



# Holcomb Creosote Company Public Health Assessment

September 2019

## Background

Holcomb Creosote Company is in Yadkinville, Yadkin County, NC, on Highway 601 just northwest of Dobbins Pond. Holcomb Creosote Company operated as a coal-tar creosote wood-treating facility from 1951 to 2009.

Operations at the site contaminated soil, sediment, surface water, groundwater and fish with metals and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), a component of coal-tar creosote used to treat wood. Contamination was found on and adjacent to the site, including Dobbins Pond. In 2011, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took action to control the release of hazardous substances from the site.



## Purpose of the Public Health Assessment

The purpose of this public health assessment was to determine if the site presents a health hazard to the community.

## How was the Public Health Assessment conducted?

This assessment looked at surface soil, sediment, surface water, well water and fish data that EPA and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) collected before and after the EPA's clean-up activities in 2011 to address past, present and future exposures to residents living near the site.

## Conclusions

- The health of nearby residents is not expected to be harmed from soil, sediment, surface water in or around Dobbins Pond, and the wetlands in the past, currently, or in the future.
- The health of individuals that trespass on the site is not expected to be harmed from contact (including touching and accidentally ingesting) with on-site soil (in processing areas), sediment (along the unnamed tributary), or surface water (in unnamed tributary) in the past, currently, or in the future.
- Frequently eating fish from Dobbins Pond could be harmful to your health. Chromium, assumed to be hexavalent, has been found in catfish from Dobbins Pond and two nearby ponds.
- The health of nearby residents is not expected to be harmed from drinking water from private wells in the area near the site. However, 4 private wells had low levels of lead in well water samples and lead in drinking water at any level should be reduced or removed.

**The NC Division of Public Health recommends:**

- EPA continue to maintain the fences around the site to discourage trespassing and keep individuals away from the site.
- Local health department prevent the installation of new drinking water wells east/southeast of the site, in the direction of groundwater flow away from the site.
- EPA and DEQ continue to monitor sediment, soil and surface water to ensure people are not exposed to harmful concentrations of site contaminants during clean-up.
- People who have contact with the sediment or soil in this area thoroughly wash with soap and water any skin or clothing that comes in contact with sediment or soil.
- People follow the Statewide mercury meal recommendations for eating fish from waterbodies in North Carolina as well as recommendations for eating catfish from Dobbins Pond:

<b>Statewide Meal Consumption Limit Recommendations for Mercury in Fish</b>	
<b>Women of child-bearing age (15-44 years old), pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children less than 15 years old</b>	<b>All others</b>
DO NOT EAT fish HIGH in mercury (includes largemouth bass)	Eat only 1 meal per week of fish HIGH in mercury (includes largemouth bass)
Eat up to 2 meals per week of fish LOW in mercury	Eat up to 4 meals per week of fish LOW in mercury
<b>Dobbins Pond Meal Consumption Limit Recommendations for Contaminants in Fish</b>	
<b>Everyone</b>	
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Contaminant of Concern</b>
Eat up to 1 meal per week of white catfish	Hexavalent Chromium

The full report is available under Yadkin County at [https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/oee/by\\_county.html#Yadkin](https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/oee/by_county.html#Yadkin)

Contact Information: **HACE Program**

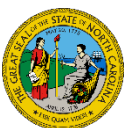
Telephone: (919) 707-5900

Email: [nchace@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:nchace@dhhs.nc.gov)

Address: NC Division of Public Health  
OEE/MERA

1912 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-1912



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**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**  
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