



# At a Glance

*Catalyst for Improving the Environment*

## Why We Did This Review

We conducted this review to determine whether U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 implemented the recommendations in our September 2004 report on the Escambia Treating Company Superfund site, Pensacola, Florida. We also examined the current status of site clean-up and whether EPA was effectively communicating site clean-up plans and actions with residents, local businesses, and city and county governments.

## Background

The Escambia site is an abandoned wood preserving facility where various health risks were identified and from which about 358 households were permanently relocated. In September 2004, we reported on the status of EPA's clean-up planning for the site, relocation of home owners, and community relations activities. We had made several recommendations in that prior report.

**For further information, contact our Office of Congressional and Public Liaison at (202) 566-2391.**

**To view the full report, click on the following link:**  
[www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2008/20080714-08-P-0200.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2008/20080714-08-P-0200.pdf)

## ***Follow-up Review on Progress at Escambia Treating Company Superfund Site, Pensacola, Florida***

### **What We Found**

EPA Region 4 implemented all but one of our prior report recommendations. For example:

- EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers monitored the housing inspection process and implemented steps to reduce the likelihood of maintenance issues surfacing when relocating residents.
- Region 4 updated the Community Involvement Plan and provided to the site information repository copies of the plan as well as the community's technical advisor's comments.
- Region 4 conducted public availability sessions with the community.
- Region 4 provided the administrative record compact disks (CDs) to the site repository.

Although Region 4 indicated it had provided electronic files containing the site administrative record to Citizens Against Toxic Exposure (CATE), an environmental group, CATE's current president said the organization did not receive any CDs from the Region. Also, the Region was unable to locate any evidence (e.g., copy of transmittal letter) that it had submitted the CDs to CATE.

The remedial action for contaminated soils at the site began in October 2007 and is expected to be completed around April 2009. EPA completed the draft feasibility study for addressing contaminated groundwater at the site in December 2007. EPA plans to issue the Record of Decision in July or August 2008.

Overall, residents, local governments, and businesses indicated Region 4 openly communicated and provided timely information regarding the site.

### **What We Recommend**

We recommend that EPA Region 4 provide copies of the updated administrative record CDs to CATE. Further, although not warranting formal recommendations, we found several additional steps EPA could take. Steps included updating the administrative record index at the site repository, making CDs more readily available, and providing local officials with fact sheets on a regular basis.

Region 4 concurred with our recommendation and suggestions. The Region indicated it provided the CDs to CATE on May 8, 2008.