



**Jared Blumenfeld**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection



## Department of Toxic Substances Control

Meredith Williams, Ph.D., Director  
700 Heinz Avenue  
Berkeley, California 94710-2721



**Gavin Newsom**  
Governor

June 9, 2022

Mr. Mike Buck  
Mendocino Railway  
1222 Research Park Drive  
Davis, California 95618  
[Mikebuck@fulcrumadvocates.com](mailto:Mikebuck@fulcrumadvocates.com)

FIRST AMENDMENT TO SITE INVESTIGATION AND REMEDIATION ORDER,  
FORMER GEORGIA-PACIFIC WOOD PRODUCTS FACILITY, FORT BRAGG,  
CALIFORNIA MENDOCINO COUNTY (SITE CODE: 202276)

Dear Mr. Buck,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has issued the attached First Amendment to Site Investigation and Remediation Order (Order First Amendment) for the Former Georgia-Pacific Wood Products Facility in Fort Bragg. The Order First Amendment adds Mendocino Railway as a respondent to the Order as well as other changes and additions. This Order First Amendment is final and effective five (5) days from the date of issuance.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Tom Lanphar at (510) 540-3776 or email at [Tom.Lanphar@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Tom.Lanphar@dtsc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

for:

Juliet C. Pettijohn, Branch Chief  
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program – Berkeley Office  
Department of Toxic Substances Control

cc: (see next page)

Mr. Mike Buck  
June 9, 2022  
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cc: (via email)

Mr. Craig Hunt  
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL**

In the Matter of:	)	Docket No. HSA-RAO 06-07-150
	)	
Former Georgia-Pacific Mill Site	)	FIRST AMENDMENT TO
Fort Bragg, California	)	SITE INVESTIGATION AND
	)	REMEDIATION ORDER
	)	
Respondents:	)	
	)	
Mendocino Railway	)	
1222 Research Park Drive	)	
Davis, California 95618	)	
	)	
Georgia-Pacific, LLC	)	
133 Peach Tree Street NE	)	Health and Safety Code
Atlanta, Georgia 30303	)	Sections 25355.5(a)(1)(B) and (C),
<hr style="width: 30%; margin-left: 0;"/>	)	25358.3(a), 58009 and 58010

The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) issues this First Amendment to the Site Investigation and Remediation Order between DTSC and Georgia-Pacific Corporation, Docket No. HSA-RAO 06-07-150 (Order First Amendment), to add Mendocino Railway, a California Corporation, as an additional Respondent. Further, Georgia-Pacific Corporation is now Georgia-Pacific, LLC a Delaware limited liability company. DTSC is also amending the Site Investigation and Remediation Order (Order, Docket No. HSA-RAO 06-07-150 same docket number) to add information on the completion status of activities to Section 2.4, change requirements for Fence and Posting Warning Signs, and add activities to Section 5. This Order First Amendment is final and effective five (5) days from the date of issuance below.

Sections 1.1 and 5.1.3 of the Order are hereby amended to read as follows:

1.1 Respondents. The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) issues this Site Investigation and Remediation Order (Order) to Mendocino Railway, a California corporation, and Georgia-Pacific, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (Respondents).

5.1.3 Fence and Posting Warning Signs. As of the effective date of this Order First Amendment and due to the completion of remedial actions in Operable Units (OU)-A, C, D, and a portion of (OU)-E, warning signs are not required along the perimeter of the site or at routes of entry. Fencing is required around Pond 8. Respondents shall install additional fencing and post

signs at other locations at the site within 10 days of a written notice from DTSC.

Sections 2.4.6, 5.3.3, 5.4.1, and 5.13.1 of the Order are hereby added as follows:

2.4.6. The following investigation and remediation activities, certifications, and no further action determinations have been completed at the site.

a) Operable Unit A. The *Operable Unit A (OU-A) Completion Report* (Arcadis, December 2009) documents the completion of soil removals at several locations during the summer of 2009 within two general areas of OU-A. Land use in the two areas is restricted to recreational uses by the OU-A Land Use Covenant (LUC) recorded with the County of Mendocino Recorder on December 10, 2009.

DTSC approved the *Operable Unit-A Completion Report* in a letter dated December 14, 2009, stating that the remedial action contained in the final OU-A Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for lands within OU-A has been properly completed. This determination did not apply to the Consolidation Cell located in OU-D and the containment site for dioxin contaminated soil removed from OU-A. The *Consolidation Cell Inspection Report* (Arcadis, 2010) documented excessive water accumulation during 2009 and 2010. Ultimately, DTSC approved Georgia-Pacific, LLC's proposal to remove the Consolidation Cell on April 11, 2012, and completed an *Explanation of Significant Differences, Operable Unit A, Remedial Action Plan* (August 30, 2011) to add removal of the consolidation cell and off-site disposal of soil to the OU-A RAP. The consolidation cell work concluded in November 2011 with off-site disposal of the cell's contents. DTSC approved the *Consolidation Cell Removal Completion Report* (Arcadis, 2012) on April 11, 2012. DTSC issued a Remedial Action Certification for OU-A on May 7, 2012.

b) Operable Unit B. OU-B includes off-site non-industrial properties. The *Phase I Environmental Site Assessment – Non-Industrial Parcels* (Arcadis, December 2007) concluded that OU-B properties had not been used for industrial purposes and recommended that additional investigation or other further action was not necessary for this OU. DTSC approved the *Phase I Environmental Site Assessment – Non-Industrial Parcels* in a letter dated July 14, 2008.

c) Operable Units C and D. The Department approved the *Remedial Action Plan for Operable Units C and D (OU- C and D RAP)* (Arcadis, 2015) in a letter dated December 17, 2015. The *OU-C and D RAP* remedial actions included soil excavation and off-site disposal, mitigation of soil vapor, natural attenuation of groundwater with long-term monitoring, and restrictions on the use of land, soil, and groundwater in areas where contaminants were above levels acceptable for unrestricted use. On June 30, 2020, DTSC certified that the required removal/remedial actions were completed for OU-D. Portions of OU-D require ongoing operation and maintenance and monitoring (O&M). The O&M procedures are described in the *Operable Unit D Groundwater Operation & Maintenance Plan* (Kennedy Jenks, March 23, 2020) approved by DTSC in a letter dated March 30, 2020. Two LUCs restricting the use of land and groundwater for portions of OU-D were recorded with the Mendocino County Recorder's office on June 2, 2020.

DTSC provided only partial certification of the OU-C remedial action because removal of soil at the Former Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) and Former Machine Equipment Shop (MES)/Pilot Study Area of Interest (AOI), located in OU-C was not implemented. Implementation of the soil removal from the Former AST and Former MES/Pilot Study AOI is delayed to coincide with anticipated soil excavation at the adjacent California Western Railroad, which is owned by Mendocino Railway. Mendocino Railway purchased property from Georgia-Pacific that includes Former AST and Former MES/Pilot Study AOI. A LUC restricting the use of soil and groundwater for a portion of OU-C was recorded with the Mendocino County Recorder on June 11, 2019.

Portions of OU-C require ongoing operation and maintenance and monitoring. The O&M procedures are described in the *Operable Unit C Groundwater Operation & Maintenance Plan* (Kennedy Jenks, April 9, 2020) approved by DTSC in a letter dated April 21, 2020.

d) Operable Unit E. Georgia-Pacific has submitted the draft *Operable Unit E Remedial Action Plan* (Kennedy/Jenks, October 14, 2020) (OU-E RAP). DTSC will not begin the formal public review period for the draft OU-E RAP until after the City of Fort Bragg completes its draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Mill Pond Dam Repair Project. The City of Fort Bragg is the lead agency for implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the project. The draft OU-E RAP identifies a proposed remedy for the Southern Ponds (1, 2, 3, and 4), Ponds 6, 7, 8, the North Pond, and groundwater. The remaining areas of OU-E were either recommended for No Further Action (NFA) in the draft OU-E RAP or previously approved for NFA as summarized below.

The draft OU-E RAP recommends NFA for the Pond 5 AOI and Pond 9 AOI. Sediment in Pond 5 and Pond 9 was evaluated in the *Baseline Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment* (BHHERA) (Kennedy Jenks, July 2015). DTSC approved the BHHERA in a letter dated August 20, 2015. As described in the BHHERA, occasional adult recreator hazard indices (HIs) and excess lifetime cancer risks (ELCRs) for Pond 5 and Pond 9 are below  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ , respectively, considering a 50 day per year exposure frequency. DTSC approved NFA for the Pond 5 and Pond 9 AOIs in a letter dated December 8, 2020.

As presented in the *Removal Action Completion Report for OU-C, OU-D, and OU-E* (RACR) (Kennedy/Jenks, June 15, 2018), residual contaminant of concern (COC) concentrations at the OU-E Riparian Area AOI are below the residential screening criteria at each confirmation sample point; therefore, the RACR recommended NFA for the Riparian Area AOI. The Lowland Terrestrial Area of Concern (AOC) includes several AOIs: Water Treatment and Truck Dump AOI, Powerhouse and Fuel Barn AOI, Sawmill #1 AOI, and the Compressor House and Lath Building AOI. The Exposure Point Concentrations (EPCs) for soil in the Lowland Terrestrial AOC meet residential screening criteria, and therefore, the Lowland Terrestrial AOC was also recommended for NFA for soil in the RACR. DTSC approved the RACR and NFA for OU-E Lowland Terrestrial Soil AOC and Riparian AOI in a letter dated June 27, 2018.

Other OU-E AOIs previously approved for NFA for soil include Pond 8 Fill Area Pond 8 Fill Area AOI in a letter dated February 7, 2013, with the approval of the *OU-E Remedial Investigation Report* (Arcadis, January 2013). In a letter dated April 12, 2011, DTSC approved

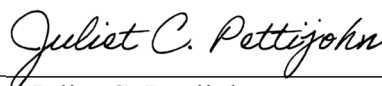
NFA for West of IRM AOI and IRM AOI with the approval of the *OU-C and D Remedial Investigation Report* (Arcadis, February 2011).

5.3.3 Supplemental Site Investigation (SSI) Work Plan Former AST AOI and MES/Pilot Study AOI. Within 60 days of the effective date of this Order First Amendment, Respondent will submit a work plan that describes the activities proposed to further characterize soil and soil gas. The work plan should also include a health and safety plan, quality assurance/quality control plan, sampling plan, and implementation schedule. Respondent will begin implementation of the approved work plan in accordance with the approved implementation schedule. DTSC may provide oversight of work plan implementation.

5.4.1 Remedial Investigation (RI) Report Addendum, Former AST AOI and MES/Pilot Study AOI. Within 120 days of approval of the SSI Work Plan, Respondent will submit an RI Report Addendum that, at a minimum, presents the data, summarizes the findings of the Supplemental Site Investigation, validates the data, and includes recommendations and conclusions.

5.13.1 Updated Public Participation Plan. Respondent(s), in coordination with DTSC, shall develop an updated Public Participation Plan (PPP) which describes how, under this Order, the public and adjoining community will be kept informed of activities conducted at the Site and how Respondent(s) will be responding to inquiries from concerned citizens. Respondent shall attend a PPP scoping meeting with DTSC within 30 days of the date of this Order First Amendment. Respondent shall prepare meeting notes following the scoping meeting including the schedule for preparation of the PPP.

DATE OF ISSUANCE: 06/09/2022



Juliet C. Pettijohn  
Regional Branch Chief  
Department of Toxic Substances Control

cc: Site Mitigation and Restoration Program  
Headquarters, Planning & Policy  
Office of Legal Counsel