

# NPL Site Narrative for Galesburg/Koppers Co.

## GALESBURG/KOPPERS CO. Galesburg, Illinois

**Conditions at listing (December 1982):** The Galesburg/Koppers Site covers 400 acres outside Galesburg, Knox County, Illinois. Koppers Co. treats railroad ties on the site, which is owned by Burlington Northern Railroad. The plant has been in operation since 1907. In the past, waste water containing creosote and pentachlorophenol was discharged to four unlined ponds on-site, resulting in contamination of the shallow aquifer. Contamination has not been detected so far in the deeper aquifer or in the many private drinking water wells in the area. In 1977, the State required the company to prevent leaching oily materials from entering a nearby ditch. In response, the company dug an intercepting ditch and dammed off the existing ditch. Thousands of gallons per year of oily waste are recovered from the intercepting ditch. In about 1979, two of the three creosote ponds were filled in.

**Status (July 1983):** The company is negotiating with the State for cleanup of former disposal areas as well as treatment of current waste water. The company, after completing a hydrogeological study and preparing a ground water monitoring report, is taking additional ground water samples.

In June 1983, EPA completed a draft Remedial Action Master Plan outlining the investigations needed to determine the full extent of cleanup required at the site. It will guide further actions at the site.

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at [ATSDR - ToxFAQs](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.