

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION:

Yurok Tribe Environmental Program (YTEP)
(707) 482-1822
yuroktribe.org/departments/ytep

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/chemicals/pentachlorophenol_main.htm

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.
(707) 576-2220
[Www.swrcb.ca.gov/northcoast](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/northcoast)

Geotracker
Is a CA State database that provides searchable environmental information for your area.
<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov>

Center for Disease Control
[Www.atsdr.cdc.gov](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov)

Californians for Alternatives to Toxics
(707) 445-5100
[Www.alternatives2toxics.org/penta](http://www.alternatives2toxics.org/penta)

Some information used:
Californians for Alternatives to Toxics
[Www.alternatives2toxics.org/penta](http://www.alternatives2toxics.org/penta)
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDM)
Public Health Statements for:
Pentachlorophenol CAS# 87-86-5
Hydraulic Fluid CAS# 55957-10-3
[Www.atsdr.cdc.gov](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov)
Numerous interviews with community members at Yurok Tribal functions.
Photos:
Veneers: Klamath, CA courtesy of Forest History Society Durham, N.C.
[Www.foresthistory.org](http://www.foresthistory.org)
Plywood photo from "Family Trees Simpson Centennial Story" by Robert Spector 1990.
Choker setters: swanlund photo



Yurok Tribe Environmental Program
P.O. Box 1027 Klamath, CA 95548

Historic Logging Activity on the Yurok Indian Reservation

VENEERS: KLAMATH, CALIFORNIA



Lumber mills were once prevalent on the Yurok Indian Reservation. (as seen in the photo above.) The picture above is "Simpson Timber Company's Klamath Veneer Plant." It was located on Hoppow Creek near Klamath. Although this mill closed years ago, some environmental contamination may still exist.

WHAT TRIBAL MEMBERS NEED TO KNOW TO PROTECT THEIR HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT



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What is the environmental threat from historic logging activity?

Logging was and is still a major industry on and around the Yurok Indian Reservation. This once thriving industry once employed thousands of people on and near the Yurok Indian Reservation. After World War II, logging drastically increased and resulted in numerous lumber mills on the YIR. Most logging activity occurred before many of our existing environmental laws. Although use of some of the most harmful chemicals stopped years ago, these legacy toxins can still impact our health today. We now have a heightened knowledge of the potential health impacts from chemicals and solvents used in logging and in mills.

What are some of the chemicals used in logging and at mill sites?

- Hydraulic fluid
- Gasoline/Diesel
- Glues
- Wood preservatives– possibly pentachlorophenol (PCP) It's not entirely known exactly which chemicals were used, nor what quantities used because regulation of many of these chemicals didn't exist until recently.



What is hydraulic fluid?

Hydraulic fluid is a commonly used large class of mixed chemical components used in heavy equipment. Over 200 million gallons are sold in the U.S. per year. Local residents whom worked in the woods reported that historically it was common to drain hydraulic fluid on the ground while operating heavy equipment on landings. It was also common to dig a trench or pit to bury empty barrels.

Potential health hazards from hydraulic fluid

Very little is known about its health effects but worldwide there have been reports of pneumonia, brain, nerve & muscle damage and also death. Fish can absorb it. Exposure on the YIR would likely be near old mill sites, or on landings where heavy equipment was operated.

What is Pentachlorophenol?

Pentachlorophenol also called "penta" is a wood preservative used in plywood mills, on mill yards, & telephone poles. Penta was widely used until being banned in 1987.



Potential health hazards from pentachlorophenol

Penta is extremely toxic, can cause cancer, liver, kidney and nervous system damage. It can disrupt your endocrine system (hormones) & immune system. Dioxin which is a byproduct of Pentachlorophenol can also cause cancer and reproductive system damage.

It's not known if pentachlorophenol was used on the YIR, but because it was so commonly used it's possible that some mill sites may have contamination. A former Simpson Timber Company plywood mill in Eureka has extensive environmental contamination that's currently being cleaned up. It's possible that the Simpson Veneer Mill at Hoppow Creek may also have environmental contamination.

What you can do

- Use caution if you live near a historic mill site. Prevent children from playing & eating soil near mill sites.
- Minimize exposure to penta by peeling and washing fruits and vegetables before cooking.
- Minimize exposure by avoiding telephone poles & rail road ties.

EPA-STAR grant testing

YTEP is currently sampling for numerous toxins in aquatic subsistence foods like sturgeon, eels and salmon. Once the information is gathered and finalized the results will be shared with the public.