



## **Study Finds Disposal of Treated Wood Waste in Lined Landfills Safe**

Vancouver, Washington (April 27, 2004) - A recently completed study, *Wood Preserving Chemicals in California Landfill Leachate*, by Graham Environmental Consulting examined public leachate data from a cross section of Class 2 and 3 landfills in the state in regard to treated wood waste and concluded, ***“Current practice does not create a threat to human health or the environment.”*** The study also found that the constituents in treated wood occurred at levels ***“..either below the drinking water standard or below the Limit Threshold Concentration Value modeled for landfills with composite liners ...”***

The following are some of the important highlights of the study.

- Operators of facilities accepting treated wood estimate it composes only 1-2% of the waste materials they process.
- There was no significant difference in leachate concentrations of studied constituents between the facilities that do or those that do not accept treated wood waste, confirming that most constituents in treated wood are also produced from other sources.
- The study documents that Class 2 and 3 landfills are engineered and managed to minimize the impact of leachate from any type of waste on ground and surface waters. They provide a secure, monitored environment for disposal of many types of waste.
- The study documents that the long-term risks to public health and the environment are and can be appropriately managed by allowing disposal of treated wood in composite lined Class 2 and 3 landfills.
- The study supports the conclusion that most metals from treated wood chemicals in landfill leachate are below drinking water standards or below the Limit Threshold Concentration Value (LTCV) modeled for landfills using the U.S. EPA Tier 1 Industrial Waste Management Evaluation Model (IWME).
- The study clearly supports the fact current disposal practices for treated wood waste do not create a threat to human health or the environment.

**WWPI believes this study conclusively supports the appropriateness for the California legislature and regulatory agencies to establish a clear statutory authority allowing treated wood to be disposed of in composite lined Class 2 or 3 landfills approved to receive such material by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards.**