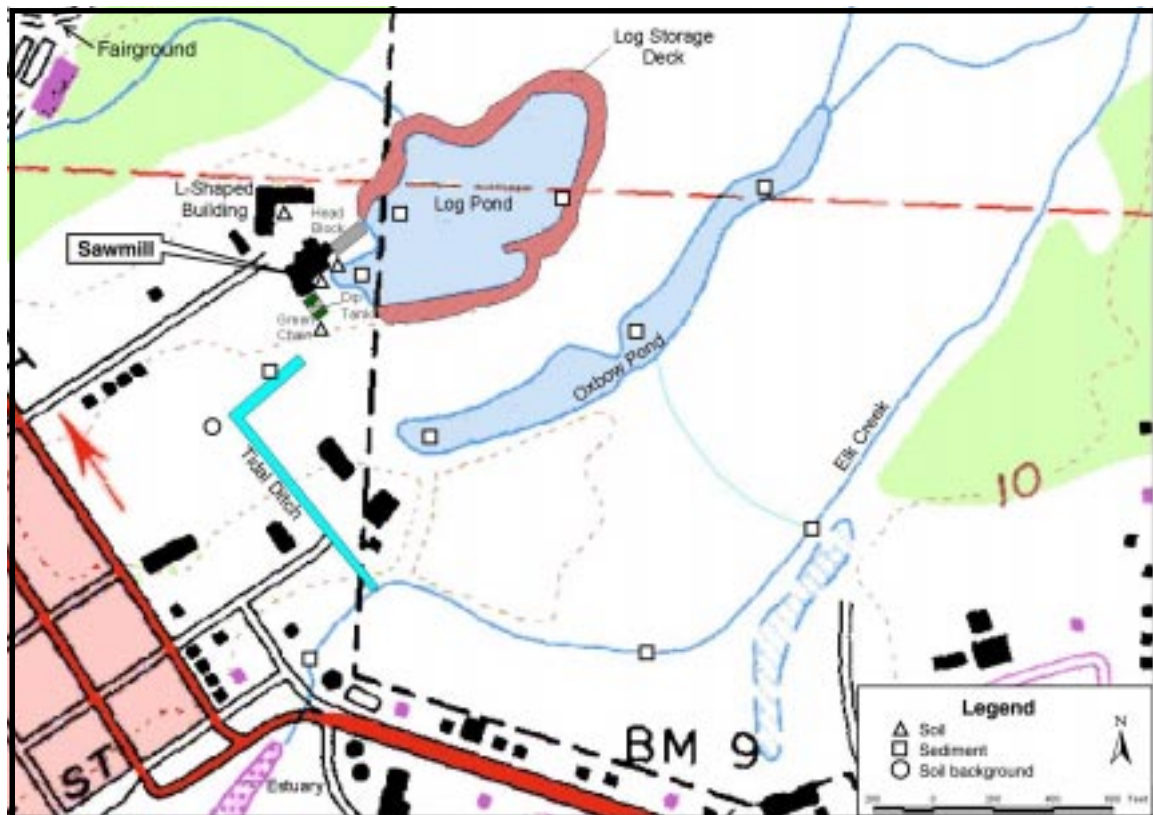
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or leave a message on EPA's TOLL-FREE line:  
**1-800-231-3075** and we will return your call.



Location of McNamara & Peepe sawmill site