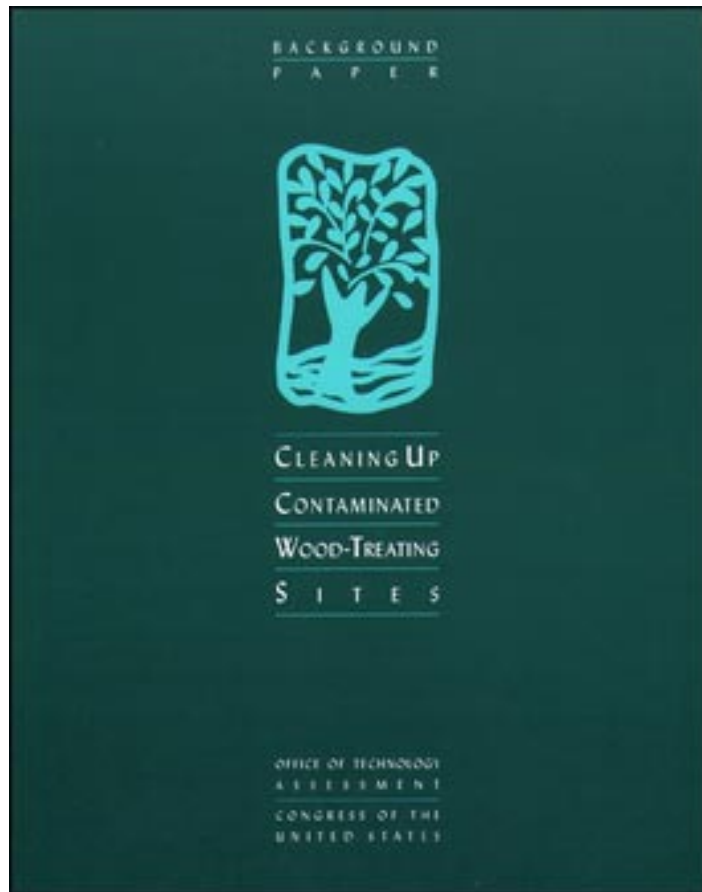


Cleaning Up Contaminated Wood-Treating Sites

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Foreword

The Texarkana Wood Preserving Company Superfund site is a former wood-treating site located in Texas that treated various wood products with chemical preservatives. These activities left behind contaminated soil and sludge, that led to contaminated groundwater. In 1990 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) selected incineration as the means to clean up contaminated soil at this site. In 1994 Congressman Jim Chapman (D-Texas) asked the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) to review alternative technologies that might be used instead of incineration at the Texarkana site. A second, separate study to assess the safety of incineration was also requested by Representative Chapman.

This report reviews technologies available for hazardous waste cleanup at wood-treating sites throughout the United States. OTA found that there are many Superfund wood-treatment sites located in this country that are very similar in terms of the contaminants present and the options selected for cleanup. OTA identified a range of such technologies that were selected and that could be applied to other sites in the future.

While OTA has not recommended specific technologies for the Texarkana site, it is clear that a number of them may be appropriate and could prove useful if more detailed site-specific studies and tests were carried out. While this study focused on the Texarkana site, decision makers and the public for other sites could benefit from this analysis during the process of selecting future cleanup strategies.

OTA appreciates the assistance and support it received for this effort from many contributors and reviewers. They provided OTA with valuable information critical to the completion of this background paper and important insights about its technical evaluations and projections. OTA, however, remains solely responsible for the contents of this report.



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