

## ENVIRONMENT

# LACO ASSOCIATES TEAMS WITH NEW ZEALAND GROUP

LACO Associates, local engineering, geology and environmental consultants, have teamed with Kingett Mitchell Ltd., New Zealand-based environmental consultants, to clean up a New Zealand lumber facility impacted by the wood preservative pentachlorophenol.

At an active sawmill near the southern coast of New Zealand's South Island, LACO provided design and operations support for New Zealand's first network of subsurface chemical oxidation wells designed to treat PCP releases in place.

"This is a cutting-edge process," said Christopher Watt, LACO Environmental Services Leader. "We are able to clean up these kind of sites effectively and efficiently without excavating and disposing tons of soil. This is what the future holds for cleaning up old mill sites in our own backyard."

The logistics of providing systems operation support for a project in New Zealand was not easy.

"We had to ship 1,000 pounds of equipment through the air and hope it made it through customs by our arrival," said Brian Nelson, LACO Remediation Manager, who traveled to the site at Conical Hill, about 400 miles south of New Zealand's capital, Wellington. As winter approached in the Southern Hemisphere, the team worked 12-hour days, often in darkness, to meet project objectives.

"It all paid off in the end," Nelson stated. "The system is up and working optimally."

LACO currently uses similar technology to clean up numerous petroleum-based spills in Humboldt County. The technique was found to be effective in treating chemical wastes associated with lumber processing facilities as well. At one former local mill, PCP has been effectively reduced 90 percent in soil and 99 percent in groundwater.

"As this technology becomes more refined, mill owners throughout the world will have a promising alternative to restore their impacted properties to full value," Watt added.