



Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation NPL Site

Fish Evaluation

June 20, 2017



Background

The Kerr-McGee NPL site is located on North Navassa Road in Navassa, Brunswick County. The site is bordered by Sturgeon Creek to the south, the Brunswick River to the east, and North Navassa Road to the north and west. The property consists of 251 acres. The site operated as a wood treating facility from 1936 until 1974. The site was dismantled in 1980.

Dried lumber was pressure treated with a creosote solution and stored outside to dry. Wastewater generated during the creosote treatment process was discharged into two on-site unlined wastewater ponds.

Current Environmental Situation

Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons were detected in soil and ground water on the site and in the sediments of the marsh next to the site. No samples were collected on the site until 14 to 30 years after operations ended. The samples evaluated may not represent exposure

amounts experienced by the local community while the facility was in operation.

Purpose of the Evaluation

To determine if the statewide fish advisory for mercury is health protective for people eating fish from areas near the Kerr-McGee NPL site.

How was the evaluation conducted?

The N.C. Division of Public Health (DPH) evaluated fish tissue data collected by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2011 from Sturgeon Creek and N.C. Department of Environmental Quality in 2013 from Sturgeon Creek, Brunswick River, and Cape Fear River. The data included 10 different fish species and blue crabs.

The N.C. Division of Public Health recommends that:

- people follow the existing statewide fish consumption advisory for mercury (see “What fish are safe to eat?” fact sheet at <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/oe/mercury/safefish.pdf>).
- people follow these additional meal consumption limits for fish and shellfish from Sturgeon Creek, Brunswick River, and Cape Fear River near Navassa, NC:
 - Eat up to **2 meals per week** of striped bass due to high levels of mercury.
 - Eat up to **3 meals per week** of striped mullet due to high levels of hexavalent chromium.

- Eat up to **3 meals per week** of blue crab due to high levels of arsenic, hexavalent chromium, and mercury.
- the local health departments post advisory signs at areas where people may fish along these waterbodies.
- N.C. DEQ sample fish and shellfish from these waterbodies at least every 5 years to monitor changes in contaminant levels.

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Map of fish sampling area. Upstream and downstream limits designated by red marks.

