

# NPL Site Narrative for Koppers Co., Inc. (Morrisville Plant)

## KOPPERS CO., INC. (MORRISVILLE PLANT) Morrisville, North Carolina

**Conditions at proposal (June 24, 1988):** The Koppers Co., Inc., Site covers 52 acres on Highway 54 West, approximately 1 mile northwest of Morrisville, Wake County, North Carolina. The site was used as a sawmill until 1959, when it was sold to Unit Structures, Inc., which produced glue-laminated wood products on-site. Koppers Co., Inc. purchased the site in 1962 and continued the glue-laminating process. During 1968-75, Koppers used the southeast portion of the site for treating wood with pentachlorophenol (PCP). Production of laminated wood continued until September 1986, when the plant was sold back to Unit Structures. Koppers retained 10 acres of the original site where PCP was used.

Waste water from the PCP process was discharged to a pond on-site for the first 6 months of operation and then to two unlined lagoons nearby. Koppers closed the lagoons in 1977. Liquid from the lagoons was sprayed over a field on the northeast corner of the property, and the sludge was mixed with soil and spread over the lagoon area in the southeast corner. In 1980 and 1981, Koppers found PCP in on-site soil, wells, and pond water and sediment. In 1980 and 1986, Koppers removed some PCP-contaminated soil from the lagoon area and transported it to a hazardous waste facility regulated under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Contaminated soil remains on-site, however, according to tests conducted by Koppers.

Ground water within 3 miles of the site is the primary source of drinking water for an estimated 2,200 people. The North Carolina Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch has detected trace contaminants in some off-site wells.

Run-off from the northeast corner of the site drains eastward to an intermittent creek that flows southeast approximately 2.25 miles to Crabtree Creek. Run-off from the southeast corner of the site drains to Koppers Pond, which supplies water for fire protection. Intermittent overflow from Koppers Pond drains south approximately 1,000 feet to Medlin's Pond, which is used for fishing and irrigation of garden crops.

The site is unfenced, making it possible for people and animals to come into direct contact with hazardous substances.

**Status (March 31, 1989):** EPA is considering various alternatives for 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.