

Koppers Superfund Site – Galesburg, Illinois Five-Year Review

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) are conducting the required five-year review of the Koppers Galesburg Superfund Site located approximately two miles south of Galesburg, Knox County, Illinois. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) requires regular reviews of sites (at least every five years) where cleanup is underway and hazardous waste remains on site. The reviews are done to ensure that the cleanup continues to protect human health and the environment.

Historical contamination occurred through unlined lagoons that were used to store creosote. The remedy for soil was excavation and biological treatment for remaining soil left in place. Groundwater treatment included monitored natural attenuation along with in situ treatment in the sand aquifer. Collection of dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) occurs annually from a collection trench.

This is the sixth scheduled five-year review to determine if the site still represents a threat to human health or the environment and to ensure the ongoing cleanup is being effective in protecting people and remediating groundwater as intended. The review began on September 11, 2024 and is expected to be completed in September 2025.

The review team (which includes technical and community relations representatives from both the state and federal agencies) participates in data and document reviews along with a site inspection. The five-year review also gives local community members the opportunity to voice their concerns about site conditions and clean-up efforts. Concerned citizens will be given the opportunity to request an availability session with representatives from the Illinois EPA. The review team will evaluate current site conditions and look at the overall effectiveness of the cleanup remedy. Once the review team compiles the information, they will develop a summary of their findings which will be available for public review at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in Springfield, Illinois, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's website:

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/search-superfund-five-year-reviews>

For general site information, please consult the EPA site page:

<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0501154>

Anyone wishing further information on the Koppers Galesburg Superfund site and the five-year review process should contact:

Rodolfo Alanis, Illinois EPA, Office of Community Relations, 2520 West Iles Avenue, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Phone: 312-832-2160 Email: Rodolfo.Alanis@Illinois.gov