



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



## US EPA Region 5 1998 News Releases

---

Pick the month you're interested in:

[January](#)

[May](#)

[September](#)

[February](#)

[June](#)

[October](#)

[March](#)

[July](#)

[November](#)

[April](#)

[August](#)

[December](#)

---

### January

[98-OPA001](#): Released 1/2/98

EPA TO HOLD DETROIT COKE PUBLIC MEETING JAN. 8

[98-OPA002](#): Released 1/5/98

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

[98-OPA003](#): Released 1/5/98

EPA CITES L.W.G. FINISHING FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA004](#): Released 1/8/98

EPA RECOGNIZES KMART'S COMMITMENT TO ENERGY-SAVINGS PROGRAM

[98-OPA005](#): Released 1/8/98

EPA: 22 SUPERFUND SITES CLEANED UP, 36 TIME-CRITICAL RESPONSES, \$75 MILLION SAVED IN MIDWEST DURING FY 1997

[98-OPA006](#): Released 1/12/98

EPA TELLS R.S.V. TO CLEAN UP 2 ASBESTOS SITES

[98-OPA007](#): Released 1/12/98

EPA-FUNDED KIT ON NATURAL LANDSCAPING NOW AVAILABLE

[98-OPA008](#): Released 1/13/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH NOTRE DAME; INCLUDES \$250,000 FINE

[98-OPA009](#): Released 1/14/98

EPA TO HOLD MEETING JAN. 27 ON REVISIONS TO UNDERGROUND WELL REGS

[98-OPA010](#): Released 1/16/98

EPA APPROVES OHIO PLAN TO CUT CINCINNATI SMOG

[98-OPA011](#): Released 1/16/98

EPA SETTLES ON STICKNEY, TYLER SITES; SETTLING PARTIES TO BUILD \$26 MILLION MULTI-LAYER COVER

[98-OPA012](#): Released 1/20/98

EPA SETTLES WITH HOWARD BEEF PROCESSORS (D/B/A ELLISON MEAT CO.) FOR CHEMICAL VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$17,650 FINE

[98-OPA013](#): Released 1/21/98

EPA RESEARCH VESSEL SAILS INTO MILWAUKEE FOR LAKE MICHIGAN PROJECT

[98-OPA014](#): Released 1/21/98

EPA JOINS LAKE MICHIGAN SEDIMENT PLUME STUDY

[98-OPA015](#): Released 1/21/98

EPA CITES UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA016](#): Released 1/22/98

EPA CITES JLM CHEMICALS FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA017](#): Released 1/22/98

EPA CITES AK STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA018](#): Released 1/22/98

EPA CITES 3 COMPANIES FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$27,500 FINE

[98-OPA019](#): Released 1/22/98

EPA REGION 5 REPORTS RECORD YEAR FOR ENFORCEMENT PENALTIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT FUNDING

[98-OPA020](#): Released 1/26/98

EPA CITES STONECO FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA021](#): Released 1/27/98

EPA TO SPONSOR 3 EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW SEMINARS IN ILLINOIS

[98-OPA022](#): Released 1/28/98

EPA TO SPONSOR 4 EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW SEMINARS IN INDIANA

[98-OPA023](#): Released 1/28/98

EPA: KERR-McGEE AGREES TO CLEAN UP TOLEDO TIE TREATMENT SITE

[98-OPA025](#): Released 1/28/98

COURT APPROVES EPA SETTLEMENT WITH THE GLIDDEN CO.; INCLUDES \$1.5 MILLION FINE

[98-OPA026](#): Released 1/29/98

EPA CITES LIBRA FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA027](#): Released 1/30/98

EPA REPORT SHOWS DECLINE IN AIR DEPOSITION OF LEAD AND PCB'S TO GREAT LAKES

---

## February

[98-OPA028](#): Released 2/2/98

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FRED HANSEN TO VISIT MINNEAPOLIS FEB. 3; 10:00 AM REMARKS AND PHOTO-OP AT FEDERAL RESERVE BUILDING

[98-OPA029](#): Released 2/2/98

EPA TELLS R&M APPLIANCE TO SUPPLY REFRIGERANT INFORMATION

[98-OPA030](#): Released 2/2/98

EPA: CUSTOM BLENDED OIL (PEOTONE, IL) BANKRUPT, NO LONGER ACCEPTING WASTE OIL; CLEANUP BEGINS THIS WEEK

[98-OPA024](#): Released 2/3/98

EPA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 1997 PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARDS

[98-OPA031](#): Released 2/3/98

CORRECTION TO RELEASE NO. 98-OPA029  
EPA TELLS R&M APPLIANCE TO SUPPLY REFRIGERANT INFORMATION

[98-OPA032](#): Released 2/4/98

CITY OF ROCKFORD AGREES TO PROCEED WITH CLEANUP AT SOUTHEAST ROCKFORD GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION SITE

[98-OPA033](#): Released 2/4/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH DYNACHEM ON AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA034](#): Released 2/4/98

NOT TO CORRESPONDENTS: MAYOR OF TOLEDO & ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES ANNOUNCE CLEANUP OF TRIBUTARY TO OTTAWA RIVER

[98-OPA035](#): Released 2/6/98

EPA TELLS ROSS NOT TO OPERATE MAIN CHAMBER SIDE-DOOR FEED MECHANISM

[98-OPA036](#): Released 2/9/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH SHELCO STEEL ON AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA037](#): Released 2/9/98

EPA CITES ALLIED METAL FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA038](#): Released 2/18/98

EPA APPROVES \$1.65 MILLION GRANT TO WDNR TO BEGIN FOX RIVER FEASIBILITY STUDY

[98-OPA039](#): Released 2/10/98

EPA CITES CHROME INDUSTRIES FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA040](#): Released 2/11/98

EPA APPROVES \$19 MILLION CLEANUP AT UNION CARBIDE NORTH LANDFILL; SEPARATE \$50 MILLION CLEANUP SLATED FOR ADJACENT SITE

[98-OPA041](#): Released 2/11/98

EPA SETTLES WITH R.R. DONNELLEY FOR HAZ. WASTE VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$29,000 FINE AND \$166,000 IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

[98-OPA042](#): Released 2/11/98

EPA REGION 5, PARTNERS REACH ENERGY-SAVING MILESTONE

(ILLINOIS)

[98-OPA043](#): Released 2/11/98

EPA REGION 5, PARTNERS REACH ENERGY-SAVING MILESTONE  
(INDIANA)

[98-OPA044](#): Released 2/11/98

EPA REGION 5, PARTNERS REACH ENERGY-SAVING MILESTONE  
(MICHIGAN)

[98-OPA045](#): Released 2/11/98

EPA REGION 5, PARTNERS REACH ENERGY-SAVING MILESTONE  
(MINNESOTA)

[98-OPA046](#): Released 2/11/98

EPA REGION 5, PARTNERS REACH ENERGY-SAVING MILESTONE  
(OHIO)

[98-OPA047](#): Released 2/11/98

EPA REGION 5, PARTNERS REACH ENERGY-SAVING MILESTONE  
(WISCONSIN)

[98-OPA048](#): Released 2/12/98

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: CORRECTION TO EPA NEWS  
RELEASE 98-OPA040 RE: CLEANUP AT UNION CARBIDE  
(MARIETTA, OH) SITES

[98-OPA049](#): Released 2/17/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH J.& D. ON ASBESTOS  
POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$27,500 FINE

[98-OPA050](#): Released 2/17/98

EPA CITES HERITAGE FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA051](#): Released 2/17/98

EPA: NEW BROWNFIELDS AGREEMENT TO REDEVELOP 2 PAPER  
MILLS AT ALLIED PAPER-PORTAGE CREEK-KALAMAZOO RIVER  
SUPERFUND SITE

[98-OPA052](#): Released 2/19/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH M&O ON ASBESTOS  
VIOLATIONS AT BOWEN HIGH; INCLUDES \$100,000 FINE

[98-OPA053](#): Released 2/19/98

EPA: \$4.4 MILLION CLEANUP COMPLETED AT ZEPHYR REFINERY  
SITE

[98-OPA054](#): Released 2/20/98

EPA: \$1 MILLION CLEANUP COMPLETED AT DURAKO PAINT SITE

[98-OPA055](#): Released 2/26/98

EPA: CLEANUP AT STICKLES DRUM SITE COMPLETED

[98-OPA056](#): Released 2/25/98

EPA CITES CLEVELAND ENERGY RESOURCES FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA057](#): Released 2/27/98

EPA AWARDS \$50,000 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR TAR  
LAKE SITE

---

**March**

[98-OPA058](#): Released 3/3/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH MARATHON; INCLUDES \$75,000 FINE AND \$382,000 POLLUTION-CUTTING PROJECT

[98-OPA059](#): Released 3/3/98

EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON CHANGES TO CLEANUP PLAN AT MOSS-AMERICAN SITE; MEETING MARCH 18

[98-OPA060](#): Released 3/3/98

EPA OK's WTI PERMIT MODIFICATION

[98-OPA061](#): Released 3/3/98

EPA RECOGNIZES LAPPER SEWAGE-TREATMENT PLANT FOR EXCELLENCE

[98-OPA062](#): Released 3/5/98

EPA: CLEANUP COMPLETED AT GHR FOUNDRY SITE

[98-OPA063](#): Released 3/5/98

EPA RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING SEWAGE-TREATMENT PLANTS

[98-OPA064](#): Released 3/5/98

EPA RECOGNIZES WISCONSIN SEWAGE-TREATMENT PLANTS FOR EXCELLENCE

[98-OPA065](#): Released 3/5/98

EPA RECOGNIZES WAUSEON SEWAGE-TREATMENT PLANT FOR EXCELLENCE

[98-OPA066](#): Released 3/10/98

BLOOMINGTON MAYOR FERNANDEZ NAMED TO EPA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[98-OPA067](#): Released 3/9/98

EPA ADDS CAM-OR SITE TO SUPERFUND LIST

[98-OPA068](#): Released 3/10/98

EPA CITES DETROIT COKE FOR UNDERGROUND INJECTION WELL VIOLATIONS

[98-OPA069](#): Released 3/10/98

EPA REACHES PARTIAL AGREEMENT WITH CINERGY ON AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA070](#): Released 3/10/98

CALENDAR LISTING

[98-OPA071](#): Released 3/12/98

EPA/CORPS SEEK COMMENTS ON MCHENRY COUNTY WETLANDS STUDY

[98-OPA072](#): Released 3/16/98

EPA: CLEANUP UNDER WAY AT ENVIRO-CHEM SITE

[98-OPA073](#): Released 3/17/98

EPA COMPLETES POLLUTION STUDY AT LAMMERS BARREL SITE; MEETING MAR. 26

[98-OPA074](#): Released 3/16/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH ACME STEEL; INCLUDES \$410,000 FINE AND \$2.7 MILLION POLLUTION-CUTTING PROJECTS

[98-OPA075](#): Released 3/16/98

EPA: PCI HAS 60 DAYS TO COMPLY WITH PCB RULES

[98-OPA076](#): Released 3/18/98

EPA TO HOST INT'L HAZ. MATERIALS SPILLS CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO, APR. 5 - 9

[98-OPA077](#): Released 3/17/98

EPA CITES 3 DETROIT-AREA FORD PLANTS FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA078](#): Released 3/18/98

EPA CITES NATIONAL STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA079](#): Released 3/18/98

EPA CITES AMCAST FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA080](#): Released 3/19/98

EPA COMPLETES CLEANUP AT ABANDONED DETROIT SITE

[98-OPA081](#): Released 3/20/98

EPA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD FOR BERLIN AND FARRO SUPERFUND SITE DELISTING

[98-OPA082](#): Released 3/20/98

EPA OK'S TRANSFER OF DETROIT ARSENAL PROPERTY TO CITY OF WARREN

[98-OPA083](#): Released 3/25/98

EPA: FREE BROCHURE ON OIL-SPILL PREVENTION REGS NOW AVAILABLE

[98-OPA084](#): Released 3/23/98

EPA TO PRESENT NATIONAL ENERGY-SAVING AWARD TO AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER

[98-OPA085](#): Released 3/23/98

EPA TO PRESENT NATIONAL ENERGY-SAVING AWARD TO TRANE

[98-OPA086](#): Released 3/23/98

EPA TO PRESENT NATIONAL ENERGY-SAVING AWARD TO MCDONALD'S

[98-OPA087](#): Released 3/23/98

EPA CITES MASTER CHROME FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA088](#): Released 3/26/98

EPA SETTLES WITH STERN ESTATE; INCLUDES \$122,700 FINE

[98-OPA089](#): Released 3/26/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH CONSOLIDATED RAIL ON VIOLATIONS OF CLEAN WATER AND OIL POLLUTION ACTS

[98-OPA090](#): Released 3/26/98

EPA: MEETING ON CLEANUP AT FIELDS BROOK SITE APRIL 2

[98-OPA091](#): Released 3/27/98

EPA PROPOSES BELDING WAREHOUSE SITE FOR SUPERFUND DELISTING

[98-OPA092](#): Released 3/30/98

EPA CITES CITGO FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA093](#): Released 3/30/98

EPA: NEW CLEAN-UP PLAN PROPOSED FOR SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP DUMP; MEETING APRIL 2

[98-OPA095](#): Released 3/31/98

EPA PICKS GROUND WATER CLEANUP PLAN FOR LINCOLN FIELDS



SITE

---

**April**

[98-OPA094](#): Released 4/1/98

MEDIA ALERT: WARM UP TO EARTH DAY

[98-OPA096](#): Released 4/2/98

EPA OK'S WELL PERMITS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

[98-OPA097](#): Released 4/3/98

EPA: CLEANUP BEGINS AT CRYSTAL REFINING SITE

[98-OPA098](#): Released 4/6/98

EPA CITES CLEVELAND LAMINATING FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA099](#): Released 4/6/98

EPA PROPOSES NATIONAL LEAD INDUSTRIES-TARACORP-GOLDEN AUTO PARTS SITE FOR DELISTING; COMMENT PERIOD BEGINS

[98-OPA100](#): Released 4/7/98

EPA TO COSPONSOR SCHOOL AIR QUALITY AND ASTHMA WORKSHOP APR 29

[98-OPA101](#): Released 4/8/98

EPA CITES ROBBINS INCINERATOR FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA102](#): Released 4/9/98

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: REP. UPTON TO VISIT BENTON HARBOR WAREHOUSE SUPERFUND SITE, TUES., APR. 14, 2:00 P.M.

[98-OPA103](#): Released 4/14/98

EPA CITES TIODIZE FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$40,388 FINE

[98-OPA104](#): Released 4/15/98

EPA CITES BORDEN FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$175,840 FINE

[98-OPA105](#): Released 4/15/98

EPA TELLS DOLLOFF TO INSTALL AIR POLLUTION CONTROLS

[98-OPA106](#): Released 4/16/98

EPA PLANS TO CHANGE ENVIROSAFE LANDFILL PERMIT; PUBLIC HEARING MAY 6

[98-OPA107](#): Released 4/16/98

MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA, CANADA, MDEQ, AND ONTARIO TO SIGN LETTER OF COMMITMENT ON CLEAN UP PLANS FOR SHARED RIVERS

[98-OPA108](#): Released 4/17/98

EPA SETTLES WITH EXCEL CIRCUITS FOR CHEMICAL REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$9,750 FINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

[98-OPA109](#): Released 4/20/98

MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA TO RECOGNIZE MCDONALD'S POLLUTION-CUTTING PROGRAM

[98-OPA110](#): Released 4/20/98

MEDIA ALERT: EPA PLANS MULTIPLE EARTH DAY EVENTS IN  
REGION 5 APRIL 22, 1998

[98-OPA111](#): Released 4/21/98

EPA RELEASES FOLLOW-UP DOCUMENT TO WTI RISK  
ASSESSMENT

[98-OPA112](#): Released 4/22/98

EPA RECOGNIZES MCDONALD'S POLLUTION-CUTTING PROGRAM

[98-OPA113](#): Released 4/23/98

EPA CITES RICHARDS INDUSTRIES FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA114](#): Released 4/23/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH DEMOLITION OPERATOR ON  
ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$16,000 FINE

[98-OPA115](#): Released 4/29/98

EPA: U.S. POST OFFICE FACILITY REDUCING HAZARDOUS AND  
NONHAZARDOUS WASTE

[98-OPA116](#): Released 4/29/98

EPA: U.S. POST OFFICE FACILITY REDUCING AND RECYCLING  
SOLID WASTE

[98-OPA117](#): Released 4/29/98

EPA: U.S. POST OFFICE FACILITY REDUCING HAZARDOUS AND  
NONHAZARDOUS WASTE

[98-OPA118](#): Released 4/28/98

EPA ORDERS RESPONSIBLE PARTIES TO BUILD AND OPERATE GAS  
COLLECTION SYSTEM AT YEOMAN CREEK LANDFILL

[98-OPA119](#): Released 4/28/98

EPA SETTLES WITH NATIONAL STEEL: INCLUDES \$53,942 FINE  
AND 2 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

[98-OPA120](#): Released 4/27/98

EPA TELLS COHEN TO STOP DISPOSAL OF APPLIANCES  
CONTAINING REFRIGERANTS

[98-OPA121](#): Released 4/28/98

EPA PROPOSES PINE BEND LANDFILL FOR DELISTING; COMMENT  
PERIOD ENDS MAY 28

[98-OPA122](#): Released 4/28/98

EPA CITES SAFETY KLEEN ON PCB'S; PROPOSES \$126,500 FINE

[98-OPA123](#): Released 4/30/98

EPA CITES CITY MEDICAL WASTE SERVICES FOR AIR POLLUTION

---

## May

[98-OPA124](#): Released 5/1/98

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: PESTICIDE CLEANUP NEARS  
COMPLETION; MEDIA AVAILABILITY AT NW SIDE HOME MAY 5, 10  
A.M.

[98-OPA125](#): Released 5/5/98



EPA: "COTTON POISON" PESTICIDE CLEANUP NEARS COMPLETION

[98-OPA126](#): Released 5/5/98

EPA CITES CHEMREX FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA127](#): Released 5/5/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH CARTER CHROME ON AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA128](#): Released 5/8/98

EPA AWARDS 5 NEW REDEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN MIDWEST

[98-OPA129](#): Released 5/12/98

EPA CITES KNAUF FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA130](#): Released 5/12/98

EPA CITES STONECO FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$88,500 FINE

[98-OPA131](#): Released 5/12/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH BAGCRAFT; INCLUDES \$170,000 FINE

[98-OPA132](#): Released 5/12/98

EPA CITES PRO-TEC FOR CLEAN AIR ACT VIOLATIONS

[98-OPA133](#): Released 5/13/98

EPA SETTLES WITH CRAWFORDSVILLE ON WATER POLLUTION; CITY FINED \$98,000

[98-OPA134](#): Released 5/14/98

EPA ALTERS TRI-COUNTY/ELGIN LANDFILL CLEANUP PLAN

[98-OPA135](#): Released 5/20/98

EPA AWARDS \$65,584 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN ILLINOIS

[98-OPA136](#): Released 5/20/98

EPA AWARDS \$28,963 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN OHIO

[98-OPA137](#): Released 5/20/98

EPA AWARDS \$9,800 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN MINNESOTA

[98-OPA138](#): Released 5/20/98

EPA AWARDS \$49,996 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN MICHIGAN

[98-OPA139](#): Released 5/20/98

EPA AWARDS \$10,000 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN INDIANA

[98-OPA140](#): Released 5/20/98

EPA AWARDS \$35,657 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN WISCONSIN

[98-OPA141](#): Released 5/15/98

EPA TO PROHIBIT PCI FROM TAKING SUPERFUND WASTE STARTING MAY 23

[98-OPA143](#): Released 5/19/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH CINERGY; INCLUDES \$63,000 FINE

[98-OPA144](#): Released 5/19/98

EPA CITES DIAMOND CHROME PLATING FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA145](#): Released 5/19/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH TIODIZE; INCLUDES \$40,388 FINE

[98-OPA146](#): Released 5/20/98

EPA: BELDING WAREHOUSE SITE REMOVED FROM SUPERFUND LIST

[98-OPA147](#): Released 5/20/98

EPA TO UPDATE RESIDENTS ON ILL. BEACH STATE PARK ASBESTOS SITES MAY 26

[98-OPA148](#): Released 5/20/98

EPA CITES STONE CONTAINER FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA149](#): Released 5/20/98

EPA CITES LINCOLN ELECTRIC FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA150](#): Released 5/21/98

EPA SETTLES LAWSUIT WITH J&L SPECIALTY STEEL; INCLUDES \$200,000 FINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS WORTH \$350,000

[98-OPA151](#): Released 5/22/98

EPA: CLEANUP COMPLETE AT LEWISBURG DRUM SITE; MEETING MAY 28

[98-OPA152](#): Released 5/27/98

EPA GIVES CINCINNATI & NORTHERN KENTUCKY MORE TIME FOR SMOG CLEANUP

[98-OPA153](#): Released 5/27/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH GM; INCLUDES \$44,722 FINE & \$101,760 CLEAN-AIR PROJECT

[98-OPA154](#): Released 5/27/98

EPA: OPEN HOUSE AT THERMO-CHEM SITE JUNE 2

[98-OPA155](#): Released 5/27/98

EPA CITES PERSTORP FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA156](#): Released 5/29/98

EPA PROPOSES TO OK CHANGES TO OHIO DRINKING-WATER RULES

[98-OPA157](#): Released 5/29/98

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: MAYOR FINKBEINER, REP. KAPTUR & ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES ANNOUNCE END OF CLEANUP OF OTTAWA RIVER TRIBUTARY

[98-OPA158](#): Released 5/29/98

EPA TO HOST UPDATE MEETINGS ON NL INDUSTRIES-TARACORP CLEANUP JUNE 4-5

---

## June

[98-OPA159](#): Released 6/2/98

EPA: CLEANUP OF OTTAWA RIVER TRIBUTARY FINISHED

[98-OPA160](#): Released 6/3/98

EPA CITES NUCOR STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA161](#): Released 6/3/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH BRUSH WELLMAN ON  
HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS

[98-OPA162](#): Released 6/4/98

EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON CLEANUP PLAN FOR LEAD BATTERY  
RECYCLER SITE; MEETING JUNE 24

[98-OPA163](#): Released 6/3/98

HARTSON-KENNEDY TO PAY \$82,900 FINE FOR REPORTING  
VIOLATIONS

[98-OPA164](#): Released 6/4/98

EPA CITES QUEBECOR FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA165](#): Released 6/5/98

EPA CITES HUDSON FOODS FOR CHEMICAL REPORTING  
VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$42,500 FINE

[98-OPA166](#): Released 6/8/98

EPA PROPOSES ADVISORY GROUP FOR LAMMARS BARREL  
FACTORY SITE; MEETING JUNE 16

[98-OPA167](#): Released 6/8/98

EPA SETTLES \$2 MILLION SLUDGE-LAGOON CLEANUP WITH  
MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT

[98-OPA168](#): Released 6/9/98

EPA CITES GETZEN FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA169](#): Released 6/10/98

EPA CASE LEADS TO \$546,700 PENALTY, \$2.39 MILLION FOR 2  
PROJECTS AT NATIONAL STEEL

[98-OPA170](#): Released 6/10/98

RAMONA PARK BATTERY SITE ANALYSIS TO BEGIN

[98-OPA171](#): Released 6/11/98

EPA'S "CHILDREN AT RISK" CONFERENCE JULY 8-9

[98-OPA172](#): Released 6/11/98

NEW EPA SOFTWARE ON GROUND WATER AVAILABLE FREE

[98-OPA173](#): Released 6/11/98

EPA CITES LTV STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA174](#): Released 6/11/98

EPA TO GIVE TIPS ON CUTTING COSTS AND WASTES, VIA  
SATELLITE, JUNE 17

[98-OPA175](#): Released 6/12/98

EPA REACHES \$70,100 SETTLEMENT WITH ENVIROSAFE

[98-OPA176](#): Released 6/12/98

EPA CITES BUCKO FOR CLEAN AIR ACT VIOLATION; INCLUDES  
\$43,000 FINE

[98-OPA177](#): Released 6/17/98

EPA TO HOLD MEETING ON NEW CLEANUP PLAN FOR BOFORS  
SITE JUNE 24

[98-OPA178](#): Released 6/18/98

EPA ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW INFORMATION  
ON TOXIC RELEASES FOR MIDWEST

[98-OPA179](#): Released 6/18/98

EPA CITES JLM CHEMICALS FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES

\$93,500 FINE

[98-OPA180](#): Released 6/19/98

CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK AT VALLEYCREST  
LANDFILL

[98-OPA181](#): Released 6/23/98

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA TOUR OF UNION CARBIDE  
SITE, TUES., JUNE 30, NOON TO 1:30 P.M.

[98-OPA182](#): Released 6/22/98

EPA MEETING ON CLEANUP PLAN FOR DIXIE AUTO SALVAGE  
JULY 1; COMMENT PERIOD UNDER WAY

[98-OPA183](#): Released 6/22/98

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA, AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSN. TO  
SIGN WASTE-CUTTING AGREEMENT

[98-OPA184](#): Released 6/24/98

EPA SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON DEALING WITH  
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

[98-OPA185](#): Released 6/23/98

EPA CITES BISPING FOR LAND APPLICATION OF DOMESTIC  
WASTES

[98-OPA186](#): Released 6/24/98

EPA, AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSN. SIGN WASTE-CUTTING  
AGREEMENT

[98-OPA187](#): Released 6/25/98

EPA REACHES \$53,900 SETTLEMENT WITH RHODIA

[98-OPA188](#): Released 6/25/98

EPA CITES RAYCO FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA189](#): Released 6/25/98

EPA CITES RAYCO FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA190](#): Released 6/29/98

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: TUESDAY, JUNE 10, MEDIA TOUR OF  
UNION CARBIDE SITE CANCELED DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER

[98-OPA192](#): Released 6/30/98

EPA CITES OLIN FOR CHEMICAL RELEASE REPORTING  
VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$323,000 FINE

---

## July

[98-OPA193](#): Released 7/1/98

EPA CITES ROYAL CROWN BOTTLING CO. FOR REPORTING  
VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$78,692 FINE

[98-OPA194](#): Released 7/1/98

EPA HONORS ILLINOIS EPA OFFICIAL FOR AIR POLLUTION  
CONTROL WORK

[98-OPA195](#): Released 7/1/98

EPA: HOW SAFE IS THE WATER AT YOUR BEACH?

[98-OPA196](#): Released 7/6/98

EPA CITES AUTOALLIANCE FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS;  
PROPOSES \$33,100 FINE

[98-OPA197](#): Released 7/6/98

UNDERGROUND TANK OWNERS HAVE 6 MONTHS TO COMPLY  
WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

[98-OPA191](#): Released 7/7/98

EPA'S 'CHILDREN AT RISK' CONFERENCE JULY 8-9

[98-OPA198](#): Released 7/7/98

EPA: ILLEGAL DUMPING PREVENTION GUIDEBOOK NOW  
AVAILABLE

[98-OPA199](#): Released 7/9/98

EPA PICKS CLEANUP PLAN FOR SUMMIT EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY  
SITE

[98-OPA200](#): Released 7/8/98

EPA PICKS CLEANUP PLAN FOR NORTH BRONSON SUPERFUND  
SITE

[98-OPA201](#): Released 7/8/98

EPA: ADDITIONAL CLEANUP TO BEGIN SOON AT CITY BUMPER  
SITE; MEETING JULY 15

[98-OPA202](#): Released 7/8/98

EPA SUES MICHIGAN PEAT FOR POLLUTING STREAM & HARMING  
RARE BOG

[98-OPA203](#): Released 7/8/98

EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON PENTA WOOD PRODUCTS STUDY;  
MEETING JULY 15

[98-OPA204](#): Released 7/9/98

EPA PROPOSES LOWER FOX RIVER FOR NATIONAL PRIORITIES  
LIST; COMMENT PERIOD TO BE PUBLISHED IN FEDERAL REGISTER

[98-OPA205](#): Released 7/10/98

EPA CITES CHRYSLER FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA206](#): Released 7/10/98

EPA CITES DEUTCH & SONS FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA207](#): Released 7/10/98

EPA CITES NORTHPORTE DEVELOPMENT, SWEEBE FOR AIR  
POLLUTION

[98-OPA208](#): Released 7/14/98

EPA CITES ACCURATE COATINGS FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES  
\$41,000 FINE

[98-OPA209](#): Released 7/14/98

EPA CITES AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA210](#): Released 7/14/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH FOUNTAIN FOUNDRY;  
INCLUDES \$18,000 FINE & \$115,000 PROJECT

[98-OPA211](#): Released 7/14/98

EPA REACHES \$35,600 SETTLEMENT WITH WOZNIAK FOR  
REPORTING VIOLATIONS

[98-OPA212](#): Released 7/14/98

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA TO REMOVE TOXIC TRAILER

[98-OPA213](#): Released 7/15/98

EPA RELEASES REPOSE TO COMMENTS ON WTI RISK  
ASSESSMENT

[98-OPA214](#): Released 7/15/98

EPA AWARDS GRANTS TO 17 MORE BROWNFIELDS PROJECTS IN  
MIDWEST

[98-OPA215](#): Released 7/16/98

EPA TO DISCUSS AVANTI SITE CLEANUP; MEETING JULY 20

[98-OPA216](#): Released 7/16/98

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA TO HOLD MEDIA BRIEFING,  
PUBLIC HEARING ON PETOSKEY SUPERFUND SITE

[98-OPA217](#): Released 7/16/98

EPA REVOKES OLD SMOG STANDARD FOR 4 AREAS IN MICHIGAN,  
INDIANA, AND OHIO; NEW STANDARD APPLIES

[98-OPA218](#): Released 7/17/98

EPA CITES FORD FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA219](#): Released 7/17/98

MEETING ON LOWER FOX RIVER PCB'S AND PUBLIC-ECOLOGICAL  
HEALTH JULY 27

[98-OPA220](#): Released 7/20/98

EPA REACHES \$193,260 SETTLEMENT WITH EAST OHIO GAS FOR  
PCB VIOLATIONS

[98-OPA221](#): Released 7/22/98

EPA PROPOSES CLEANUP AT PETOSKEY SUPERFUND SITE

[98-OPA222](#): Released 7/21/98

EPA CITES ELECTROLIZING FOR CLEAN AIR ACT VIOLATION

[98-OPA223](#): Released 7/24/98

EPA: EXCAVATION TO BEGIN AT MARINA CLIFFS SITE; TOURS SET  
FOR JULY 30

[98-OPA224](#): Released 7/24/98

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA TO HOLD MEETING ON AIR  
ISSUES IN SANDUSKY JULY 29

[98-OPA225](#): Released 7/28/98

EPA: LOWER FOX RIVER SUPERFUND LISTING PUBLISHED IN  
FEDERAL REGISTER; 60-DAY COMMENT PERIOD BEGINS

[98-OPA226](#): Released 7/29/98

EPA SELECTS FINAL CLEANUP PLAN FOR WOODSTOCK  
MUNICIPAL LANDFILL

[98-OPA227](#): Released 7/29/98

EPA CITES BILLMAX PROPERTIES & UPRIGHT WRECKING FOR AIR  
POLLUTION

[98-OPA228](#): Released 7/29/98

EPA CITES HPA MONON FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA229](#): Released 7/29/98

EPA PROPOSES 2 ILLINOIS SITES FOR SUPERFUND LIST

[98-OPA230](#): Released 7/30/98

U.S. AND CANADA TO MONITOR TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS



AROUND THE GREAT LAKES

[98-OPA231](#): Released 7/31/98

EPA: OPEN HOUSE AUGUST 5 AT LINCOLN FIELDS WATER  
TREATMENT PLANT

---

**August**

[98-OPA232](#): Released 8/3/98

EPA CITES CHEMREX FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$127,642  
FINE

[98-OPA233](#): Released 8/3/98

EPA CITES CITGO FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$45,000 FINE

[98-OPA234](#): Released 8/3/98

EPA CITES BETA STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA235](#): Released 8/4/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH CLEVELAND LAMINATING;  
INCLUDES \$11,708 FINE & POLLUTION-CUTTING PROJECT TO COST  
MORE THAN \$350,000

[98-OPA236](#): Released 8/4/98

EPA CITES ELKHART FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$100,000  
FINE

[98-OPA237](#): Released 8/4/98

EPA CITES ICOR INTERNATIONAL FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS

[98-OPA238](#): Released 8/4/98

EPA CITES IROQUOIS FOUNDRY FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA239](#): Released 8/5/98

EPA CITES BAYER FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$54,000 FINE

[98-OPA240](#): Released 8/5/98

EPA CITES PROPHETER FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA241](#): Released 8/5/98

Note to Correspondents: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND INDIANA TO  
ANNOUNCE MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL SETTLEMENTS WITH NW  
INDIANA STEELMAKER

[98-OPA242](#): Released 8/12/98

EPA CITES MAGNESIUM REFINING TECHNOLOGIES FOR AIR  
POLLUTION

[98-OPA243](#): Released 8/13/98

EPA SETTLES WITH WITCO FOR TOXIC CHEMICAL VIOLATIONS;  
INCLUDES \$12,150 FINE

[98-OPA244](#): Released 8/12/98

EPA, NATURE MUSEUM TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE ON SHIP AUG. 18

[98-OPA245](#): Released 8/13/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH INDIANAPOLIS POWER & LIGHT  
ON CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS

[98-OPA246](#): Released 8/13/98

EPA CITES R&M APPLIANCE FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS;  
INCLUDES \$35,000 FINE

[98-OPA247](#): Released 8/13/98

GIRL SCOUTS, PUBLIC WILL TEST LAKE MICHIGAN WATER AT  
EPA, NATURE MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE ON SHIP AUG. 18

[98-OPA248](#): Released 8/17/98

EPA: \$200,000 BROWNFIELDS JOBS TRAINING GRANT AWARDED  
TO MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY SERVICE CORPS

[98-OPA249](#): Released 8/17/98

EPA AND OHIO EPA: CLEANUP BEGINS AT CENTURY 21 PAINT

[98-OPA250](#): Released 8/18/98

EPA: JUDGE ORDERS AMERICAN DISPOSAL TO PAY \$29,040 FINE

[98-OPA251](#): Released 8/21/98

EPA TO DISCUSS PROPOSED SUPERFUND LISTING IN APPLETON  
AND GREEN BAY SEPT. 2

[98-OPA252](#): Released 8/20/98

EPA: EXCAVATION BEGINS NEXT WEEK AT NORTH CHICAGO  
VACANT LOT SITE

[98-OPA253](#): Released 8/20/98

EPA CITES 3 WISCONSIN PARTIES FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS

[98-OPA254](#): Released 8/26/98

EPA: CLEANUP TO PROCEED AT UNITED SCRAP LEAD SITE

[98-OPA255](#): Released 8/24/98

EPA SEEKS COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO WISCONSIN'S  
DRINKING WATER PROGRAM

[98-OPA256](#): Released 8/24/98

EPA SEEKS COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO INDIANA'S  
DRINKING WATER PROGRAM

[98-OPA257](#): Released 8/25/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF WADSWORTH;  
INCLUDES \$70,600 FINE

[98-OPA257A](#): Released 8/27/98

EPA CITES COHEN; INCLUDES \$105,550 FINE

[98-OPA258](#): Released 8/28/98

EPA CITES DARLING INT'L FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA259](#): Released 8/31/98

EPA RECOGNIZES SMALL BUSINESSES FOR JOINING POLLUTION-  
CUTTING, ENERGY-SAVING PROGRAM

[98-OPA260](#): Released 8/31/98

EPA CITES DETROIT EDISON FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS

---

## September

[98-OPA261](#): Released 9/1/98

EPA CITES IROQUOIS FOUNDRY; INCLUDES \$136,952 FINE

[98-OPA263](#): Released 9/2/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH M.K. MOORE; INCLUDES \$70,000 FINE

[98-OPA264](#): Released 9/2/98

EPA TO HOLD MEETING AND HEARING ON GRAND CAL CLEANUP PLAN

[98-OPA265](#): Released 9/3/98

EPA: CLEANUP TO PROCEED AT ARCANUM IRON & METAL SITE

[98-OPA266](#): Released 9/8/98

EPA CITES FIRST ENERGY FOR AIR POLLUTION AT 2 CLEVELAND-AREA POWER PLANTS

[98-OPA267](#): Released 9/8/98

EPA: MINNESOTA STORAGE-TANK SWEEP NETS COMPLIANCE DATA

[98-OPA268](#): Released 9/9/98

EPA, DOJ SUE CLARK FOR MULTIPLE POLLUTION VIOLATIONS

[98-OPA269](#): Released 9/10/98

EPA CITES USS/KOBE STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA270](#): Released 9/11/98

EPA CITES PETERS-REVINGTON; INCLUDES \$40,000 FINE

[98-OPA271](#): Released 9/11/98

EPA CITES UNITED HARD CHROME FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA272](#): Released 9/15/98

EPA, DOJ FILE SUIT AGAINST AMERICAN NATIONAL CAN FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS

[98-OPA273](#): Released 9/15/98

EPA CITES BUSSE FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA274](#): Released 9/16/98

EPA PICKS SOIL-SEDIMENT CLEANUP PLAN FOR LEAD BATTERY RECYCLER SITE

[98-OPA275](#): Released 9/16/98

EPA CITES PIERCE & STEVENS FOR HAZ. WASTE VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$123,695 FINE

[98-OPA277](#): Released 9/21/98

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA TOUR OF UNION CARBIDE SITE, TUES., SEPT. 29, NOON TO 1:30 P.M.

[98-OPA278](#): Released 9/21/98

EPA CITES 3M FOR HAZ. WASTE VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$287,726 FINE

[98-OPA279](#): Released 9/22/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH LWG FINISHING; INCLUDES \$20,000 FINE

[98-OPA280](#): Released 9/23/98

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA, INDIANA TO SIGN POLLUTION PREVENTION AGREEMENT WITH STEEL MILLS

[98-OPA281](#): Released 9/25/98

EPA EXPANDS KERR-MCGEE RESIDENTIAL TESTING AREA

[98-OPA282](#): Released 9/24/98

EPA OK'S OHIO'S LEAD-BASED PAINT PROGRAM

[98-OPA283](#): Released 9/24/98

EPA: 5 STATES IN REGION MUST MAKE PLANS TO CUT NITROGEN OXIDE

[98-OPA284](#): Released 9/23/98

EPA TELLS LAKEHEAD PIPE LINE TO RESTORE MILLHURST FEN AND DEVELOP SPILL PLAN

[98-OPA285](#): Released 9/29/98

EPA COMMENDS UNION CARBIDE FOR PROGRESS AT WASHINGTON COUNTY SITES

[98-OPA286](#): Released 9/28/98

EPA: \$15 MILLION FUNDING APPROVED FOR TORCH LAKE CLEANUP

[98-OPA287](#): Released 9/29/98

EPA: LINCOLN FIELDS ALTERNATE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM TURNED OVER TO MADISON WATER DISTRICT BOARD

[98-OPA288](#): Released 9/29/98

EPA CITES CONTRACTORS, WORKERS FOR PHONY TRAINING CERTIFICATES

[98-OPA289](#): Released 9/30/98

EPA AND GE AGREE ON \$3.6 MILLION CLEANUP PLAN FOR DIXIE AUTO SALVAGE SITE; WORK TO BEGIN SOON

---

**October**

[98-OPA290](#): Released 10/1/98

EPA TELLS GENERAL MOTORS TO CLEAN UP HAZARDOUS WASTE

[98-OPA291](#): Released 10/1/98

EPA CITES DEUTCH & SONS; INCLUDES \$10,050 FINE

[98-OPA292](#): Released 10/2/98

EPA CITES KOCH FERTILIZER STORAGE FOR CHEMICAL RELEASE REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$82,500 FINE

[98-OPA293](#): Released 10/2/98

EPA TO AWARD FIRST CONTRACT FOR NEW ENERGY-SAVING PROGRAM

[98-OPA295](#): Released 10/6/98

EPA RECOGNIZES UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO POLLUTION-CUTTING, ENERGY-SAVING PROGRAM

[98-OPA296](#): Released 10/7/98

EPA RECOGNIZES GREEN BAY PACKERS, STATE OF WISCONSIN FOR COMMITMENT TO POLLUTION-CUTTING, ENERGY-SAVING PROGRAM

[98-OPA297](#): Released 10/6/98

EPA RECOGNIZES PURDUE FOR 10-YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL

SOFTWARE PARTNERSHIP

[98-OPA298](#): Released 10/7/98

EPA SELECTS \$7.2 MILLION CLEANUP PLAN FOR H.O.D. LANDFILL

[98-OPA299](#): Released 10/7/98

EPA TO SPONSOR 4 RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINARS IN MINNESOTA

[98-OPA300](#): Released 10/8/98

EPA ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE DISPOSAL OF MERCURY AND PCB'S

[98-OPA301](#): Released 10/9/98

LEAD SAMPLING TO BEGIN IN EAST ST. LOUIS; MEETING OCT. 20

[98-OPA302](#): Released 10/9/98

EPA RECOGNIZES REGIONAL SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS AMONG TOP IN NATION

[98-OPA304](#): Released 10/15/98

EPA PICKS CLEAN-UP PLANS FOR MOSS-AMERICAN, PENTA WOOD SITES

[98-OPA306](#): Released 10/19/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH ALLIED METAL; INCLUDES \$23,100 FINE

[98-OPA307](#): Released 10/16/98

EPA SELECTS CLEANUP PLAN FOR PETOSKEY SUPERFUND SITE

[98-OPA308](#): Released 10/20/98

EPA CITES MARSULEX FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA309](#): Released 10/21/98

EPA CITES FORD FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$55,000 FINE

[98-OPA310](#): Released 10/21/98

EPA CITES ELLEFSON FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS

[98-OPA311](#): Released 10/21/98

EPA TO SPONSOR RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINARS IN INDIANA

[98-OPA312](#): Released 10/21/98

EPA CITES JENNINGS PUMP FOR CLEAN AIR ACT VIOLATIONS

[98-OPA313](#): Released 10/21/98

EPA CITES ICOR INTERNATIONAL; INCLUDES \$99,850 FINE

[98-OPA314](#): Released 10/21/98

EPA AND IDEM OK SAFETY-KLEEN FOR PCB STORAGE AND TREATMENT

[98-OPA315](#): Released 10/22/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH STONECO; INCLUDES \$3,375 FINE & \$32,500 POLLUTION-CONTROL PROJECT

[98-OPA316](#): Released 10/22/98

EPA CITES CHRYSLER; INCLUDES \$16,000 FINE

[98-OPA317](#): Released 10/22/98

EPA CITES K.B. RECYCLING; INCLUDES \$17,000 FINE

[98-OPA318](#): Released 10/22/98

EPA CITES CHROME INDUSTRIES; INCLUDES \$34,542 FINE

[98-OPA319](#): Released 10/22/98

EPA CITES OPERATORS OF MICHIGAN INJECTION WELLS

[98-OPA320](#): Released 10/26/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH DIAMOND CHROME PLATING;  
INCLUDES \$20,000 FINE & \$300,000 POLLUTION-CONTROL PROJECT

[98-OPA321](#): Released 10/26/98

EPA CITES RAYCO; INCLUDES \$53,557 FINE

[98-OPA322](#): Released 10/26/98

EPA CITES BILLMAX PROPERTIES & UPRIGHT WRECKING;  
INCLUDES \$20,020 FINE

[98-OPA323](#): Released 10/26/98

EPA CITES LOWE'S HOME CENTERS FOR HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL  
RELEASE; PROPOSES \$20,625 FINE

[98-OPA325](#): Released 10/28/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH RICHARDS INDUSTRIES;  
INCLUDES \$27,500 FINE

[98-OPA326](#): Released 10/30/98

EPA SEEKS INPUT ON ITS URBAN AIR TOXICS STRATEGY;  
MEETINGS NOV. 5 AND 6 IN CHICAGO

[98-OPA327](#): Released 10/30/98

FREE EPA GRANT-WRITING TUTORIAL SOFTWARE AVAILABLE

[98-OPA328](#): Released 10/30/98

EPA: GROUND-WATER CONTAMINATION GREATLY IMPROVED AT  
REFUSE HIDEAWAY SITE; CLEANUP PLAN COMPLETE, WITH  
MONITORING TO CONTINUE

---

## November

[98-OPA329](#): Released 11/2/98

CLEANUP BEGINS AT VALLEYCREST LANDFILL SITE

[98-OPA330](#): Released 11/2/98

EPA: \$3.7 MILLION CLEANUP COMPLETE AT CRYSTAL REFINING  
SITE

[98-OPA331](#): Released 11/2/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH AUSTEEL LEMONT; INCLUDES  
\$225,000 FINE

[98-OPA332](#): Released 11/3/98

EPA CITES USEC FOR VIOLATING CLEAN AIR ACT

[98-OPA333](#): Released 11/3/98

EPA CITES SAFETY-KLEEN'S DOLTON FACILITY FOR TREATING  
WASTE WITHOUT A PERMIT

[98-OPA335](#): Released 11/4/98

EPA CITES E.P. GRAPHICS FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA336](#): Released 11/4/98

EPA CITES VILLAGE OF FREEBURG FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA337](#): Released 11/4/98

CORRECTION TO RELEASE NO. 98-OPA332: EPA CITES USEC FOR



VIOLATING CLEAN AIR ACT

[98-OPA338](#): Released 11/4/98

EPA TO COSPONSOR PEST CONTROL WORKSHOP

[98-OPA339](#): Released 11/5/98

GARY MAYOR TO OPEN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FORUM NOV.  
10

[98-OPA340](#): Released 11/12/98

EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON REVISED CLEANUP PLAN FOR TEXTILE  
RD. SITE; MEETING NOV. 23

[98-OPA341](#): Released 11/10/98

EPA CITES PROPHETER; INCLUDES \$72,659 FINE

[98-OPA342](#): Released 11/10/98

EPA AWARDS \$35,000 GRANT TO BETHLEHEM STEEL ADVISORY  
GROUP

[98-OPA344](#): Released 11/12/98

EPA, MDEQ TO UPDATE PUBLIC ON PERMIT STATUS OF MICHIGAN  
DISPOSAL WASTE TREATMENT PLANT; AVAILABILITY SESSION  
DEC. 2

[98-OPA345](#): Released 11/12/98

EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON DRINKING WATER OPTIONS FOR 4  
WINNEBAGO SUBDIVISIONS; MEETING TO BE HELD NOV. 17

[98-OPA346](#): Released 11/13/98

EPA TO HOLD MEETING ON FIELDS BROOK SUPERFUND SITE NOV.  
19

[98-OPA347](#): Released 11/13/98

EPA: TECH ASSISTANCE GRANT AVAILABLE; COMMUNITY  
GROUPS MUST FILE BY DEC. 12

[98-OPA349](#): Released 11/13/98

WHITNEY YOUNG STUDENTS TO CELEBRATE NEW STATE-OF-THE-  
ART SCIENCE LAB, EPA WEB SITES

[98-OPA350](#): Released 11/16/98

EPA CELEBRATES EDUCATION WEEK WITH WEB SITES FOR  
TEACHERS, HIGH SCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

[98-OPA351](#): Released 11/19/98

EPA CITES MCLAUGLIN ON HAZ. WASTES

[98-OPA352](#): Released 11/19/98

EPA CITES WEST CHICAGO SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AND  
INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGERS

[98-OPA353](#): Released 11/19/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH USS/KOBE STEEL; INCLUDES  
\$440,000 FINE

[98-OPA354](#): Released 11/19/98

EPA CITES MASTER CHROME; PROPOSES \$137,457 FINE

[98-OPA355](#): Released 11/19/98

EPA CITES SUN REFINING FOR AIR POLLUTION; PROPOSES \$305,800  
FINE

[98-OPA356](#): Released 11/23/98

EPA CITES SIZE CONTROL FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA357](#): Released 11/23/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH CHROME INDUSTRIES;  
INCLUDES \$30,000 FINE

[98-OPA358](#): Released 11/24/98

EPA TELLS CLEVELAND ENERGY RESOURCES TO MONITOR AIR  
POLLUTION

[98-OPA359](#): Released 11/24/98

EPA CITES LAFARGE FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA360](#): Released 11/25/98

EPA GRANTS FOR NE. OHIO PROJECTS TOP \$1.5 MILLION

---

## December

[98-OPA362](#): Released 12/1/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH DETROIT COKE; INCLUDES  
\$15,500 FINE

[98-OPA363](#): Released 12/1/98

EPA SETTLES WITH TYSON FOODS; INCLUDES \$8,500 FINE AND  
SAFETY UPGRADE

[98-OPA364](#): Released 12/2/98

EPA REVIEWS MIDCO I AND MIDCO II SITES; RESTORATION  
CONTINUES

[98-OPA365](#): Released 12/7/98

EPA CITES MURPHY OIL FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS

[98-OPA366](#): Released 12/7/98

EPA CITES MARSH SUPERMARKETS FOR CHEMICAL REPORTING  
VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$57,032 FINE

[98-OPA367](#): Released 12/8/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH MOBIL ON AIR POLLUTION  
VIOLATIONS

[98-OPA368](#): Released 12/8/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENTS WITH 3 WISC. TOWNS ON ASBESTOS  
VIOLATIONS

[98-OPA369](#): Released 12/9/98

EPA CITES DETROIT CHROME FOR CLEAN AIR ACT VIOLATIONS

[98-OPA370](#): Released 12/9/98

EPA TELLS B&R OIL TO PAY \$60,000 FINE

[98-OPA373](#): Released 12/10/98

EPA: ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING UNDER WAY AT TRI-STATE  
TANK CLEANING SITE

[98-OPA375](#): Released 12/11/98

EPA TO HOLD WASTE MINIMIZATION CONFERENCE FOR LOCAL  
BUSINESSES DEC. 14-16

[98-OPA376](#): Released 12/11/98

EPA: MEETING ON VALLEYCREST CLEANUP DEC. 16

[98-OPA377](#): Released 12/16/98

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH PRO-TEC; INCLUDES \$1.05 MILLION FINE

[98-OPA378](#): Released 12/17/98

EPA PROPOSES WHITTAKER SITE FOR SUPERFUND DELISTING

[98-OPA379](#): Released 12/17/98

EPA CITES TRC CIRCUITS FOR CHEMICAL REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$31,046 FINE

[98-OPA380](#): Released 12/17/98

EPA: SAFETY-KLEEN TO OPERATE LEACHATE EXTRACTION SYSTEM AT XXKEM SITE, REIMBURSE COSTS

[98-OPA381](#): Released 12/17/98

EPA ISSUES SUBPOENA FOR KEIL CHEMICAL EMISSIONS RECORDS

[98-OPA382](#): Released 12/18/98

EPA CITES BUSSE FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$55,000 FINE

[98-OPA383](#): Released 12/21/98

EPA CITES ADM FOR AIR POLLUTION

[98-OPA384](#): Released 12/30/98

EPA SETTLES WITH INLAND STEEL ON HAZ. WASTE VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$248,171 FINE

---

United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
(312) 353-2000 or  
(800) 621-8431 (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH and WI)



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Corrective Action Contact: Gregory Rudloff  
(312) 886-0455

Injection Wells Contact: Allen Melcher  
(312) 886-1498

Media Contact: Don de Blasio  
(312) 886-4360

For Immediate Release: January 2, 1998

No. 98-OPA001

## **EPA TO HOLD DETROIT COKE PUBLIC MEETING JAN. 8**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a public meeting to discuss Detroit Coke Corporation's application for renewal of its permits to operate underground injection wells. The meeting will be held Thursday, January 8, 7 to 9 p.m., South Rademacher Recreation Center, 6501 South St., Detroit.

---

Detroit Coke is at the junction of Detroit and Rouge Rivers in Southeast Detroit, next to the Zug Island industrial complex. The company submitted an application to EPA for renewal of its two underground injection control permits. The permits would allow disposal of potentially hazardous contaminated waters and commercial disposal of liquid nonhazardous waste into existing deep-injection wells. Disposal of contaminated water may occur as part of the cleanup at the site.

Detroit Coke is doing the cleanup as required by Federal laws. As part of the corrective action, the company must submit and have an approved plan for the site cleanup. Information about the proposed permits and cleanup can be reviewed at City of Detroit Mini-City Halls at 7744 West Vernor Hwy. and 2569 South Schaeffer Hwy.; and Del Ray Citizens District Council, 7914 West Jefferson Ave.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 6, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa001.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Julie Magee  
(312) 886-6063

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: January 5, 1998

No. 98-OPA002

## NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will recognize Kmart Corp. for its commitment to EPA's energy-saving and pollution-cutting Energy Star® Buildings program at an official signing and recognition ceremony Thursday, January 8, at Kmart headquarters in Troy, MI, north of Detroit.

---

Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich will present an Energy Star® Buildings certificate of appreciation to Kmart's Executive Vice President of Store Operations Donald W. Keeble at an 11 a.m. ceremony in the Kmart Resource Center Board Room, 3100 West Big Beaver Rd., Troy. Ullrich and Keeble will then sign a memorandum of understanding.

Companies that join the Energy Star®: Buildings program agree to install energy-efficient lighting and to upgrade heating and cooling systems as part of a whole-building approach to energy savings. The reduction in energy use cuts emissions of air pollutants that contribute to smog, acid rain, and global climate change.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 6, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa002.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Andre Daugavietis  
(312) 886-6663

Technical Contact: Julie Brandt  
(312) 886-6768

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: January 5, 1998

No. 98-OPA003

## **EPA CITES L.W.G. FINISHING FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited L.W.G. Finishing Co. (Hard Surface Technology) for alleged violation of Federal chromium regulations at the company's electroplating plant, 9461 Le Saint Dr., Fairfield, OH.

An April 1997 stack test showed the company was exceeding its total chromium emissions limit from two hard-chrome electroplating tanks. National emissions standards for chromium -- a hazardous air pollutant -- went into effect for hard-chrome plating tanks and anodizing tanks January 25, 1997.

This is a preliminary finding of violation. To resolve the violation, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the alleged violation and how to resolve it.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic acid mist released to the atmosphere as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 6, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa003.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Julie Magee  
(312) 886-6063

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: January 8, 1998

No. 98-OPA004

## **EPA RECOGNIZES KMART'S COMMITMENT TO ENERGY- SAVINGS PROGRAM**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today recognized Kmart Corp. for its commitment to EPA's energy-saving and pollution-cutting Energy Star Buildings program at an official signing and recognition ceremony at Kmart headquarters in Troy, MI, north of Detroit.

Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich presented an Energy Star Buildings certificate of appreciation to Kmart Executive Vice President of Store Operations Donald W. Keeble at an 11 a.m. ceremony in the Kmart Resource Center Board Room. Ullrich and Keeble then signed an agreement formalizing the project.

"EPA applauds the extraordinary commitment Kmart has made to implement the voluntary Energy Star Buildings program," Ullrich said. "This partnership shows that energy efficiency and pollution-prevention protect both the environment and the pocketbook. Kmart's leadership demonstrates that environmental protection and profitable business decisions go hand in hand."

---

By signing the agreement, Kmart committed 210 million square feet of retail and office space to the program, making it the largest Energy Star Buildings partner. All 2,122 of the company's retail stores are included.

Under the terms of the voluntary agreement with EPA, within 7 years

Kmart will upgrade the lighting in 90 percent of its space and complete whole-building upgrades in 50 percent of its space where it is profitable and will maintain or improve comfort and productivity.

When Kmart has completed upgrading just half of its square footage, it will prevent the emission of 1.25 billion pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year. This is equivalent to planting 172,600 acres of trees.

In addition, Kmart will cut its energy costs by \$64 million a year and its electricity use by 840 million kilowatt hours a year. The electricity saved could provide power to 118,000 homes in the Detroit area each year.

Created by EPA in 1995 as an extension of its Green Lights Program, Energy Star Buildings encourages energy-efficient lighting, heating, and cooling systems that cut emissions of air pollutants associated with global climate change, smog, and acid rain. More information on the two programs is available at EPA's web site: [www.epa.gov/energystar/](http://www.epa.gov/energystar/); or by calling 1-888-782-7937.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 8, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa004.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: January 8, 1998

No. 98-OPA005

## **EPA: 22 SUPERFUND SITES CLEANED UP, 36 TIME-CRITICAL RESPONSES, \$75 MILLION SAVED IN MIDWEST DURING FY 1997**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that a total of 22 Midwest Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) sites reached "construction completion" during Fiscal Year 1997 (FY97), which ended September 30. Nationally, 88 NPL sites reached completion.

The NPL has about 1,300 hazardous waste sites that need further investigation to see if they pose risks to human health and the environment. Sites placed on the list are eligible for long-term cleanup under Superfund. Since the list was established, 498 of these sites have reached construction completion--the point at which cleanup has been completed and an extended oversight period begins.

In EPA Region 5's six States, 132 sites have been cleaned up to date. At another 142 sites, cleanup assessment, construction work, and in some cases negotiations with responsible parties continues.

Completed sites in 1997:

### Illinois (0)

### Indiana (2)

Marion (Bragg) Dump (Marion), Prestolite Battery Division (Vincennes).

### Michigan (7)

Forest Waste Products (Otisville), J & L Landfill (Rochester Hills), Liquid

Disposal, Inc. (Utica), Muskegon Chemical Co. (Whitehall), Roto-Finish Co., Inc. (Kalamazoo), Verona Well Field (Battle Creek), Sturgis Municipal Wells (Sturgis).

Minnesota (3)

Arrowhead Refinery Co. (Hermantown), Long Prairie Ground Water Contamination (Long Prairie), Reilly Tar & Chemical (St. Louis Park).

Ohio (1)

Miami County Incinerator (Troy).

Wisconsin (9)

Hechimovich Sanitary Landfill (Williamstown), Janesville Ash Beds (Janesville), Janesville Old Landfill (Janesville), Hunts Disposal Landfill (Caledonia), Master Disposal Service Landfill (Brookfield), Lemberger Transport & Recycling (Franklin Township), N.W. Mauthe Co., Inc. (Appleton), Muskego Sanitary Landfill (Muskego), Tomah Armory (Tomah).

Besides NPL cleanups, each year Superfund also cleans up, or provides technical assistance to, dozens of hazardous materials emergency response sites. In most cases, EPA comes in when a State environmental or local-government agency asks for help.

During FY97, EPA Region 5 contributed to emergency responses and/or time-critical cleanups at 36 sites, at a cost of more than \$30 million. These included:

- recovering drums of hazardous materials during spring flooding of the Ohio River;
- removing explosive materials from a residence in Lynwood, IL;
- providing technical assistance in controlling a pesticide warehouse fire in Flora, IN;
- cleaning up mercury contamination from 16 homes in Springfield, OH; and
- decontaminating more than 90 Chicago-area homes and apartments where methyl parathion (cotton poison) was used by an unlicensed exterminator.

During FY97, EPA Region 5 also supervised work starts at 20 "enforcement" sites, where the polluters have agreed to pay for cleanup-- thus saving taxpayers about \$75 million.



Besides sites where Region 5 started work in 1997, Superfund cleanup continues at more than 100 other (non-NPL) sites in the Region.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 8, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa005.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Sabrina Argentieri  
(312) 353-5485

Technical Contact: Nancy Mugavero  
(312) 353-4890

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: January 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA006

## **EPA TELLS R.S.V. TO CLEAN UP 2 ASBESTOS SITES**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has ordered R.S.V. Inc. (906 Backbone Ridge Rd., Steubenville, OH), to remove asbestos-contaminated material from two sites in the Steubenville area.

In an administrative order issued Jan. 6, EPA told the company to remove all asbestos-contaminated material and waste from the Federal Paperboard Building (State Rte. 7, Steubenville) and from Van's Iron & Steel (State Rte. 7, Mingo Junction) in compliance with Federal asbestos regulations.

In October 1997, R.S.V. began removing material containing asbestos from the Federal Paperboard Building -- which it owns -- without properly notifying authorities and without complying with asbestos-control procedures, as required by Federal regulations. Some of the asbestos-contaminated waste material was later discovered at the Mingo Junction site.

The removal was observed by an EPA inspector on Oct. 24, after EPA learned the removal was under way. EPA inspected the Mingo Junction site on Nov. 15. Samples taken at both sites were tested at EPA's Chicago laboratory.

Any material containing more than 1 percent asbestos is subject to Federal asbestos regulations. Material from the Federal Paperboard site tested 15-40 percent asbestos, and material from the Mingo Junction site tested 17-23 percent asbestos.

"EPA is committed to enforcing asbestos regulations to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

Asbestos is a known cancer-causing substance that can cause mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (a lung disease) many years after exposure.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa006.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Helen Tsiapas  
(312) 886-7901

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: January 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA007

## **EPA-FUNDED KIT ON NATURAL LANDSCAPING NOW AVAILABLE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said tool kits on natural landscaping are now available to the public on request. The kits were developed primarily for local governments in six Illinois counties -- Cook, DuPage, Kane, Will, Lake, and McHenry -- by the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) under an EPA grant.

Natural landscaping stresses the preservation and reintroduction of plants native to an area. The native plants used in natural landscaping are hardy and attractive, and they can be used to stabilize soil, reduce flooding, absorb pollutants, and sustain wildlife.

The kit was designed mainly to provide information to northeastern Illinois officials and encourage local governments to take part in and support natural landscaping projects. But the kit can also be used by others. Those living outside the NIPC region can use it as a guide and can adapt it to fit their regional needs.

The kit promotes natural landscaping to improve air and water quality, reduce global warming, enhance regional biodiversity, manage stormwater, and increase wildlife habitat. It can also be used to cut costs of landscape installation and maintenance and to prevent pollution through reduced use of landscape chemicals and gasoline-fueled maintenance equipment.

The kit contains a slide show, a promotional brochure highlighting the environmental and economic benefits of native landscaping, and a source book. The book includes information on landscape management techniques, resources, and model ordinances and suggests how to incorporate natural landscaping into local government programs.

To get the tool kit, persons in the six northeastern Illinois counties should call John Paige at NIPC, 312-454-0400. Those in other parts of EPA Region 5 should call Helen Tsiapas at EPA, 312-886-7901.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa007.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Jeffrey Cox (312) 353-3112

Technical Contact: Howard Caine (312) 353-9685

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: January 13, 1998

No. 98-OPA008

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH NOTRE DAME; INCLUDES \$250,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice have recently reached agreement with The University of Notre Dame on alleged clean-air violations at the Notre Dame, IN, campus. The agreement includes a \$250,000 penalty.

Notre Dame was cited for exceeding federally enforceable State emission limits for particulates (smoke, dust, soot) at boilers 2, 3, and 4 and for sulfur dioxide at boiler 4 of its power plant.

---

The university corrected the particulate violations by repairing the pollution control equipment on boilers 2 and 3. Stack tests showed the boilers now meet State standards. Boiler 4 now meets particulate emission limits because the university switched from burning coal to natural gas.

Because Notre Dame had also exceeded its emission limit for sulfur dioxide at boiler 4, it has improved its coal-handling procedures and shown compliance through stack testing. It may resume burning coal in boiler 4 if it gets a State revision to increase its particulate emission limit. Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung diseases. Exposure to sulfur dioxide can impair breathing and reduce the ability of lungs to clear foreign particles. Particulates appear to aggravate the impact of sulfur dioxide pollution. Children, the elderly, and people

with heart and lung disease are the most sensitive.

The agreement, or consent decree, was filed with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, South Bend.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 14, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa008.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Karen Thompson  
(312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release: January 14, 1998

No. 98-OPA009

## **EPA TO HOLD MEETING JAN. 27 ON REVISIONS TO UNDERGROUND WELL REGS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a public meeting to get information and opinions from parties affected by proposed revisions--regulations that cover underground storage wells. The meeting will be from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 27, at Metcalfe Federal Building, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago. (Lake Michigan Room, 12th floor.)

EPA is considering stricter regulations to deal with risks posed by certain wells to drinking-water supplies. EPA, in response to a consent decree with the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, has suggested a ban on disposal wells for motor-vehicle waste disposal and for large cesspools in ground-water protection areas. In additions, EPA has proposed that industrial waste disposal wells in such protection areas meet more stringen standards.

EPA will consider all comments and views in developing the proposed revision and is especially interested to hear from small businesses.

To register for the meeting, call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791. Or, call Jennifer Greenamoyer EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, 1-202-260-7829. Those registering in advance will receive a packet of materials prior to the meeting.

Interested parties may also participate via conference call to be allocated on a first reserved-first served basis. Those not able to attend or participate via conference call may submit written comments by Jan. 30, 1998 to

Jennifer Greenamoyer, U.S. EPA, 401 M. Street SW. (4606), Washington, DC 20460. Or, E-mail to [greenamoyer.jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:greenamoyer.jennifer@epa.gov).

(A similar public meeting will be held at the Washington Information Center, 401 M Street SW., Room 3, Washington, DC, on Tuesday, Jan. 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. EST.)

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 15, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa009.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Jay Bortzer  
(312) 886-1430

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: January 16, 1998

No. 98-OPA010

## **EPA APPROVES OHIO PLAN TO CUT CINCINNATI SMOG**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has approved an Ohio plan to cut emissions of smog-causing pollutants in the Cincinnati area by 15 percent from 1990 levels.

Control measures called for in the Ohio plan to get these reductions include E-Check (an automobile emissions testing and maintenance program designed to reduce pollution from automobiles), new controls on industry, and gasoline station vapor recovery.

EPA said the E-Check program, which was recently restarted in the Cincinnati area, is a key component of the smog reduction plan. E-Check is cost-effective and is expected to cut emissions of smog-causing volatile organic compounds by almost 19 tons per day out of a 48-ton per day reduction called for in the plan.

"The restart of E-Check is significant for continuing air quality improvements in the Cincinnati area," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "EPA is pleased to approve Cincinnati's ozone reduction plan."

Regulations controlling industrial sources are expected to account for a daily reduction in air pollution emissions of approximately 20 tons.

Volatile organic compounds combine in the atmosphere to form ground-

level ozone, or smog, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Smog can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

The EPA rulemaking was signed on January 9. The public will have 30 days to comment on the action after it is published in the Federal Register.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 16, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa010.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Sherry Estes  
(312) 886-7164

Technical Contact: Mike Gifford  
(312) 886-7257

Media Contact: Susan Pastor  
(312) 353-1325

For Immediate Release: January 16, 1998

No. 98-OPA011

## **EPA SETTLES ON STICKNEY, TYLER SITES; SETTLING PARTIES TO BUILD \$26 MILLION MULTI-LAYER COVER**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that it has agreed to a proposed settlement for cost recovery at the Stickney Avenue Landfill and Tyler Street Dump sites in Toledo, OH. A 30-day public comment period begins today and runs through February 14. A formal notice and summary of the agreement, known as an administrative order on consent, appears in today's Federal Register.

The Superfund sites are on opposite sides of the Ottawa River. The 50-acre Stickney site was a municipal, commercial, and industrial landfill from 1958 to 1966. The 41-acre Tyler site accepted similar wastes from 1951 to the early 1970's. A 13-acre property known as XXKEM, which formerly contained a waste oil and solvent recycler, lies directly south of the Stickney site. All three properties contain significant volumes of heavy metals, solvents, and oily wastes, which, along with combined sewer overflows and agricultural pollution, and runoff from other area dump sites, have contributed to severe pollution of the Ottawa River, Maumee Bay, and Lake Erie.

EPA has agreed to a \$26 million cleanup plan proposed by a group of responsible parties that includes multi-layer landfill cover systems, landfill

gas collection systems, and institutional controls, including deed restrictions. The systems will cover the Stickney and Tyler sites and the portion of the XXKEM site which contains a now-closed disposal lagoon.

In exchange for the agreement to design, finance, and build the multi-layer cover systems, EPA will agree not to sue or issue administrative orders to the settling parties for the work that will be completed under the settlement. EPA would, however, retain the right to demand that additional steps be taken if the cleanup does not result in reduced risks to human health and the environment.

Under the terms of the proposed settlement, EPA will waive collecting \$500,000 in past site assessment costs and \$200,000 in future costs for oversight of the work to be performed from the settling parties.

Comments on the proposed settlement may be sent to Sherry Estes, Office of Regional Counsel (C-14J), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604-3509. A copy of the settlement is available from Ms. Estes via mail or by calling (312) 886-7164.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 20, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa011.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Gaylene Vasaturo  
(312) 886-1811

Technical Contact: Ruth McNamara  
(312) 353-3193

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: January 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA012

**EPA SETTLES WITH HOWARD BEEF PROCESSORS (D/B/A  
ELLISON MEAT CO.) FOR CHEMICAL VIOLATIONS;  
INCLUDES \$17,650 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with Howard Beef Processors (which does business as Ellison Meat Co.), Pipestone, MN, that settles a complaint for failure to immediately report a hazardous chemical release. The company will pay a \$17,650 fine.

---

EPA's complaint alleges that on January 3, 1996, the company failed to promptly report to proper authorities the release of 855 lb of ammonia gas. Ellison Meat filed information with the National Response Center and Minnesota State Emergency Response Commission more than 9 hours after it knew about the release. This is considerably later than specified by law, which requires immediate notification upon any release of ammonia exceeding 100 lb.

Ammonia is a hazardous substance, which may cause irritation to the eyes, nose, and skin.

The release--discovered by a cleaning crew member--occurred when a faulty pressure relief valve in the company's refrigeration system failed to



close.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 157 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 143 settlements and \$3.83 million in total fines and \$1.42 million in environmental projects.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 21, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa012.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contacts: Glenn Warren  
(312) 886-2405  
Dr. J. Val Klump  
(414) 382-1700

Media Contact: Karen Thompson  
(312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release: January 21, 1998

No. 98-OPA013

## **EPA RESEARCH VESSEL SAILS INTO MILWAUKEE FOR LAKE MICHIGAN PROJECT**

The R/V Lake Guardian, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) newest, cleanest, and biggest surveillance and monitoring vessel, has moved from its permanent port in Bay City, MI, to temporary quarters in Milwaukee, WI, to become home base for one of the largest environmental studies of Lake Michigan ever undertaken.

On January 28, the former offshore-oil-field supply ship will become "home" to a team of 45 scientists from Federal agencies, universities, and research centers across the country. They will study a massive sediment plume that appears every late winter/early spring in the southern end of Lake Michigan, and its impact on the overall ecological health of the Lake.

The state-of-the-art "floating lab" is 180 feet long and weighs more than 1,700 tons. It is equipped with highly sophisticated analytical instruments, winches for lowering and hoisting sampling equipment, and numerous portable laboratories for instantaneous on-board or on-land research.

Currently in port at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee research facility, the Lake Guardian is eco-friendly and has no overboard discharges. It last wintered in the Milwaukee area in 1995. "This is a

dream boat for science," said Paul Horvatin, of EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office in Chicago. "Her mission is to measure pollutant concentrations in the precious, fragile freshwater world of the Great Lakes."

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 5, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa013.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contacts: Glenn Warren  
(312) 886-2405  
Dr. J. Val Klump  
(414) 382-1700

Media Contact: Karen Thompson  
(312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release: January 21, 1998

No. 98-OPA014

## **EPA JOINS LAKE MICHIGAN SEDIMENT PLUME STUDY**

A team of 45 scientists from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) four other Federal agencies, and numerous universities and research centers will conduct a research project, 'Episodic Events--Great Lakes Experiment' (EEGLE) beginning January 28 in Milwaukee, WI.

The study is sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the Coastal Ocean Program and will be conducted in the south end of Lake Michigan from Milwaukee to Grand Haven, MI, over an estimated three late winters, early springs.

Experts will study a massive plume of fine clay and sediment, evident from recent satellite photographs of the lake. The plume is estimated to be up to 12 miles wide and 200 miles long and may be the single largest annual "event" for moving nutrients and contaminants throughout the lake. EPA will complement EEGLE's biological and nutrient research with its own study on how plume contaminants affect the water and the air that moves over the lake.

The scope of the EEGLE project is second only to EPA's major Mass Balance Study in understanding the physical, chemical and biological processes, and forming future strategies that will meet the environmental

challenges facing the Great Lakes.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 5, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa014.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: John Tielsch  
(312) 353-7447

Technical Contact: Joseph Cardile  
(312) 353-2151

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: January 21, 1998

No. 98-OPA015

## **EPA CITES UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited the University of Wisconsin for alleged Clean Air Act violations at the university's Superior (WI) campus.

The university operates there two coal-fired boilers that exceeded federally enforceable State limits for opacity (the amount of light obscured) caused by particulate emissions during State inspections.

---

State inspectors found the university's boilers exceeded their 40 percent opacity limit at inspections made during boiler startups in 1996 and 1997. The boilers have no control devices and no opacity monitors.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the university. The university has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air

and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates (dust, smoke, soot) can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 22, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa015.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Marc Radell  
(312) 886-7948

Technical Contact: Shaun Burke  
(312) 353-5713

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: January 22, 1998

No. 98-OPA016

## **EPA CITES JLM CHEMICALS FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited JLM Chemicals, Inc., for alleged violations of Federal organic hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's plant, 3350 West 131st St., Blue Island, IL.

JLM makes two organic chemical products, cumene and phenol, at two process units at the plant. EPA inspectors in June 1997 found that JLM had not properly installed all of the required control systems and had not notified EPA of its compliance status. Leaks from synthetic organic chemical process units became subject to the EPA regulations in April 1997.

---

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve the violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the alleged violations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to

ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Cumene, at room temperature, is a colorless liquid that has a sharp, penetrating odor. Short-term effects include dizziness, skin and eye irritation, and skin rash. Noncarcinogenic long-term effects include drying and cracking of skin and damage to lungs, liver, or kidneys. It has not yet been tested for its ability to cause cancer in animals.

Phenol is a flammable, colorless or white solid, which is mainly sold and used as a liquid for making plastics, disinfectants, and in medical products. It has an irritating, sickeningly sweet strong odor. Repeated exposure to low levels of phenol in drinking water has been linked to diarrhea and mouth sores in humans. Ingesting very large amounts has resulted in death.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 22, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa016.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Kris A. Vezner  
(312) 886-6827

Technical Contact: John Shepler  
(312) 886-1425

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 886-7857

For Immediate Release: January 22, 1998

No. 98-OPA017

## **EPA CITES AK STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited AK Steel Corp. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's steel mill, 1801 Crawford St., Middletown, OH.

EPA said the blast furnace and basic oxygen furnace emitted kish (shiny graphite flakes) that settled on neighboring properties and the sinter plant emitted excessive amounts of particulates.

---

The violations were discovered during Federal inspections in June 1996 and September 1997 and from company tests done in April 1997 at EPA's request. Information on the kish deposits came from citizen complaints.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve the violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that

companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates (dust, smoke, soot) can affect children, the elderly, or those with heart or lung conditions the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 26, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa017.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Louise Gross  
(312) 886-6844

Technical Contact: Kathy Triantafillou  
(312) 353-4293

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: January 22, 1998

No. 98-OPA018

## **EPA CITES 3 COMPANIES FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$27,500 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against three companies for alleged asbestos violations at a plant owned by U.S. Paper Mills Corp. in Menasha, WI. EPA has proposed a \$27,500 penalty.

Cited were U.S. Paper Mills Corp., De Pere, WI; Asbestos Removal, Inc., Green Bay, WI; and Sugar Industry Equipment, Inc., Baton Rouge, LA.

Sugar Industry Equipment hired Asbestos Removal to remove asbestos-containing material from a boiler at the Menasha plant owned by U.S. Paper Mills. The complaint cites Asbestos Removal for failure to adequately wet the material that had been removed or stripped, and for failure to ensure that it remained wet until collected and contained, as required by EPA regulations.

At the time of the renovation, Sugar Industry Equipment had purchased the boiler being renovated from U.S. Paper Mills.

The companies were notified of the violations in September 1997, and EPA had informal discussions with all three companies in late September

on steps taken to achieve and maintain compliance. The companies have 30 days to file an answer to the complaint and request a hearing. They may request informal meetings to discuss the allegations anytime.

"EPA will take all steps necessary to protect the public from the harmful effects of asbestos, a hazardous air pollutant," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

Asbestos is a known cancer-causing substance that can cause mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (a lung disease) many years after exposure.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 26, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa018.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Tinka Hyde  
(312) 886-9296

Media Contacts: Karen Thompson  
(312) 353-8547

Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: January 22, 1998

No. 98-OPA019

## **EPA REGION 5 REPORTS RECORD YEAR FOR ENFORCEMENT PENALTIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT FUNDING**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today announced that Fiscal Year 1997 was a record year for all enforcement categories--most significantly in settlements and litigation conclusions. Actions by EPA to protect public health and the environment resulted in more arrests, prison time, fines, and returns to compliance than ever before.

During the last year, the Region settled 641 formal enforcement actions which resulted in over \$84.1 million in penalties and \$7.5 million spent on supplemental environmental projects.

Region 5 referred 106 civil actions to the Department of Justice in 1997, double the number of cases referred in 1996. Approximately one-third of the concluded cases were filed and settled in FY97.

State-by-State, EPA issued 69 administrative orders in Illinois, 151 in Indiana, 114 in Michigan, 44 in Minnesota, 86 in Ohio, and 33 in Wisconsin.

## **CRIMINAL CASES**



In addition, the region's Criminal Investigations Unit assessed more than \$76.4 million in fines and restitution, 38 persons were charged and more than 20 years of prison time was imposed for crimes against the environment.

Two criminal cases that impacted neighborhood safety and grabbed national headlines include those of pesticide sprayers, one in Ohio and another in Chicago. The unlicensed exterminators used the highly toxic agricultural pesticide methyl parathion to kill roaches in more than 900 homes in these communities. Both will serve jail time. EPA evacuated and relocated hundreds of residents threatened by exposure to the chemical -- which is chemically related to nerve gas -- and spent several million dollars on the cleanup and restoration of contaminated homes.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

The large increase in the number of cases closed in FY 1997 resulted in substantial gains in compliance and cleanup relief and supplemental project funding in very polluted areas. A supplemental environmental project is an environmentally beneficial project which a defendant agrees to carry out in settlement of an enforcement action, but which it is not otherwise legally required to perform.

"These numbers represent real environmental benefits," said David A. Ullrich, Acting Regional Administrator. "Through negotiations, violators agreed to reduce or eliminate pollution, in some cases beyond what the law requires. Also, in many instances, they agreed to carry out special projects to improve the environment in the communities where the pollution occurred."

"The bottom line is more compliance, less pollution, and a cleaner environment. It was a great year," said Ullrich.

An example of the effectiveness of supplemental environmental projects is the settlement with Uno-Ven Co., Lemont, IL, where -- in addition to paying a fine in excess of \$120,000 -- the company agreed to replace the burners in its process heater. The replacement is expected to result in potential human health and worker protection due to a 75 percent reduction (34 tons per year) in nitrogen oxide emissions.

An example of Region 5's multi-media enforcement actions and commitment to urban environmental renewal played out in the Sherwin-Williams case in south Chicago. EPA had sued the paint manufacturer for

violations of several environmental laws. In January 1997, the company agreed to pay nearly \$5 million in civil penalties, spend more than \$1 million on environmental cleanup projects suggested by citizens, and spend millions to clean up contamination at the plant to settle the lawsuit.

## **UNIQUE SOLUTIONS**

Other cases and unique solutions that demonstrate Region 5's impact on improving the public health and environment in the Midwest include:

\*Michigan smelter Giddings and Lewis was charged with disposing of hazardous waste via smokestack emission into the surrounding neighborhood of Menominee, MI. EPA's laser opacity-reading devices and on-site interviews were instrumental in breaking this case which carried fines and restitution of almost \$500,000.

\*The vice president of an Illinois farm equipment manufacturer was charged with ordering burial of 40 barrels of solvent and lead-bearing paint waste. He served 14 months in custody and his employer was fined \$100,000, required to clean up the contaminated soil and publish an apology in the local newspaper.

\*A town in Wisconsin and a private waste hauler were ordered to share \$1.85 million in costs for Superfund landfill cleanup and preserve natural wildlife habitats compatible with the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge next door.

\*BP Chemicals was cited for not reporting to proper authorities the accidental release of 2,678 pounds of anhydrous ammonia, a hazardous substance, from its Ohio facility. In addition to the fine, the company agreed to install and operate three community-warning sirens in residential areas.

\*3M was fined \$238,000 for illegally selling and distributing O-Cel-O sponges with germ-killing claims without registering them as pesticides. The company was ordered to change advertising descriptions and spend \$300,000 on ads to reeducate consumers.

\*Mobil Oil agreed to pay a cash penalty of \$125,000 and to perform an \$80,000 environmental project to cut volatile organic compound emissions from its Illinois refinery by 61 tons per year and hazardous air pollutants by 10 tons per year. Although emission reductions are required by law, the project will reach the cuts 18 months earlier than required.

\*EPA came to an agreement with potentially responsible parties (PRP's) to clean up PCB-contaminated sediments in Manistique River and Harbor in Manistique, MI. A health advisory against eating some fish from the harbor because of high levels of PCBs has been in effect since 1984. The settlement is a mixed-funding agreement where the PRPs will pay \$6.4 million to clean up two areas of contaminated sediments in the river and harbor and EPA will dredge a "hotspot" in the upper portion of the site. EPA is confident that almost all of the sediments will be removed from those areas and prevented from entering Lake Michigan.

### **COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE**

During fiscal year 1997, the region also expanded the use of a new EPA policy that encourages industry to disclose and correct environmental violations. EPA invited 22 steel mini-mills in the region to disclose environmental violations and meet environmental rules prior to EPA inspections. Forty per cent of the eligible mills participated by submitting to EPA results of their environmental audits. A majority of those mills that did not conduct and submit audits have been inspected by EPA. The remainder will be surveyed in early 1998. In the past year, EPA also worked closely with the State of Illinois to inspect dry cleaners and provide them assistance in meeting environmental regulations.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa019.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Thomas Turner  
(312) 886-6613

Technical Contact: Michelle Farley  
(312) 886-6778

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: January 26, 1998

No. 98-OPA020

## **EPA CITES STONECO FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Stoneco, Inc., for alleged clean-air violations at the company's limestone quarry, 4715 West Sterns Rd., Ottawa Lake, MI.

Stoneco failed to notify the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality of expected and actual startup dates for three new stone conveyors. The company also failed to get a State permit to install and operate before it relocated and began operating a stone crusher. In addition, it also began operating the new conveyers in violation of a State construction waiver, issued pursuant to State waiver regulations.

Reporting and permitting regulations are needed so EPA and the States can ensure compliance with emission limits before facilities begin to operate. EPA said failure to comply with these clean-air regulations could expose the public to unknown health risks.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve the violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the alleged violations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 26, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa020.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Bob Mayhugh  
(312) 886-5929

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: January 27, 1998

No. 98-OPA021

## **EPA TO SPONSOR 3 EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW SEMINARS IN ILLINOIS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will present three free seminars to help Illinois companies comply with Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) regulations during February.

The seminars will be held:

- February 17, Ramada Inn South Plaza, Springfield
- February 19, St. Clair County Jail Complex, Belleville
- February 24, Will County Emergency Operations Center, Joliet

Each seminar will cover hazardous chemical reporting requirements and emergency release notification requirements under the Federal EPCRA law.

The seminars are co-sponsored by Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA). Staff from EPA and IEMA, as well as the local emergency planning committees will be available at the seminars to answer specific questions on Federal, State, and local reporting requirements, regulated chemicals, threshold calculations, and penalties for non-compliance.

For seminar registration information or a free brochure, contact Bob

Mayhugh at EPA: (312) 886-5929 (phone), (312) 886-6064 (fax), or  
mayhugh.robert@epamail.epa.gov (email).

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 28, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa021.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Bob Mayhugh  
(312) 886-5929

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: January 28, 1998

No. 98-OPA022

## **EPA TO SPONSOR 4 EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW SEMINARS IN INDIANA**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will present four free seminars to help Indiana companies comply with Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) regulations during February.

The seminars will be held:

- February 3, Executive Inn, Vincennes
- February 5, Ramada Inn Airport, Indianapolis
- February 10, County Complex Annex Building, LaPorte
- February 12, Allen County Public Library Main Branch, Ft. Wayne

Each seminar will cover hazardous chemical reporting requirements and emergency release notification requirements under the Federal EPCRA law.

The seminars are co-sponsored by the Indiana State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). Staff from EPA and the Indiana SERC, as well as the local emergency planning committees will be available at the seminars to answer specific questions on Federal, State, and local reporting requirements, regulated chemicals, threshold calculations, and penalties for non-compliance.



For seminar registration information or a free brochure, contact Bob Mayhugh at EPA: (312) 886-5929 (phone), (312) 886-6064 (fax), or [mayhugh.robert@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:mayhugh.robert@epamail.epa.gov) (email).

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 29, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa022.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Susan Perdomo  
(312) 886-0557

Media Contact: Susan Pastor  
(312) 353-1325

For Immediate Release: January 28, 1998

No. 98-OPA023

## **EPA: KERR-McGEE AGREES TO CLEAN UP TOLEDO TIE TREATMENT SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 announced today that Kerr-McGee Chemical LLC has agreed to comply with a unilateral administrative order that requires the company to clean up hazardous coal tar contamination at the Toledo Tie Treatment site, Toledo, OH.

The site comprises 17 individually owned lots within and near the Arco Industrial Park in Southwest Toledo. The area was originally part of a 50-acre railroad tie treatment facility, owned by Federal Creosoting Co. from 1923 to 1959, and by American Creosoting Corp. from 1959 to 1962. (Kerr-McGee is a successor of both companies.) The City of Toledo acquired the site in 1962 and sold much of it to developer Arco Realty, Inc., in 1969.

Historically, wooden railroad ties were treated with coal tar creosote, which today is known to be associated with a range of environmental, health, and safety concerns. The facility also included several above ground storage tanks and storage lagoons containing the hazardous material.

---

From 1987 to 1995, the site contamination, along with sediment in nearby Williams Ditch, was investigated by Ohio EPA (OEPA) and a number of private parties. OEPA's analysis confirmed the presence of hazardous coal tar creosote-related chemicals in site soils, sediments, and wastes.

This fall, after a major rainstorm, a sheen of unidentified oily material was observed on the surface of water in Williams Ditch--which empties into the Ottawa River a few miles downstream from the site and, ultimately, into Lake Erie. EPA believes the oily material originated from buried coal tar wastes and ditch sediments at the site. During storms or severe weather, the hazardous material is expected to continue migrating from the site unless it is cleaned up. In addition, people who come in direct contact with contaminated soils or ditch sediments at the site risk exposure to the materials.

In October and November, a contractor crew hired by Kerr-McGee took short-term emergency steps to contain the sheen. EPA, however, believes more needs to be done--which led to the unilateral order.

OEPA will work with EPA on oversight of the cleanup.

Next, Kerr-McGee must designate a project coordinator, secure the site, and develop a comprehensive cleanup plan.

Community members with questions about site cleanup may call Susan Pastor, community involvement coordinator, at EPA, toll-free: 800-621-8431.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 29, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa023.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Jeffrey Cox  
(312) 353-3112

Technical Contact: Murray Lantner  
(312) 886-2307

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: January 28, 1998

No. 98-OPA025

## **COURT APPROVES EPA SETTLEMENT WITH THE GLIDDEN CO.; INCLUDES \$1.5 MILLION FINE**

A Federal Court in Toledo, OH, has approved a settlement -- including a \$1.5 million fine -- between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Justice, and the Glidden Co. for violations of the Clean Water Act at a paint, coatings, and resin manufacturing plant in Huron, OH.

This agreement settles allegations in a March 1996 lawsuit that Glidden discharged untreated or inadequately treated wastewater to the Huron River, including pollutants such as oil and grease, pH, zinc, suspended solids, copper, oxygen-depleting pollutants, chlorine, and fecal coliform. It was also alleged that the company had discharged chemicals used to treat cooling water without first obtaining permission from the Ohio EPA. In 1994, the plant began to send its wastewater to the Erie County Sanitary Sewer System treatment plant instead of discharging directly to the river. It continues to discharge storm and ground water to the river.

"This settlement is good news for the Huron River and the Great Lakes watershed," said JoLynn Traub, director of the regional Water Division. "The company has spent more than \$2 million on improvements to its plant to make sure that contaminants no longer enter the river."

Under this agreement, in addition to the fine, Glidden has agreed to take steps to prevent contaminated ground water on its facility from infiltrating the sewer line and reaching the river. It has installed a new sewer system, monitoring wells, and has established a sewer connection to the local sewage treatment plant.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 29, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa025.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Larry Johnson  
(312) 886-6609

Technical Contact: Sherry Finley  
(312) 353-5546

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: January 29, 1998

No. 98-OPA026

## **EPA CITES LIBRA FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Libra Industries for alleged clean-air violations at the company's industrial dry-cleaning plant, 1435 North Blackstone, Jackson, MI.

EPA said Libra violated Federal and State regulations on the use of two chemicals used in dry cleaning. One of the chemicals, a petroleum solvent, is a volatile organic compound (VOC). EPA considers the other chemical, perchloroethylene, a hazardous air pollutant but not a VOC because it does not react with sunlight.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve the violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

VOC's combine in the atmosphere with other chemicals to form ground-

level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue. Perchloroethylene emissions raise a concern for the health and safety of sensitive individuals.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 29, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa026.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Angela Bandemehr  
(312) 886-6858

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: January 30, 1998

No. 98-OPA027

## **EPA REPORT SHOWS DECLINE IN AIR DEPOSITION OF LEAD AND PCB'S TO GREAT LAKES**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) national air trends report shows that air concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) and other persistent organochlorines have declined significantly in the Great Lakes region.

The most consistent trend is the reduction in lead in the atmosphere between 1988 and 1994, most likely related to the ban of leaded gasoline. The most recent monitoring data also shows a decline in PCB's near Lakes Michigan and Erie compared to past levels. PCB's have been a persistent problem in the Great Lakes, contaminating fish and wildlife. There are fish consumption advisories on all the lakes due to PCB contamination. DDT also declined between 1988 and 1992 but rose slightly for all lakes except Superior in 1994.

"These trends are very encouraging and good news for the Great Lakes," said Gary V. Gulezian, director of EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office. "Over the last 25 years, the Clean Water and Air Acts and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement have reduced pollution in the Great Lakes, but certain toxic substances such as PCB's and DDT persist. The Integrated Atmospheric Deposition Network (IADN) was established to try to discover if these toxics might be coming from the air."

The report compares deposition estimates from monitoring performed in



1988, 1992, and 1994 by IADN, a joint EPA and Environment Canada program which has been studying air pollution around the Great Lakes since 1990. This is the first time information on deposition of airborne pollutants to the Great Lakes has been included in the annual report.

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1987 and the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments called for the monitoring of atmospheric deposition of toxic chemicals to the Great Lakes. The IADN monitoring network is a leading international effort in the assessment of the role of persistent, organic pollutants and heavy metals in the atmosphere on aquatic systems. The network is designed to assess the magnitude and trends of atmospheric deposition of target chemicals including PCB's, chlorinated pesticides, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's), and trace metals such as lead and mercury. Stations on remote shores of each lake collect regional contaminant data that is representative of the air over each lake and not affected by local sources. Concentrations of target chemicals are measured in rain and snow, airborne particles, and airborne organic vapors.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 3, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa027.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



EPA Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

Minneapolis Dept. Environmental Management Contact: Bill Anderson  
(612) 673-5803

For Immediate Release: February 2, 1998

No. 98-OPA028

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR  
FRED HANSEN TO VISIT MINNEAPOLIS FEB. 3; 10:00 AM  
REMARKS AND PHOTO-OP AT FEDERAL RESERVE  
BUILDING**

U.S. EPA Deputy Administrator Fred Hansen, the Agency's second ranking official, will visit Minneapolis, MN, Tuesday, Feb. 3 to discuss EPA's proposed \$7.8 billion budget for fiscal year 1999.

The President's FY 99 environmental budget provides funding for key Administration priorities, including curbing the pollution that causes global warming, completing the cleanup of America's waterways, implementing new clean air standards, and protecting children from environmental health threats. The FY 99 budget also provides resources for the continued cleanup of the nation's worst toxic waste sites, and funding to clean up and redevelop urban "brownfields."

Hansen and Minneapolis Department of Environmental Management staff will tour the Chain of Lakes area from about 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. At 10:00 am, in the River View Room of the Federal Reserve Building, 90 Hennepin Ave., Hansen will speak about the new budget proposal, followed by a media availability.

State and local officials, as well as representatives from area environmental groups, are expected to attend and may also be available to the media.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 3, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa028.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Alan Walts  
(312) 353-8894

Technical Contact: Loren Denton  
(312) 886-6814

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 2, 1998

No. 98-OPA029

## **EPA TELLS R&M APPLIANCE TO SUPPLY REFRIGERANT INFORMATION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has ordered R & M Appliance Service, Inc. (10065 South 76th Ave., Bridgeview, IL), to answer a request for information on its use of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) refrigerants.

R&M failed to respond to information requests made during an EPA inspection last September, and by mail last December, on the use of CFC's in its air-conditioning service and maintenance business. The company has 15 days from receipt of the order, which was mailed to the company on January 26, to supply the information. If the order is not complied with, the case could be referred to the U.S. Department of Justice.

The Clean Air Act requires all companies removing and replacing CFC refrigerants in air-conditioning equipment to employ properly trained and certified technicians, use EPA-certified equipment, and account for all CFC's in their possession.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that

companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

CFC's are a major cause of depletion of stratospheric ("good") ozone. It shields the earth from dangerous ultraviolet radiation, which can cause skin cancer and cataracts and can weaken the immune system. Production of the chemical was stopped in December 1995.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 3, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa029.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Cindy Nolan  
(312) 886-6246

Media Contact: Ginny Narsete  
(312) 886-4359

For Immediate Release: February 2, 1998

No. 98-OPA030

## **EPA: CUSTOM BLENDED OIL (PEOTONE, IL) BANKRUPT, NO LONGER ACCEPTING WASTE OIL; CLEANUP BEGINS THIS WEEK**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, reminds Kankakee-area residents and businesses that Custom Blended Oil, formerly a waste oil recycler at 31755 South Rathje Rd., Peotone, has ceased operations and is no longer accepting waste oil.

The owner of the site declared bankruptcy last March. Though the facility is closed, area residents and business have continued to drop-off waste oil at the site.

The fenced 5-acre site is in a rural area with no homes in the immediate vicinity. Drainage from the site flows north toward Black Walnut Creek and ultimately into the Kankakee, Illinois, and Mississippi Rivers.

EPA's involvement began June 20, 1997, when a Chicago-based Superfund emergency response team took steps to contain an oil spill from above-ground storage tanks at the site. At the time, 10,000 gallons of lead-contaminated waste oil were removed from the site.

A projected \$560,000 cleanup will begin this week and last about 3 months. The cleanup will include removal of 80 to 100 deteriorating drums and some contaminated surface soils, plus decontamination and possible removal of 13 above-ground storage tanks and some processing

equipment. EPA estimates there are 380,000 gallons of contaminated waste oil at the site.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 3, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa030.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: February 3, 1998

No. 98-OPA024

## **EPA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 1997 PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARDS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently announced the regional winners of the President's Environmental Youth Awards for 1997. The first-place winner is Adriana Gutierrez of Chicago.

Last year, for her 8th-grade science project at Hedges Middle School (4747 South Winchester, Chicago), Adriana investigated the disposal of used motor oil in her community. The purpose of the project was first to find out how much local citizens know and then to give them information they'll need for making environmentally responsible decisions.

Adriana sent out surveys to local businesses, teachers, and citizens to assess their knowledge of motor oil recycling. While many residents did recycle their motor oil, she discovered that some did not know how to dispose of it properly. After collecting the surveys, Adriana designed bar graphs to demonstrate her data and drew conclusions from her investigations. She found that residents in her community needed more information and education to prevent the improper disposal of used motor oil.

Adriana's project was selected from among 25 regional entrants. It is one of 10 winners nationwide. Adriana will accept the award at a national ceremony in Washington, DC, March 26.

"We received many outstanding entries this year, and all participants are to be commended for their efforts to protect the environment," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "Adriana's project demonstrates



the importance of community-based environmental protection. Through her research and activities, her community now has the practical information on how to dispose of its used motor oil in a proper, environmentally responsible manner."

Other regional finalists are:

First runner-up: Ryan McNally (Germantown, WI) instituted a program in his community to discourage residents from dumping contaminants into storm drains. He educated community residents through the distribution of informational flyers. Ryan and his Boy Scout Troop then painted signs next to storm drains to remind people not to dump antifreeze, oil, and other pollutants into them.

Second runner-up: Science Club, Marquette High School (Milwaukee, WI) was recognized for creating a traveling educational skit entitled "The Journey of Garbage." High school students perform the skit for elementary students to teach them the importance of recycling. The students are then encouraged to organize recycling programs in their schools.

Third runner-up: Environmental-Recycling Club, Mahoning County Joint Vocational School (Canfield, OH) organized a recycling program at their high school. The club recycled aluminum cans and can tabs in their community and built a utility barn to house their supplies. The students also designed a children's activity book for the local elementary school and purchased environmental videos for their school library.

The President's Environmental Youth Awards program is a national contest sponsored annually by EPA, to honor creative environmental projects developed and carried out by elementary and high school students. Young people from kindergarten through 12th grade can participate in the program by completing an environmental awareness project that benefits the community. All qualifying participants receive the President's certificate of Recognition.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 15, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa024.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Alan Walts  
(312) 353-8894

Technical Contact: Loren Denton  
(312) 886-6814

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 3, 1998

No. 98-OPA031

---

## **CORRECTION TO RELEASE NO. 98-OPA029 EPA TELLS R&M APPLIANCE TO SUPPLY REFRIGERANT INFORMATION**

In a release issued yesterday (February 2, 1998), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 incorrectly stated the address of R&M Appliance Service, Inc., as 10065 South 76th Ave., Ridgeview, IL. The correct address is 10065 South 76th Ave., Bridgeview, IL.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa031.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Tom Turner  
(312) 886-6613

Technical Contact: Turpin Ballard  
(312) 353-6083

Media Contact: Gordon Blum  
(312) 353-8501

DOJ Contact: Bill Brooks  
(202) 514-2008

For Immediate Release: February 4, 1998

No. 98-OPA032

## **CITY OF ROCKFORD AGREES TO PROCEED WITH CLEANUP AT SOUTHEAST ROCKFORD GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) have recently lodged a consent decree with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Western Division, in which the City of Rockford, IL, agrees to proceed with the cleanup of the second of three units at the Southeast Rockford Groundwater Contamination site.

The site, which is on the Superfund National Priorities List, contains high levels of hazardous chlorinated volatile organic compounds in the ground water. Since 1989 EPA has provided bottled water, drinking water filters, and extension of the city's municipal water mains to nearly 600 residences.

---

Under the consent decree, lodged on January 21, the city agrees to:

- Construct new municipal water main extensions to allow for residential and commercial potable water service to an area roughly

south of Harrison Ave., west of 24th St., north of Sandy Hollow Rd., and east of the Rock River;

- Construct and determine locations for 9 new ground-water monitoring wells, in addition to the 26 wells the city already has in place;
- Maintain an enhanced ground-water monitoring and sampling program for the foreseeable future, or until EPA-specified clean drinking water levels are attained; and
- Establish institutional controls, including a system for notifying parties purchasing property from individuals or businesses that have previously refused city water-service connections.

"The cleanup work to be performed under this order is designed to address the concerns many area residents and businesses have shared with EPA," said regional Superfund Director William Muno. "We are optimistic that most of the work will be completed, promptly and economically, during the 1998 construction season."

Written comments on the consent decree, during the 30-day comment period to be announced in the Federal Register, may be sent to: Environmental Enforcement Section, U.S. Department of Justice, P.O. Box 7611, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 5, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa032.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Susan Muller  
(312) 886-7153

Technical Contact: Loren Denton  
(312) 886-6814

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 4, 1998

No. 98-OPA033

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH DYNACHEM ON AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with DynaChem, Inc., on alleged clean-air violations at its Georgetown, IL, chemical manufacturing plant.

EPA cited DynaChem last September for failing to provide adequate and timely information and to keep appropriate records for benzene waste. EPA discovered the violations during an inspection last July.

The agreement requires DynaChem to sample its waste stream to determine the amount of benzene waste produced in 1997 and 1998 and forward the results to EPA.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Benzene is regulated under national emissions standards for hazardous air pollutants. It is known to cause cancer in people. Short-term exposure to benzene can cause drowsiness, headaches, and loss of consciousness.

Long-term exposure to benzene has been linked to various blood and bone marrow diseases, chromosome changes, and leukemia.

Benzene is also a volatile organic compound that contributes to the formation of a ground-level ozone, or smog. Ground-level ozone can cause breathing problems, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and aggravate asthma. It can reduce lung function and resistance to colds and other infections and may speed up the aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and people with chronic respiratory disease are the most sensitive.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 5, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa033.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contacts: Philippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: February 4, 1998

No. 98-OPA034

## **NOT TO CORRESPONDENTS: MAYOR OF TOLEDO & ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES ANNOUNCE CLEANUP OF TRIBUTARY TO OTTAWA RIVER**

Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, with officials from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), and GenCorp, Inc., will hold a media briefing on Thursday, February 5, to announce details of a cleanup of contaminated sediments in an unnamed tributary of the Ottawa River.

### **Who:**

Mayor Carty Finkbeiner; Davida A. Ullrich, Acting Regional Administrator, EPA; Donald Schregarus, Director, OEPA; and representatives of GenCorp, Inc.

### **What:**

Details of a cleanup of PCB-contaminated sediments in an unnamed tributary of the Ottawa River

### **When:**

Thursday, February 5, 1998, at 11:40 a.m.

### **Where:**

Presentation at Toledo Board of Education, 420 Elm at East Manhattan, followed by a tour of the cleanup site, north of Interstate 75 and Expressway drive North, between LaGrange Street and Stickney Ave. Visitors are reminded to dress appropriately for a construction site.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 15, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa034.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: David Mucha  
(312) 886-9032

Technical Contact: Julianne Socha  
(312) 886-4436

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 6, 1998

No. 98-OPA035

## **EPA TELLS ROSS NOT TO OPERATE MAIN CHAMBER SIDE- DOOR FEED MECHANISM**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today ordered Ross Incineration Services, Inc., not to operate the side-door feed mechanism on the main chamber of its Grafton, OH, commercial hazardous-waste incinerator.

EPA issued an administrative order telling Ross that the mechanism can not be used until the company can demonstrate, to EPA's satisfaction, that the mechanism can be used without presenting an "imminent and substantial endangerment to human health or the environment."

On January 30, hazardous waste, which was put into the main chamber from the side-door processing area, exploded in the main chamber. Damage to the incineration system from the explosion rendered the system inoperable.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 9, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa035.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Kevin Chow  
(312) 353-6181

Technical Contact: Bonnie Bush  
(312) 353-6684

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 9, 1998

No. 98-OPA036

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH SHELCO STEEL ON AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Shelco Steel Works, Inc., on alleged clean-air violations at the company's South Holland, IL, plant, 15801 Van Drunen Rd.

(Shelco makes structural steel beams for construction sites, spray-coats them with a primer, and sometimes adds a top coat.)

---

EPA cited Shelco in September 1997 for using coatings with excess volatile organic compounds (VOC's), failure to use the proper method for testing VOC content in coatings, inadequate records, and failure to certify compliance with Federal and State regulations.

The agreement requires Shelco to comply with Federal and State regulations on emission limits for miscellaneous metal-parts surface coatings, as well as regulations on testing, recordkeeping, and notification.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all steps necessary to ensure that

companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

VOC's combine in the atmosphere with other chemicals to form ground-level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases are the most sensitive.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 10, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa036.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Mary McAuliffe  
(312) 886-6237

Technical Contact: Bonnie Bush  
(312) 353-6684

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 9, 1998

No. 98-OPA037

## **EPA CITES ALLIED METAL FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Allied Metal Co. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's aluminum recycling plant, 2059 South Canal St., Chicago, IL.

(Allied Metal makes ingots from recycled scrap aluminum and sells them to companies that make aluminum products.)

The company's furnaces are located inside a building that is vented by a roof monitor running the length of the building. Emissions from the roof monitor exceeded federally enforceable State limits for opacity [the amount of light obscured by particulates (smoke, dust, ash)] during EPA inspections in September and December 1997.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve the violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. Allied Metal has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air

and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, or those with heart or lung conditions the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 10, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa037.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Roger Grimes  
(312) 886-6595

Technical Contact: Jim Hahnenberg  
(312) 353-4213

Media Contact: Bri Bill  
(312) 353-6646

For Immediate Release: February 18, 1998

No. 98-OPA038

## **EPA APPROVES \$1.65 MILLION GRANT TO WDNR TO BEGIN FOX RIVER FEASIBILITY STUDY**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that it has approved a \$1.65 million grant to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to proceed with a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) to develop cleanup alternatives for Wisconsin's Lower Fox River. The RI/FS is scheduled for completion by December 1998.

WDNR is the lead agency for the RI/FS, which will integrate previous research and environmental sampling conducted by WDNR, EPA, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), as well as any timely results of a pilot sediment remediation project funded by the Fox River Group of seven paper mills that contributed PCB contamination to the river. The RI/FS will evaluate a number of PCB-sediment "hotspots" between the DePere Dam and Appleton, and a larger PCB-sediment deposit between DePere and Green Bay.

Currently, EPA and WDNR are reviewing environmental and engineering contractors' qualifications. In mid-March, WDNR will request bids for the RI/FS from contractors selected from the initial qualifications submittals.

"This grant is a clear signal that EPA wants to move ahead with cleanup of the Fox River," said David Ullrich, EPA Acting Regional Administrator. "EPA has full confidence that WDNR will do a very effective job of assembling the studies performed to date and of developing the best alternatives for cleanup. The Federal, State, and Tribal governments are committed to an open process that will come up with the best cleanup strategy."

On a parallel track, a Natural Resources Damage Assessment by FWS on the ecological impacts of Fox River contamination will continue.

While still hopeful for a settlement with the Fox River Group on comprehensive cleanup of the river, EPA is also proceeding with preliminary steps toward formal proposal of the river as a Superfund National Priorities List site. Whether or not a settlement is reached in the near term, WDNR's work conducted under the RI/FS will be used to proceed with cleanup.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa038.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Andre Daugavietis  
(312) 886-6663

Technical Contact: Julie Brandt  
(312) 886-6768

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 10, 1998

No. 98-OPA039

## **EPA CITES CHROME INDUSTRIES FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Chrome Industries, Inc., for alleged violations of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's electroplating plant, 3041 Perkins Ave., Cleveland, OH.

EPA inspected the plant last July and found the company was operating three hard-chrome electroplating tanks with no air control equipment. Emission levels from these uncontrolled tanks were estimated to be over 300 times the allowed limit. The company also missed the deadline for doing its initial performance test.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 10, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa039.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Craig Melodia  
(312) 353-8870

Technical Contact: Terry Roundtree  
(312) 353-3236

Media Contact: Bri Bill  
(312) 353-6646

For Immediate Release: February 11, 1998

No. 98-OPA040

## **EPA APPROVES \$1.9 MILLION CLEANUP AT UNION CARBIDE NORTH LANDFILL; SEPARATE \$50 MILLION CLEANUP SLATED FOR ADJACENT SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that it has approved a recently-completed \$1.9 million cleanup at the Union Carbide North Landfill site, in Warren County, OH, near Marietta. Preparations for a separate cleanup, projected to cost \$50 million over 4 years, are now underway at an adjacent site, known as the Marietta Facility.

Both sites are in a highly industrialized area near the Ohio River. Union Carbide Corp. operated a chemical production plant in the area from 1950 to 1976. (The plant has since been sold to other operators, but Union Carbide retained legal responsibility for the wastes already generated and landfilled in the area.) As a result of these operations, soil, sediment, and ground water were contaminated with hazardous substances, including dioxin and volatile organic compounds. Contaminated ground water from the site flows into the Ohio River.

The North Landfill cleanup, performed under a March 1997 voluntary agreement between EPA and Union Carbide, included installation of a hazardous-waste landfill cap and upgrading of the existing leachate

collection system.

The \$50 million Marietta Facility cleanup is expected to begin in early 2001, following the engineering start-up and planning phases of the project. The cleanup will include excavation and on-site consolidation of contaminated soil and sediment, new hazardous-waste caps for two landfills at the site, installation of a hydraulic barrier around the waste area that is the major source of ground-water contamination, and cleanup of the ground water. Union Carbide has also agreed to pay EPA's costs associated with the cleanup.

"EPA salutes Union Carbide's cooperative spirit in moving these two cleanups forward," said regional Superfund Director William Muno. "The company has willingly expended significant resources to eliminate the threat to human health and the environment at these sites."

In the spring, EPA and Union Carbide will hold an open house near the North Landfill site to discuss the cleanups with the community.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa040.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Eileen Furey  
(312) 353-6124

Technical Contact: Duncan Campbell  
(312) 886-4555

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: February 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA041

## **EPA SETTLES WITH R.R. DONNELLEY FOR HAZ. WASTE VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$29,000 FINE AND \$166,000 IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative action against R.R. Donnelley & Sons Co. for allegedly failing to meet Federal requirements related to the management of hazardous waste. The company will pay a \$29,000 fine and complete environmental projects, costing at least \$166,000, which will help children and improve environmental conditions at its plant.

The company was cited for failing to properly manage the wastewater treatment sludge generated at its gravure printing plant in Warsaw, IN, as a hazardous waste.

---

In addition to the fine, the company has agreed to complete these environmental projects at the facility:

- install new equipment to reduce the amount of toluene (a chemical used in printing) it releases into the environment;
- properly remove lead-based paint from water tanks; and
- install new equipment to allow the company to recycle and reuse various metals in its operations.

In the fourth environmental project, completed last December, the company recycled 13 tons of paper into booklets and donated them to children in Warsaw-area schools. Also, the company agreed to consider similar paper recycling projects in the future.

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act--passed in 1976 and amended in 1980 and 1984--regulates with the management and disposal of municipal and industrial solid wastes, from the time of production to their final disposal. The regulations set standards for the wastes, including identification and listing of hazardous wastes and requirements for generators and transporters of the hazardous waste.

R.R. Donnelley has certified that it is now in compliance with all Federal hazardous waste requirements.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa041.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Audrie Washington  
(312) 886-0669

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA042

## **EPA REGION 5, PARTNERS REACH ENERGY-SAVING MILESTONE (ILLINOIS)**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today the 455 partners in its voluntary energy-saving and pollution-cutting Green Lights and Energy Star Buildings programs have committed over 1 billion square feet of floor space to upgrading. This makes EPA Region 5 the first out of 10 EPA regions to reach such a milestone.

Green Lights encourages building owners to upgrade to energy-efficient lighting where profitable. Energy Star Buildings expands on this and targets other energy- and cost-saving opportunities in the buildings, including office equipment and cooling systems.

"We are proud of these companies and organizations," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "They have shown that environmental protection and profitable business decisions can go hand in hand."

Ullrich said EPA hopes more companies will join these programs, which are most effective in cutting pollution, conserving energy, and saving money.

Whenever electric lights, computers, or motors are turned on, a power plant must use fuel to generate electricity. This releases pollutants that cause smog, acid rain, and global warming. By cutting energy waste,

businesses and other organizations contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment. These programs prevent huge quantities of pollutants from being released into the atmosphere.

Upgrades completed so far in Illinois have cut carbon dioxide emissions by almost 496.6 million lb, which has the same effect as removing 49,659 cars from the roads or planting 68,027 acres of trees.

For the businesses and organizations in your Illinois community that are part of these EPA energy-saving and pollution-prevention programs, see the attached list. The list is also on the Internet at [www.epa.gov/ARD-R5/cfc/estar.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ARD-R5/cfc/estar.htm). If you want to join the programs, call the toll-free hotline at 1-888-STAR-YES.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa042.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Audrie Washington  
(312) 886-0669

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA043

## **EPA REGION 5, PARTNERS REACH ENERGY-SAVING MILESTONE (INDIANA)**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today the 455 partners in its voluntary energy-saving and pollution-cutting Green Lights and Energy Star Buildings programs have committed over 1 billion square feet of floor space to upgrading. This makes EPA Region 5 the first out of 10 EPA regions to reach such a milestone.

Green Lights encourages building owners to upgrade to energy-efficient lighting where profitable. Energy Star Buildings expands on this and targets other energy- and cost-saving opportunities in the buildings, including office equipment and cooling systems.

"We are proud of these companies and organizations," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "They have shown that environmental protection and profitable business decisions can go hand in hand."

Ullrich said EPA hopes more companies will join these programs, which are most effective in cutting pollution, conserving energy, and saving money.

Whenever electric lights, computers, or motors are turned on, a power plant must use fuel to generate electricity. This releases pollutants that cause smog, acid rain, and global warming. By cutting energy waste,

businesses and other organizations contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment. These programs prevent huge quantities of pollutants from being released into the atmosphere.

In Indiana, upgrades have cut carbon dioxide emissions by about 93 million lb, which has the same effect as removing 9,291 cars from the roads or planting 12,728 acres of trees.

For the businesses and organizations in your Indiana community that are part of these EPA energy-saving and pollution-prevention programs, see the attached list. The list is also on the Internet at [www.epa.gov/ARD-R5/cfc/estar.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ARD-R5/cfc/estar.htm). If you want to join the programs, call the toll-free hotline at 1-888-STAR-YES.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa043.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Audrie Washington  
(312) 886-0669

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA044

## **EPA REGION 5, PARTNERS REACH ENERGY-SAVING MILESTONE (MICHIGAN)**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today the 455 partners in its voluntary energy-saving and pollution-cutting Green Lights and Energy Star Buildings programs have committed over 1 billion square feet of floor space to upgrading. This makes EPA Region 5 the first out of 10 EPA regions to reach such a milestone.

Green Lights encourages building owners to upgrade to energy-efficient lighting where profitable. Energy Star Buildings expands on this and targets other energy- and cost-saving opportunities in the buildings, including office equipment and cooling systems.

"We are proud of these companies and organizations," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "They have shown that environmental protection and profitable business decisions can go hand in hand."

Ullrich said EPA hopes more companies will join these programs, which are most effective in cutting pollution, conserving energy, and saving money.

Whenever electric lights, computers, or motors are turned on, a power plant must use fuel to generate electricity. This releases pollutants that cause smog, acid rain, and global warming. By cutting energy waste,

businesses and other organizations contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment. These programs prevent huge quantities of pollutants from being released into the atmosphere.

Michigan upgrades have cut carbon dioxide emissions by some 108.2 million lb, which has the same effect as removing 10,819 cars from the roads or planting 14,821 acres of trees.

For the businesses and organizations in your community that are part of these EPA energy-saving and pollution-prevention programs, see the attached list. The list is also on the Internet at [www.epa.gov/ARD-R5/cfc/estar.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ARD-R5/cfc/estar.htm). If you want to join the programs, call the toll-free hotline at 1-888-STAR-YES.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa044.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Julie Magee  
(312) 886-6063

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA045

## **EPA REGION 5, PARTNERS REACH ENERGY-SAVING MILESTONE (MINNESOTA)**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today the 455 partners in its voluntary energy-saving and pollution-cutting Green Lights and Energy Star Buildings programs have committed over 1 billion square feet of floor space to upgrading. This makes EPA Region 5 the first out of 10 EPA regions to reach such a milestone.

Green Lights encourages building owners to upgrade to energy-efficient lighting where profitable. Energy Star Buildings expands on this and targets other energy- and cost-saving opportunities in the buildings, including office equipment and cooling systems.

"We are proud of these companies and organizations," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "They have shown that environmental protection and profitable business decisions can go hand in hand."

Ullrich said EPA hopes more companies will join these programs, which are most effective in cutting pollution, conserving energy, and saving money.

Whenever electric lights, computers, or motors are turned on, a power plant must use fuel to generate electricity. This releases pollutants that cause smog, acid rain, and global warming. By cutting energy waste,

businesses and other organizations contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment. These programs prevent huge quantities of pollutants from being released into the atmosphere.

Minnesota upgrades have cut carbon dioxide emissions by about 296.1 million lb, which has the same effect as removing 29,610 cars from the roads or planting 40,561 acres of trees.

For the businesses and organizations in your Minnesota community that are part of these EPA energy-saving and pollution-prevention programs, see the attached list. The list is also on the Internet at [www.epa.gov/ARD-R5/estar.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ARD-R5/estar.htm). If you want to join the programs, call the toll-free hotline at 1-888-STAR-YES.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa045.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Julie Magee  
(312) 886-6063

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA046

## **EPA REGION 5, PARTNERS REACH ENERGY-SAVING MILESTONE (OHIO)**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today the 455 partners in its voluntary energy-saving and pollution-cutting Green Lights and Energy Star Buildings programs have committed over 1 billion square feet of floor space to upgrading. This makes EPA Region 5 the first out of 10 EPA regions to reach such a milestone.

Green Lights encourages building owners to upgrade to energy-efficient lighting where profitable. Energy Star Buildings expands on this and targets other energy- and cost-saving opportunities in the buildings, including office equipment and cooling systems.

"We are proud of these companies and organizations," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "They have shown that environmental protection and profitable business decisions can go hand in hand."

Ullrich said EPA hopes more companies will join these programs, which are most effective in cutting pollution, conserving energy, and saving money.

Whenever electric lights, computers, or motors are turned on, a power plant must use fuel to generate electricity. This releases pollutants that cause smog, acid rain, and global warming. By cutting energy waste,

businesses and other organizations contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment. These programs prevent huge quantities of pollutants from being released into the atmosphere.

Upgrades in Ohio have cut carbon dioxide emissions by some 373.3 million lb, which has the same effect as removing 37,328 cars from the roads or planting 51,135 acres of trees.

For the businesses and organizations in your Ohio community that are part of these EPA energy-saving and pollution-prevention programs, see the attached list. The list is also on the Internet at [www.epa.gov/ARD-R5/cfc/estar.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ARD-R5/cfc/estar.htm). If you want to join the programs, call the toll-free hotline at 1-888-STAR-YES.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa046.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Julie Magee  
(312) 886-6063

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA047

## **EPA REGION 5, PARTNERS REACH ENERGY-SAVING MILESTONE (WISCONSIN)**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today the 455 partners in its voluntary energy-saving and pollution-cutting Green Lights and Energy Star Buildings programs have committed over 1 billion square feet of floor space to upgrading. This makes EPA Region 5 the first out of 10 EPA regions to reach such a milestone.

Green Lights encourages building owners to upgrade to energy-efficient lighting where profitable. Energy Star Buildings expands on this and targets other energy- and cost-saving opportunities in the buildings, including office equipment and cooling systems.

"We are proud of these companies and organizations," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "They have shown that environmental protection and profitable business decisions can go hand in hand."

Ullrich said EPA hopes more companies will join these programs, which are most effective in cutting pollution, conserving energy, and saving money.

Whenever electric lights, computers, or motors are turned on, a power plant must use fuel to generate electricity. This releases pollutants that cause smog, acid rain, and global warming. By cutting energy waste,

businesses and other organizations contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment. These programs prevent huge quantities of pollutants from being released into the atmosphere.

Upgrades in Wisconsin have cut carbon dioxide emissions by almost 262 million lb, which has the same effect as removing 26,194 cars from the roads or planting 35,882 acres of trees.

For the businesses and organizations in your Wisconsin community that are part of these EPA energy-saving and pollution-prevention programs, see the attached list. The list is also on the Internet at [www.epa.gov/ARD-R5/cfc/estar.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ARD-R5/cfc/estar.htm). If you want to join the programs, call the toll-free hotline at 1-888-STAR-YES.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa047.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Terry Roundtree  
(312) 353-3236

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: February 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA048

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: CORRECTION TO EPA NEWS RELEASE 98-OPA040 RE: CLEANUP AT UNION CARBIDE (MARIETTA, OH) SITES**

A typographical error appeared in an EPA news release issued yesterday, February 11, 1998.

EPA provides the following clarification:

---

Union Carbide Corp.'s financial investment in the completed cleanup of the Union Carbide North Landfill should have appeared as \$1.9 million. The figure "\$19 million" was mistakenly published.

An additional point of clarification concerning the adjacent Marietta Facility cleanup area, which was of interest to some reporters:

The cost of engineering and construction for the Marietta Facility--where site design work is already underway--is estimated to be \$50 to \$54 million through the year 2032. This figure includes an estimated \$18 million for engineering and construction work, and up to \$36 million in operation and maintenance costs through 2032.

Union Carbide has agreed to pay EPA's costs associated with both sites.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa048.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Tim Chapman  
(312) 886-6829

Technical Contact: Charles Hall  
(312) 353-3443

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 17, 1998

No. 98-OPA049

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH J.& D. ON ASBESTOS POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$27,500 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice have recently reached agreement with J.& D. Enterprises of Duluth, Inc. (5197 Lavaque Rd., Duluth, MN), to resolve alleged violations of Federal asbestos regulations at a St. Paul, MN, demolition site.

J.& D., a demolition and renovation contractor, agreed to pay a \$27,500 civil penalty and to designate an asbestos program manager to administer the company's asbestos control program.

EPA cited the company in July 1993 for violating Federal asbestos regulations while demolishing a warehouse once owned by the City of Saint Paul, MN, at 923 Shepard Rd., Saint Paul. In January 1994, EPA referred the case to the Department of Justice, and in December 1995, Justice filed a complaint against J.& D.

"EPA will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act to protect human health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

Asbestos is a known carcinogen that can cause mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (a lung disease) many years after exposure.

The agreement was entered with the U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota, Saint Paul.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa049.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Deborah Carlson  
(312) 353-6121

Technical Contact: Loren Denton  
(312) 886-6814

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 17, 1998

No. 98-OPA050

## **EPA CITES HERITAGE FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Heritage Environmental Services, Inc., for alleged violations of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at its commercial hazardous waste facility, 7901 West Morris St., Indianapolis, IN.

(The company treats, stores, and disposes of hazardous waste.)

Heritage failed to provide EPA adequate information and to keep appropriate handling records for its benzene waste. EPA discovered the violations during an inspection last November 13.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. Heritage has 30 days from receipt of the finding to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Benzene is regulated under the national emissions standards for hazardous air pollutants. It is known to cause cancer in humans. Short-term exposure to benzene can cause drowsiness, headaches, and loss of consciousness. Long-term exposure has been linked to various blood and bone marrow diseases, chromosome changes, and leukemia.

Benzene is also a volatile organic compound that contributes to the formation of ground-level ozone, or smog. Ground-level ozone can cause breathing problems, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and aggravate asthma. It can reduce lung function and resistance to colds and other infections and may speed the aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and people with chronic respiratory disease are the most sensitive.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa050.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Eileen Furey  
(312) 353-6124

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312)353-5050

For Immediate Release: February 17, 1998

No. 98-OPA051

## **EPA: NEW BROWNFIELDS AGREEMENT TO REDEVELOP 2 PAPER MILLS AT ALLIED PAPER-PORTAGE CREEK- KALAMAZOO RIVER SUPERFUND SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), the State of Michigan, Building Materials Corp. of America (BMCA), and BMCA's GAF Kalamazoo Acquisition Corp. subsidiary, today announced an agreement for GAF to lease and redevelop two abandoned paper mills on a 12-acre portion of the Allied Paper-Portage Creek-Kalamazoo River Superfund site, in Kalamazoo and Allegan Counties, MI.

The revamped mills--vacated by the now-bankrupt Portage Paper Co. in February 1997 (which leased the mills from also bankrupt Performance Paper, Inc.)--will manufacture about 45,000 tons of roofing felt annually. Initially, the mills will employ between 35 and 55 workers, with potential for more if additional manufacturing operations are added. BMCA is one of the world's largest roofing products manufacturers. GAF Kalamazoo is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BMCA, formed for the purpose of acquiring a leasehold interest in the property.

Under the agreement, in exchange for \$136,000 in cleanup work at the property--and the public benefit achieved by reuse of the mills--the U.S. Government and the State waive the right to sue BMCA and GAF for contamination on or beneath the site, or for damages to the ecology of the site. The State will have primary responsibility for overseeing the cleanup

and redevelopment of the property.

GAF plans to invest \$20 million in capital improvements to the property. The City of Kalamazoo and the Michigan Jobs Commission have also pledged financial support to GAF. Though BMCA and GAF are not purchasing the mills at this time, the companies have indicated that this remains a possibility.

The settlement, known as a prospective lessee's agreement, marks the first step toward redevelopment of a prominent Kalamazoo brownfield. A brownfield is a site with actual or perceived contamination but has potential for reuse. There are thousands of these sites across the U.S., ranging from storefronts to idle factories to abandoned service stations. The City of Kalamazoo has been designated by EPA as a regional Brownfields Pilot community.

The Superfund site, located in both Kalamazoo and Allegan counties, comprises a number of PCB-contaminated areas along 80 miles of the Kalamazoo River from Morrow Lake Dam to Lake Michigan. Between 1957 and 1971, waste containing PCB's from de-inking processes at five paper mills were deposited in a number of sludge lagoons along the river. Over time, the PCB's and other contaminants, including volatile organic compounds and heavy metals, migrated into the river. Fish consumption advisories for the Kalamazoo River have been in place since 1977. Bald eagles in the area have been unable to reproduce for at least the past 7 years.

In other site news, during the coming spring or summer, EPA hopes to begin cleanup of sediments at the Bryant Mill Pond area of the Allied Paper portion of the site. EPA and the successor company to Allied Paper are currently working out the details of the agreements required for this work to begin.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa051.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Nicole Cantello  
(312) 886-2870

Technical Contact: Linda Hamsing  
(312) 886-6810

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 19, 1998

No. 98-OPA052

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH M&O ON ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS AT BOWEN HIGH; INCLUDES \$100,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice have recently reached agreement with M&O Environmental Co. (17217 South Ashland Ave., East Hazel Crest, IL) on alleged violations of hazardous air pollution standards for asbestos at a Chicago public high school.

M&O has agreed to pay a \$100,000 civil penalty and to carry out training and inspection procedures to ensure safe asbestos removal.

EPA and Justice filed a civil complaint (lawsuit) in March 1996 against M&O and two other companies: Luse Asbestos Removal Co., Inc. (2050 North 15th Ave., Melrose Park, IL) and Carnow Conibear & Associates (333 West Wacker Dr., Chicago).

---

They settled with Luse and Carnow Conibear last summer, when the two companies agreed to pay a \$70,000 civil penalty. The combined penalty of \$170,000 for the three companies is the second largest ever collected by EPA Region 5 for alleged violations of asbestos regulations.

The companies were cited for improper handling of dry asbestos at Bowen

High School, 2710 East 89th St., Chicago, in summer 1991. EPA ordered M&O Environmental to clean up the asbestos after EPA inspectors found dry asbestos strewn on the floor and between partition walls.

Several months after the removal project was completed, an Illinois Department of Public Health official found dry asbestos remaining on some of the school floors.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the asbestos regulations to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take the necessary steps to ensure that all asbestos contractors comply with Federal regulations."

Asbestos is a known cancer-causing substance that can cause mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (a lung disease) many years after exposure.

The agreement, or consent decree, was approved by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 19, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa052.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Reg Pallesen  
(312) 886-0555

Technical Contact: Betty Lavis  
(312) 886-7183

Media Contact: Ginny Narsete  
(312) 886-4359

For Immediate Release: February 19, 1998

No. 98-OPA053

## **EPA: \$4.4 MILLION CLEANUP COMPLETED AT ZEPHYR REFINERY SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that a \$4.4 million cleanup of the Zephyr Refinery site (Muskegon, MI) is now complete. EPA provided \$1.3 million of the cleanup funds through its Superfund program. The United States Coast Guard provided \$3.1 million through the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.

The Michigan state legislature has appropriated \$5 million to design, build, and operate a ground-water treatment system to deal with an underground oil plume and remove remaining underground pipes at the site. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will continue to monitor the site for potential odor problems.

The 70-acre site, at 1222 Holton Rd., was an oil refinery that produced gasoline and naphtha from 1931 to 1968. Later, the facility was converted to a fuel, fertilizer, and bulk storage tank farm, which today operates as a fertilizer storage facility only. After the old refinery was dismantled in the late 1970's, the extensive piping system for fuel, water, and utility lines was left buried on the site. In 1985, after a series of oil discharges into the Muskegon River that appeared to originate from the site, MDEQ ordered Zephyr to construct a ground-water treatment system. In the early 1990's,

the company filed for bankruptcy, and in 1996, the property tax-reverted to the State of Michigan.

EPA's cleanup work at the site, in cooperation with MDEQ, began in October 1996. Materials removed from the site included:

- 15 above-ground storage tanks;
- 80,000 gallons of hazardous or flammable liquids;
- 43,000 tons of contaminated soil from 13 disposal lagoons; and
- 2,330 tons of piping equipment and scrap metal.

The scrap metal was sent to a Muskegon commercial recycler. A few tanks remain at the site; some will be used for the ground-water treatment system and some are being used by the fertilizer storage facility.

During the cleanup, a neighboring business reported foul odors coming from the site. To solve the problem, EPA funded a comprehensive cleanup and upgrade of the company's ventilation system. EPA also addressed nearby residents' complaints about dust and odors by watering roads near the site and moving or rescheduling work activities, depending on the wind direction.

With cleanup complete, EPA intends to work with the State of Michigan and local government agencies to investigate the potential for redevelopment of this brownfield site.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 19, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa053.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Bobb Beauchamp  
(312) 886-4675

Technical Contact: Dave Anderson  
(313) 692-7683

Media Contact: Stuart Hill  
(312) 886-0689

For Immediate Release: February 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA054

## **EPA: \$1 MILLION CLEANUP COMPLETED AT DURAKO PAINT SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today announced that cleanup has been completed at the Durako Paint site, 6315 East 7 Mile Rd., Detroit. The \$1 million cleanup began in mid-October.

The site, an abandoned paint factory which closed in 1989, is comprised of two separate locations, on the east and west sides of Filer St. The west-side property, a 21,000 square-foot building, contained the production operations and a loading area. The east-side property is an 8,000 square-foot fenced yard that was used for storage.

Over the course of the project, EPA's Grosse Ile, MI-based Superfund emergency response team supervised the removal and disposal of:

- 1,800 drums of flammable and corrosive chemicals;
- 16 above-ground storage tanks;
- 15 rolloff boxes of miscellaneous hazardous material, including dismantled process equipment; and
- 17 rolloff boxes of non-hazardous debris.

Significantly, of these materials, 64 tons of scrap steel were sent to two

Detroit metals recyclers, and more than 1,300 drums were sent to commercial fuel blenders for use in cement kilns.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 23, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa054.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Mony Chabria  
(312) 886-6842

Technical Contact: Jim Augustyn  
(216) 522-7260

Media Contact: Bob Paulson  
(312) 886-0272

Franklin County Prosecutor: Joe Durham  
(614) 462-3837

Jackson Township Administrator: Mike Lilly  
(614) 875-0100

For Immediate Release: February 26, 1998

No. 98-OPA055

## **EPA: CLEANUP AT STICKLES DRUM SITE COMPLETED**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that hazardous materials cleanup is now complete at the Stickles Drum site, Jackson Township, near Columbus, OH.

The 6-acre site is a wooded lot at a curve on State Route 665 (London-Groveport Road), where property owner Richard Stickles stored about 400 scrap automobiles, tires, auto parts, and other debris. Numerous decaying drums and smaller containers of flammable chemicals and corrosive waste were also stored at the site.

Since 1984, Jackson Township has been in litigation with Stickles to remove materials from the site. Beginning in November 1996, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and the Franklin County Sheriff's office took steps to investigate the property for illegal storage of hazardous waste. In July 1997, OEPA asked EPA to help clean up the site.

On December 8, 1997, in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, Stickles entered a guilty plea to polluting the waters of the State.

The cleanup included consolidation, removal, and disposal of nearly 50 drums of liquid waste, 15 propane or acetylene gas cylinders, and 16 automotive batteries. PCB-contaminated liquid waste was sent to an incinerator in Eau Claire, WI, for disposal. Other materials were sent to recycling facilities in the Columbus and Cleveland areas.

The \$37,000 cleanup was supervised by an EPA Superfund emergency response team based in Westlake, OH, with assistance by OEPA and the City of Columbus.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa055.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Constandina Dalianis  
(312) 353-1027

Technical Contact: Julie Brandt  
(312) 886-6768

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 25, 1998

No. 98-OPA056

## **EPA CITES CLEVELAND ENERGY RESOURCES FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Cleveland Energy Resources (1801 East 12th St., Cleveland, OH) for alleged clean-air violations at the company's steam-generating plant, 2274 Canal Rd., Cleveland.

(Cleveland Energy Resources operates five coal-fired boilers at the plant, which generates steam for downtown Cleveland.)

---

EPA said the company exceeded Ohio particulate (dust, soot, smoke) emission limits at four of these boilers over the past 5 years. Company stack tests showed emissions up to 20 percent above the allowable level, resulting in excess emissions of almost 10 tons per year.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days from receipt of the finding to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public

health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, or those with heart or lung conditions the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: February 26, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa056.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Mary Fulghum  
(312) 886-4683

Technical Contact: Mary Tierney  
(312) 886-4785

TAG Contact: Susan Pastor  
(312) 353-1325

Community Involvement Contact: Stuart Hill  
(312) 886-0689

For Immediate Release: February 27, 1998

No. 98-OPA057

## **EPA AWARDS \$50,000 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR TAR LAKE SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded a \$50,000 technical assistance grant to Community Resources Development, Inc., a community organization in Mancelona, MI.

This grant provides funds for hiring a technical advisor for the Tar Lake Superfund site, in Mancelona. The advisor will interpret technical data for the organization and act as a liaison between the group and EPA.

"This is the first time EPA Region 5 has awarded a technical assistance grant to a community group in the northern part of Michigan," said regional Superfund Director William Munro. "It will help citizens understand and participate in the Superfund process, while helping to get the word out on news and announcements about the Tar Lake site."

The 200-acre site, abandoned since 1945, was home for more than 60 years to the Antrim Iron Works Co. Environmental concerns at the site include potentially contaminated areas near a former on-site chemical

plant, a 1.5 acre disposal pit containing tar and tar-contaminated soil, and the release of tar compounds into ground water. Residents near the site have also reported taste and odor problems in their private wells.

Currently, EPA and a potentially responsible party are looking into ways to address the tar disposal pit.

Site documents are available for review at Mancelona Public Library, 202 West State St., Mancelona.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 2, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa057.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Mary McAuliffe  
(312) 886-3388

Technical Contact (CAA): Cynthia Curtis  
(312) 353-6959

Technical Contact (RCRA): Mike Ribordy  
(312) 886-4592

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: March 3, 1998

No. 98-OPA058

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH MARATHON; INCLUDES \$75,000 FINE AND \$382,000 POLLUTION-CUTTING PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) have recently reached agreement with Marathon Oil Co. on alleged clean-air and hazardous-waste violations at the company's Robinson, IL, refinery.

The agreement includes a \$75,000 civil penalty and a \$382,000 project to cut emissions of the hazardous air pollutant chloride from the refinery's ultraformer unit.

---

In March 1996, DOJ filed suit against Marathon for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, which regulates handling and disposal of hazardous waste.

Clean-air violations, based on stack tests conducted in 1993, included excess particulate matter (dust), carbon monoxide, and opacity (amount of light obscured by particulates) from the fluid catalytic-cracking unit.

Hazardous-waste violations involved the land disposal of restricted waste and the failure to adequately characterize waste to determine if it was restricted from land disposal.

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung diseases. Particulates can transmit toxic substances which can be absorbed by the lungs.

Carbon monoxide can contribute to a variety of disorders. It can aggravate circulatory problems among the chronically ill and contribute to lesser symptoms in otherwise healthy persons.

The agreement, or consent decree, was approved by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa058.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Russ Hart  
(312) 886-4844

Media Contact: Susan Pastor  
(312) 353-1325

For Immediate Release: March 3, 1998

No. 98-OPA059

## **EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON CHANGES TO CLEANUP PLAN AT MOSS-AMERICAN SITE; MEETING MARCH 18**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is seeking public comments on a proposed change in the cleanup plan for creosote-contaminated soil and sediment at the Moss-American Superfund site, Brown Deer and Granville Rds., Milwaukee, WI.

A 30-day comment period runs from March 9 to April 8. A meeting to explain the proposed change will be held Wednesday, March 18, at 7 p.m., Vincent High School, Room 180, 7501 North Granville Rd.

EPA's original 1990 decision to clean up creosote-contaminated soil and sediment at the site called for a technique called bioslurry, or soil washing. However, based on new information and EPA's experience at other creosote-contaminated sites, bioslurry is no longer considered the most efficient cleanup option. Instead of bioslurry, EPA is recommending a cleanup technology called low temperature thermal desorption, which uses indirect heat, so contaminants will vaporize and then separate from the soil.

In addition, EPA is recommending that the exposure scenarios--which are used to calculate appropriate cleanup levels--for the areas owned by Union Pacific Railroad be revised from conservative residential levels to more appropriate industrial levels. In turn, EPA recommends that the exposure scenarios for areas of the site owned by Milwaukee County be considered

for revision from residential levels to less stringent recreational-use levels.

The proposed change remains protective of human health and the environment, complies with State and Federal laws--including recently adopted State soil cleanup standards intended to protect ground and surface water--and is cost effective.

Oral and written comments will be accepted at the meeting. Written comments must be postmarked by April 8. They should be sent to: Susan Pastor, P-19J, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. E-mail: [pastor.susan@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:pastor.susan@epamail.epa.gov). EPA will consider all comments received before making a final decision.

Copies of the plan and other site documents are available for review at the Mill Road Library, 6431 North 76th St. An administrative record, containing detailed information upon which the selection of the cleanup plan will be based, is also at the Mill Road Library and at the EPA Region 5 office in Chicago.

The 88-acre Moss-American site was a railroad tie treatment facility from 1921 to 1976, when it was closed by Kerr-McGee Chemical Corp. In 1978, Milwaukee County acquired 65 acres of the property. In 1980, the other 23 acres were sold to a predecessor of Union Pacific Railroad, which now uses this portion of the site for vehicle loading and storage. Extraction wells for underground liquid-creosote pools were installed in 1995. Design work for a comprehensive cleanup of the site is continuing.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa059.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Terry Branigan  
(312) 353-4737

Technical Contact: Gary Victorine  
(312) 886-1479

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: March 3, 1998

No. 98-OPA060

## **EPA OK's WTI PERMIT MODIFICATION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 yesterday approved a change in the Waste Technologies Industries (WTI) hazardous waste permit. The permit allows the commercial hazardous waste incinerator in East Liverpool, OH, to operate.

---

EPA has approved WTI's request to modify the permit: to replace Von Roll (Ohio), Inc., and WTI with Von Roll America, Inc., as the owner and operator of the East Liverpool facility. This modification conforms the Federal permit to action taken by the Ohio Hazardous Waste Facility Board effective February 13, 1998, transferring WTI's State permit to Von Roll America, Inc.

EPA believes this action clarifies the ownership and operational control of the WTI facility. EPA originally had proposed a two-step modification process: first, add Von Roll America to the permit and second, delete WTI and Von Roll (Ohio). This one-step modification makes both changes effective at the same time.

A fact sheet with details on this change and on the history of the issue is available from the EPA Region 5 Waste Management Branch 312-353-0398.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa060.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Matthew Gluckman  
(312) 886-6089

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: March 3, 1998

No. 98-OPA061

## **EPA RECOGNIZES LAPPER SEWAGE-TREATMENT PLANT FOR EXCELLENCE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently named the Lapeer, MI, sewage treatment plant among four regional plants recognized for excellence in industrial wastewater treatment.

The others are the Wauseon, OH, plant; Racine Water and Wastewater Utility, Racine, WI; and Sheboygan Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sheboygan, WI.

In 1994, the City of Lapeer had lost its entire sewage pretreatment staff. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality found the plant out of compliance with its discharge permits: it had failed to inspect 80 percent of its industrial customers and to enforce pretreatment standards.

---

"In a short time, however, Lapeer has made a complete turnaround," said JoLynn Traub, regional Water Division director. "Within one year of hiring new staff, the pretreatment program was restored and the plant was back in compliance. In addition, the city took action against a local industrial discharger for illegal dumping of metal wastes and falsification of reports."

This is the fifth year these awards have been given. All regional award winners have also been nominated for national pretreatment awards. To maintain an effective pretreatment program, wastewater treatment plant

operators must identify industrial and nondomestic sources of pollutants, develop discharge permits and other controls to ensure these sources are meeting Federal and local water pollution standards, inspect and monitor discharges from these sources, and take enforcement action if the sources are not meeting their permit limits or other requirements. In addition, the winners were chosen because of demonstrated performance in areas such as environmental effectiveness or pollution prevention.

Industrial pretreatment programs play a crucial role in protecting the environment. They prevent interference with sewage plant operations, keep toxic pollutants from entering waterways, and prevent contamination of sludge so that it can be reused as fertilizer.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 25, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa061.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Paul Steadman  
(312) 353-7615

Media Contact: Ginny Narsete  
(312) 886-4369

City of Dayton Contact: Donna Gorby-Lee  
(937) 443-3725

For Immediate Release: March 5, 1998

No. 98-OPA062

## **EPA: CLEANUP COMPLETED AT GHR FOUNDRY SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup of hazardous materials at the abandoned GHR Foundry site (Dayton, OH) is now complete. The \$350,000 cleanup effort, which began last May, was paid for by a responsible party, Foundry Sales & Supply, Inc.

The 12-acre site, at 400 Detrick St., was a grey-iron castings foundry from about 1946 to 1983. The property then stood vacant until 1988, when it was acquired by a foundry equipment recycling company. The recycler's operations included the salvage of scrap metal from large electrical transformers and capacitors. Some of this equipment contained PCB oils and/or asbestos insulation, much of which was stored in violation of the Toxic Substances Control Act. Improper storage of these hazardous materials resulted in a potential health threat to area residents, as well as the risk of contamination--in the event of a major storm--of the nearby Mad and Great Miami Rivers.

The recycler ceased operations in late 1995, leaving behind partially-demolished buildings, and a number of piles of partially-separated demolition debris.

Over the course of the project, a Chicago-based EPA Superfund emergency response team supervised the removal and disposal of:

- 5,200 gallons of PCB-contaminated liquids;
- 25 tons of PCB-contaminated soil; and
- 6 rolloff boxes of asbestos-containing building materials

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and the City of Dayton assisted EPA with cleanup oversight.

Currently, six underground storage tanks remain at the site. Foundry Sales & Supply is scheduled to remove them during the next few months. With the cleanup complete, the City of Dayton is exploring redevelopment opportunities for this brownfield property.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 9, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa062.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Jeff McDonald  
(312) 353-6288

Legal Contact: Bobb Beauchamp  
(312) 886-4675

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: March 5, 1998

No. 98-OPA063

## **EPA RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING SEWAGE-TREATMENT PLANTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has given awards to four sewage treatment plants for excellence in industrial wastewater pretreatment. They are: the Wauseon, OH, plant; the Lapeer, MI, plant; Racine Water and Wastewater Utility, Racine, WI; and Sheboygan Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sheboygan, WI.

---

"In addition to maintaining high standards in pretreatment, the winners were chosen because of demonstrated performance in areas such as environmental effectiveness or pollution prevention," said Jo Lynn Traub, regional Water Division director.

This is the fifth year that these awards have been given. All regional award winners have also been nominated for national pretreatment awards.

To maintain an effective pretreatment program, wastewater treatment plant operators must identify industrial and nondomestic sources of pollutants, develop discharge permits and other controls to ensure these sources are meeting Federal and local water pollution standards, inspect and monitor discharges from these sources, and take enforcement action if the sources are not meeting their permit limits or other

requirements. Industrial pretreatment programs play a crucial role in protecting the environment. They prevent interference with sewage plant operations, keep toxic pollutants from entering waterways, and prevent contamination of sludge so that it can be reused as fertilizer.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 11, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa063.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Matthew Gluckman  
(312) 886-6089

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: March 5, 1998

No. 98-OPA064

## **EPA RECOGNIZES WISCONSIN SEWAGE-TREATMENT PLANTS FOR EXCELLENCE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently named two Wisconsin sewage treatment plants -- Sheboygan Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant and Racine Water and Wastewater Utility -- among four award-winning plants for excellence in industrial wastewater pretreatment. (The others are the Wauseon, OH, sewage treatment plant and the Lapeer, MI, plant.)

"In addition to meeting pretreatment goals, Sheboygan enhances the effectiveness of its program by actively working with industrial dischargers to achieve compliance with water pollution standards," said Jo Lynn Traub, regional Water Division director. "The Racine Water and Wastewater Utility treats the wastewater of 55 industrial dischargers, as well as domestic sewage. It has shown continuous improvement in reducing the level of metals in its sludge, which is reused as fertilizer."

This is the fifth year that these awards have been given. All regional award winners have also been nominated for national pretreatment awards. To maintain an effective pretreatment program, wastewater treatment plant operators must identify industrial and nondomestic sources of pollutants, develop discharge permits and other controls to ensure these sources are meeting Federal and local water pollution standards, inspect and monitor discharges from these sources, and take enforcement action if the sources are not meeting their permit limits or other requirements. In addition, the

winners were chosen because of demonstrated performance in areas such as environmental effectiveness or pollution prevention.

Industrial pretreatment programs play a crucial role in protecting the environment. They prevent interference with sewage plant operations, keep toxic pollutants from entering waterways, and prevent contamination of sludge so that it can be reused as fertilizer.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 25, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa064.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Matthew Gluckman  
(312) 886-6089

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: March 5, 1998

No. 98-OPA065

## **EPA RECOGNIZES WAUSEON SEWAGE-TREATMENT PLANT FOR EXCELLENCE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently named the Wauseon, OH, sewage treatment plant among four award-winning plants for excellence in industrial wastewater pretreatment. (The other plants are the Lapeer, MI, plant; Racine Water and Wastewater Utility, Racine, WI; and Sheboygan Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sheboygan, WI.)

Wauseon was recognized because of the high quality of its comprehensive permitting and inspection program, which evaluates everything that could potentially affect discharge and sludge from the city's treatment plant. The city has also promoted pollution prevention techniques and sponsored a seminar on the subject for industries.

This is the fifth year that these awards have been given. All regional award winners have also been nominated for national pretreatment awards. To maintain an effective pretreatment program, wastewater treatment plant operators must identify industrial and nondomestic sources of pollutants, develop discharge permits and other controls to ensure these sources are meeting Federal and local water pollution standards, inspect and monitor discharges from these sources, and take enforcement action if the sources are not meeting their permit limits or other requirements. In addition, the winners were chosen because of demonstrated performance in areas such as environmental effectiveness or pollution prevention.

Industrial pretreatment programs play a crucial role in protecting the environment. They prevent interference with sewage plant operations, keep toxic pollutants from entering waterways, and prevent contamination of sludge so that it can be reused as fertilizer.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 25, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa065.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



EPA Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

City of Bloomington Contact: Dwight Townes  
(812) 349-3569

For Immediate Release: March 10, 1998

No. 98-OPA066

## **BLOOMINGTON MAYOR FERNANDEZ NAMED TO EPA ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that Bloomington, IN, Mayor John Fernandez has been named to EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee, which comprises about 30 State and local officials nationwide.

The committee meets regularly with top EPA officials to advise EPA on policy issues that affect local governments, including regulatory mandates, community health issues, drinking-water treatment, and redevelopment of brownfields sites.

---

"Local government officials are essential partners in EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment," said David Ullrich, acting regional administrator. "Mayor Fernandez, through his active involvement in cleanup of Bloomington's PCB-contaminated sites brings a wealth of experience and a results-oriented approach to this important committee. He has been instrumental in accelerating the cleanup process."

"I'm deeply honored," said Mayor Fernandez. "Local elected officials' experience on the front lines offers the EPA unique insights into the effectiveness of environmental protection initiatives across the U.S. As mayor, I can provide a reality check for Federal programs."

The committee, which was formed in 1993, meets twice a year. Mayor

Fernandez was elected in 1995. The city focuses on environmental issues including storm-water management, brownfields redevelopment, and water quality control.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 11, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa066.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: March 9, 1998

No. 98-OPA067

## **EPA ADDS CAM-OR SITE TO SUPERFUND LIST**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today the Cam-Or, Inc., site (Westville, IN) has been added to EPA's list of hazardous waste sites.

EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) contains hazardous waste sites that need further investigation to see if they pose risks to human health and the environment. Sites placed on the list are eligible for long-term cleanup under the Superfund program.

The 15-acre Cam-Or site is on the north side of Indiana Highway 2, one-quarter mile west of U.S. Highway 421, south of Westville, in LaPorte County.

Westville Oil collected, stored, and re-refined waste oil at the site from 1934 to 1976. It was then purchased by Cam-Or, which continued operations until 1987, when it was abandoned. Waste oils were stored in a series of unlined lagoons (which sometimes overflowed to a nearby ditch), as well as in above-ground storage tanks.

After Cam-Or abandoned the property, EPA did emergency cleanup including: consolidation and treatment of PCB-contaminated sludges, treatment of 9.5 million gallons of contaminated water, removal of more than 100 drums, installation of ground-water monitoring wells, and backfilling of lagoons.

In 1989, EPA ordered several responsible parties to do additional cleanup. Between 1995 and now, some voluntary investigative work has been done.

Also, in 1993, a group of parties responsible for hazardous materials at the site reimbursed EPA for \$2.8 million in costs to that date.

In 1995, EPA launched a supplementary study to determine the extent of remaining contamination at, and extending southeast of, the site. When complete, the study will provide data to support a comprehensive cleanup plan.

In late February, the responsible parties submitted to EPA a demolition plan for buildings, tanks, piping, and other above-ground structures at the site. EPA will formally comment on this plan by late April.

Cam-Or is one of six new NPL sites and the only one in EPA Region 5. Today, EPA also announced six new proposed sites, none of which is in EPA Region 5.

There are 1,197 final sites on the NPL and 54 proposed sites, for a national total of 1,252. Work (excluding long-term monitoring) has been completed at 508 sites.

Final and proposed NPL sites in EPA Region 5 are:

Illinois - 41  
Indiana - 30  
Michigan - 74  
Minnesota - 28  
Ohio - 37  
Wisconsin - 39  
Total - 249

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 25, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa067.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Jeff McDonald  
(312) 353-6288

Legal Contact: Bobb Beauchamp  
(312) 886-4675

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: March 10, 1998

No. 98-OPA068

## **EPA CITES DETROIT COKE FOR UNDERGROUND INJECTION WELL VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently issued an administrative order to Detroit Coke Corp., (Detroit, MI) and proposed a \$127,000 fine for violations of the underground injection control regulations of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

EPA alleges that the company failed to submit complete monthly monitoring reports and on three occasions failed to maintain required pressures for two hazardous waste injection wells.

"Although the facility is closed and the wells are used infrequently, the company must follow procedures to ensure that the disposal wells do not pose a threat to underground sources of drinking water," said JoLynn Traub, director of the regional Water Division. "It must monitor the wells and report the information to EPA."

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 11, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa068.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Thor Ketzback  
(312) 353-6720

Technical Contact: David Schulz  
(312) 886-6790

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: March 10, 1998

No. 98-OPA069

## **EPA REACHES PARTIAL AGREEMENT WITH CENERGY ON AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached partial agreement with Cinergy Corp. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's Beckjord coal-fired electric generating station, New Richmond, OH, southeast of Cincinnati.

The agreement requires immediate compliance and stack testing and continuous monitoring to verify continuing compliance.

EPA issued notices to Cinergy in June 1996 and in July 1997 for violations of federally enforceable State standards for particulates (smoke, soot, dust) and opacity (the amount of light obscured).

Last September, EPA filed an administrative complaint against Cinergy for these alleged violations, asking for a \$77,000 penalty, which is yet to be settled.

"EPA's mission is protection of human health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, or those with heart or lung conditions the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 11, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa069.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Leo Rosales  
(312) 353-6198

For Immediate Release: March 10, 1998

No. 98-OPA070

## CALENDAR LISTING

**WHAT:** Federal and local agencies, in conjunction with local educational and public-health organizations, will host a conference on Community Environmental Awareness: Health, Justice, and Economic Development.

**WHO:** Community leaders, educators, government agency representatives, business and industry leaders, students, and local residents.

**WHERE:** Malcolm X College, 1900 West Van Buren St., Chicago

**WHEN:** Thursday, March 19, 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. (Lunch will be provided to attendees.)

---

To learn more about current environmental issues facing Chicago's West Side and those resources that are available to improve the health, social, and economic welfare of residents. Topics include environmental justice, economic development, and environmental health issues related to lead, asbestos, and pesticides.

Call the Women's Education & Research Institute, Inc., at (773) 487-6637, or fax your name, title, affiliation, address, phone, and fax numbers to (773) 722-5054. Registration is required, and must be received by March 12. There is no cost to attend the event.

The conference is sponsored by the Job Training Consortium, which comprises Argonne National Laboratory, Chicago Department of Health, DePaul University, Malcolm X College, Mayor's Office of Employment and Training, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency, and U.S. Housing and Urban Development.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 11, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa070.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contacts: Carol Massar  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
(312) 353-6400 x 1300

Phillippa Cannon  
U.S. EPA  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: March 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA071

## **EPA/CORPS SEEK COMMENTS ON MCHENRY COUNTY WETLANDS STUDY**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the Chicago District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), in consultation with State and local regulatory and planning agencies, have completed an Advance Identification of Wetlands (ADID) study in McHenry County, IL. They will seek comments on the study, and on whether the Corps should exert discretionary authority over filling activities in the ADID areas, during a public meeting on March 18 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the McHenry County Courthouse, Room C290, 2200 N. Seminary Ave., Woodstock.

The study identified 154 sites that provide high quality habitat for wildlife and 442 sites that provide a high level of water-quality benefits such as stormwater storage, shoreline and riverbank stabilization, sediment and pollutant retentions, and nutrient removal. Ten streams and seven lakes have been identified as having sections that provide high quality habitat for wildlife. It is not presumed that the study has identified every high value site in the county.

In general, ADID wetlands are considered unsuitable for filling. A determination that a site is unsuitable means that EPA is likely to object to the issuance of a permit to fill any portion of the site. The study simplifies

the permit application process by providing advance indication of sites that are unlikely to receive permits. The information identified in the study will be useful in planning for development, evaluating the effects of development on water quality and flooding potential in a watershed, and in selecting sites for restoration or preservation.

Written comments will be accepted until April 20, 1998 and should be sent to:

Brian Smith, Regulatory Branch  
Department of the Army  
Chicago District, Corps of Engineers  
111 N. Canal St., Suite 600  
Chicago, IL 60606

Sue Elston  
U.S. EPA (WW-16J)  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604

Copies of the preliminary maps by individual township are available at the above addresses.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 25, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa071.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Mike McAteer  
(312) 886-4663

Media Contact: Noemi Emeric  
(312) 886-0995

IDEM Contact: Vince Epps  
(317) 308-3368

For Immediate Release: March 16, 1998

No. 98-OPA072

## **EPA: CLEANUP UNDER WAY AT ENVIRO-CHEM SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup at the Enviro-Chem site (Zionsville, IN) is now under way. Residents along Route 421 (Michigan Rd.) north of Zionsville, can expect to see heavy equipment and workers in protective clothing at the site through the spring and summer.

To prepare for the heavy construction season, since December a small building to house soil and water treatment equipment was built at the site, four 150,000 gallon waste-water treatment tanks were set-up, and soil and ground-water tests were done to determine correct soil excavation depths. A group of responsible parties will pay for the cleanup, which will be supervised by EPA and Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

The site was a waste oil and solvent recycler from 1977 to 1982, when the State of Indiana ordered it closed due to oil spills and poor waste management. It was placed on EPA's Superfund National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites in 1983. Surface cleanup work at the site done during the mid-1980's included the disposal and treatment of 30,000 drums of hazardous waste, 222,000 gallons of hazardous liquids, and 5,650 cubic yards of contaminated soil and cooling pond sludge.

A plan to deal with contaminated subsurface soils and groundwater was approved by EPA in 1987 and revised in 1991, to reflect the availability of new technologies. After additional engineering studies and environmental sampling, EPA approved the current work plan in November 1997.

The work includes:

- Soil excavation to a depth of 9 ft. from a three-quarter acre area at the south end of the site. The material will then be moved to the north and central portions of the site, where it will be treated by soil vapor extraction.
- Soil vapor extraction--in which contaminated vapors are vacuumed from the soil and captured by a carbon filter system. This will affect 5.5 acres of the site (including the soil excavated from the south end of the site), and treatment will continue for 2 to 5 years.
- Construction of an impermeable multilayer cap of soil, clay, and synthetic material to go over most of the site. The first phase of cap construction will come after the soil vapor extraction system is constructed; the second phase will begin once the contaminated soil has reached the prescribed cleanup levels.

Residents with questions about activities at the Enviro-Chem site may contact: Noemi Emeric, community involvement coordinator, 312-886-0995; or e-mail: [emeric.noemi@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:emeric.noemi@epamail.epa.gov).

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 17, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa072.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Reg Pallesen  
(312) 886-0555

Technical Contact: Beth Reiner  
(312) 353-6576

Media Contact: Bri Bill  
(312) 353-6646

For Immediate Release: March 17, 1998

No. 98-OPA073

## **EPA COMPLETES POLLUTION STUDY AT LAMMERS BARREL SITE; MEETING MAR. 26**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) have recently completed a pre-cleanup study of ground-water and soil contamination at the Lammers Barrel Superfund site, Beavercreek, OH.

---

A meeting to discuss the findings and present a range of cleanup alternatives will be held Thursday, March 26, at 7 p.m., Beavercreek City Hall, 1368 Research Park Dr. Representatives from EPA, OEPA, and the State and local health departments will be available to answer questions. The agencies will also assess interest by area residents in forming a community advisory group to help evaluate cleanup alternatives.

The 2-acre site, 3990 East Patterson Rd., was a chemical recycling facility from 1953 until 1969.

The pre-cleanup study is available for review in the site information repository at Beavercreek Community Library, 36 Dayton-Xenia Rd. For more information or questions about the meeting, call: Bri Bill, community involvement coordinator, 800-621-8431, or e-mail: [bill.briana@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:bill.briana@epamail.epa.gov).

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 17, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa073.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Robert Thompson  
(312) 353-6700

Technical Contact: Emmett Keegan  
(312) 886-0678

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: March 16, 1998

No. 98-OPA074

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH ACME STEEL; INCLUDES \$410,000 FINE AND \$2.7 MILLION POLLUTION-CUTTING PROJECTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice have recently reached agreement with Acme Steel Co. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's Riverdale, IL, melt shop.

The agreement includes a \$410,000 civil penalty and two projects costing \$2,798,000 that will further cut emissions at the Riverdale plant.

In April 1996, Justice filed suit against Acme for alleged violations of federally enforceable State air pollution rules since at least January 1, 1993. The violations were corrected in April 1996, when Acme installed new equipment to control particulate (dust, soot, smoke) emissions from some melt-shop operations.

The two pollution-cutting projects include installation of more capture and control equipment at the melt shop, to further cut secondary emissions, and a road paving project at the nearby coke plant. The projects are expected to reduce particulate emissions by about 160 tons per year. "We are pleased that Acme has taken steps to control air pollution from its

Riverdale facility and is now in compliance with the Clean Air Act," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We congratulate the company on the environmental cleanup projects they are undertaking to further improve the quality of our air."

The Acme plant is in an area that does not meet health-based standards for particulates. Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, or those with heart or lung conditions the most.

The agreement, or consent decree, was approved by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 16, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa074.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

Technical Contact: Emmett Keegan  
(312) 886-0678

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: March 16, 1998

No. 98-OPA075

## **EPA: PCI HAS 60 DAYS TO COMPLY WITH PCB RULES**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today notified Pollution Control Industries (East Chicago, IN) that it does not meet the criteria to accept Superfund waste under the Federal Off-Site Rule. The company has 60 days to conform to the rule or it can not accept Superfund waste--including napalm waste from the U.S. Navy's facility in California.

PCI notified EPA that it had inadvertently accepted, distributed, and stored polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). EPA and Indiana Department of Environmental Management inspectors last week confirmed that PCB material remains at the facility, and is adequately isolated, and contained. However, PCI lacks the required authorization to store PCB's, as required under Federal PCB laws.

---

PCI has 10 days to request an informal conference and 30 days to submit written comments to the Agency. If the facility fails to properly remove all PCB waste within 60 days, EPA could prohibit PCI from accepting any Superfund waste. However, EPA can not prevent PCI from receiving Superfund waste during the 60-day period.

The Off-Site Rule is part of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as

Superfund, and deals with the off-site treatment and disposal of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants from cleanup activities under CERCLA.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once widely used in industry as coolants and lubricants. EPA banned the manufacture of PCB's in 1979 because of evidence that they accumulate in the environment and present health hazards for people. Under the Toxic Substances and Control Act, EPA regulates the proper cleanup, disposal, marking, recordkeeping, storage, and limited use of PCB's to protect the public from these potentially dangerous chemicals.

PCI is a commercial hazardous waste management facility, which collects and treats hazardous and nonhazardous industrial wastes, including Superfund waste.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 17, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa075.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Bob Mayhugh  
(312) 886-5929

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312)353-5050

For Immediate Release: March 18, 1998

No. 98-OPA076

## **EPA TO HOST INT'L HAZ. MATERIALS SPILLS CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO, APR. 5 - 9**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will host the 14th International Hazardous Materials Spills Conference at Chicago's Palmer House Hotel, April 5-9, 1998.

The conference offers skills-training and career development opportunities for people in all facets of the public safety, contingency planning, and emergency response professions. There will also be an extensive exhibition area.

Reporters may be interested in covering special events and technical sessions, including:

- Opening plenary session, Monday, April 6, 9 a.m. to noon, in which a panel of experts will discuss current spills response issues and challenges in a rapid-fire question format, hosted by Daily Southtown (Chicago) correspondent and current Society of Environmental Journalists President Kevin Carmody;
- "Earth Day on the Federal Plaza" display, Monday, April 6, through Thursday, April 9, Adams St. at Dearborn St., featuring emergency response vehicles, opportunities to try on chemical safety suits, and displays from Chicago Fire Department, Chicago Department of Environment, U.S. Coast Guard, and other agencies and institutions. Additional EPA displays will include material on

solar cars, wind power, and natural landscaping.

- Tuesday, April 7, luncheon forum on strategies in counter-terrorism, featuring FBI domestic terrorism planning section chief Robert Blitzer;
- Case studies including: a train derailment in Ohio, an emergency response in rural Idaho, and pesticide misuse in Chicago; and
- Technical sessions including: responses in harsh weather conditions, managing abandoned vessels and barges, and spills protection in the Great Lakes.

For help in identifying potential interview sources and advance media registration, call Mick Hans, EPA Public Affairs, 312-353-5050.

For registration details via internet: <http://www.nrt.org/nrt.hazmat98.nsf>, or contact Tom Crane, Great Lakes Commission: 313-665-9135, fax 313-665-4370.

For exhibitor information, see the internet site, or contact Joanne Dobrick: 773-348-3960, fax 773-348-6632.

For EPA Earth Day information via internet: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/earthday/>, or contact Karen Thompson, EPA Public Affairs, 312-353-8547.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa076.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Cynthia King  
(312) 886-6831

Technical Contacts: Michelle Farley  
(312) 886-6778

Jennifer Darrow  
(312) 886-6315

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: March 17, 1998

No. 98-OPA077

## **EPA CITES 3 DETROIT-AREA FORD PLANTS FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited three Detroit-area Ford Motor Co. assembly plants for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act.

Two Wayne, MI, plants were cited: Wayne Assembly and Michigan Truck Assembly, as well as Dearborn Assembly in Dearborn, MI.

Ford makes automobiles at its Wayne Assembly Plant. The plant was cited for exceeding its monthly volatile organic compound (VOC) limit for several months in 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997. In 1996, the plant also violated its annual VOC limit. In addition, Ford failed to follow the proper State permitting requirements for its purge and clean-up and final repair operations at the plant.

At the Michigan Truck Assembly Plant, Ford makes automobiles and light-duty trucks. On December 1, 1997, the plant exceeded the annual production limit set in its Michigan air quality permit. This increase may

be a major modification of Ford's permit under Federal regulations designed to prevent significant air quality deterioration requiring Ford to get a permit for such a modification.

Dearborn Assembly, which makes automobiles, was cited for violations of the yearly VOC emission limits for purge operations, the hourly VOC limits for the universal sealer operations, and the hourly and yearly VOC limits for the hem flange sealer operations.

All three plants emitted VOC's, which combine in the atmosphere with other chemicals to form ground-level ozone, or smog.

Smog can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases are the most sensitive.

"The Detroit area achieved the health-based standard for ozone in March 1995 after being out of compliance since the 1970's," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "EPA's goal is to ensure that Detroit continues to have air quality that meets this health-based standard."

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue compliance orders, assess administrative penalties, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days from receipt of the notices to request a meeting to discuss the alleged violations and how to resolve them.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa077.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Brad Beeson  
(312) 353-8919

Technical Contact: Christina Prasinis  
(312) 886-6819

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: March 18, 1998

No. 98-OPA078

## **EPA CITES NATIONAL STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited National Steel Corp., Great Lakes Division, for alleged violations of federally enforceable clean-air regulations at the company's steel mill, 1 Quality Dr., Ecorse, MI.

EPA said visible emissions of particulates (smoke, soot, dust) from National Steel's basic oxygen furnace and a casthouse have exceeded the plant's 20-percent opacity (the amount of light obscured) limit.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days from receipt of the citation to request a meeting to discuss the alleged violations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's mandate is to protect human health and the environment, so we will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the

elderly, or those with heart or lung conditions the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa078.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Mary McAuliffe  
(312) 886-3388

Technical Contact: Cynthia Curtis  
(312) 353-6959

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: March 18, 1998

No. 98-OPA079

## **EPA CITES AMCAST FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Amcast Industrial Corp. (Elkhart Products Corp.) for alleged violations of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's plants, 1255 Oak St., Elkhart, IN, and 700 Rainbow Rd., Geneva, IN.

(Amcast makes copper and aluminum tubing for heating and air conditioning units.)

EPA said the two plants failed to comply with Federal standards for hard-chrome electroplating plants from January 25, 1997, when the standards went into effect, until early June 1997.

Amcast tested its uncontrolled stacks at the two plants in January 1997 and found their chromium emissions were above the Federal standard. The company installed control equipment at both plants last spring. Stack tests in June showed both plants were in compliance with Federal standards.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. EPA met with Amcast on March 16 to discuss the allegations. Amcast agreed to submit additional information,

which EPA will review before deciding how to proceed.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa079.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Robert Buckley  
(734) 692-7662

Media Contact: Stuart Hill  
(312) 886-0689

For Immediate Release: March 19, 1998

No. 98-OPA080

## **EPA COMPLETES CLEANUP AT ABANDONED DETROIT SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today announced that cleanup has been completed at the Wayne Chemical Products Co. site, 9470 Copland St., Detroit. The project, which began in February, cost about \$316,000.

At the request of the City of Detroit, EPA's Emergency Response Team (based in Grosse Ile, MI) removed and disposed of 34,000 gallons of oily waste from 29 above-ground storage tanks, dikes, and the basement of an old building. They also removed and disposed of about 160 cubic yards of oily debris found at the site. About 112,000 lb of steel was recycled from the tanks and piping found on the property. In addition, workers removed a small amount of loose asbestos from the site and secured the site to deter dumping.

This was an abandoned oil-products company site, which held non-hazardous oil and oil-related products in above-ground storage tanks.

EPA cleaned up the site under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, which deals with oil discharges and the threat of some to the navigable waters and adjoining shorelines of the United States. The Wayne Chemical Products site is about a half-mile from the Rouge River.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 23, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa080.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Gladys Beard  
(312) 886-4759

Media Contact: Don DeBlasio  
(312) 886-4360

For Immediate Release: March 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA081

## **EPA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD FOR BERLIN AND FARRO SUPERFUND SITE DELISTING**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that the public comment period on proposed Superfund delisting for the Berlin and Farro Liquid Incineration site (Genesee County, MI) has been extended until April 20. Cleanup at the site was completed in September 1996.

The 40-acre site is 3.5 miles south of Swartz Creek in a mostly rural area. An industrial liquid waste incinerator operated at the site from 1971 to 1975. During this period, wastes were stored in drums, in open lagoons, and in underground tanks and poured into an agricultural drain.

The site owners did some cleanup work prior to filing for bankruptcy and abandoning the site in 1980. The remaining cleanup--overseen by EPA in cooperation with Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality--was completed by other parties that contributed to site contamination.

---

All told, the cleanup included removal of: the liquid waste incinerator; tanks containing 10,000 gallons of liquid waste; 4,000 drums; 15,300 cubic yards of lagoon sludge; 18,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil; and more than 1 million gallons of contaminated water.

After the cleanup, much of the site was backfilled with a clean soil cover. Today the property--meeting all solid waste landfill standards, as well as soil and ground water standards--is ready for potential redevelopment.

Comments on the proposed delisting may be sent by April 20 to Gladys Beard, Superfund Division (SR-6J), U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

Site documents are available for review at EPA's Chicago office and the information repository at Gaines Township Hall, 9255 West Grand Blanc Rd., Gaines. Comprehensive site information was also published in the January 21, 1998, Federal Register.

After the comment period, EPA will prepare a responsiveness summary to evaluate and address comments received. If EPA then determines that deletion is appropriate, a final notice will be published in the Federal Register.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 23, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa081.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Tim Thurlow  
(312) 886-6623

Technical Contact: Owen Thompson  
(312) 886-4843

Media Contact: Don DeBlasio  
(312) 886-4360

For Immediate Release: March 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA082

## **EPA OK'S TRANSFER OF DETROIT ARSENAL PROPERTY TO CITY OF WARREN**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today it agrees with the U.S. Army's finding that 32 acres of the Detroit Arsenal Tank Plant are now suitable for transfer to the City of Warren, MI. Significantly, the transfer agreement calls for institutional controls that ensure no homes will ever be built on the site.

In February, EPA said that the Army's plans to deal with environmental contamination at the former tank-test track area did not go far enough to meet Federal facility cleanup standards.

After negotiations between EPA and the Army, the Army has agreed to compare its soil-sampling results against EPA standards and to provide for regularly scheduled opportunities for community input on cleanup decisions.

The Detroit tank plant was built by the Army in 1940 and operated first under Chrysler and then under General Dynamics as a battle tank factory until it closed last December.

The remaining part of the tank plant property is being evaluated by a base-

closure cleanup team, including representatives from the Army, EPA, and Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality.

Any other land transfers from the tank plant will also require EPA's OK on cleanup.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 23, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa082.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Dr. Barbara Carr  
(312) 886-7187

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: March 25, 1998

No. 98-OPA083

## **EPA: FREE BROCHURE ON OIL-SPILL PREVENTION REGS NOW AVAILABLE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently published a free 8-page brochure to help companies comply with oil-spill regulations.

"A Facility Owner-Operator's Guide to Oil Pollution Prevention" explains who must comply and how to set up a spill prevention program under the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure requirements of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

The regulations apply to owners and operators of nontransportation facilities that drill, produce, gather, store, process, refine, transfer, distribute, or consume oil and oil products--facilities with some reasonable potential to spill oil in U.S. waters. Failure to comply may bring fines and other penalties.

For a copy of the brochure, contact: U.S. EPA Region 5, Superfund Oil Planning and Response Section (SE-5J), 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. Or call Mary Jane Adamo: 312-886-5905.

To report an oil or chemical spill, call the National Response Center: 800-424-8802.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 26, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa083.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Audrie Washington  
(312) 886-0669

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: March 23, 1998

No. 98-OPA084

## **EPA TO PRESENT NATIONAL ENERGY-SAVING AWARD TO AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today EPA's 1998 "Green Lights Ally of the Year" award will go to American Electric Power Co. (Columbus, OH) for cutting pollution with energy-efficient technologies that have saved the company \$1.3 million a year.

The company is one of nine organizations chosen by EPA for their outstanding contribution to air pollution prevention.

The award will be presented at a ceremony Tuesday evening, March 24, in Washington, DC, hosted by EPA's Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division.

Started in 1991, Green Lights is a voluntary partnership that promotes the use of energy-efficient technologies. The Energy Star Buildings program expands upon the success of Green Lights and maximizes energy savings throughout a building by targeting other cost-saving opportunities, including heating and cooling systems. There are more than 2,500 participants in these partnerships nationwide.

American Electric Power has promoted the benefits of energy efficiency to its 2.9 million residential, commercial, and industrial customers while cutting its own energy use by 23.3 million kilowatt hours.

Because energy production usually involves the burning of fossil fuels, the company's actions translate into an air-pollution reduction of more than 39.5 million lb of carbon dioxide and more than 501,000 lb of sulfur dioxide. Carbon dioxide is linked to global climate change, while sulfur dioxide is associated with acid rain.

"American Electric Power has shown energy efficiency is a smart strategy," said Maria Tikoff Vargas, codirector of EPA's Energy Star Buildings and Green Lights programs. "This partnership with EPA also serves as a remarkable example of environmental leadership," she added.

The energy used to run commercial and industrial buildings in the United States produces 19 percent of the country's carbon dioxide emissions and costs \$110 billion a year. If carried out in every commercial and industrial building between now and 2010, the Green Lights and Energy Star approaches could shrink total energy bills by \$130 billion. The greenhouse gases thus cut would equal taking more than 20 million cars off the road.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 24, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa084.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Audrie Washington  
(312) 886-0669

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: March 23, 1998

No. 98-OPA085

## **EPA TO PRESENT NATIONAL ENERGY-SAVING AWARD TO TRANE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today EPA's 1998 "Energy Star Buildings Ally of the Year" award will go to The Trane Co., (La Crosse, WI) for cutting pollution with energy-efficient technologies.

Trane is one of nine organizations chosen by EPA for their outstanding contribution to air pollution prevention.

The award will be presented at a ceremony Tuesday evening, March 24, in Washington, DC, hosted by EPA's Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division.

The Energy Star Buildings program expands upon the success of Green Lights, a voluntary partnership, started in 1991, that promotes the use of energy-efficient lighting technologies. Energy Star Buildings maximizes energy savings throughout a building, including heating and cooling systems. There are more than 2,500 participants in these partnerships nationwide.

In addition to promoting energy-efficient technologies, Trane has upgraded its own buildings and cut its electricity use by 1.5 million kilowatt hours, saving the company over \$82,000 a year.

Because energy production usually involves the burning of fossil fuels, Trane's actions translate into an air-pollution cut of more than 1.9 million lb of carbon dioxide and more than 16,000 lb of sulfur dioxide. Carbon dioxide is linked to global climate change, while sulfur dioxide is associated with acid rain.

"The Trane Company has shown that energy efficiency is a smart strategy," said Maria Tikoff Vargas, codirector of EPA's Energy Star Buildings and Green Lights. "Trane's partnership with EPA also serves as a remarkable example of environmental leadership," she added.

The energy used to run commercial and industrial buildings in the United States produces 19 percent of the country's carbon dioxide emissions and costs \$110 billion a year. If carried out in every commercial and industrial building between now and 2010, the Energy Star Buildings approach could shrink total energy bills by \$130 billion. The greenhouse gases thus cut would equal taking more than 20 million cars off the road.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 24, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa085.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Audrie Washington  
(312) 886-0669

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: March 23, 1998

No. 98-OPA086

## **EPA TO PRESENT NATIONAL ENERGY-SAVING AWARD TO MCDONALD'S**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today EPA's 1998 "Green Lights Retail Partner of the Year" award will go to McDonald's Corp. (Oak Brook, IL) for cutting pollution with energy-efficient lighting that has saved the company over \$1.6 million a year.

McDonald's is one of nine organizations chosen by EPA for their outstanding contribution to air pollution prevention.

The award will be presented at a ceremony Tuesday evening, March 24, in Washington, DC, hosted by EPA's Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division.

Started in 1991, Green Lights is a voluntary partnership that promotes the use of energy-efficient technologies. The Energy Star Buildings program expands upon the success of Green Lights and maximizes energy savings throughout a building by targeting other cost-saving opportunities, including heating and cooling systems. There are more than 2,500 participants in these partnerships nationwide.

By installing Green Lights in 5,073 new restaurants, McDonald's cut energy consumption by 40 percent (48 million kilowatt hours) in its company-owned franchises alone. Since the average McDonald's uses 500,000 kilowatts a year, the company saves the cost of lighting 96

restaurants.

Because energy production usually involves the burning of fossil fuels, McDonald's actions translate into an air-pollution cut of more than 40 million lb of carbon dioxide annually -- which has the same impact on the environment as taking more than 4,000 cars off the roads.

"McDonald's has shown energy efficiency is a smart strategy," said Maria Tikoff Vargas, codirector of EPA's Energy Star Buildings and Green Lights. "McDonald's partnership with EPA also serves as a remarkable example of environmental leadership," she added.

The energy used to run commercial and industrial buildings in the United States produces 19 percent of the country's carbon dioxide emissions and costs \$110 billion a year. If carried out in every commercial and industrial building between now and 2010, the Energy Star Buildings and Green Lights programs could shrink total energy bills by \$130 billion. The greenhouse gases thus cut would equal taking more than 20 million cars off the road.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 24, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa086.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Susan Perdomo  
(312) 886-0557

Technical Contact: Julie Brandt  
(312) 886-6768

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: March 23, 1998

No. 98-OPA087

## **EPA CITES MASTER CHROME FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Master Chrome Service, Inc., for alleged violations of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's electroplating plant, 5709 Herman Ave., N.W., Cleveland, OH.

EPA said stack tests at the plant last May 15 and July 25 showed total chromium emission levels over the EPA limit. National emissions standards for chromium went into effect for hard-chrome plating tanks and anodizing tanks January 25, 1997.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is

found in chromic-acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 24, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa087.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Susan Perdomo  
(312) 886-0557

Technical Contact: Kevin Adler

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: March 26, 1998

No. 98-OPA088

## **EPA SETTLES WITH STERN ESTATE; INCLUDES \$122,700 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative civil complaint against Ernest Stern Estate (Pittsburgh, PA) for violating the Toxic Substances and Control Act (TSCA) at the former Schmidt's Brewery property (Cleveland, OH). Stern Estate will pay a \$122,700 fine.

Stern Estate was cited for improperly disposing, using, labeling, storing, and recording polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) during cleanup at the site.

The settlement also includes a timetable for completing the cleanup. If the project is not finished by July 8, Stern Estate could face up to \$1,000 per day in penalties. To date, all PCB's--which pose human health hazards--have been removed from the site. The remainder of the work includes installing a monitoring-well, taking ground-water and soil samples, and backfilling and grading the property.

---

"Although it has taken more time than expected, this settlement is a sound one because it ensures that the cleanup will protect human health and the environment, that those responsible are paying for it, and that it will be finished in a matter of months," said Ullrich, acting regional administrator. "EPA has worked hard to keep the City of Cleveland heavily involved in

all steps of the process."

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals that were once widely used as industrial coolants and lubricants. EPA banned the manufacture of PCB's in 1979 because of evidence that they accumulate in the environment and present human health hazards. Under TSCA, EPA regulates the proper cleanup, disposal, marking, recordkeeping, storage, and limited use of PCB's to protect the public from these potentially dangerous chemicals.

The Schmidt's Brewery operated on the 11-acre site, located at East 93rd St. and Quincy Ave., until it was abandoned in 1984. In 1989, local authorities alerted EPA to the site when asbestos was discovered on the property. EPA then issued its initial legal action against Stern Estate-- which resulted in the estate conducting an asbestos cleanup, demolishing the on-site buildings, and paying a \$205,000 civil penalty under the Clean Air Act.

During the asbestos cleanup, workers found a spill from a vandalized PCB transformer in the basement of a flooded building. This discovery led to the PCB cleanup currently being conducted at the site.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 30, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa088.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Rick Nagle  
(312) 353-8222

Technical Contacts: Dr. Barbara Carr  
(312) 886-7187

Murray Lantner  
(312) 886-2307

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: March 26, 1998

No. 98-OPA089

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH CONSOLIDATED RAIL ON VIOLATIONS OF CLEAN WATER AND OIL POLLUTION ACTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached an agreement with Consolidated Rail Corp. (Ashtabula, OH) for water pollution at its coal-dock facility on Ashtabula Harbor. The company will pay a \$150,000 fine, including \$45,000 for violating oil pollution prevention regulations.

EPA alleged that from February 1990 through May 1994, Consolidated Rail Corp. had exceeded its discharge permit limits for pH and total suspended solids and did not fulfill sampling and reporting requirements. In addition, the company did not prepare nor carry out a spill prevention and control plan required by Federal regulations.

"Discharge limits and spill prevention measures are important because they protect Lake Erie and the rest of our Nation's waters from pollution," said Jo Lynn Traub, regional Water Division director. "The integrity of the permit program depends on accurate monitoring and self-reporting on the part of permit holders."

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 26, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa089.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Pete Felitti  
(312) 886-5114

Technical Contact: Terese VanDonsel  
(312) 353-6564

Media Contact: Denise Gawlinski  
(312) 886-9859

For Immediate Release: March 26, 1998

No. 98-OPA090

## **EPA: MEETING ON CLEANUP AT FIELDS BROOK SITE APRIL 2**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a meeting to update the public on progress at the Fields Brook Superfund site, Ashtabula, OH. The meeting will be held Thursday, April 2, at 7 p.m., Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce, 4536 Main Ave.

EPA will discuss the cleanup plans for PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) contamination in three areas: contaminated sediment in Fields Brook and its tributaries; contaminated soil and sediment in the floodplain and wetland areas adjacent to Fields Brook; and nearby industrial areas-- "source control areas"--that present a threat of recontamination to the brook.

In December 1997, EPA issued seven unilateral administrative orders to potentially responsible parties to design and implement the site cleanup. EPA expects to approve final cleanup plans this year. The cleanup of the source control areas is scheduled for 1999. Excavation of the brook and the adjacent floodplain/wetland areas will begin in Spring 2000.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa090.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Diana Embil  
(312) 886-7889

Technical Contact: Kevin Adler  
(312) 886-7078

Media Contact: Denise Gawlinski  
(312) 886-9859

For Immediate Release: March 27, 1998

No. 98-OPA091

## **EPA PROPOSES BELDING WAREHOUSE SITE FOR SUPERFUND DELISTING**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that the Belding Warehouse site (Belding, MI), also known as H&K Sales, has been proposed for delisting from the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) of hazardous waste sites.

A \$4.8 million cleanup of radiologically contaminated materials at the Belding site was completed in October. In December, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality issued a concurrence letter to EPA, endorsing the completed cleanup and formal no-further-action status.

A 30-day public comment period on the proposal runs March 30 through April 29, 1998. The delisting notice will appear in the Federal Register on March 30. Following EPA review and responses to any comments received, the site may be formally removed from the NPL.

Comments may be sent to: Denise Gawlinski, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA Region 5 (P-19J), 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. Background documents on the proposed NPL deletion and other site documents are available for review at Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 East Main St., Belding, or at the EPA Region 5 Chicago

## Records Center.

Since the NPL was established, 509 of about 1,300 sites--including Belding Warehouse--have been cleaned up.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa091.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Marc Radell  
(312) 886-7948

Technical Contact: Margaret Sieffert  
(312) 353-1151

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: March 30, 1998

No. 98-OPA092

## **EPA CITES CITGO FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited CITGO Petroleum Corp. for alleged violations of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the petrochemical manufacturing unit of its oil refinery, 135th St. and New Ave., Lemont, IL.

(CITGO makes benzene, toluene, xylene, hexane, and heptane at the unit.)

EPA said CITGO failed to properly document weekly visual pump-leak detection inspections. The violations were found during an EPA inspection last July and in a CITGO response last November to an EPA information request.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the alleged violations and how to resolve them.

David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division said: "EPA will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with hazardous air pollutant regulations. Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious

threat to human health and the environment."

In addition to being hazardous air pollutants, these chemicals are also volatile organic compounds that contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or smog. Ground-level ozone can cause breathing problems, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and can aggravate asthma. It can reduce lung function and resistance to colds and other infections and may speed-up aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and people with chronic respiratory diseases are the most sensitive.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 30, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa092.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Kevin Adler  
(312) 886-7078

Media Contact: Stuart Hill  
(312) 886-0689

For Immediate Release: March 30, 1998

No. 98-OPA093

## **EPA: NEW CLEAN-UP PLAN PROPOSED FOR SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP DUMP; MEETING APRIL 2**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently proposed an alternate clean-up plan for contaminated soil at the Springfield Township Dump Superfund site, Springfield Township (three miles south of Davisburg), Oakland County, MI.

EPA will hold a public meeting to explain the plan 7 p.m., Thursday, April 2, Hart Community Center, Mill Pond Park, 459 Broadway, Davisburg. The meeting will be preceded by an informal question-and-answer session from 5 to 7 p.m. A 30-day public comment period closes April 27, 1998.

The proposed plan updates the 1990 site clean-up decision issued by EPA. Based on new site information and additional soil sampling, EPA believes that a different clean-up method and revised clean-up standards will more effectively address soil contamination at the site.

The proposed plan includes:

- reducing the amount of soil to be treated;
- changing the treatment plan for PCB-bearing soils;
- revising several soil and groundwater clean-up standards to reflect current State standards;
- constructing a soil cover on a portion of the site, and placing deed restrictions on future use of a portion of the site.

Written comments on the proposed plan may be sent to Stuart Hill, community involvement coordinator, U.S. EPA Region 5 (P-19J), 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. Fax: 312-353-1155. E-mail: [hill.stuart@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:hill.stuart@epamail.epa.gov). Mailed comments must be postmarked by April 27.

A site information repository and an administrative record are available for review at Springfield Township Hall, 650 Broadway St., Davisburg.

The site is a residential lot where liquid chemical wastes were dumped in a 4-acre area during the late 1960's--contaminating soils and ground water. The State performed an interim clean up in 1979-80 and EPA placed the site on its Superfund National Priorities List in 1983.

Between 1983 and 1990, EPA and Michigan Department of Natural Resources conducted soil and ground-water tests and evaluated a range of clean-up technologies suitable for the site. EPA issued the clean-up plan in 1990. In 1995, EPA began the ground water cleanup portion of the plan, while evaluating new site information and potential changes to the soil clean-up plan.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: March 31, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa093.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Michael McAteer  
(312) 886-4663

Media Contact: Susan Pastor  
(312) 353-1325

For Immediate Release: March 31, 1998

No. 98-OPA095

## **EPA PICKS GROUND WATER CLEANUP PLAN FOR LINCOLN FIELDS SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has chosen a plan to clean up contaminated ground water at the Lincoln Fields Superfund site, Madison Township, Richland County, OH.

The plan includes installation of five ground-water extraction wells, plus six monitoring wells; ground-water treatment by an air stripping system to remove the chemical tetrachloroethylene; and discharging the treated water to the creek north of Lincoln Terrace. Estimated cost of the plan: \$850,000.

EPA selected this plan because it will protect human health and the environment in a cost-effective manner. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency also supports the plan.

After the plan is designed, it will take about 6 months to complete. Work is expected to begin in July. EPA held a public meeting to discuss the plan last July 15, along with a 30-day comment period.

The Lincoln Fields site covers about 1 square mile. It is bordered by Yale Ave. to the north, Stewart Rd. to the east, Grace St. to the south, and Illinois Ave. to the west. EPA believes the area was contaminated by a former dry cleaning plant that used hazardous chemicals in its operations.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 1, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa095.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Karen Thompson  
(312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release: April 1, 1998

No. 98-OPA094

## **MEDIA ALERT: WARM UP TO EARTH DAY**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will celebrate Earth Day with educational public displays featuring many aspects of environmental concern. Other exhibits will tie in with the International Hazardous Materials Spills Conference being hosted by EPA Region 5 in Chicago.

**LOCATION:** Federal Plaza, corner of Adams and Dearborn streets

**DATES:** April 6-9, 1998

**TIME:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**ON-SITE CONTACTS:** Karen Thompson 312/353-8547 (also media contact) or Bob Mayhugh 312/886-5929

### **EVENTS:**

**Monday**---Chicago Fire Department emergency response vehicles and equipment. Coast Guard rescue boats. Debut of EPA's new Mobile Command Center.

---

**Tuesday**---Chicago Transit Authority zero-emissions bus on display. Chicago Botanic Garden demonstration and exhibit. Chicago Metra solar-powered water pumping system demonstration. Merger of art and nature, solar water sculptures.

**Wednesday**---Cars of the future. Alternative-energy vehicles from the U.S. Department of Energy and its Argonne National Laboratory. Planned vehicles include a "Future Car," an advanced alternative fuel vehicle developed by engineering students at the University of Wisconsin; an ethanol vehicle from the University of Illinois at Chicago, part of the

DOE/Argonne 1998 Ethanol Vehicle Challenge; and an Argonne Compressed Natural Gas Minivan, an ultra low emission vehicle. Argonne engineer David Livengood will be on hand to answer questions.

**Thursday**---ComEd's Power bus, a rolling interactive energy display.

**Everyday**---Exhibits and demonstrations from EPA including emergency response, recycling, wetlands and watersheds, Earth Day, Energy Star/Green Lights programs, natural landscaping, ground water protection, and much more.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 7, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa094.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contacts: Nicole Cantello  
(312) 886-2870

Steve Murawski  
(312) 886-6741

Technical Contact: David Werbach  
(312) 886-4242

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: April 2, 1998

No. 98-OPA096

## **EPA OK'S WELL PERMITS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DISPOSAL SYSTEMS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that it has issued permits to Environmental Disposal Systems (EDS) to construct two underground wells in Romulus, MI, for the commercial disposal of hazardous waste.

---

After reviewing the permit applications, EPA determined that the well construction would not pose a threat to underground drinking-water sources. Additionally, EPA reviewed all comments received during the recent formal public comment period and found no issues raised that would change the original draft decision to issue the permits.

The permits only allow drilling of the wells. Before any waste is pumped into them, EPA must first review construction data and decide whether to approve the construction and integrity of the wells. EDS must also obtain permits from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality before the wells can be constructed or operated.

"The company has met all the requirements under Federal regulations and therefore EPA has issued the permits," said Jo Lynn Traub, EPA Regional Water Division Director. "While many of the concerns that have been raised by the community have been addressed by EPA, some concerns--such as transportation of wastes and storage tanks--will be considered when the State reviews the hazardous waste permit for the facility."

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 6, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa096.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contacts: Pete Guria  
(312) 353-1909

Betty Lavis  
(312) 886-7183

Media Contact: Stuart Hill  
(312) 886-0689

For Immediate Release: April 3, 1998

No. 98-OPA097

## **EPA: CLEANUP BEGINS AT CRYSTAL REFINING SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup is now under way at the Crystal Refining Co. site, Carson City, MI. Residents can expect to see heavy equipment, construction vehicles, and workers in protective clothing in the area through early winter.

The site, 801 North Williams St., was a crude-oil refinery from 1935 to 1991. EPA and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) estimate that, over the decades, millions of gallons of petroleum products have leaked into the soil and ground water beneath the property. They are also concerned about risks from flammable and explosive chemicals at the site, as well as migration of chemicals into nearby Fish Creek.

The site consists of two separate parcels, separated by a cemetery and the inactive Grand Trunk Railroad line. The southern 12.5-acre parcel comprises the oil refinery--including 80 above-ground storage tanks, 1 underground tank, 8 sludge lagoons--about 50 drums of corrosive or flammable materials, and a number of buildings, some with exposed asbestos insulation. One of the buildings contains laboratory chemicals and equipment. The northern 20-acre parcel includes 2 above-ground tanks and disposal areas for copper chloride, clay filter, and styrene waste.

A Chicago-based EPA Superfund emergency response team will oversee the cleanup. This work includes: disposal of the tank contents, drums, lab equipment, and other containers of hazardous materials; demolishing of buildings and process equipment; sludge removal; and excavation and removal of some oil contaminated soils. Once this is done, MDEQ will oversee construction of a ground-water collection and treatment plant.

EPA expects to spend about \$3.7 million on cleanup at the site: \$1.9 million from Superfund and \$1.8 million from Oil Pollution Act funds.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 6, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa097.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Joseph Williams  
(312) 886-7948

Technical Contact: Margaret Sieffert  
(312) 353-1151

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: April 6, 1998

No. 98-OPA098

## **EPA CITES CLEVELAND LAMINATING FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Cleveland Laminating Corp. for alleged violations of Federal and State clean-air regulations at the company's plant, 290 East 79th St., Cleveland, OH.

---

(Cleveland Laminating makes laminated foils, films, and fire-resistant fabrics.)

EPA said the company has operated without a State operating permit since December 1993. It did not apply for a Federal operating permit until December 24, 1997, although applications were due October 3, 1996.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess and administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the alleged violations and how to resolve them.

"EPA will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act to protect human health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 25, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa098.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Gladys Beard  
(312) 886-4759

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: April 6, 1998

No. 98-OPA099

## **EPA PROPOSES NATIONAL LEAD INDUSTRIES-TARACORP-GOLDEN AUTO PARTS SITE FOR DELISTING; COMMENT PERIOD BEGINS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that the National Lead Industries-Taracorp-Golden Auto Parts site (St. Louis Park, MN) has been proposed for delisting from the Superfund National Priorities List. A public comment period ends May 4th.

A secondary lead smelter operated at the site from 1940 to 1982, resulting in contaminated soils and ground-water. Under a consent order, NL Industries conducted cleanup--including capping the site with asphalt--between 1985 and 1988. A five-year review completed in September 1994 showed the cap and cleanup continued to be protective of human health and the environment. The next five-year review is scheduled for September 1999.

Comments on the proposed delisting may be sent to: Gladys Beard, Associate Remedial Project Manager, Superfund Division (SR-6J), U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. All comments must be postmarked by May 4.

A site information repository is located at St. Louis Park Library, 3240 Library Lane. Area residents may also contact: Don de Blasio, community involvement coordinator, 312-886-4360.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 7, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa099.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Fayette Bright  
(312) 886-6069

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: April 7, 1998

No. 98-OPA100

## **EPA TO COSPONSOR SCHOOL AIR QUALITY AND ASTHMA WORKSHOP APR 29**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will cosponsor a 1-day workshop April 29 in Indianapolis, to help school and community health personnel deal with air quality problems in their schools.

The workshop, sponsored by EPA, Indiana Department of Health, and Marion County Department of Health, is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Conference Center Room B, Indianapolis Government Center, 402 West Washington St.

The workshops will cover indoor and outdoor air quality and how it impacts asthmatic and minority communities. Air pollution and health effects specialists from the three agencies and the American Lung Association will present information and answer questions.

Children, especially those with breathing problems like asthma, are sensitive to the subtle and sometimes difficult-to-recognize impacts of poor indoor air quality. The workshop will cover basic information about asthma and what triggers asthma attacks.

The workshop will teach the use of EPA's "Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Action Kit," produced by EPA in response to public concern over poor indoor-air quality in schools. The kit discusses the indoor-air quality problems found most often in schools and presents prevention and

problem-solving approaches that are easy on school budgets.

Registration forms were sent March 16 to Indiana school superintendents, principals, facility managers, school nurses, community health educators, local and State health departments, teachers, and minority health leaders and advocates. For registration information, call Fayette Bright, 312-886-6069.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 8, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa100.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Mary McAuliffe  
(312) 886-6237

Technical Contact: Emmett Keegan  
(312) 886-0678

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: April 8, 1998

No. 98-OPA101

## **EPA CITES ROBBINS INCINERATOR FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Robbins Resource Recovery Co. and Foster Wheeler Illinois, Inc., for alleged clean-air violations at the Robbins, IL, municipal waste burner.

(The Robbins company owns the facility and Foster Wheeler operates it.)

EPA said both of the facility's incinerator units violated Federal and State emission limits for carbon monoxide, total hydrocarbons, and opacity (the amount of light obscured) from June through December 1997.

---

In addition, the units exceeded several operating limits, such as combustion efficiency and flue gas temperature limits during this period.

Limits on carbon monoxide, combustion efficiency, and temperature ensure that good combustion practices are followed. Poor combustion can result in the formation and emission of toxicants, such as dioxins and furans.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. The company has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the alleged violations and how to resolve them.

"EPA will take all necessary steps to ensure that air pollution from the Robbins incinerator does not pose a threat to human health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

EPA has concluded that dioxin causes cancer in animals and probably causes cancer in humans. Exposure to high doses can cause chloracne, a severe skin lesion that usually occurs on the head and upper body.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 8, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa101.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Kevin Adler  
(312) 886-7078

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

Rep. Upton's Office: Dave Woodruff  
(202) 225-3761

For Immediate Release: April 9, 1998

No. 98-OPA102

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: REP. UPTON TO VISIT  
BENTON HARBOR WAREHOUSE SUPERFUND SITE, TUES.,  
APR. 14, 2:00 P.M.**

U.S. Representative Fred Upton will visit the Benton Harbor Warehouse (a.k.a. Aircraft Components and D & L Sales) Superfund site (Benton Harbor, MI), Tuesday, April 14, 2:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Staff from U.S. EPA and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will escort the congressman on the site visit and will be available to the media, to discuss the ongoing removal of radium-contaminated materials from the site, as well as the next phase of soil and ground-water monitoring.

Cost for the cleanup to date: \$5 million.

The 17-acre parcel, 671 North Shore Dr., is in a semi-industrial area of Benton Harbor. The site is bordered by the Paw Paw River, North Shore Dr., and residential properties.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

[kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov)

Last Updated: April 10, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa102.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Lillian Pinzon  
(312) 886-5114

Technical Contact: Farro Assadi  
(312) 886-1424

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: April 14, 1998

No. 98-OPA103

## **EPA CITES TIODIZE FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$40,388 FINE**

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Tiodize Michigan, Inc., for alleged clean-air violations at its metal-coating plant, 28966 Wall St., Wixom, MI. A \$40,388 penalty is proposed.

Tiodize operates two surface-coating lines, which must meet State limits on volatile organic compounds (VOC's) contained in the coatings and in emissions from the lines.

---

EPA notified Tiodize last September that it had violated Michigan regulations by using VOC coatings that exceeded the State limit and by allowing VOC emissions that exceeded permit limits.

EPA said Tiodize has agreed to reformulate the coatings used at the plant to meet VOC emission standards.

"EPA's mandate is to protect human health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations."

VOC's combine in the atmosphere with other chemicals to form ground-level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 15, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa103.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Edward Messina  
(312) 353-8892

Technical Contact: Linda Hamsing  
(312) 886-6810

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: April 15, 1998

No. 98-OPA104

## **EPA CITES BORDEN FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$175,840 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Borden Chemical, Inc., for alleged clean-air violations at its Aurora, IL, foundry sand manufacturing plant, 1019 Jericho Rd. EPA has proposed a \$175,840 penalty.

Specifically, Borden exceeded limits on federally enforceable State volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from its foundry sand manufacturing process.

Since January 1992, Borden failed to reduce VOC emissions by 81 percent, as required by regulations. The plant is in Metropolitan Chicago, which does not meet health-based standards for ozone, a byproduct of VOC's.

Borden has filed an answer to the complaint and requested a hearing. It has also requested an informal meeting to discuss the allegations.

"Metropolitan Chicago suffers from high levels of ozone during hot summer days," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "EPA enforcement of VOC emission regulations protects public

health by cutting these ozone levels."

VOC's combine in the atmosphere with other chemicals to form ground-level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 15, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa104.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Robert Thompson  
(312) 353-6700

Technical Contact: Julie Brandt  
(312) 886-6768

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: April 15, 1998

No. 98-OPA105

## **EPA TELLS DOLLOFF TO INSTALL AIR POLLUTION CONTROLS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has ordered Dolloff Industries, Inc., to install controls to bring hazardous chromium emissions from the company's electroplating plant (3885 East 78th St., Cleveland, OH,) into compliance with Federal air pollutant regulations.

EPA said it learned in January that Dolloff was operating 6 hard-chrome electroplating tanks with no air control equipment. Emission levels from these uncontrolled tanks were estimated to be over 180 times the allowed limit.

EPA told Dolloff that control equipment must be installed and in full operation by July 27. Until then, the company must use a fume suppressant to reduce emissions.

National emissions standards for chromium went into effect for hard-chrome plating tanks and anodizing tanks January 25, 1997.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to

ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 15, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa105.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Tom Matheson  
(312) 886-7569

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: April 16, 1998

No. 98-OPA106

## **EPA PLANS TO CHANGE ENVIROSAFE LANDFILL PERMIT; PUBLIC HEARING MAY 6**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today proposed to modify the hazardous waste permit of Envirosafe Services of Ohio, Inc. for the Envirosafe Landfill, Oregon, OH. A public hearing will be held May 6.

Based on new information from recent investigations of the landfill, EPA is planning to make several changes to the company's Federal permit. The proposed changes include the company's facility-wide environmental investigation, new conditions to operate the "containment" building, and expansion of the list of chemicals to check for in the landfill leak detection system.

EPA representatives will explain the proposed changes and accept comments from the public at the hearing from 6 to 9 p.m., City of Oregon Municipal Complex, City Council Chambers, 5330 Seaman Rd., Oregon.

Site-related documents are available for review at the Oregon Public Library, 3340 Dustin Rd.

A 45-day public comment period will begin April 17. All written comments must be postmarked by June 1 and sent to:

Tom Matheson (DW-8J)

U.S. EPA Region 5  
Waste Management Branch  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604  
E-mail: [matheson.thomas@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:matheson.thomas@epamail.epa.gov)

Since 1991, the 134-acre facility has operated as a commercial hazardous waste landfill with EPA and Ohio EPA permits issued under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The act--passed in 1976 and amended in 1980 and 1984--regulates the management and disposal of municipal and industrial solid wastes, from the time of production to their final disposal.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 16, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa106.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: April 16, 1998

No. 98-OPA107

## **MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA, CANADA, MDEQ, AND ONTARIO TO SIGN LETTER OF COMMITMENT ON CLEAN UP PLANS FOR SHARED RIVERS**

On April 17, in Windsor, Ontario, senior officials from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Canadian Government, the Province of Ontario, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will sign a Letter of Commitment to move forward the implementation of shared Remedial Action Plans to restore and clean up the Detroit, St. Clair, and St. Mary's Rivers.

The letter will be signed by the Honourable Christine Stewart, Canadian Environment Minister, David A. Ullrich, Acting Regional Administrator of EPA Region 5, the Honourable Norm Sterling, Minister of the Environment for the Province of Ontario, and Russell Harding, Director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Minister Stewart and Mr. Ullrich will also speak to a lunch time meeting of the Canada-U.S. Business Association.

Details are as follows:

- Signing ceremony
- Meeting of Canada-U.S. Business Association

Directions from Detroit

- Via tunnel: Left on Park St., right on Ouellete Ave (towards river), and left on Riverside Drive for two blocks. Cleary Centre is on the

left.

- Via bridge: Cross bridge and loop around to the right towards the river, right on Riverside Drive past the University of Windsor. The Cleary Centre is on the right.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 16, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa107.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: David Mucha  
(312) 886-9032

Technical Contact: James Entzminger  
(312) 886-4062

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: April 17, 1998

No. 98-OPA108

## **EPA SETTLES WITH EXCEL CIRCUITS FOR CHEMICAL REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$9,750 FINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with Excel Circuits Inc. (Lake Orion, MI), for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals. The company will pay a \$9,750 fine and complete a supplemental environmental project to reduce water consumption and thermal discharges to Detroit's municipal water treatment- system.

During a routine February 1996 inspection, EPA learned the company had never submitted forms required for the storage of hazardous chemicals to the State emergency response commission, the local emergency planning committee, or the local fire department. Two of the stored chemicals, nitric acid and sulfuric acid, are extremely hazardous and were present in quantities which exceeded EPA's minimum reporting requirements.

Following the inspection, Excel submitted the appropriate forms for 1993, 1994, and 1995. The company has continued to maintain compliance since the 1996 inspection.

Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act,

owners and operators of facilities must submit forms for certain hazardous chemicals to the proper authorities by March 1 every year.

The environmental project requires the company to upgrade 10 transformers at a cost of at least \$104,178 by June 1, 2000. The new transformers will significantly reduce the company's water consumption. They will also reduce thermal discharges into Detroit's municipal water-treatment system by nearly 4.5 million gallons per year--thus reducing the demand for clean water and the use of the municipal treatment system.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 165 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 154 settlements with \$4.02 million in total fines and \$1.52 million in environmental projects.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 20, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa108.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: April 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA109

## **MEDIA ADVISORY: EPA TO RECOGNIZE MCDONALD'S POLLUTION-CUTTING PROGRAM**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will recognize McDonald's Corp. for its commitment to EPA's pollution-cutting and energy-saving Green Lights program at an Earth Day ceremony in Chicago.

The Earth Day event will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 22 (Earth Day), at McDonald's restaurant in the Merchandise Mart, 300 North Wells St.

EPA Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich will present a certificate of recognition to McDonald's for making significant reductions in air pollution by installing energy-saving lighting systems in its restaurants.

EPA officials will be available to discuss the pollution-cutting and energy-saving Green Lights and Energy Star programs.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 20, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa109.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Karen Thompson  
(312)353-8547

For Immediate Release: April 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA110

## **MEDIA ALERT: EPA PLANS MULTIPLE EARTH DAY EVENTS IN REGION 5 APRIL 22, 1998**

### **CHICAGO**

**Region 5 Headquarters, Metcalfe Building, 77 W. Jackson Blvd.**

#### **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Exhibits and demonstrations from EPA, including: emergency response, recycling, wetlands and watersheds, central regional laboratory, environmental education, critical ecosystems, environmental justice, Great Lakes, ground water, natural landscaping, Energy Star and Green Lights programs, and award-winning Earth Day murals created by the Mighty Acorns of Carver, Byrd, and St. Florian Schools.

#### **Noon to 1:00 p.m.**

Live performance by EPA's own "Earth Tones" musical group, building lobby.

#### **Noon to 1:30 p.m.**

Live video conference themed "Global Warming: Local Solutions," 12th floor, Lake Ontario Room. America's fourth annual Earth Day National Town Meeting. Moderated by Deborah Potter, CNN correspondent and PBS host.

---

**McDonald's Restaurant, Merchandise Mart, 300 N. Wells St., Chicago**

#### **10:00 a.m.**

David Ullrich, EPA Acting Regional Administrator, will recognize McDonald's Corp. for its contribution to reducing pollution by installing

energy-efficient lighting in its restaurants.

\* \* \*

## **ON-LINE**

### **Every day**

EPA's Student Center opens for business on Earth Day! This new Internet site is designed to help middle and high school students learn about their environment. For environmental facts, project ideas and fun activities, visit the **Student Center** at [www.epa.gov/students](http://www.epa.gov/students). For younger children, EPA's **Explorer's Club** uses art, stories, and games to engage children in exploring their environment at [www.epa.gov/kids](http://www.epa.gov/kids).

### **NEW BRIGHTON, MN, Brighton Corporate Park III, Cty Rd E2 and 5th Avenue NW**

**1:30 p.m.**

Superfund Celebration. Keynote speaker is Michelle Jordan, Deputy Regional Administrator of EPA's Region 5. Jordan will join New Brighton Mayor Bob Benke in presenting leadership awards to the partners who have been influential in the transformation of New Brighton's Superfund site into a brownfields redevelopment site. The event signals not only the cleanup of a severely contaminated site, but also a rebirth of an under-utilized urban center.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 30, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa110.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Terry Branigan  
(312) 353-4737

Technical Contact: Gary Victorine  
(312) 886-1479

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: April 21, 1998

No. 98-OPA111

## **EPA RELEASES FOLLOW-UP DOCUMENT TO WTI RISK ASSESSMENT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today issued an addendum to the Waste Technologies Industries (WTI) risk assessment originally released in 1997.

EPA released its detailed risk assessment of the WTI commercial hazardous waste incinerator (East Liverpool, OH) last May, and promised that it would respond to any additional significant comments from the independent scientific peer reviewers. The addendum is EPA's promised response.

The addendum analyzes in detail the six major issues that were raised by the reviewers, but does not recommend any changes to the 8-volume risk assessment. EPA's initial conclusions regarding that risk assessment were that it does not show significant human health or ecological risk associated with WTI's operation, and that the likelihood of major impacts from accidents is small.

Whenever copies of the complete risk assessment are sent out in the future, the addendum will be included. Copies of the addendum and a fact sheet with a summary of the addendum are available from the EPA Region



5 Waste Management Branch, 312-353-0398.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 23, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa111.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Audrie Washington  
(312) 886-0669

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: April 22, 1998

No. 98-OPA112

## **EPA RECOGNIZES MCDONALD'S POLLUTION-CUTTING PROGRAM**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today recognized the commitment of McDonald's Corp. (Oak Brook, IL) to EPA's pollution-cutting and energy-saving Green Lights program at an Earth Day ceremony in Chicago.

By participating in the voluntary EPA program, the company has cut air pollution associated with global warming, acid rain, and smog with energy-efficient lighting, which is saving the company over \$1.6 million a year.

EPA Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich presented a certificate of achievement to McDonald's Director of Environmental Affairs Robert Langert at a 10 a.m. awards ceremony at McDonald's restaurant in the Merchandise Mart, 300 North Wells St.

"EPA applauds the exceptional commitment McDonald's has made to implement the voluntary Green Lights program," Ullrich said. "This partnership shows that energy efficiency and pollution prevention protect both the environment and the pocketbook."

---

Last month, McDonald's received EPA's 1998 "Green Lights Retail Partner of the Year" award at a ceremony in Washington, DC. It was one of nine organizations chosen by EPA for their outstanding contribution to prevention of air pollution.

By installing Green Lights in 5,073 new restaurants, McDonald's cut energy consumption by 40 percent (48 million kilowatt hours) in its company-owned franchises alone. Since the average McDonald's uses 500,000 kilowatts a year, the company saves the cost of lighting 96 restaurants.

Because energy production usually involves the burning of fossil fuels, McDonald's actions translate into significant cuts in air pollutants associated with global climate change, smog, and acid rain. The company's upgrades have cut carbon dioxide by more than 40 million lb annually -- which has the same impact on the environment as taking more than 4,000 cars off the roads or planting 5,500 acres of trees.

Started in 1991, Green Lights is a voluntary partnership that promotes the use of energy-efficient technologies. The Energy Star Buildings program expands upon the success of Green Lights and maximizes energy savings throughout the building by targeting other cost-saving opportunities, including heating and cooling systems. There are more than 2,500 participants in these partnerships nationwide.

###

Click [here](#) to download a black and white TIFF version of this photo (1,290K).

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 23, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa112.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: James Cha  
(312) 886-0813

Technical Contact: Julie Brandt  
(312) 886-6768

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: April 23, 1998

No. 98-OPA113

## **EPA CITES RICHARDS INDUSTRIES FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Richards Industries, Inc., for alleged violations of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's electroplating plant, 3170 Wasson Rd., Cincinnati, OH.

EPA said the company failed to do a timely, valid performance test to show that chromium emissions from its plant comply with the Federal total chromium emission limit.

---

National emissions standards for chromium went into effect for hard-chrome plating tanks and anodizing tanks January 25, 1997.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 24, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa113.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Constandina Dalianis  
(312) 353-1027

Technical Contact: Newton Ellens  
(312) 353-5562

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: April 23, 1998

No. 98-OPA114

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH DEMOLITION OPERATOR ON ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$16,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Peter O'Dovero doing business as Associated Constructors (Marquette, MI) for alleged violation of Federal asbestos regulations at a demolition site in Assinins, MI. The agreement includes a \$16,000 civil penalty.

EPA cited the company, which is owned and operated by O'Dovero, last September for demolishing a tribal center of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community in February 1997 without notifying the proper authorities, as required by regulations.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the asbestos regulations to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

Asbestos is a known cancer-causing substance that can cause mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (a lung disease) many years after exposure.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 24, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa114.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Janet Haff  
(312)353-7923

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312)886-1303

For Immediate Release: April 29, 1998

No. 98-OPA115

## **EPA: U.S. POST OFFICE FACILITY REDUCING HAZARDOUS AND NONHAZARDOUS WASTE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said this week that voluntary waste minimization assessments of a U.S. Postal Service facility in Troy, MI, showed an aggressive plan to minimize hazardous waste.

According to Janet Haff, EPA's Regional Waste Minimization Coordinator, "The Postal Service's strong commitment to waste reduction, combined with pressure to continually improve efficiency and decrease costs, has yielded many innovative waste reduction methods at the Troy facility."

The Royal Oak Processing and Distribution facility replaced isopropyl alcohol as a cleaning agent with soapy water. As part of its commitment to waste reduction, the facility has committed to stop using the 17 toxic chemicals listed in EPA's 33/50 Program. The facility also recycles many hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, including: mercury-containing fluorescent lamps, household and lead-acid batteries, scrap metal and metal grindings, plastic, waste paper, and cardboard.

EPA's waste minimization program provides companies with technical assistance to reduce or eliminate the volume of waste produced by source reduction and recycling. Examples of source reduction include improving a facility's practices, substituting toxic substances used in processes with



less toxic alternatives, and modifying processes to improve efficiency. Recycling includes reusing waste materials within a plant, finding other facilities that may be able to use waste materials, and sending waste materials to recyclers who process them for reuse.

Region 5 has invited 45 companies in the Michigan area to participate in the Waste Minimization Assessment Program. For further information or to participate in this program, call Ms. Haff at (312) 353-7923.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 30, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa115.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Janet Haff  
(312)353-7923

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312)886-1303

For Immediate Release: April 29, 1998

No. 98-OPA116

## **EPA: U.S. POST OFFICE FACILITY REDUCING AND RECYCLING SOLID WASTE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said this week that voluntary waste minimization assessments of a U.S. Postal Service facility in Lansing, MI, showed an aggressive plan to reduce and recycle solid waste.

According to Janet Haff, EPA's Regional Waste Minimization Coordinator, "The Postal Service's strong commitment to waste reduction, combined with pressure to continually improve efficiency and decrease costs, has yielded many innovative waste reduction methods at the Lansing facility."

---

As part of its commitment to waste reduction, the Lansing General Mail facility has committed to stop using the 17 toxic chemicals listed in EPA's 33/50 Program. The Lansing facility also recycles many hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, including: mercury-containing fluorescent lamps (492 lb/yr), lead-acid batteries (42 lb/yr), scrap metal and metal grindings (31,300 lb/yr), plastic and foam (7,168 lb/yr), waste paper (492,042 lb/yr), and cardboard (160,125 lb/yr).

EPA's waste minimization program provides companies with technical assistance to reduce or eliminate the volume of waste produced by source reduction and recycling. Examples of source reduction include improving a facility's practices, substituting toxic substances used in processes with

less toxic alternatives, and modifying processes to improve efficiency. Recycling includes reusing waste materials within a plant, finding other facilities that may be able to use waste materials, and sending waste materials to recyclers who process them for reuse.

Region 5 has invited 45 companies in the Michigan area to participate in the Waste Minimization Assessment Program. For further information or to participate in this program, call Ms. Haff at (312) 353-7923.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 30, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa116.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Janet Haff  
(312)353-7923

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312)886-1303

For Immediate Release: April 29, 1998

No. 98-OPA117

## **EPA: U.S. POST OFFICE FACILITY REDUCING HAZARDOUS AND NONHAZARDOUS WASTE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said this week that voluntary waste minimization assessments of a U.S. Postal Service facility in Flint, MI, showed an aggressive plan to minimize hazardous waste.

According to Janet Haff, EPA's Regional Waste Minimization Coordinator, "The Postal Service's strong commitment to waste reduction, combined with pressure to continually improve efficiency and decrease costs, has yielded many innovative waste reduction methods at the Flint facility."

The Flint Vehicle Maintenance facility replaced a solvent-based parts washer with a vegetable-oil based parts washer, resulting in a reduction of 2,000 lb of hazardous waste per year. The facility also committed to stop using the 17 toxic chemicals listed in EPA's 33/50 Program. In fact, the facility has removed 23 products containing 33/50 chemicals through consolidated purchasing and material substitutions. The facility also recycles many hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, including: mercury-containing fluorescent lamps (25 lb/yr), lead-acid batteries (2,600 lb/yr), antifreeze (200 gal/yr), used oil filters (1,000 lb/yr), and used tires (4,200 recapped and 1,550 recycled).

EPA's waste minimization program provides companies with technical

assistance to reduce or eliminate the volume of waste produced by source reduction and recycling. Examples of source reduction include improving a facility's practices, substituting toxic substances used in processes with less toxic alternatives, and modifying processes to improve efficiency. Recycling includes reusing waste materials within a plant, finding other facilities that may be able to use waste materials, and sending waste materials to recyclers who process them for reuse.

Region 5 has invited 45 companies in the Michigan area to participate in the Waste Minimization Assessment Program. For further information or to participate in this program, call Ms. Haff at (312) 353-7923.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 30, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa117.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: April 28, 1998

No. 98-OPA118

## **EPA ORDERS RESPONSIBLE PARTIES TO BUILD AND OPERATE GAS COLLECTION SYSTEM AT YEOMAN CREEK LANDFILL**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that it has ordered a group of responsible parties to immediately proceed with design and construction of the first phase of a gas collection system at the Yeoman Creek Landfill, Waukegan, IL.

The Superfund site--an unlined landfill which operated from 1958 to 1969--is bordered by Sunset Avenue and West Golf Rd. to the north, Buttrick Rd. and Western Ave. to the east, Glen Flora Ave. to the south, and Lewis, Loraine, and Elmwood Aves. to the west.

The unilateral order was issued in response to concerns about the migration of landfill gas, which contains hazardous chemicals and methane, towards residential and commercial properties along the landfill's north and northeastern borders. An air ventilation system designed to provide fresh air to basements in the 1400 block of West Golf Rd. and Sunset Ave. was installed at the site in 1994, but the system has not performed as expected or designed.

EPA does not believe there is an immediate health threat, but urges the responsible parties to take this step as a preventive measure. Methane gas is odorless and tasteless, but not poisonous to breathe in low concentrations. As a precaution, EPA encourages residents to minimize basement activity--including smoking--until the gas collection system is operating. A gas monitoring system will be expanded and continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

Installation of the gas collection system will take place on a parallel track with the long-term cleanup of the site. Preliminary planning for a landfill cap to cover the entire site has been under way since 1996. EPA expects design and construction of the first phase of the gas collection system to begin by June 1, with work to build the landfill cap and the rest of the gas collection system starting in 1999.

Residents with questions about the unilateral order or work schedule for the site should contact: Noemi Emeric, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, 312-886-0995, or via e-mail: [emeric.noemi@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:emeric.noemi@epamail.epa.gov).

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 30, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa118.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Tim Chapman  
(312) 886-6829

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: April 28, 1998

No. 98-OPA119

## **EPA SETTLES WITH NATIONAL STEEL: INCLUDES \$53,942 FINE AND 2 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed a consent agreement and consent order with National Steel for violations of several environmental laws at its Great Lakes Steel Division plant, Ecorse and River Rouge, Wayne County, MI. The company will pay a \$53,942 civil penalty and complete two environmental projects.

One environmental project requires the company to remove from service, properly dispose of, and replace PCB-containing equipment, at a cost of \$375,000. The other project requires National Steel to upgrade electronic communications among Wayne County emergency-response agencies at a cost of \$41,037.

EPA's complaint, filed September 24, 1997, proposed a \$270,423 fine and was the largest administrative case ever filed by Region 5 for violations of more than one environmental law. The complaint was based on a comprehensive inspection of the facility April 22-May 3, 1996. EPA alleged 31 separate violations of environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and Toxic Substances Control Act.

Under the agreement, National Steel certified, to the best of its knowledge, that it is now in compliance with all of the laws alleged to have been



violated.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 30, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa119.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Louise Gross  
(312) 886-6844

Technical Contact: Joseph Cardile  
(312) 353-2151

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: April 27, 1998

No. 98-OPA120

## **EPA TELLS COHEN TO STOP DISPOSAL OF APPLIANCES CONTAINING REFRIGERANTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has ordered Cohen Industrial Scrap Processing to immediately stop all activities involving the disposal of appliances containing refrigerants at its scrap processing facility, 990 West 5th St., Cincinnati, OH.

The administrative order, which becomes effective at 5 p.m. EST today (April 27, 1998), resulted from an EPA inspection of the scrap-processing facility last Thursday.

EPA said its inspector witnessed violations of the Federal regulations which require recovery of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) refrigerants from appliances prior to processing the appliances into scrap.

EPA ordered Cohen to immediately inventory all scrapped appliances at the facility that may contain refrigerants and to isolate and secure the appliances to prevent leakage.

In addition, Cohen must immediately develop a plan for handling scrapped appliances with refrigerants. The plan must include, among other things, arrangements for recovering the refrigerant from appliances or verifying

that the refrigerants were recovered prior to accepting delivery.

EPA said Cohen will not be allowed to resume disposal of scrapped appliances containing refrigerants until EPA gives written approval.

Chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants deplete the stratospheric, "good," ozone layer, allowing dangerous amounts of cancer-causing ultraviolet rays from the sun to strike the earth's surface. Production of some of these chemicals was stopped in 1995, and Federal law strictly controls their use and handling. Venting into the atmosphere is forbidden.

Information on compliance with the refrigerant recycling rule can be found on the worldwide web at: [www.epa.gov/ozone/](http://www.epa.gov/ozone/) under the heading "Stationary Refrigeration & AC."

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 28, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa120.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Gladys Beard  
(312) 886-7253

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: April 28, 1998

No. 98-OPA121

## **EPA PROPOSES PINE BEND LANDFILL FOR DELISTING; COMMENT PERIOD ENDS MAY 28**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that the Pine Bend Sanitary Landfill (Inver Grove Heights, MN) is to be taken off the Superfund National Priorities List. A public comment period ends May 28th.

Ground-water contamination at this operating municipal landfill was cleaned up by November 1994. This included: extending the existing Inver Grove Heights municipal water supply; connecting of affected or potentially affected residents to the municipal water supply, and permanently closing nearby contaminated residential wells. A waste cover has also been placed under the 40-acre landfill cell, which was the primary source of the contamination.

EPA and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency believe the Pine Bend site to now be fully protective of human health and the environment. A 5-year review of cleanup at the site is scheduled for December 1999.

Comments on the proposed delisting may be sent to: Gladys Beard, Associate Remedial Project Manager, Superfund Division (SR-6J), U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. All comments must be postmarked by May 28.

Site information repositories are at EPA's Chicago office and Dakota

County Library, Wescott Branch, 1340 Wescott Rd., Eagan, MN.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 28, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa121.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Lillian Pinzon  
(312) 886-7154

Technical Contact: Scott Cooper  
(312) 886-1332

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: April 28, 1998

No. 98-OPA122

## **EPA CITES SAFETY KLEEN ON PCB'S; PROPOSES \$126,500 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Safety Kleen Corp. (Elgin, IL) for violating Federal PCB rules and proposed a \$126,500 fine.

Safety Kleen notified EPA that it had inadvertently collected about 120 gallons of PCB-contaminated oil from a Jefferson, IN, facility. EPA alleges Safety Kleen illegally shipped the material, after mixing it with other wastes, to a Detroit, MI, facility without proper identification. EPA also says that some of the material was later improperly disposed of at a New Boston, MI, landfill.

The company may at any time request an informal meeting with EPA to discuss the allegations and to arrive at a settlement.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once widely used in industry as coolants and insulators. EPA banned the manufacture of PCB's in 1979 because of evidence that they accumulate in the environment and present health hazards for people. Under the Toxic Substances Control Act, EPA regulates the proper cleanup, disposal, marking, recordkeeping, storage, and limited use of PCB's to protect the public from these potentially

dangerous chemicals.

Safety-Kleen is an industrial solvent and waste-oil recycler, which has EPA approval to handle hazardous wastes.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 28, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa122.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Brad Beeson  
(312) 353-8919

Technical Contact: Jeffrey L. Gahrns  
(312) 886-6794

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: April 30, 1998

No. 98-OPA123

## **EPA CITES CITY MEDICAL WASTE SERVICES FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited City Medical Waste Services, Inc., for alleged clean-air violations at the company's commercial medical waste incinerator, 3900 Christopher Ave., Hamtramck, MI, in the Detroit area.

---

EPA said a stack test last November showed City Medical exceeded State emission limits for mercury, a toxic air pollutant.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"Mercury emissions are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Mercury tends to bioaccumulate in organisms and persist at high levels in some areas of the Great Lakes. Eating contaminated fish is how most



people are commonly exposed to mercury, which is very toxic, even in small doses. It affects the central nervous system, kidneys, and liver.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: April 30, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa123.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contacts: Phillippa Cannon  
(312)353-6218

Don deBlasio  
(312)886-4360

For Immediate Release: May 1, 1998

No. 98-OPA124

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: PESTICIDE CLEANUP NEARS  
COMPLETION; MEDIA AVAILABILITY AT NW SIDE HOME  
MAY 5, 10 A.M.**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold an event Tuesday, May 5, at 10 a.m. at 4217 West Arthington, to mark the end of a year-long \$10 million cleanup of more than 100 Chicago-area homes that had been illegally sprayed with the agricultural pesticide methyl parathion.

Members of a family relocated due to the cleanup will be available to discuss their experience. Also available will be representatives of agencies involved in the cleanup, including EPA Deputy Regional Administrator Michelle Jordan; Kathleen Flaherty, Chicago Department of the Environment; Jo Ellen Maxheimer, Cook Co. Department of Public Health; and Lt. Col. Roger Gerber, commanding officer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa124.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contacts: Philippa Cannon  
(312)353-6218

Don deBlasio  
(312)886-4360

For Immediate Release: May 5, 1998

No. 98-OPA125

## **EPA: "COTTON POISON" PESTICIDE CLEANUP NEARS COMPLETION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that its cleanup of Chicago-area homes sprayed with a toxic agricultural pesticide is almost done. The last of the more than 90 families that were relocated will be moved back into their homes over the next few weeks.

The cleanup effort began last May, after an EPA investigation, which resulted in misdemeanor charges against an unlicensed applicator of illegal pesticides. Between 1991-97, Ruben Brown of Bellwood, IL, applied methyl parathion ("cotton poison") in hundreds of houses, apartments, and commercial buildings in Chicago and in at least 20 suburbs from Bolingbrook to Schaumburg and communities in between. He also sold the chemical in unmarked jars. Last December, Brown was sentenced to 2 years in Federal prison.

Methyl parathion is a highly toxic chemical registered only for outdoor use, primarily on cotton fields and soybeans, to control insects. Application of the chemical indoors is extremely dangerous, as well as illegal.

The Chicago cleanup required a vast cooperative effort, involving more than \$10 million in staff and logistical resources from EPA alone. Other governmental agencies contributing to the effort include the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

Chicago Department of the Environment, Chicago Department of Public Health, Chicago Department of Consumer Services, Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois EPA, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, Cook County Department of Health, Cook County State Attorney's Office, and the Poison Control Center.

The health-risk assessment was coordinated by EPA, with help from dozens of city, county, and State toxics investigators, public affairs coordinators, and public health nurses. The cleanup was led by EPA emergency response specialists. EPA and its partner agencies also staffed a full-time command center and telephone hotline. The hotline, 888-889-6542, will remain in operation until the end of May. After that, methyl parathion inquiries should be made to EPA's pesticide program, 312-353-2192.

Over the course of the cleanup, more than 900 households were screened for unsafe environmental health levels. Of these, about 600 showed contaminant levels requiring urine tests--with about 100 households reaching levels where families had to be relocated temporarily while their homes were decontaminated. In addition, about 260 households have been referred for quarterly monitoring, which will continue for one year.

EPA and the other agencies believe nearly all of the methyl parathion sold or distributed by Brown has been turned over to authorities.

In addition to Chicago, misuses of methyl parathion have been reported in Arkansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Texas, and Tennessee. To date, EPA has spent more than \$79 million to cope with hazards at these sites.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 5, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa125.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Thomas Krueger  
(312) 886-0562

Technical Contact: Farro Assadi  
(312) 886-1424

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: May 5, 1998

No. 98-OPA126

## **EPA CITES CHEMREX FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited ChemRex Inc. for alleged clean-air violations at its adhesive production plant, 23930 Concord St., Mattawan, MI.

(Chemrex makes adhesives for the construction industry at the plant.)

EPA said volatile organic chemical (VOC) emissions from two adhesive-production lines were above limits set by the facility's State permits. The violations were discovered during a State inspection last June.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's goal is to protect public health and the environment, and we will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

VOC's combine in the atmosphere with other chemicals to form ground-level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function,

eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa126.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Andre Daugavietis  
(312) 886-6663

Technical Contact: Cynthia Curtis  
(312) 353-6959

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: May 5, 1998

No. 98-OPA127

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH CARTER CHROME ON AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Carter Chrome and Remanufacturing on alleged violations of Federal emission standards for the hazardous air pollutant, chromium, at the company's Muncie, IN, electroplating plant. No monetary penalties are included in this agreement.

National emissions standards for chromium went into effect for hard-chrome plating tanks and anodizing tanks January 25, 1997. In August 1996, at Carter Chrome's request, EPA extended the compliance date for the company to October 1, 1997.

---

Company tests done last October showed emissions above the allowable limit. Carter Chrome reported the results to EPA in December, explaining the reason for the excess emissions and proposing a compliance schedule.

EPA believes that Carter Chrome has made the necessary changes in its process to comply with emission standards, is now in compliance, and has agreed to maintain continued compliance. The company will submit quarterly compliance reports to EPA and the State.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We are pleased that Carter Chrome has taken the necessary steps to achieve compliance with emission standards."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa127.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contacts: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

Noemi Emeric  
(312) 886-0995

For Immediate Release: May 8, 1998

No. 98-OPA128

## **EPA AWARDS 5 NEW REDEVELOPMENT GRANTS IN MIDWEST**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced five new \$200,000 pilot grants to help local communities clean up and redevelop Brownfields in the Midwest. The grants--in Fort Wayne, IN; Calumet City, IL; Hennepin County, MN; Dayton, OH; and Milwaukee, WI--are among 36 national pilot grants announced May 6.

Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized pieces of land, usually in urban areas, that have real or perceived contamination from previous industrial use. The new grants will help redevelop these sites, return them to productive community use, and revitalize local economies.

Under the Clinton-Gore Administration's efforts to cleanup and redevelop Brownfields, 157 pilot-project grants have been awarded nationally, totaling \$28 million. Another 64 projects will be selected for grants later this year. The \$200,000 grants were awarded to these EPA Region 5 communities:

- Fort Wayne, IN (Mayor Paul Helmke). The city will target the Hanna-Creighton neighborhood, one of the State's most distressed areas, for environmental assessments at the Bowser Pump Plant site and involve the community in planning for cleanup and redevelopment.
- Calumet City, IL (Mayor Jerry Genova). The city will target for

redevelopment the Marble Street Dump site, a 23-acre property once used for pesticide and acid manufacturing and industrial waste dumping.

- Hennepin County, MN (Administrator Jeff Spartz). The county will focus on three abandoned sites--Doc's Auto, Warden Oil, and Chemical Marketing Corp.--for environmental assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment.
- Dayton, OH (Mayor Michael R. Turner). Dayton seeks to attract and train new workers and to concentrate tooling and machining companies, support services, and educational opportunities in an area known as "Tool Town." The city has selected a 35-acre former automobile factory for this effort and plans to use its grant for environmental assessments and cleanup plans.
- Milwaukee, WI (Mayor John O. Norquist). The city will target for redevelopment and job growth the Menomonee River Valley, a 1,500-acre area once home to foundries, power plants, coke and coal gasification plants, tanneries, cement plants, and chemical companies.

For more information about the Brownfields Initiative, visit EPA's home page at: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa128.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Padmavati Klejwa  
(312) 353-8917

Technical Contact: Nhien Pham  
(312) 353-8657

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: May 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA129

## **EPA CITES KNAUF FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Knauf Fiber Glass GmbH for alleged clean-air violations at the company's Shelbyville, IN, fiberglass plant.

---

EPA said particulate emissions from one of Knauf's glass-making furnaces exceeded federally enforceable State standards.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates (dust, smoke, soot) can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa129.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Tom Turner  
(312) 886-6613

Technical Contact: Michelle M. Farley  
(312) 886-6778

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: May 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA130

## **EPA CITES STONECO FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$88,500 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Stoneco, Inc., for alleged clean-air violations at the company's limestone quarry, 4715 West Sterns Rd., Ottawa Lake, MI. An \$88,500 penalty is proposed.

EPA notified Stoneco of the alleged violations last December. Stoneco failed to notify the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality of expected and actual startup dates for three new stone conveyors.

In addition, it began operating the new conveyors in violation of a State construction waiver, issued under State permitting waiver regulations.

Federally enforceable State notification and permitting regulations are designed to ensure compliance with emission limits before facilities begin to operate emission sources. EPA said failure of facilities to comply with these notification and permitting regulations could expose the public to unknown health risks.

Stoneco has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the

allegations anytime.

"EPA's goal is to protect public health and the environment, and we will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa130.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Kris Vezner  
(312) 886-6827

Technical Contact: Linda Hamsing  
(312) 886-6810

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: May 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA131

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH BAGCRAFT; INCLUDES \$170,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Bagcraft Corp. of America on alleged clean-air violations at its Chicago manufacturing plant. A \$170,000 penalty is included.

EPA filed an administrative complaint against Bagcraft in March 1997 for violating Federal and State requirements for ozone control at its plant, 3900 West 43d St.

The company operates some 47 flexographic printing lines and previously operated 4 additional printing lines that were equipped with an incinerator. These printing lines were sources of volatile organic compounds (VOC's) that contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or smog, in an area that does not meet health-based standards for ozone.

Bagcraft has switched to inks with lower VOC content and has cut VOC emissions by more than 100 tons per year.

"We commend Bagcraft for cutting its VOC emissions to meet Federal and State standards," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and

Radiation Division. "Cutting emissions that contribute to the formation of ozone is essential if the Chicago metropolitan area is going to meet the health-based standard for this air pollutant."

Ground-level ozone can cause breathing problems, asthma attacks, eye irritation, and stuffy nose. It can also reduce lung function and resistance to colds and other infections and may speed up aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and those with existing lung problems are most susceptible.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa131.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Nidhi O'Meara  
(312) 886-0568

Technical Contact: Kevin Vuilleumier  
(312) 886-6188

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: May 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA132

## **EPA CITES PRO-TEC FOR CLEAN AIR ACT VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Pro-Tec Coating Co. for alleged clean-air violations at its Leipsic, OH, facility.

(Pro-Tec does continuous hot-dip galvanizing, coating mill sheets of rolled steel with zinc.)

EPA said Pro-Tec built sources of air pollution without getting the appropriate permits and without installing appropriate air pollution control technology. Pro-Tec's production process produces nitrogen oxide and carbon monoxide emissions. Nitrogen oxides combine in the air with other chemicals during hot summer months to form ground-level ozone.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's goal is to get all companies to voluntarily comply with the Clean Air Act," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "When this goal is achieved, we will no longer have to ensure

compliance by taking these enforcement actions."

Ground-level ozone can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can also aggravate asthma and speed up aging of lung tissue.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa132.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: James Filippini  
(312) 886-6743

Technical Contact: Michael Berman  
(312) 886-6837

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: May 13, 1998

No. 98-OPA133

## **EPA SETTLES WITH CRAWFORDSVILLE ON WATER POLLUTION; CITY FINED \$98,000**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with the City of Crawfordsville, IN, on alleged Clean Water Act violations at its sewage treatment plant. The city has agreed to pay a penalty of \$98,000.

According to EPA, between October 1992 and July 1997 the plant had discharged wastewater containing excess amounts of fecal coliform, chlorine, total suspended solids, zinc, ammonia nitrogen, cyanide, copper, and oxygen-depleting pollutants into Sugar Creek in violation of its discharge permit. On a number of occasions the plant had discharged untreated sewage into the creek, EPA said, and that on a number of occasions sludge from the plant, containing excess amounts of cadmium and nickel, had been used as fertilizer.

"Raw and inadequately treated sewage can cause serious health problems and harm the environment," said JoLynn Traub, regional Water Division director. "A penalty was imposed because of the serious nature of past violations."

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa133.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Turpin Ballard  
(312) 353-6083

Media Contact: Gordon Blum  
(312) 353-8501

For Immediate Release: May 14, 1998

No. 98-OPA134

## **EPA ALTERS TRI-COUNTY/ELGIN LANDFILL CLEANUP PLAN**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently announced a change in its cleanup plan for the Tri-County/Elgin Landfill Superfund site, Kane County, IL. The property is near the Village of South Elgin, close to the junction of Kane, Cook, and DuPage Counties.

The change provides for an improved landfill cap design which consists of a 6-inch layer of topsoil, a 12-inch protective soil layer, 3 thinner layers of drainage and barrier material, and--at the bottom--a 6-inch geomembrane bedding layer.

---

Both EPA and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency believe the new design will provide more effective long-term protection to human health and the environment.

Construction of the new landfill cap is expected to begin in September, starting with site clearing and preparation work. Much of the work will likely be deferred until spring 1999, depending on when winter weather sets in. The explanation document and other site background materials are available for review at Gail Borden Public Library, 200 North Grove Ave., Elgin, and at EPA's Chicago office.

The Tri-County Landfill was part of a gravel mining operation before becoming a solid-waste disposal site from 1968 to 1976. The existing landfill cover was installed in 1981. The adjacent Elgin Landfill property

was a sand and gravel mining business until the late 1950's, before converting to a waste disposal site in 1961.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa134.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Julie Moriarty  
(312) 353-5789

For Immediate Release: May 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA135

## **EPA AWARDS \$65,584 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN ILLINOIS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded \$65,584 to educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and local agencies to support innovative environmental education in Illinois.

This is the 7th year that awards are being made under EPA's environmental education grants program, after a competitive solicitation.

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these organizations in Illinois for environmental education programs," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "Environmental education is essential to expanding the public's knowledge about the environment."

This year in Illinois, EPA funds will support school wide environmental programs, workshops for formal and nonformal educators, and integrated pest management education seminars. (See attached fact sheet.)

EPA is awarding these funds under the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, which gives EPA the authority to support and create environmental education programs nationwide.

EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, and tribes in the Midwest during the past 7 years.

This year, over 170 applicants competed for funds. Altogether, EPA is awarding \$200,000 to 23 recipients in the Midwest. As required by law, a

majority of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

## ILLINOIS

\$24,192 to Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (17 East Monroe St., Chicago), to educate residents in Chicago's Henry Horner Public Housing Development about integrated pest management techniques. They will develop and distribute an educational comic book, in which readers will learn the appropriate techniques for controlling cockroaches in their homes, while avoiding indiscriminate or illegal pesticide use. The book will be published in both English and Spanish.

\$24,550 to the Chicago Academy of Sciences (2060 North Clark St., Chicago), for training teachers to create and use school nature areas as educational tools. A select group of teachers and their students in six Chicago schools throughout Chicago will participate in the program. Teachers will attend three workshops, in which they will study biodiversity and learn educational strategies for teaching ecological issues.

\$11,842 to the Lincoln Park Zoo (2150 North Cannon Dr., Chicago), for expanding and enhancing its "People, Places, & Change" teacher education program. Participants will examine historical change and development in an area and then determine the nature and causes of the change. The zoo will double the workshop hours, provide a stipend to participating teachers, and enhance the teaching materials provided.

\$5,000 to the St. Clair County Health Department (19 Public Square, Belleville), to increase awareness of air pollution issues and educate people about the effects of ozone on public health. The department will create an educational display to be used at a variety of conferences throughout the year. Three training sessions will be held to educate community members about air pollution, ozone depletion, and adverse health effects associated with various air pollutants.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 21, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa135.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Julie Moriarty  
(312) 353-5789

For Immediate Release: May 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA136

## **EPA AWARDS \$28,963 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN OHIO**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded a total of \$28,963 to a university and a nonprofit organization to support innovative environmental education in Ohio.

This is the 7th year that awards are being made under EPA's environmental education grants program, after a competitive solicitation.

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these organizations in Ohio for environmental education programs," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "Environmental education is essential to expanding the public's knowledge about the environment."

This year in Ohio, EPA funds will support teacher education workshops, designed to help teachers include environmental issues in their curriculum. (See attached fact sheet.)

EPA is awarding these funds under the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, which gives EPA the authority to support and create environmental education programs nationwide.

EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, and tribes in the Midwest during the past 7 years.

This year, over 170 applicants competed for funds. Altogether, EPA is awarding \$200,000 to 23 recipients in the Midwest. As required by law, a

majority of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

## **OHIO FACT SHEET**

\$23,963 to Cleveland State University (1983 East 24th St., Cleveland), to develop two intensive, interactive teacher workshops for 16 educators from the local school district. The first 2-hour workshop will provide teachers with the theory behind hands-on, problem-based science education. The second 2-hour session will provide the teachers with the opportunity to present and discuss a proposed activity for peer review. Teachers will then return to their schools and carry out their project across the grade level, thereby teaching others the lessons learned.

\$5,000 to Keep Akron Beautiful (850 East Market St., Akron), to hold a workshop for 20 educators in Northeast Ohio, where they will learn 4 of the 12 modules from the "Science Education for Public Understanding Program." During the 5-day workshop, educators will receive hands-on training to be used later in their classrooms. At the end of the workshop, participants will receive three of the modules to take back to their districts and train others.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 21, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa136.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Julie Moriarty  
(312) 353-5789

For Immediate Release: May 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA137

## **EPA AWARDS \$9,800 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN MINNESOTA**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded a total of \$9,800 to a university and a water-quality board to support innovative environmental education in Minnesota.

This is the 7th year that awards are being made under EPA's environmental education grants program, after a competitive solicitation.

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these organizations in Minnesota for environmental education programs," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "Environmental education is essential to expanding the public's knowledge about the environment."

This year in Minnesota, EPA funds will support the development of an environmental education program for preschool children. They will also support the creation, development, and coordination of a Clean Water Festival in next spring. (See attached fact sheet.)

EPA is awarding these funds under the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, which gives EPA the authority to support and create environmental education programs nationwide.

---

EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, and tribes in the Midwest during the past 7 years.

This year, over 170 applicants competed for funds. Altogether, EPA is

awarding \$200,000 to 23 recipients in the Midwest. As required by law, a majority of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

## **MINNESOTA FACT SHEET**

\$4,800 to the Brown/Nicollet/Cottonwood Water Quality Board (301 South Washington, St. Peter), to create, develop, and coordinate a Clean Water Festival, to be held in spring 1999. At the festival, students will participate in hands-on activities designed to teach about a wide variety of water-quality issues. While students attend the festival, teachers will attend an intensive workshop in which they will learn water education activities and other environmental education strategies.

\$4,240 to the University of Minnesota Extension Service - Hennepin County (1525 Glenwood Ave., Minneapolis), to design and implement an environmental education program for preschool children. Over 160 children will participate in the 6th-week program in which they will learn about environmental issues. Thematic gardens, wildlife habitats, and miniscience centers will allow the children to participate in outdoor, hands-on activities. A community "Fall Festival" will be developed to celebrate the accomplishments of program participants.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 21, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa137.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Julie Moriarty  
(312) 353-5789

For Immediate Release: May 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA138

## **EPA AWARDS \$49,996 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN MICHIGAN**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded \$49,996 to nonprofit groups, universities, and a tribal organization to support innovative environmental education in Michigan.

This is the 7th year that awards are being made under EPA's environmental education grants program, after a competitive solicitation.

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these organizations in Michigan for environmental education programs," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "Environmental education is essential to expanding the public's knowledge about the environment."

This year in Michigan, EPA funds will support teacher education workshops, community education programs, student action projects, and lead education seminars. (See attached fact sheet.)

EPA is awarding these funds under the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, which gives EPA the authority to support and create environmental education programs nationwide.

EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, and tribes in the Midwest during the past 7 years.

This year, over 170 applicants competed for funds. Altogether, EPA is awarding \$200,000 to 23 recipients in the Midwest. As required by law, a

majority of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

## MICHIGAN

- \$4,820 to the Ecology Center of Ann Arbor (117 North Division, Ann Arbor), for a youth summer program in which participants will learn how to repair used bicycles. Not only will they learn technical skills, but they will also learn the important environmental concepts of re-using and recycling. The program will target middle-school children from local public and subsidized housing developments.
- \$4,930 to Goodrich Area Schools (8029 South Gale Rd., Goodrich) to improve and enhance its successful water-quality monitoring project. Funds will be used to connect five classrooms to a video-conferencing system. Conferences will be conducted by teachers and moderators and will include hands-on activities in which students will have the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of water quality.
- \$5,000 to the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan (405 East Easterday Ave., Sault Ste. Marie), to allow 40 Native American high school students to attend a Youth Leadership Conference at which they will receive intensive, hands-on environmental education. Students will concentrate on water-quality issues and human impact upon local watersheds. Trained students will then choose three sites in their local community to apply their environmental knowledge and skills.
- \$4,800 to Michigan Technological University (1400 Townsend Dr., Houghton), for training 30 university students to make environmental education presentations in classrooms. Local teachers will also have the opportunity to participate in two teacher education workshops in which they will learn to use the existing curricula Project WET, Project Wild, and Wonders of the Wetlands. Three family science fun nights will also be held in an effort to educate both students and parents.
- \$10,880 to Northern Michigan University (1401 Presque Isle, Marquette), for training students in 10 middle and high schools to monitor the quality of their local water supply. Data collected will be posted on a website along with other water-quality information

and resources. Teachers in participating schools will attend two water education workshops. Public education sessions will also be held to educate local residents about water-quality issues.

- \$9,596 to the Southeast Coalition on Occupational Safety and Health (SEMCOSH, 1550 Howard, Detroit), to implement a lead-prevention program for reducing the levels of lead found in young children in the Detroit area. Households where young, at-risk children live will be identified, and adult residents will be invited to attend workshops at which they will learn lead hazard prevention techniques. Those unable to attend will receive in-home visits, in which volunteers will show cleaning techniques and provide cleaning kits.
- \$5,000 to the University of Michigan (3003 South State St., Ann Arbor), to develop a fact sheet and resource book for high school writing teachers. The fact sheet and resource book will give teachers the necessary information for incorporating environmental journalism into their curricula. The materials will acquaint teachers with key environmental concepts and with elements of science-based environmental writing.
- \$4,970 to Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (33500 Van Born Rd., Wayne), to provide a teacher education workshop to a group of 14 teachers from Wayne County. Using Project Wild and other established environmental curricula, educators will learn to incorporate environmental issues into their classrooms. Over 420 students will then visit an environmental learning center and participate in outdoor, interactive activities.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 15, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa138.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Julie Moriarty  
(312) 353-5789

For Immediate Release: May 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA139

## **EPA AWARDS \$10,000 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN INDIANA**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently awarded \$10,000 to the City of Gary and the Grand Calumet Task Force to support innovative environmental education programs in Indiana.

This is the 7th year that awards are being made under EPA's environmental education grants program, after a competitive solicitation.

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these organizations in Indiana for their environmental education programs," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "Environmental education is essential to expanding the public's knowledge about the environment."

This year in Indiana, EPA funds will allow students to participate in hands-on science activities through environmental clubs. Teachers and students will also help sustain a solid-waste and recycling program in their community. (See attached fact sheet.)

EPA is awarding these funds under the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, which gives EPA the authority to support and create environmental education programs nationwide.

---

EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, and tribes in the Midwest during the past 7 years.

This year, over 170 applicants competed for funds. Altogether, EPA is



awarding \$200,000 to 23 recipients in the Midwest. As required by law, a majority of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

## **INDIANA FACT SHEET**

\$5,000 to the City of Gary (Office of the Mayor, Gary), to develop and implement a community-based environmental education program. In partnership with the Lake County Solid Waste Management District, the city will provide training and resources to teachers and students for a sustainable solid-waste and recycling program. Those trained will then coordinate a minimum of 20 educational sessions for community members, community leaders, and other students.

\$5,000 to the Grand Calumet Task Force (2400 New York Ave., Whiting), to organize and develop an environmental club for students in the Gary school district. Students will participate in after-school activities in which they will learn about the environmental issues that affect their community. The club activities will serve to enhance environmental education lessons learned in the classroom. Students will also have the opportunity to visit outdoor sites in which they will participate in hands-on, interactive activities.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 21, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa139.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Julie Moriarty  
(312) 353-5789

For Immediate Release: May 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA140

## **EPA AWARDS \$35,657 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN WISCONSIN**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded a total of \$35,657 to nonprofit organizations to support innovative environmental education in Wisconsin.

This is the 7th year that awards are being made under EPA's environmental education grants program, after a competitive solicitation.

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these organizations in Wisconsin for environmental education programs," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "Environmental education is essential to expanding the public's knowledge about the environment."

This year in Wisconsin, EPA funds will support teacher education workshops, lead education programs, and water-quality monitoring programs. The Zoological Society of Milwaukee will also begin its 3-year international environmental education program. (See attached fact sheet.)

EPA is awarding these funds under the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, which gives EPA the authority to support and create environmental education programs nationwide.

EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1 million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, and tribes in the Midwest during the past 7 years.

This year, over 170 applicants competed for funds. Altogether, EPA is

awarding \$200,000 to 23 recipients in the Midwest. As required by law, a majority of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

## **WISCONSIN FACT SHEET**

\$18,980 to the 16th Street Community Health Center (1032 South Cesar Chavez Dr., Milwaukee), to hold three teacher workshops on air quality. Teachers will learn to use the recently revised Project Learning Tree curriculum, as well as a curriculum designed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Teachers will also learn how to use and manipulate data taken from particulate air monitors in their local community.

\$5,000 to Citizens for a Better Environment (152 West Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee), to create and distribute a video and supporting materials for educating young women about the possible health risks of endocrine disruptors. The Women's Health and Environment Network will work with Audubon Middle School and Alverno College's Division of Nursing to develop a teacher's discussion guide, student handbook, and fact sheets to accompany the video.

\$4,000 to Trout Unlimited (1327 University Ave., Madison), to develop the capabilities of 15-20 citizen volunteers to collect reliable water-quality monitoring data. Environmental professionals from the partner organizations will train the volunteers, develop sampling protocols, identify sites, and integrate the collected information. The staff will also write monthly newspaper columns to inform the general public of their efforts to manage and protect the watershed.

\$2,677 to Wisconsin Coulee Region Community Action Program (201 Melby St., Westby), to educate parents and the general public about human-health threats from lead-based paint, especially as it affects children. Eight "house parties" will be held during the course of 6 months, and over 40 people will be educated about lead hazards. By the end of the session, parents will have the knowledge to assess hazards in their homes and what to do to help protect their children from lead exposure.

\$5,000 to Zoological Society of Milwaukee (10005 West Bluemound Rd.), to help develop a multi-year international conservation, research, and education project designed to monitor species of birds that breed in Wisconsin and winter in Belize, Central America. Over 20 teachers in participating schools will be trained to use the already developed "One

Bird-Two Habitats" curriculum. Students will then work with zoologists at the research sites to observe and identify different species of birds.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 21, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa140.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: May 15, 1998

No. 98-OPA141

## **EPA TO PROHIBIT PCI FROM TAKING SUPERFUND WASTE STARTING MAY 23**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 yesterday notified Pollution Control Industries, Inc., (East Chicago, IN) that beginning May 23, the company cannot accept Superfund waste because it is not in compliance with Federal PCB laws. EPA is taking this action under the Federal Off-Site Rule, which requires facilities receiving wastes generated under the Superfund law to comply with all environmental regulations.

In March, EPA notified the company that it did not meet the criteria to accept Superfund waste and that it had 60 days to comply with PCB laws. PCI later provided documentation and comments to EPA, but the information was insufficient to determine if the facility is complying.

PCI had notified EPA that it had inadvertently accepted and distributed and is currently storing PCB's. PCI lacked the required EPA authorization to store PCB's.

PCI has 10 days to appeal the decision to EPA's Regional Administrator.

The Off-Site Rule is part of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, commonly known as Superfund.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once widely used in industry as coolants and insulators. EPA banned the manufacture of PCB's in 1979 because of evidence that they accumulate in the environment and present health hazards for people. Under the Toxic Substances and Control Act, EPA regulates PCB's to protect the public from these potentially

dangerous chemicals.

PCI is a commercial hazardous waste management facility, which collects and treats hazardous and nonhazardous industrial wastes, including Superfund waste.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa141.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Thor Ketzback  
(312) 353-6720

Technical Contact: David Schulz  
(312) 886-6790

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: May 19, 1998

No. 98-OPA143

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH CENERGY; INCLUDES \$63,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Cinergy Corp. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's Beckjord coal-fired electric generating station, New Richmond, OH, southeast of Cincinnati. The agreement includes a \$63,000 penalty.

---

Earlier this year, EPA and Cinergy reached a partial agreement that required immediate compliance, together with stack testing and continuous monitoring to verify continuing compliance.

EPA issued notices to Cinergy in June 1996 and July 1997 for violations of federally enforceable State standards for particulates (smoke, soot, dust) and opacity (the amount of light obscured). Last September, EPA filed an administrative complaint against Cinergy for these alleged violations.

"EPA's goal is to get companies to voluntarily comply with the Clean Air Act," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "When this goal is achieved, we will no longer have to ensure compliance by taking these enforcement actions."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, or those with heart or lung conditions the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 19, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa143.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Padmavati Klejwa  
(312) 353-8917

Technical Contact: Newton Ellens  
(312) 353-5562

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: May 19, 1998

No. 98-OPA144

## **EPA CITES DIAMOND CHROME PLATING FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Diamond Chrome Plating, Inc., for alleged violations of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's Howell, MI, electroplating plant.

EPA said Diamond Chrome violated recordkeeping, monitoring, and reporting requirements of a Federal regulation for chromium emissions, as well as a requirement for an operating permit.

---

The Federal regulation went into effect for hard-chrome plating tanks and anodizing tanks January 25, 1997.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 10 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 19, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa144.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Lillian Pinzon  
(312) 886-5114

Technical Contact: Farro Assadi  
(312) 886-1424

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: May 19, 1998

No. 98-OPA145

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH TIODIZE; INCLUDES \$40,388 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Tiodize Michigan, Inc., on alleged clean-air violations at its metal-coating plant, 28966 Wall St., Wixom, MI. The agreement includes a \$40,388 penalty.

EPA cited Tiodize in March for exceeding State limits on volatile organic compounds (VOC's) contained in coatings and in emissions from its two surface-coating lines.

---

EPA notified Tiodize last September that it had violated Michigan regulations by using VOC coatings that exceeded the State limit and by allowing VOC emissions that exceeded permit limits.

EPA believes that Tiodize has remedied these violations by reformulating coatings used at the plant and is now in compliance with emission standards. Tiodize has agreed to submit quarterly compliance reports to EPA.

VOC's combine in the atmosphere with other chemicals on hot summer days to form ground-level ozone, or smog. Smog can cause breathing

problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases are the most sensitive.

"The Detroit area achieved the health-based standard for ozone in March 1995, after being out of compliance since the 1970's," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "EPA's goal is to ensure that Detroit continues to have air quality that meets this health-based standard."

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 19, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa145.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Kevin Adler  
(312) 886-7078

Media Contact: Denise Gawlinski  
(312) 886-9859

MDEQ Contact: Bob Skowronek  
(517) 335-8204

For Immediate Release: May 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA146

## **EPA: BELDING WAREHOUSE SITE REMOVED FROM SUPERFUND LIST**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that the Belding Warehouse site (Belding, MI), also known as H&K Sales, has been removed from the EPA's Superfund National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites.

A formal delisting notice will be published May 21 in the Federal Register.

A \$4.8 million cleanup of radiologically contaminated materials at the site was completed in October. In December, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality endorsed the completed cleanup and no-further-action status. A public-comment period on the proposed delisting ended in late April, with EPA receiving no comments on the delisting.

EPA learned of the site in late 1994 and quickly did an engineering study which showed that contaminated materials posed a threat to human health and the environment. The site was placed on EPA's list in summer 1996.

From January to October 1997, more than 34,000 radium-painted aircraft parts were removed and sent for disposal at an EPA-approved facility in

Washington State. Nearly 250 tons of other materials that did not require special disposal were sent to a local landfill. In addition, 4,500 cubic feet of aircraft and hardware parts were checked for radiation, cleaned if necessary, and returned to the property owners for unrestricted use.

The cleanup plan, engineering study, delisting information, and other site documents are available for review at Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 East Main St., Belding.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 20, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa146.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contacts: Noemi Emeric  
(312) 886-0995

Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: May 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA147

## **EPA TO UPDATE RESIDENTS ON ILL. BEACH STATE PARK ASBESTOS SITES MAY 26**

U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will hold two informal meetings to update area residents on cleanup plans at the sites in or near Illinois Beach State Park and the Johns-Manville facility where asbestos-containing material was recently found.

The sessions will be Tuesday, May 26, 3 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. at Jack Benny Middle School, 1401 Montesano St., Waukegan.

Representatives from all three agencies will be available to talk one-on-one with residents about the four locations where asbestos material was found, comparative risks of the material, and plans for ongoing monitoring and cleanup.

Residents with questions or concerns who cannot attend the sessions may call EPA community involvement coordinator Noemi Emeric at 312-886-0995.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 20, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa147.htm>







# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Richard Wagner  
(312) 886-6769

Technical Contact: David Schulz  
(312) 886-6790

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: May 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA148

## **EPA CITES STONE CONTAINER FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Stone Container Corp. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's pulp-and-paper plant, 500 North Fourth St., Coshocton, OH.

(Stone container makes corrugated cardboard products from wood pulp at the plant.)

EPA said Stone Container violated an EPA administrative order and federally enforceable State regulations. It said the company also violated Federal regulations designed to prevent deterioration of air quality in areas where the quality is better than the national standard.

Specifically, Stone Container exceeded limits, set in its State permit to install, on particulate emissions from its wood waste-fired boiler No. 6.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's goal is to get companies to voluntarily comply with the Clean Air

Act," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "When this goal is achieved, we will no longer have to ensure compliance by taking these enforcement actions."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates (soot, dust) can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 26, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa148.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Jose de Leon  
(312) 353-7456

Technical Contact: David Schulz  
(312) 886-6790

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: May 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA149

## **EPA CITES LINCOLN ELECTRIC FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited The Lincoln Electric Co. for alleged clean-air violations at its plant, 22801 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH.

(Lincoln Electric makes electric arc-welding machines.)

Company stack tests done in January, February, and March show that a coal-fired boiler operated by Lincoln Electric has exceeded federally enforceable State limits for particulate emissions. The tests show emission rates more than 70 percent above allowable levels.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates (soot, dust) can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa149.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Murray Lantner  
(312) 886-2307

Legal Contact: Joseph Williams  
(312) 886-6631

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: May 21, 1998

No. 98-OPA150

## **EPA SETTLES LAWSUIT WITH J&L SPECIALTY STEEL; INCLUDES \$200,000 FINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS WORTH \$350,000**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with J&L Specialty Steel, Inc., (Louisville, OH), on water pollution violations alleged in a 1996 lawsuit.

The company produces stainless steel for use in other manufacturing processes.

J&L is permitted by Ohio EPA to discharge wastewater into the East Branch of the Nimishillen Creed and Keim's Run Both streams are part of the Ohio River watershed.

Under a consent decree filed April 30 in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, the company has agreed to pay a \$200,000 penalty. It also must stop unpermitted discharges of wastewater, eliminate discharges that cause oil sheens and foam, eliminate process and cooling water discharges from one of its outfalls, do required monitoring and reporting, and comply with EPA information requests.

In addition, the company will spend more than \$350,000 on environmental

projects to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff and improve the management and storage of hazardous and nonhazardous wastes. To achieve these improvements, the company will surround its acid storage tanks with a concrete barrier and build a centralized storage for hazardous and nonhazardous wastes.

This agreement resolves allegations that J&L failed to properly monitor and report its wastewater discharges, discharged wastewater that created foams and oil sheens, discharged wastewater from unpermitted locations, failed to submit full and accurate information to EPA, and submitted inaccurate information in its application for a new permit.

"Unpermitted discharges can impair water quality and failing to provide information to EPA prevents us from understanding the nature and extent of wastewater discharges at the facility," said Jo Lynn Traub, regional Water Division director. "This agreement brings the facility one step closer to achieving compliance and improving the water quality in Nimishillen Creek."

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa150.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Steve Renninger  
(513) 569-7539

Media Contact: Leo Rosales  
(312) 353-6198

For Immediate Release: May 22, 1998

No. 98-OPA151

## **EPA: CLEANUP COMPLETE AT LEWISBURG DRUM SITE; MEETING MAY 28**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that its \$1.1 million cleanup at the Lewisburg Drum Site (Lewisburg, OH) is now complete. A public meeting to update residents about the site work will be held Thursday, May 28, 7:30 to 9 p.m., Room 114, Lewisburg Tri-County Middle School.

Last July, a Cincinnati-based Superfund emergency response team began work at the 126-acre site, on Swishers Mill Road between East Lock and Yohe Roads. At the time, EPA observed hundreds of deteriorating 55-gallon drums containing hazardous industrial waste. Most of the drums were in the northeast corner of the property in a heavily vegetated area that had been used as a gravel quarry during the 1960's.

---

Over the course of the project, EPA supervised:

- Removal and off-site disposal of 1,200 drums, some of which were buried below surface-level;
- Removal and off-site disposal of 2,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil and 80,000 gallons of contaminated ground water;
- Installation and sampling of ground-water monitoring wells at the site; and
- Installation of water treatment systems for 29 nearby residential drinking-water wells.

Now that EPA's time-critical work at the site is complete, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will oversee follow up ground-water monitoring at the site and at the homes that required treatment systems.

Site documents and other information about EPA's work at the site are available at Brown Memorial Library, 101 S. Commerce St. Residents with additional questions may call Leo Rosales, community involvement coordinator, at 1-800-621-8431 or send e-mail to [rosales.leo@epa.gov](mailto:rosales.leo@epa.gov).

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 26, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa151.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Jay Bortzer  
(312) 886-1430

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: May 27, 1998

No. 98-OPA152

## **EPA GIVES CINCINNATI & NORTHERN KENTUCKY MORE TIME FOR SMOG CLEANUP**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is giving the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area more time to solve its ozone (smog) problem.

The area has until November 15 to meet the health-based air quality standard of 0.12 parts per million for ozone.

The Clean Air Act deadline for meeting the standard was November 15, 1996. However, the law allows additional time to meet the standard, provided the air is getting cleaner and the area is implementing its plan for cleaning up the air.

This is the second extension for Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. The latest extension recognizes the continuous progress that is being made to maintain the air at healthy levels.

The extension of the attainment date also means the area will not be re-classified to a serious ozone category, triggering more stringent air-quality control requirements.

EPA said it applauds the continuous work of the Regional Ozone Coalition to encourage voluntary measures that people can take to reduce smog. These efforts have helped Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky in

getting extensions of the attainment deadline.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa152.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Peter Felitti  
(312) 886-5114

Technical Contact: Farro Assadi  
(312) 886-1424

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: May 27, 1998

No. 98-OPA153

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH GM; INCLUDES \$44,722 FINE & \$101,760 CLEAN-AIR PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with General Motors Corp. (GM) on alleged clean-air violations at the company's plant, 1629 North Washington Ave., Saginaw, MI.

GM has agreed to pay a \$44,722 penalty and to begin a \$101,760 pollution prevention project that, if successful, could significantly cut volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from the metal-casting operation.

(GM makes engine blocks and engine heads for automobiles and light trucks at the plant.)

EPA filed an administrative complaint against the company last September, after notifying GM in August that it had violated State limits for visible particulate (dust) emissions from its moldline No. 3 shakeout process. During the process, castings are separated from their sand molds and cores by vibrating screens that cause the sand to crumble.

A joint inspection in June 1997 by EPA and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality discovered the violations. State inspections in

August and September 1996, and before and after the June joint inspection, also found violations.

GM entered into an Administrative Order in September 1997 to address and remedy the alleged violations. EPA believes the alleged violations have been remedied and that the process now complies with clean-air regulations.

"We are pleased that GM has taken steps to control air pollution from its Saginaw Metal Casting Operation and is now in compliance with the Clean Air Act," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We congratulate the company on the pollution prevention project they are undertaking to further improve the quality of our air."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung diseases. Children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases are the most sensitive.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa153.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Jim Hahnenberg  
(312) 353-4213

Media Contact: Cheryl L. Allen  
(312) 353-6196

For Immediate Release: May 27, 1998

No. 98-OPA154

## **EPA: OPEN HOUSE AT THERMO-CHEM SITE JUNE 2**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold an open house to discuss cleanup progress at the Thermo-Chem Superfund site, Muskegon, MI. The meeting will be held Tuesday, June 2, from 4 to 7 p.m., at the site, 4375 Evanston Rd., Egelston Township, Muskegon.

EPA has recently completed construction of the soil and ground-water cleanup facilities at the site. In addition, old buildings, debris, and contaminated soil have been removed and properly disposed.

---

At the open house, residents can tour the new facilities and learn about the next phase of the cleanup from EPA and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality staff. Representatives from the companies responsible for the cleanup will also be available to answer questions. Parking is available at the front of the site, off Evanston Road.

Residents who want more information about the cleanup but cannot attend the open house may call EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator Cheryl L. Allen at 1-800-621-8431. Site documents are available for review at Egelston Town Hall and at Hackley Public Library, 316 West Webster, Muskegon.

The 10-acre Thermo-Chem site was a solvent reprocessing and liquid waste disposal facility from 1969 to 1980. Hazards being addressed at the site include ground water, soil, and sludges contaminated with industrial

chemicals.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 1, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa154.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Karl Karg  
(312) 886-7948

Technical Contact: Margaret Sieffert  
(312) 353-1151

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: May 27, 1998

No. 98-OPA155

## **EPA CITES PERSTORP FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Perstorp Polyols, Inc., for alleged clean-air violations at the company's plant, 600 Matzinger Rd., Toledo, OH.

(Perstorp makes synthetic organic chemicals at the plant.)

EPA said Perstorp violated organic hazardous air pollutant standards by failing to:

- submit timely and correct notification of compliance;
- conduct timely and valid performance tests of its pollution control devices and submit the results on time; and,
- reduce emissions by the required amount.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess and administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and

Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 1, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa155.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: William Spaulding  
(312) 886-9262

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: May 29, 1998

No. 98-OPA156

## **EPA PROPOSES TO OK CHANGES TO OHIO DRINKING-WATER RULES**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is seeking comments on its proposed approval of changes to Ohio drinking-water rules.

Ohio recently adopted new analytical methods and updated older methods for regulated drinking-water contaminants. The State also has removed obsolete and redundant rules and clarified regulatory language. EPA proposes approving the State's authority to enforce these updated regulations.

As EPA adopts new drinking-water regulations, States that administer their own drinking-water programs must adopt regulations at least as strict as EPA's in order to continue administering their programs.

If there is sufficient interest, EPA will hold a public hearing on its proposed approval of these changes. Hearing requests and comments must be postmarked no later than June 22 and sent to:

Safe Drinking Water Branch (WD-15J)  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604.

Related documents are available for review at Ohio EPA, 1800 Watermark Dr., Columbus, OH, and EPA. (See above address.)

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa156.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contacts: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: May 29, 1998

No. 98-OPA157

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: MAYOR FINKBEINER, REP. KAPTUR & ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES ANNOUNCE END OF CLEANUP OF OTTAWA RIVER TRIBUTARY**

Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner, U.S. Representative Marci Kaptur, with officials from U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, and GenCorp, Inc., will hold a media briefing Tuesday, June 2, to announce that the cleanup of contaminated sediments in an unnamed tributary of the Ottawa River has been completed.

### WHO:

Mayor Carty Finkbeiner; Rep. Marcie Kaptur; David A. Ullrich, Acting EPA Regional Administrator; Donald Schregardus, Director, Ohio EPA; representatives of GenCorp, Inc.; and members of the Maumee River Remedial Action Plan Committee.

### WHAT:

Details of a cleanup of PCB-contaminated sediments in an unnamed tributary of the Ottawa River. The Maumee River Remedial Action Plan Committee will begin a tour of contaminated sites along the Ottawa River following the news conference. Media are welcome to join the tour.

### WHEN:

Tuesday, June 2 at 9:30 a.m.

WHERE:

At the cleanup site, north of Interstate 75 and Expressway Drive North, between LaGrange St. and Stickney Ave. Visitors are reminded to dress appropriately for a construction site.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa157.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Sheri Bianchin  
(312) 886-4745

Brad Bradley  
886-4742

Media Contact: Noemi Emeric  
(312) 886-0995

For Immediate Release: May 29, 1998

No. 98-OPA158

## **EPA TO HOST UPDATE MEETINGS ON NL INDUSTRIES- TARACORP CLEANUP JUNE 4-5**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will host two sessions, plus a formal public meeting, to update the community on residential cleanup at the NL Industries-Taracorp Superfund site, Granite City, IL.

The sessions, in which residents can meet one-on-one with EPA representatives, will be Thursday, June 4, 2:30 to 4 p.m., Granite City Public Library, 2001 Delmar Ave. Also, and Friday, June 5, 9 to 11 a.m., United Methodist-Niedringhaus Church, 1311 20th St. A traditional public meeting, with EPA presentations and a larger group discussion, will be held Friday evening, June 5, 7 to 9 p.m., at Granite City City Hall, 2000 Edison Ave.

Since 1994, EPA has supervised cleanup of lead contamination at about 775 of 1,250 residential yards impacted by smelter stack emissions in Granite City, Madison, and Venice. In addition, about 100 yards and alleys in Venice and Eagle Park Acres where battery chips were used as fill material have also been cleaned. Also recently, EPA worked with DePaul University (Chicago, IL), to provide environmental jobs training for 26 area residents, 18 of whom have been hired by environmental firms.

The 16-acre NL Industries-Taracorp site, 2 miles east of St. Louis, across the Mississippi River, was a secondary lead smelter and refining plant from 1903 until 1983. Lead contamination from the site, including airborne smelter stack emissions and battery chips, has been identified in a number of residential areas in Granite City, as well as in neighboring Eagle Park Acres, Madison, and Venice.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 1, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa158.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contacts: Phillippa Cannon (USEPA)  
(312) 353-6218

Jim Leach (OEPA)  
(614) 728-0041

For Immediate Release: June 2, 1998

No. 98-OPA159

## **EPA: CLEANUP OF OTTAWA RIVER TRIBUTARY FINISHED**

Government officials today announced that the cleanup of an unnamed tributary to the Ottawa River in Toledo has been completed. The cleanup began last February.

The cleanup of PCB-contaminated sediments was carried out under a public-private partnership including the City of Toledo, Ohio EPA, U.S. EPA, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and GenCorp, Inc.

Over the last four months, 8,000 cubic yards of sediments -- containing 56,000 pounds of PCB's -- were dredged from the city-owned property, north of Interstate 75 and Greely St., between LaGrange St. and Stickney Ave.

PCB's remaining on the property are at concentrations between 5 and 10 parts per million (ppm). To prevent residual contaminants from entering the Ottawa River, the tributary has been dammed and redirected through a storm sewer. In addition, between 8 and 9 feet of clean soil covers the stream's former route. The cleanup was done by contractors hired by GenCorp and overseen by Ohio EPA.

The total cost of the cleanup was between \$4 and \$6 million. The project was funded by an EPA grant of \$500,000 to Ohio EPA, \$140,000 from an Ohio EPA settlement with the City of Toledo on the Hoffman Road landfill, and the remainder from GenCorp.

"This was a remarkably quick cleanup that shows what can be achieved when there is a spirit of cooperation," said David A. Ullrich, acting EPA regional administrator. "Although the entire project only took about 20 months from the start of discussions to completion, it will have tremendous benefits for Lake Erie and those who swim and fish it."

The tributary was formed decades ago when a part of the Ottawa River was cut off during channelization. GenCorp formerly owned an industrial facility bordering the tributary and used a PCB-containing oil as a heat exchange fluid from 1967 until 1972. Oil leaked into the basement of the facility and eventually entered a storm sewer, which emptied into the tributary. Several landfills in the area are also suspected of contributing PCB's to the Ottawa River. Cleanup efforts have already occurred on the site of the former GenCorp facility and the storm sewer.

The unnamed tributary was a source of PCB's to the Ottawa River, a major tributary to Maumee Bay in Lake Erie. Concentrations of PCB's found in the tributary have been as high as 74,000 ppm and fish in the tributary have been found with PCB levels greater than 500 ppm. The cleanup of contaminated sediments is an essential element in reducing toxic pollutants in the Great Lakes, said EPA. The presence of PCB's in sediments remains a major source of contamination, leading fish consumption advisories in all the lakes, including Lake Erie. Ohio EPA believes that cleaning up this tributary will have a major impact on fish advisories for the Ottawa River and the entire western basin of Lake Erie.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa159.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: David Mucha  
(312) 886-9032

Technical Contact: Howard Caine  
(312) 353-9685

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: June 3, 1998

No. 98-OPA160

## **EPA CITES NUCOR STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Nucor Steel Co. for alleged violations of Federal and State clean-air rules at the company's steel plant, County Rd. 400 East, Crawfordsville, IN.

The violations were discovered during visible emissions and stack tests done at the plant last August and October.

EPA said visible particulate emissions (smoke, dust, soot) from Nucor's electric arc furnace baghouse and building exceeded the Federal opacity limit (the amount of light obscured). In addition, Nucor installed its furnace static pressure monitor in the wrong location and may not be getting accurate data.

Particulate emissions from the acid regenerator and pickle line No. 2 were above State limits. Visible particulate emissions from slag processing operations exceeded the State opacity limit.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa160.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Diana Embil  
(312) 886-7889

Technical Contact: Lynn Kuo  
(312) 886-6797

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: June 3, 1998

No. 98-OPA161

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH BRUSH WELLMAN ON HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Brush Wellman Inc. on alleged violations of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's plant, 14710 West Portage River South Rd., Elmore, OH. No monetary penalty is involved.

(Brush Wellman makes primary metal products at the plant.)

---

EPA said Brush Wellman operated a degreaser that used perchloroethylene, a hazardous air pollutant, without proper control equipment since last December, when EPA regulations requiring controls took effect.

Under EPA regulations, degreasers installed before November 29, 1993, had to meet Federal standards by December 2, 1997.

EPA said the company ordered a degreaser that meets requirements in August 1994 but, due to delays beyond its control, did not have delivery of the equipment in time to meet the deadline for compliance.

Brush Wellman has agreed to complete installation of all required control equipment by August 1, to test the equipment, and to submit written verification that it meets all Federal standards within 30 days.

Exposure to high concentrations of perchloroethylene, particularly in poorly ventilated areas, can cause dizziness, light-headedness, nausea, confusion, difficulty in speaking and walking, and loss of consciousness. It can also damage the liver and kidneys.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa161.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Beth Reiner  
(312) 353-6576

Media Contact: Susan Pastor  
(312) 353-1325

For Immediate Release: June 4, 1998

No. 98-OPA162

## **EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON CLEANUP PLAN FOR LEAD BATTERY RECYCLER SITE; MEETING JUNE 24**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is seeking public comments on a recently completed engineering study that evaluated six alternatives for contaminated soil and sediment cleanup at the Lead Battery Recycler Superfund site, Toledo, OH.

The 30-day comment period begins June 8. A meeting to explain the cleanup alternatives will be held Wednesday, June 24, 7 p.m., Holland Branch Library, 1032 South McCord Rd., Holland.

EPA is recommending an alternative that includes: excavation, removal, and off-site disposal of contaminated soil; backfill with clean soil; regrading to promote drainage; and seeding, if necessary.

Oral and written comments on the alternatives will be accepted at the meeting. They may also be sent to Susan Pastor, P-19J, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. Phone: 1-800-621-8431. E-mail: [pastor.susan@epa.gov](mailto:pastor.susan@epa.gov). EPA will respond to all relevant comments received before making a final decision.

After a final cleanup plan is chosen, EPA will meet with the parties believed to be responsible for the site contamination and request that they pay for the cleanup. Following negotiations, the final plan will be agreed

upon.

Copies of the study and other site-related documents will be available for review at the Reynolds Corners Branch Library, 4833 Dorr St., Toledo. An administrative record, which contains the information upon which EPA's decision will be based, has been placed at the Toledo Public Library, Main Branch, Science and Technology Dept., 325 Michigan St..

The Lead Battery Recycler site, 5715 Angola Rd., occupies about 3 acres. It is bordered by Angola Rd. to the north, World Energy Systems of Toledo, Inc., to the east, Conrail railroad tracks and a drainage ditch to the south, and Able Equipment, Inc., to the west. EPA believes the area was contaminated by a lead battery recycling facility that operated at the site from 1981 to 1983.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa162.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Alan Walts  
(312) 353-8894

Technical Contact: Kenneth Zolnierczyk  
(312) 353-9687

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: June 3, 1998

No. 98-OPA163

## **HARTSON-KENNEDY TO PAY \$82,900 FINE FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled a civil complaint against Hartson-Kennedy Cabinet Top Co., Inc., for violations of Federal rules on the reporting of toxic chemicals. The Marion, IN, company will pay an \$82,900 penalty.

Hartson-Kennedy was cited for failing to report to EPA and the State of Indiana the required data on methyl ethyl ketone and toluene being processed at the facility from 1991 to 1993.

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act requires certain manufacturers to provide data on specific toxic chemicals being made or used at their facilities. EPA uses this and other information to update its national toxic-chemical release inventory, which is available to the public through various ways, including a national computerized database. Companies make their reports annually to EPA and to their State.

"The public has the right to know what chemicals are released in or near their communities," said Norman Niedergang, regional director of the Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division. "When companies fail to report

information on chemicals, EPA must take steps to bring them into compliance, to ensure that the public receives timely and accurate information."

The company has demonstrated to EPA that it is now in compliance with all Federal reporting requirements.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa163.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Jane Woolums  
(312) 886-6720

Technical Contact: Shaun Burke  
(312) 353-5713

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: June 4, 1998

No. 98-OPA164

## **EPA CITES QUEBECOR FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Quebecor Petty Printing Co. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's Effingham, IL, printing plant.

EPA said Quebecor violated federally enforceable State regulations by installing three printing presses (one in 1994, one in 1995, and another in 1997) without the required permits.

During an inspection in February, EPA obtained documents showing that the company exceeded permit limits for ink usage and total volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. EPA met with the company on May 18 to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's goal is to get companies to voluntarily comply with the Clean Air Act," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "When this goal is achieved, we will no longer have to ensure compliance by taking these enforcement actions."

VOC's combine in the atmosphere with other chemicals on hot summer days to form ground-level ozone, or smog.

Smog can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases are the most sensitive.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 9, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa164.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: James Cha  
(312) 886-0813

Technical Contact: Ruth McNamara  
(312) 353-3193

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: June 5, 1998

No. 98-OPA165

## **EPA CITES HUDSON FOODS FOR CHEMICAL REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$42,500 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Hudson Foods, Inc. (Albert Lea, MN) for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. EPA has proposed a \$42,500 fine. (After the incident, in January 1998, Hudson Foods was merged into Tyson Foods, Inc.)

The facility, a food processing operation, failed to immediately report to proper authorities the release of a hazardous substance. EPA's complaint alleges that on June 27, 1996, the company failed to promptly notify the National Response Center and Minnesota Emergency Response Commission of a 3,000 lb release of anhydrous ammonia. Federal laws require immediate notification upon any release of anhydrous ammonia exceeding 100 lb.

The company uses anhydrous ammonia in its refrigeration systems. The release occurred when a cooling-tower tank valve malfunctioned, leading to overheating of the cooling system and, in turn, to the automatic opening of a safety valve.

When the safety valve opened, a chemical cloud was released. A portion

of the cloud floated over to the electroplating facility next door, resulting in the temporary evacuation of two employees. Hudson Foods did not notify the National Response Center of the release until 12 hours after the event and did not know about the impact on the facility next door until the next day.

Anhydrous ammonia is an extremely hazardous substance under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 165 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 154 settlements with \$4.02 million in total fines and \$1.52 million in environmental projects.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 9, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa165.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Heather Nelson  
(312) 353-0685

Media Contact: Bri Bill  
(312) 353-6646

For Immediate Release: June 8, 1998

No. 98-OPA166

## **EPA PROPOSES ADVISORY GROUP FOR LAMMARS BARREL FACTORY SITE; MEETING JUNE 16**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a public meeting to discuss formation of a community advisory group for the Lammars Barrel Factory Superfund site, Beavercreek, OH. The meeting will be Tuesday, June 16, 7 p.m., Beavercreek City Hall, 1368 Research Park Dr. Representatives from EPA and Ohio environmental and health agencies will attend.

Community advisory groups are part of a new EPA program to provide a forum for residents to get up-to-date information about site activities and comment on technical documents and cleanup plans.

Membership in a community advisory group is voluntary. All meetings are open to the public.

For more information, contact Bri Bill, EPA community involvement coordinator: 1-800-621-8431, or via e-mail at [bill.briana@epa.gov](mailto:bill.briana@epa.gov)

The Lammars Barrel Factory, 3990 East Patterson Rd., was a chemical recycling facility from 1953 until 1969, when it burned to the ground. Since 1985, EPA and Ohio EPA have taken numerous steps to deal with groundwater contamination at the site, including extension of municipal water lines to many previously unconnected residences.

EPA is evaluating a range of permanent cleanup options for ground water and contaminated soils at the site.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 9, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa166.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Tom Krueger  
(312) 886-0562

Media Contact: Susan Pastor  
(312) 353-1325

For Immediate Release: June 8, 1998

No. 98-OPA167

## **EPA SETTLES \$2 MILLION SLUDGE-LAGOON CLEANUP WITH MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached with Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (Blooming Grove, WI) an agreement for cleaning up two sludge lagoons with high concentrations of PCB's.

Under the settlement, the sewerage district agrees to perform cleanup that will cost about \$2 million, plus pay EPA's future oversight costs and \$33,500 as reimbursement for EPA's past work on site cleanup options. To date, the district has spent some \$1.9 million on site contamination studies and cleanup plan designs and has paid \$418,000 in EPA oversight costs. The consent decree was lodged in U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin on May 27.

EPA selected a cleanup plan for this Superfund site in March 1997, after a 30-day public comment period. The plan includes construction of new dikes and maintenance of existing dikes to isolate PCB's at or above 50 parts per million. It also includes a seeded soil cover for the lagoon areas that are not already covered by natural vegetation. The plan incorporates monitoring and maintenance, as well as deed restrictions to control future land use. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources supports the cleanup plan.

Cleanup at the lagoons began earlier this year. A fact sheet on the cleanup

plan is available from the EPA Region World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/sitefact.htm>, or from Susan Pastor, community involvement coordinator, 800-621-8431.

The sewerage district site was put on EPA's Superfund National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites in 1990. The lagoons site were built in the 1940's and 1960's to store the sludge generated by the sewerage treatment plant next door.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once used widely in industry as coolants and lubricants. Congress banned the manufacture of PCB's in 1979 because of evidence that they accumulate in the environment--including in fresh-water fish and aquatic birds--and present human health hazards.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 9, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa167.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Thor Ketzback  
(312) 886-6720

Technical Contact: Spiros Bourgikos  
(312) 886-6862

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: June 9, 1998

No. 98-OPA168

## **EPA CITES GETZEN FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Getzen Co., Inc., for alleged violations of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's plant, 530 South Highway H, Elkhorn, WI.

(Getzen makes brass musical instruments at the plant.)

EPA said Getzen operated two solvent cleaning machines (degreasers) using perchloroethylene, a hazardous air pollutant, without pollution control equipment since last December, when EPA regulations requiring controls took effect. In addition, the company was not able to show that it met emission limits for solvents set forth in the regulations.

---

Under EPA regulations, degreasers installed before November 29, 1993, had to meet Federal standards by December 2, 1997.

Getzen has told EPA it plans to replace the existing degreasers with new ones that comply with regulations by May 1998.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. Getzen has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss

the allegations and how to resolve them.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Short-term exposure to high concentrations of perchloroethylene, particularly in poorly ventilated areas, can cause dizziness, light-headedness, nausea, kidney dysfunction, confusion, difficulty in speaking and walking, and loss of consciousness. Long-term exposure can damage the liver and nervous system. Perchloroethylene is classified as a probable, but low-hazard, cancer-causing agent in humans.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 9, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa168.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Thomas Martin  
(312) 886-4273

Technical Contact: Emmett Keegan  
(312) 886-0678

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: June 10, 1998

No. 98-OPA169

## **EPA CASE LEADS TO \$546,700 PENALTY, \$2.39 MILLION FOR 2 PROJECTS AT NATIONAL STEEL**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) have recently reached agreement with National Steel Corp. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's Granite City Steel facility, Granite City, IL.

Under the proposed agreement, National Steel will pay a civil penalty of \$546,700 and carry out two environmental projects costing an estimated \$2.39 million. The company will complete a fugitive dust reduction project at its finished coil production and storage area and fund at least one household hazardous waste collection in the Granite City area.

The public has 30 days after Federal Register publication to comment on terms of the agreement before it becomes final.

DOJ filed a complaint against National Steel last October. Specifically, the complaint alleged violations of federally enforceable State rules for control of particulates (dust, smoke, ash) at the coke plant and steel shop from 1992 to 1995. It also cited violation of Federal air pollution rules for coke-oven gas and benzene at the coke plant and the coke by-product recovery plant. The violations have since been corrected through several

compliance actions, including installation of additional air- pollution control equipment.

The Granite City Steel plant is in an area that did not meet the health-based standard for particulates during the period when the violations occurred. However, today the area is in compliance.

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

Coke-oven gas contains numerous substances, including benzene -- a hazardous air pollutant known to cause cancer. Short-term exposure to benzene can cause drowsiness, headaches, and loss of consciousness. Long-term exposure has been linked to various blood and bone marrow diseases, chromosome changes, and leukemia.

To inspect the proposed consent decree, contact the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, 9 Executive Dr., Suite 300, Fairview Heights, IL 62208. Or send \$5.50 (25 cents per page) to Consent Decree Library, 1120 G St. NW., 4th Fl., Washington, DC 20005; phone 202-624-0892. DOJ Reference # 90-5-2-1-2108.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 9, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa169.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Mony Chabria  
(312) 886-6842

Technical Contact: Laura Evans  
(312) 886-0851

Media Contact: Stuart Hill  
(312) 886-0689

For Immediate Release: June 10, 1998

No. 98-OPA170

## **RAMONA PARK BATTERY SITE ANALYSIS TO BEGIN**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with a group of 11 potentially responsible parties for the group to do an engineering and cost analysis of lead-acid battery contamination at the Ramona Park Battery site, Utica, MI.

The analysis will provide EPA with the information needed to choose an appropriate cleanup plan for the site.

The 6-acre site is a small peninsula within the floodplain of the Clinton River. The property is in a residential, commercial, and recreational area and contains thousands of casings from spent lead-acid batteries disposed of at the site up until the mid-1960's.

EPA's investigation confirms high levels of lead-contaminated soil. Lead has been linked to neurological and developmental disorders in children. The parties who reached agreement with EPA include the current owner of the site, companies that allegedly disposed of the batteries by sending them to a recycler, and the former battery recycler. They have begun work on the study and are expected to submit a full report to EPA this fall.

Once the study is complete, it will be made available to the public. After

that, EPA will propose a cleanup plan and present it for public comment. EPA will review and respond to all comments before selecting a final plan.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 9, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa170.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Colleen Olsberg  
(312) 353-4686

Media Contact: Karen Thompson  
(312) 353-8547

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: June 11, 1998

No. 98-OPA171

## **EPA'S "CHILDREN AT RISK" CONFERENCE JULY 8-9**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 announces a 2-day conference called "Children At Risk: Environmental Health Issues In The Great Lakes Region," July 8-9, at the Regal Knickerbocker Hotel, 163 East Walton St., Chicago.

The conference is sponsored by EPA Region 5, EPA Office of Children's Health Protection, and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. It will focus on cancer, asthma, and developmental effects from exposure to lead or pesticides.

Speakers, with a broad range of expertise, are from research institutions, universities, and health professions and government. They include:

- Dr. Leslie Robison, director of pediatric epidemiology and clinical research, University of Minnesota;
- Dr. Richard Evans, head of the allergy division at Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago;
- David Bellinger, associate professor of neurology, Harvard Children's Hospital;
- Dr. Michael Weitzman, associate chairman of pediatrics department, University of Rochester, and pediatrician-in-chief,

Rochester General Hospital; and

- Ramona Trovato, director of EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection.

Topics will include identification and evaluation of environmental health threats to children, medical interventions, and the nature and adequacy of public health programs for managing health risks to children.

Keynoting the opening session, 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 8, will be Lynn Goldman, assistant administrator, EPA's Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances, and Barry Johnson, assistant administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

The "Children At Risk" conference is geared toward environmental and public-health agency staff, physicians, nurses, researchers, community groups, industry, and other interested persons. There is no registration fee, however, attendance is limited to 350 people. To reserve your place (by June 26), contact Colleen Olsberg at 312/353-4686. Information may also be located on the U.S. EPA Region 5 calendar, <http://www.epa.gov/region5/calendar.htm>.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 16, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa171.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Karen Reshkin  
(312) 353-6353

For Immediate Release: June 11, 1998

No. 98-OPA172

## **NEW EPA SOFTWARE ON GROUND WATER AVAILABLE FREE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that its new software program the "Ground-Water Primer" is now available. The software was created in cooperation with Purdue University and replaces Purdue's popular "Ground-Water Education System" program.

EPA's new program is written for a general audience and includes information on the nature of ground-water and how to protect it, hydrogeology, drinking-water contaminants and health effects, and EPA contacts and hotline numbers.

The program can be used by anyone with a Web browser, with either Windows or Macintosh systems. Users may copy and use the program freely without having to purchase additional copies, but it may not be modified or resold for profit.

"It is a very helpful program for students researching ground water," said Karen Reshkin, EPA's Software Development Section. "Ground-Water Education System" was absolutely the most popular program, but the "Ground-Water Primer" is a more accurate and up-to-date version, she said.

To view or download the program go to <http://www.epa.gov/seahome/gwprimer.html>. The program is also available free on diskette, by sending two blank diskettes to: Karen Reshkin (P-19J), U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 15, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa172.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Tim Chapman  
(312) 886-6829

Technical Contact: John Shepler  
(312) 886-1425

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: June 11, 1998

No. 98-OPA173

## **EPA CITES LTV STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited LTV Steel Co. for alleged clean-air violations at its steel plant, 3100 East 45th St., Cleveland, OH.

EPA said LTV Steel exceeded legal limits for visible emissions of particulates (dust, smoke, ash) from a blast furnace and a basic oxygen furnace. The company also exceeded sulfur dioxide emission limits from stoves of a blast furnace. (The Cleveland area does not meet Federal health-based standards for both particulates and sulfur dioxide.)

---

EPA cited LTV Steel in March 1997 for similar violations at the same plant.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. A meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them is scheduled for June 19.

"EPA's goal is to get companies to voluntarily comply with the Clean Air Act," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "When this goal is achieved, we will no longer have to ensure compliance

by taking these enforcement actions."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung diseases. Sulfur dioxide can irritate the respiratory system and damage the heart and circulatory system. It has been linked to acid rain, which can contaminate water and damage trees and other vegetation. Children, the elderly, and those with heart and respiratory conditions are the most sensitive to both pollutants.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

([kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 16, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa173.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Contact: Megan Gavin  
(312) 353-5282

For Immediate Release: June 11, 1998

No. 98-OPA174

## **EPA TO GIVE TIPS ON CUTTING COSTS AND WASTES, VIA SATELLITE, JUNE 17**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will sponsor a national interactive satellite forum to suggest to businesses how to cut costs by preventing waste, 10 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, June 17.

The forum, called "Waste Prevention Pays," will be broadcast by satellite to sites across the country. In Chicago, a TV viewing will take place at these locations:

- EPA Region 5 offices, George Hurt, 312-886-6822
- University of Illinois School of Public Health, Peter Scheff, 312-996-0800; and
- Wright College, Victoria Cooper, 773-481-8979

Reservations are required.

For other sites across the country, check out <http://www.epa.gov/wastewise> and click on Satellite Forum.

The program features three business executives who will share successful cost-saving, waste prevention measures implemented at their companies. It includes Jim Bosch of Target Stores; Nancy Hirshberg of Stonyfield Farm, Inc; and Jim McCarthy of CITGO Petroleum Corp. In addition, Ken Brown, a nationally recognized waste analyst, will share lessons he has learned from helping hundreds of businesses to start creative, cost-saving

waste reduction strategies.

For additional information on waste prevention and other downlink sites,  
call: 1-800-EPAWISE.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epamail.epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 15, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa174.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Timothy Chapman  
(312) 886-6829

Technical Contact: Michael Valentino  
(312) 886-4582

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: June 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA175

## **EPA REACHES \$70,100 SETTLEMENT WITH ENVIROSAFE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative complaint against Envirosafe Services of Ohio, Inc., concerning past violations at the Envirosafe Landfill, Oregon, OH. The company will pay a \$70,100 fine.

EPA alleges that Envirosafe violated its Federal hazardous waste permit, by tracking a hazardous waste outside the containment building, failing to notify EPA of this violation in a timely manner, and exceeding the storage level of a hazardous waste within the building. The alleged violations also include failing to notify EPA of a landfill-cell liner system failure. EPA has no evidence that the failure has ever posed a threat to human health or the environment.

Since 1991, the 134-acre facility has operated as a commercial hazardous waste landfill, with EPA and Ohio EPA permits issued under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The act regulates the management and disposal of municipal and industrial solid wastes, from the time of production to their final disposal.

The company has certified to EPA that it is now in compliance with its Federal landfill permit.

In an unrelated matter, a public comment period ended June 1 on EPA's plan to make several changes in the company's Federal permit because of new information from recent investigations of the landfill. EPA plans to issue a final decision and response to the comments received within the next month.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 16, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa175.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Michael Berman  
(312) 886-6837

Technical Contact: Loren Denton  
(312) 886-6814

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: June 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA176

## **EPA CITES BUCKO FOR CLEAN AIR ACT VIOLATION; INCLUDES \$43,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Bucko Construction Co. for an alleged clean-air violation at the company's hot-mix asphalt plant, 890 Chase St., Gary, IN. A \$43,000 penalty is proposed.

EPA said Bucko failed to respond in time to an information request about a stack test, which would determine the company's compliance with its particulate emission (dust) limit.

Bucko has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

"EPA's goal is to protect public health and the environment, and we will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 16, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa176.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: John Fagiolo  
(312) 886-0800

Media Contact: Eileen Deamer  
(312) 886-1728

For Immediate Release: June 17, 1998

No. 98-OPA177

## **EPA TO HOLD MEETING ON NEW CLEANUP PLAN FOR BOFORS SITE JUNE 24**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a public meeting on June 24 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Egleston Township Hall, (5382 East Apple Ave., Muskegon, MI) to discuss proposed changes to the cleanup plan for the Bofors Nobel Superfund site in Muskegon County.

A 30-day public comment period on the changes ends July 16. EPA will accept comments at the meeting.

The current cleanup plan was agreed to in 1992. EPA and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality are considering changes to that plan because of new information about cleanup technologies and the willingness of the potentially responsible parties to make a long-term commitment to ensure the effectiveness of the revised plan.

Proposed changes include installing a barrier wall to contain soil contamination; installing a cover to eliminate exposure to contaminated soils and sludge; planting trees and other vegetation to hold soil in place and enhance the natural breakdown of contaminants; preventing uncontrolled discharges of contaminated ground water into Big Black Creek; treating and discharging of collected and extracted ground water; monitoring ground water to assess the effectiveness of the barrier wall and collection and extraction system; establishing controls, such as deed restrictions, to preclude the construction and use of wells in areas where

contamination remains; establishing long-term operation and maintenance of the cleanup methods; and establishing actions to be taken if any elements of the cleanup plan fail to meet and maintain performance standards.

The cost of the entire proposed cleanup -- including long-term operation and maintenance -- is estimated between \$13 and \$25 million. The previous plan's estimated cost was between \$40 and \$60 million for construction and design work, potentially \$85 million for the entire cleanup.

EPA is confident the new plan will provide a level of protection to human health and the environment equivalent to the previous plan. In addition, the new plan may also promote natural breakdown of contaminants that might not occur with the current remedy.

The site is on 85 acres about 6 miles east of downtown Muskegon. It includes a chemical production facility and 10 sludge lagoons that were used to store wastewater and sludge from the production of alcohol-based detergents, saccharin, pesticides, herbicides, and chemicals used in dyes. Among the contaminants in the lagoons are iron sludge, iron scale, dichlorobenzidine, zinc oxide, organic wastes, detergent wastes, and calcium sulfate sludge.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 19, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa177.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Thelma Codina  
(312) 886-6219

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: June 18, 1998

No. 98-OPA178

## **EPA ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW INFORMATION ON TOXIC RELEASES FOR MIDWEST**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced the latest toxic release inventory (TRI) data for calendar year 1996.

Five states in the Midwest--Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Ohio--had lower total toxic releases in 1996 than in 1995. Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois ranked in the top 10 for total toxic releases. In addition, Wayne County, MI, ranked in the top 10 counties for largest total emissions.

Nationally, reported industrial releases of toxic chemicals in U.S. communities decreased from 2.5 billion lb in 1995 to 2.4 billion lb during 1996 - a decline of 4 percent, or 100 million lb. Since industry first began reporting in 1988, releases have decreased by almost 46 percent.

TRI is a public database that provides information on more than 650 toxic chemicals that are released and transferred from manufacturing facilities into the air, water, and land or injected into underground disposal wells. The inventory also tracks how wastes are recycled, used in energy recovery, treated, and disposed. Congress established TRI under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986. Facilities report their TRI information annually to EPA and their States.

Here is a summary of TRI data for the six states in EPA Region 5:

### **Illinois**

In 1996, Illinois ranked sixth nationally with releases totaling 107,663,656 lb compared with 116,268,362 lb reported in 1995. There has been a reduction of 43 percent in releases in the State since 1988. Illinois' top emitter was Northwestern Steel and Wire Co., Sterling.

### **Indiana**

In 1996, Indiana ranked fifth nationally with releases totaling 108,988,034 lb compared with 109,379,172 lb reported in 1995. There has been a reduction of 50 percent in releases in the State since 1988. Indiana's top emitter was Nucor Steel, Crawfordsville.

### **Michigan**

In 1996, Michigan ranked ninth nationally with releases totaling 90,158,602 lb compared with 97,347,294 lb reported in 1995. There has been a reduction of nearly 41 percent in releases in the State since 1988. Michigan's top emitter was National Steel Corp., Ecorse.

### **Minnesota**

In 1996, Minnesota ranked 31st nationally with releases totaling 20,970,579 lb compared with 24,266,126 lb reported in 1995. There has been a reduction of more than 71 percent in releases in the State since 1988. Minnesota's top emitter in the State was 3M, Hutchinson.

### **Ohio**

In 1996, Ohio ranked third nationally with releases totaling 145,139,835 lb compared with 151,612,974 lb reported in 1995. There has been a reduction of 43 percent in releases in the State since 1988. Ohio's top emitter was Elkem Metals Co., Marietta.

### **Wisconsin**

In 1996, Wisconsin ranked 22nd nationally with releases totaling 47,023,091 lb compared with 42,573,080 lb reported in 1995. There has been a reduction of 48 percent in releases in the State since 1988. Wisconsin's top emitter was Regal Ware Inc., Kewaskum.

The total quantity of toxic releases reported by States does not necessarily mean that risks from toxic chemicals are higher in these States. Release totals, for example, do not take into account the size or the population of a State. The risk from toxic releases depend on a variety of factors, including the type of release, the toxicity of the chemical, and the proximity of populations.

Information on TRI is available in public libraries or online at [www.epa.gov/opptintr/tri](http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/tri), or by calling the TRI hotline at 1-800-424-9346.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 19, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa178.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Karl Karg  
(312) 886-7948

Technical Contact: Shaun Burke  
(312) 353-5713

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: June 18, 1998

No. 98-OPA179

## **EPA CITES JLM CHEMICALS FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$93,500 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against JLM Chemicals, Inc., for alleged violations of Federal organic hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's plant, 3350 West 131st St., Blue Island, IL. EPA has proposed a \$93,500 penalty.

(JLM makes two organic chemical products, cumene and phenol, at two process units in the plant.)

EPA notified JLM of the violations last December. In June 1997, EPA inspectors found that JLM did not properly install all the required control systems and did not notify EPA of its compliance status. (Vents from synthetic organic chemical process units became subject to the EPA regulations in April 1997.)

JLM has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to



protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Cumene, at room temperature, is a colorless liquid that has a sharp, penetrating odor. Short-term effects include dizziness, skin and eye irritation, and skin rash. Noncarcinogenic long-term effects include drying and cracking of skin and damage to lungs, liver, or kidneys. It has not yet been tested for its ability to cause cancer in animals.

Phenol is a flammable, colorless or white solid, which is mainly sold and used as a liquid for making plastics, disinfectants, and medical products. It has an irritating, sickeningly sweet, strong odor. Repeated exposure to low levels of phenol in drinking water has been linked to diarrhea and mouth sores in humans. Ingesting very large amounts has resulted in death.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 19, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa179.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



EPA Media Contact: Ginny Narsete  
(312) 886-4359

Leo Rosales  
(312) 353-6198

OEPA Media Contact: Lynne Barst  
(614) 728-0035

For Immediate Release: June 19, 1998

No. 98-OPA180

## **CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK AT VALLEYCREST LANDFILL**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) said today that construction of a landfill gas abatement system will begin next week--possibly as soon as late Monday, June 22-- at the Valleycrest Landfill site, Dayton, OH, between Brandt Pike and Valley Street. (The site is also known as the North Dayton Sanitary Landfill.)

Area residents can expect to see construction vehicles and workers in protective clothing over the next few weeks. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires protective clothing when handling landfill debris. As a general precaution, residents are advised to keep children away from the site during construction.

The project also may temporarily give off unpleasant odors from the site. EPA and OEPA stress that the odors are not hazardous and should cease once the work is complete. Air monitoring will be conducted during digging work to ensure safety.

Once fully-installed, the abatement system will stop migration of landfill gas beyond the property. The system will consist of a series of about 40

vertical gas vents. The vents, which are about 20 feet deep, will be connected with above-ground horizontal piping for efficient control of the landfill gas.

A public meeting to update residents on the construction project, air monitoring, and removal of drums from the site will be held July 9, 7 p.m., at the Polish Club, 1472 Valley Street.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 1, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa180.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Terry Roundtree  
(312) 353-3236

Media Contacts: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

Bob Paulson  
(312) 886-0272

For Immediate Release: June 23, 1998

No. 98-OPA181

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA TOUR OF UNION CARBIDE SITE, TUES., JUNE 30, NOON TO 1:30 P.M.**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), and Union Carbide Corporation will hold a media briefing and tour of the Union Carbide Superfund site, Marietta, OH, Tuesday, June 30, from Noon to 1:30 p.m.

The event begins promptly at Noon, at the Amoco Employee Park located next to the Amoco site. The park entrance is about 4 miles west of Marietta on Route 7 North. Following a short required health and safety presentation, van transportation will be provided to the restricted access Union Carbide site. The entire event will take about 90 minutes, including the health and safety presentation, site tour, and van rides from the Amoco lot and back.

The tour will include stops and/or photo opportunities at the completed (and now grass covered) North Landfill, a creek that runs through the property, and the Marietta Site A and Site B landfills.

Following the tour, Union Carbide will receive a commendation plaque for its cleanup efforts from regional Superfund Director William Munro. Representatives from EPA, OEPA, and Union Carbide will be available to

discuss the project and the work to be done over the next few year. Local officials and environmental group representatives have also been invited.

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUESTED BY NO LATER THAN 1 P.M., FRIDAY, JUNE 26.** To reserve space, call Tomm Sprick, Union Carbide Public Affairs: 203-794-6992. Visitors to the site should wear comfortable shoes and be prepared for a short hike.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 25, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa181.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Kevin Adler  
(312) 886-7078

Media Contact: Janet Pope  
(312) 353-0628

For Immediate Release: June 22, 1998

No. 98-OPA182

## **EPA MEETING ON CLEANUP PLAN FOR DIXIE AUTO SALVAGE JULY 1; COMMENT PERIOD UNDER WAY**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a public meeting to discuss its proposed cleanup plan for the Dixie Auto Salvage site, Danville, IL. The meeting will be held Wednesday, July 1, from 7 to 9 p.m., Danville Public Library, 319 North Vermilion St. A 30-day public comment period on the plan ends July 15.

The 15-acre site, 24455 Illinois State Route 1 (about 3 miles north of Danville), is in a partially wooded residential area near the North Fork of the Vermilion River. During the 1960's and 1970's, a now-closed auto salvage business disposed of and burned lead- and PCB-containing auto parts and other debris at the site.

The cleanup plan includes excavation, consolidation, and on-site containment of the contaminated soils beneath an EPA-approved landfill cap. The plan also includes deed restrictions on future use of a portion of the site and monitoring of both the cap and ground-water quality, to ensure human health and the environment are protected. Illinois EPA has indicated that it would not object to the implementation of the plan.

A copy of the cleanup plan and other site documents are available for review at the Danville Public Library. Community members with questions or comments on the plan may contact Janet Pope, Community Involvement Coordinator, (P19-J) U.S. EPA, 77 West Jackson Blvd,

Chicago, IL 60604, 800-621-8431, fax 312-353-1155, e-mail:  
pope.janet@epamail.epa.gov.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 29, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa182.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: June 22, 1998

No. 98-OPA183

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA, AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSN. TO SIGN WASTE-CUTTING AGREEMENT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said today it will sign with American Hospital Association (AHA) a memorandum of understanding that commits both parties to work together to significantly cut mercury and other hospital wastes by 2005.

A signing ceremony, press conference, and software demonstration will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 24, at the AHA Office, 27th Floor (Room 104-105), 1 North Franklin St., Chicago.

Signing for EPA will be William H. Sanders III, director of EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, and David A. Ullrich, acting administrator of EPA Region 5. Chief Operating Officer Jack Lord will sign for AHA.

In addition to the three signatories, representatives of two hospitals that have implemented waste reduction programs will make presentations at the press conference.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 29, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa183.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Contact: Don Kathan  
(312) 886-0448

For Immediate Release: June 24, 1998

No. 98-OPA184

## **EPA SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AT COMMUNITY LEVEL**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking comments from the public on a draft document that will guide EPA's community-based environmental protection (CBEP) efforts over the next 3 years. Comments will be accepted through July 15.

CBEP is based on teamwork for dealing with environmental issues. It brings together public and private interests in a specific place, or community to identify environmental and public-health concerns, set priorities, and come up with lasting solutions. CBEP considers environmental protection along with human social needs, works toward a healthy ecosystem, and promotes links between economic prosperity and environmental well-being.

---

The 40-page document, called "EPA's Framework for Community-Based Environmental Protection," identifies goals, principles, and strategies for the EPA.

For a copy of the document, call Don Kathan at 312-886-0448, or visit EPA's web site at [www.epa.gov/region5/cbep](http://www.epa.gov/region5/cbep).

All written comments must be received by July 15 and sent to:

Don Kathan (B-19J)  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604

E-mail: [kathan.donald@epa.gov](mailto:kathan.donald@epa.gov)

Fax: (312) 353-5374

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 29, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa184.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: John Colletti  
(312) 886-6106

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: June 23, 1998

No. 98-OPA185

## **EPA CITES BISPING FOR LAND APPLICATION OF DOMESTIC WASTES**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Bisping Construction, Inc. (New Lenox, IL), for improperly applying domestic wastes from septic tanks to 40 acres of land in Manhattan Township, IL. EPA has ordered the company to stop applying the wastes until it has met Federal requirements for land application, such as reducing disease-causing organisms and controlling odor.

---

EPA has also ordered the company to provide information on:

- number of acres to which wastes were applied;
- date, time, and rate at which it was applied;
- nitrogen requirements of the crop or vegetation grown on the site and the annual expected crop yield;
- how it reduced disease-causing organisms and controlled odors that attract pests such as flies, mosquitos, and rodents; and
- pH of the wastes after adding lime.

"EPA encourages the reuse of sewage sludge and domestic wastes as fertilizer, but we must know that standards are being met to protect public health and the environment," said Jo Lynn Traub, regional Water Division director.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 29, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa185.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Timothy J. Chapman  
(312) 886-6829

Technical Contact: Christine Urban  
(312) 886-3493

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: June 24, 1998

No. 98-OPA186

## **EPA, AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSN. SIGN WASTE-CUTTING AGREEMENT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today signed with the American Hospital Association (AHA) a memorandum of understanding that commits both parties to work together to significantly cut hospital wastes by 2005.

The agreement envisions the virtual elimination of mercury-containing wastes and a one-third reduction in total hospital wastes within this 7-year period.

The accord was signed by EPA and AHA officials at a press conference in Chicago. Signing for EPA were Dr. William H. Sanders III, director of EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, and David A. Ullrich, acting administrator of EPA Region 5. Chief Operating Officer Dr. Jonathan T. Lord signed for the AHA.

"This memorandum of understanding is a milestone that will lead to greater efforts for pollution prevention in the health care field and serve as a building block for further cooperation between EPA and AHA," said Sanders.

Ullrich said: "In Region 5, we have four of the five Great Lakes, two of the Nation's largest rivers, the Ohio and the Mississippi, and many inland lakes. Cutting mercury waste is an important part of protecting the food chain in these waters from further contamination."

EPA and AHA intend to cosponsor a series of national waste management seminars for hospitals. To help successfully complete the seminars and virtually eliminate mercury-containing wastes, EPA will distribute as many as 300 copies of a software program called "Mercury in Medical Facilities," developed with EPA assistance by Purdue University.

Other items in the agreement include: obtaining and reviewing industry information on pollution prevention efforts; developing model plans for cutting down on chemical wastes; and investigating pollution prevention opportunities for ethylene oxide and persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic pollutants.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 29, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa186.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Robert Thompson  
(312) 353-6700

Technical Contact: Ivone Vicente  
(312) 886-4449

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: June 25, 1998

No. 98-OPA187

## **EPA REACHES \$53,900 SETTLEMENT WITH RHODIA**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative complaint against Rhodia (formerly Rhone Poulenc Basic Chemicals Co.) for violating Federal hazardous waste laws at its Hammond, IN, facility. Rhodia will pay a \$53,900 fine.

---

In February 1997, State and EPA inspectors investigated an alleged spill of a hazardous substance called amine at the facility. The inspection revealed: the tank holding the hazardous substance did not have the proper controls to prevent spills and overflows, as required by law; incompatible wastes were placed in the tank; and the company failed to properly train its employees on how to respond to emergencies at the facility.

Rhodia is a commercial hazardous waste management facility, which collects, treats, stores, and disposes of hazardous industrial wastes.

The company has certified to EPA that it is now in compliance with Federal hazardous waste laws.

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, EPA regulates the management and disposal of municipal and industrial solid wastes, from the time of production to their final disposal.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 29, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa187.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Larry Johnson  
(312) 886-6609

Technical Contact: Newton Ellens  
(312) 353-5562

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: June 25, 1998

No. 98-OPA188

## **EPA CITES RAYCO FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Rayco Plating, Inc., for alleged violations of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's electroplating plant, 10023 West Fort St., Detroit, MI.

EPA said Rayco violated various recordkeeping, monitoring, reporting, and testing requirements of Federal regulations for chromium emissions.

---

(The Federal regulations went into effect for hard-chrome plating tanks and anodizing tanks January 25, 1997.)

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 10 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist, released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa188.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Larry Johnson  
(312) 886-6609

Technical Contact: Newton Ellens  
(312) 353-5562

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: June 25, 1998

No. 98-OPA189

## **EPA CITES RAYCO FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Rayco Plating, Inc., for alleged violations of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's electroplating plant, 10023 West Fort St., Detroit, MI.

EPA said Rayco violated various recordkeeping, monitoring, reporting, and testing requirements of Federal regulations for chromium emissions.

---

(The Federal regulations went into effect for hard-chrome plating tanks and anodizing tanks January 25, 1997.)

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 10 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist, released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: June 29, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa189.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: June 29, 1998

No. 98-OPA190

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: TUESDAY, JUNE 10, MEDIA  
TOUR OF UNION CARBIDE SITE CANCELED DUE TO SEVERE  
WEATHER**

---

Due to severe weather and flooding in the Marietta, OH - Parkersburg, WVA area, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Union Carbide Corporation have **canceled** the media tour of the Union Carbide Superfund site scheduled for Noon, Tuesday, June 30.

The date will be rescheduled soon, most likely sometime in July.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa190.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Hedi Bogda-Cleveland  
(312) 886-5825

Technical Contact: Ruth McNamara  
(312) 353-3193

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: June 30, 1998

No. 98-OPA192

## **EPA CITES OLIN FOR CHEMICAL RELEASE REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$323,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Olin Corp. (Brandenburg, KY) for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. EPA has proposed a \$323,000 fine.

On January 15, 1997, Olin's chemical production facility reported a 3,000 lb release of propylene oxide to a water-filled ditch that leads to the Ohio River. The chemical was released when a cooling water line froze and broke. At the time, Olin notified the National Response Center and local Kentucky authorities of a 3,000 lb release. (All releases of the chemical over 100 lb must be reported.) Shortly after the release, Olin learned from an internal review that the actual release volume was 16,000 lb--considerably more than originally reported.

As a result of the release, a large volume of contaminated water flowed into the Evansville, IN, water treatment facility, some 140 miles down river. As a result, a water supply that supports a community of 150,000 was affected, and a local pharmaceutical plant was forced to close for a few days.

EPA's complaint alleges that Olin failed to immediately notify the Indiana State Emergency Response Commission and Vanderburg County Emergency Planning Committee of a potentially hazardous release.

Propylene oxide can cause irritation to the eyes, skin, and respiratory system, and is a potential carcinogen. It is a hazardous substance under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 165 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 154 settlements with \$4.02 million in total fines and \$1.52 million in environmental projects.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 1, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa192.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Joanna S. Glowacki  
(312) 353-3757

Technical Contact: James Entzminger  
(312) 886-4062

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: July 1, 1998

No. 98-OPA193

## **EPA CITES ROYAL CROWN BOTTLING CO. FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$78,692 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Royal Crown Bottling Co. (Chicago, IL), for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals. EPA has proposed a \$78,692 fine.

During a routine compliance inspection in July 1996 at Royal Crown's bottling plant at 2801 West 47th St., the company informed EPA that it had failed to provide the Illinois Emergency Response Commission and the Chicago Local Emergency Planning Committee with the required 1987 through 1995 forms for reporting hazardous chemicals, including anhydrous ammonia.

Anhydrous ammonia, which is used in the company's refrigeration systems, is an extremely hazardous substance. Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, owners and operators of facilities must submit forms for certain hazardous chemicals every year by March 1.

EPA calculated that Royal Crown had 4,000 lb of anhydrous ammonia, 900 lb of chlorine, and 624 lb of sulfuric acid. Under the regulations,



amounts over 500 lb must be reported.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 169 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 158 settlements, \$4.07 million in total fines, and \$1.58 million in environmental projects.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 2, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa193.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Jay Bortzer  
(312) 886-1430

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: July 1, 1998

No. 98-OPA194

## **EPA HONORS ILLINOIS EPA OFFICIAL FOR AIR POLLUTION CONTROL WORK**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today its 1998 "special achievement award" for leadership in administering the requirements of the Clean Air Act has gone to Bharat Mathur, chief of the Illinois EPA Bureau of Air.

David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division, presented the award to Mr. Mathur on June 23 at ceremonies in Springfield. EPA presents the award annually to an outstanding State or local air pollution control official in the region.

"Mr. Mathur has been vital to the development of Illinois' enhanced vehicle inspection and maintenance program that will test more than 2 million vehicles per year and help the Chicago and St. Louis areas meet the clean air standards," Kee said.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 1, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa194.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: July 1, 1998

No. 98-OPA195

## **EPA: HOW SAFE IS THE WATER AT YOUR BEACH?**

At least a million people will visit one of the 581 beaches around the Great Lakes this holiday weekend. Most water is safe for swimming, but beach pollution is still a problem, with thousands of beaches being closed nationwide each year. Before going to the beach this summer, visit U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) new Website "Beach Watch" at <http://www.epa.gov/ost/beaches> for up-to-date information about water quality at more than 1,000 beaches.

By clicking on a U.S. map, you will find information about beaches in Chicago, Milwaukee, Southwest Michigan, Sandusky, OH, and many other places on the Great Lakes. Local health officials have provided information on whether and how often water is monitored, recent beach closings, potential pollution sources, and the number of people who use the beach during peak periods each season.

"Thanks to the Clean Water Act, the Great Lakes and other waters are much safer for swimming than they were 25 years ago," said Jo Lynn Traub, regional Water Division director. "Pollution controls and improvements in sewage treatment have resulted in cleaner water, but since many beaches are still threatened by contamination, the public should be vigilant."

### **Why are beaches closed?**

Most beaches in the United States are closed because of the presence of high levels of harmful microorganisms that come from sewage overflows and polluted storm-water runoff from cities and farms. In some areas,

boating wastes and malfunctioning septic systems are local sources of pollution. Pollution in beach water is much higher during and immediately after heavy rains.

### **Illnesses caused by polluted water**

Swimming in polluted water may expose swimmers to bacteria, viruses, and protozoans, resulting in minor illnesses such as diarrhea, sore throat, or skin and eye infections. Children, the elderly, and people with weakened immune systems are most likely to develop illnesses or infections after swimming in polluted water.

You are less likely to be exposed to polluted water at beaches that are monitored regularly and posted for closures or swimming advisories. Avoid swimming at beaches with visible discharge pipes or at urban beaches after a heavy rainfall. Most swimmers are exposed to waterborne diseases by swallowing the water, so keep your mouth shut! Wade, or swim without submerging your head.

### **Questions to ask about your beach**

Contact local health departments for information on specific beaches. Some questions you might ask are: Which beaches are monitored and how often? What do you test for? Where can I see the results, and who can explain them to me? What are the main sources of pollution at this beach?

### **What can you do to reduce beach-water pollution?**

Pollution prevention, such as improving sewage treatment plants, is the most effective way to reduce beach-water pollution. But individuals can also help by conserving water, keeping septic systems properly maintained, disposing of boat sewage in onshore sanitary facilities, and properly disposing of animal wastes from pets.

For more information on beach-water pollution or the Great Lakes, call EPA at 800-621-8431.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 1, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa195.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Alan Walts  
(312) 353-8894

Technical Contact: Maynard Shaw  
(312) 353-5867

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: July 6, 1998

No. 98-OPA196

## **EPA CITES AUTOALLIANCE FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$33,100 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed a civil complaint against AutoAlliance International, Inc. (Flat Rock, MI), for violation of Federal rules on the reporting of toxic chemicals. EPA is seeking a \$33,100 penalty.

---

AutoAlliance was cited for failing to maintain and have available for inspection the required data on 19 chemicals used at its facility in 1992. The chemicals--classified as toxic under the law--include benzene, ethylbenzene, lead, methanol, toluene, and xylene.

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act requires certain manufacturers to provide data on specific toxic chemicals being manufactured or used at their facilities. EPA uses this and other information to update its national toxic-chemicals release inventory, which is available to the public through various ways, including through a national computerized database. Companies make their reports annually to EPA and their State.

The company has 20 days to request a hearing, but may at any time request an informal meeting with EPA to discuss the allegations and to

arrive at a settlement.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 6, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa196.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Louis Sass  
(312) 886-2871

Technical Contact: Maynard Shaw  
(312) 353-5867

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: July 6, 1998

No. 98-OPA197

## **UNDERGROUND TANK OWNERS HAVE 6 MONTHS TO COMPLY WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 reminds owners and operators of underground storage tanks that they now have less than 6 months to meet Federal requirements.

Under EPA regulations that took effect December 22, 1988, tanks installed on or before that date and not protected against corrosion, spills, and overfill must be upgraded, replaced, or properly closed by December 22, 1998. Other regulatory requirements--including those for leak detection, financial responsibility, and reporting and cleanup of leaks--will remain in effect.

Most of the regulated underground storage tanks are used to store gasoline, diesel fuel, or other petroleum products at service stations and vehicle fleet refueling facilities. The tanks used to store hazardous chemicals--usually at industrial facilities--also come under EPA regulations.

"EPA set the deadline 10 years ago to give tank owners plenty of time to comply with environmental regulations," said Andrew Tschampa, regional director of the Underground Storage Tank Office. "Given the threat that

substandard tanks pose to human health and the environment, EPA and the States will identify violations, ensure that they are corrected, and impose appropriate penalties."

Owners and operators who do not meet the new requirements by the deadline may have to pay \$11,000 per day of violation.

Nationwide, there are more than 1 million underground tanks that store various substances, including petroleum fuel products and chemicals. EPA Region 5 has more than 167,000 such tanks. EPA regulates these tanks under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Leaking underground storage tanks have been found to be the primary cause of ground-water contamination.

For more information on the 1998 deadline, call EPA's Hotline toll-free at 800-424-9346, or visit EPA's home page at: <http://www.epa.gov/OUST>. For State-specific information call:

City of Chicago Dept. of Environment, 312-744-7606  
Office of the Illinois Fire Marshal, 217-785-5878  
Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management, 317-308-3064  
Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality, 517-373-8168  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 612-297-8679  
Ohio Dept. of Commerce, 614-752-7938  
Wisconsin Dept. of Commerce, 608-266-0956

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))  
Last Updated: July 9, 1998  
URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa197.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Colleen Olsberg  
(312) 353-4686

Media Contact: Karen Thompson  
(312) 353-8547

Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: July 7, 1998

No. 98-OPA191

## **EPA'S "CHILDREN AT RISK" CONFERENCE JULY 8-9**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 announces a 2-day conference called "Children At Risk: Environmental Health Issues In The Great Lakes Region," July 8-9, at The Regal Knickerbocker Hotel, 163 East Walton St., Chicago.

The conference is sponsored by EPA Region 5, EPA Office of Children's Health Protection, and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. It will focus on cancer, asthma, and developmental effects from exposure to lead or pesticides.

Speakers, with a broad range of expertise, are from research institutions, universities, and health professions, and government. They include:

- Dr. Leslie Rovison, director of pediatric epidemiology and clinical research, University of Minnesota;
- Dr. Richard Evans, head of the allergy division at Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago;
- David Bellinger, associate professor of neurology, Harvard Children's Hospital;
- Dr. Michael Weitzman, associate chairman of pediatrics department, University of Rochester, and pediatrician-in-chief,

Rochester General Hospital; and

- Ramona Trovato, director of EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection.

Topics will include identification and evaluation of environmental health threats to children, , medical interventions, and the nature and adequacy of public health programs for managing health risks to children.

Keynoting the opening session, 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 8, will be Lynn Goldman, assistant administrator, EPA's Office of EPA's Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances, and Barry Johnson, assistant administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

The "Children At Risk" conference is geared toward environmental and public-health agency staff, physicians, nurses, researchers, community groups, industry, and other interested persons. Information may also be located on the U.S. EPA Region 5 calendar, <http://www.epa.gov/region5/calendar.htm>.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa191.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Paul Ruesch  
(312) 886-7598

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: July 7, 1998

No. 98-OPA198

## **EPA: ILLEGAL DUMPING PREVENTION GUIDEBOOK NOW AVAILABLE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, in partnership with local governments nationwide, has developed a guidebook for communities to prevent illegal dumping--part of EPA's continuing efforts to combat this widespread problem.

The illegal dumping of household and commercial wastes--called "fly dumping"--is a major solid-waste problem in many areas, costing U.S. cities and counties millions of dollars each year in cleanup, removal, and disposal. In addition, it contributes to the decline of many neighborhoods.

The 30-page booklet, called "Illegal Dumping Prevention Guidebook," contains general information about illegal dumping, a "toolkit" of best practices that have proven effective, including examples of successful programs, guidance for developing a prevention program, and local representatives to contact for more information.

The guidebook is intended for use by State, tribal, and local government officials, community groups, industry, and utility.

To receive your free copy, call EPA at 312-886-2395, or visit EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/guidebook/>.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa198.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Tim Fischer  
(312) 886-5787

Media Contact: Leo Rosales  
(312) 353-6198

For Immediate Release: July 9, 1998

No. 98-OPA199

## **EPA PICKS CLEANUP PLAN FOR SUMMIT EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently selected a plan to clean up contaminated soils at the Summit Equipment and Supply site, Akron, OH.

The fenced 6-acre Summit Equipment site is about one-half mile south of the I-77 and I-277 interchange, at 875 Ivor Ave. From the 1950's through 1986, the site was a metal salvage and scrap processing facility. Previously removed from the site, between 1991 and 1993, were 160 drums, 2,000 tons of contaminated scrap material, and several tons of PCB electrical equipment

The site is privately owned property, but currently managed by the Department of Defense--which is paying for the cleanup. The work, to be done by a contractor, will be overseen by EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The plan includes:

- Excavation and off-site disposal of all soil contaminated with PCB's, copper, or mercury above EPA's prescribed limits;
- "Natural attenuation," or conversion, of hexavalent chromium to its less hazardous and mobile form, trivalent chromium;
- Long-term monitoring for volatile organic compounds and

chromium in ground water beneath and downgradient of the site;  
and

- Institutional controls, including prohibitions against on-site drilling of wells or any other access to site ground water.

It will take about 3 months to complete the plan. Preliminary engineering planning is already under way. Work is expected to begin this summer. EPA held a public meeting to discuss the then-proposed cleanup last November 13, along with a public comment period.

Residents with questions about the cleanup plan may call Leo Rosales, community involvement coordinator, 800-621-8431. Site documents are available for review at Summit County Public Library, 55 South Main St., Akron.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 9, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa199.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Alan Walts  
(312) 353-8894

Technical Contact: Rosita Clarke-Moreno  
(312) 886-7251

Media Contact: Cheryl Allen  
(312) 353-6196

MDEQ Contact: Deborah Larsen  
(517) 373-4825

For Immediate Release: July 8, 1998

No. 98-OPA200

## **EPA PICKS CLEANUP PLAN FOR NORTH BRONSON SUPERFUND SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) have recently chosen a plan to clean up a portion of the North Bronson Industrial Area Superfund site, Bronson, Branch County, MI.

The plan, outlined in a document called a Record of Decision, deals with two sets of sludge lagoons in the northeast and northwest sections of the site (known as the eastern and western lagoons), ground-water contamination from the lagoons, and County Drain #30--which runs along the north border of the 200-acre site.

A separate, supplementary cleanup plan will be developed by 1999 to take care of secondary (non-lagoon) sources of ground-water contamination within the rest of the site. The secondary sources are related to releases from an industrial sewer that was used to convey waste to the sludge lagoons.

EPA's cleanup plan for the lagoons, groundwater, and County Drain #30 includes: excavation of sludge and contaminated soil in or near the eastern lagoons; dredging of contaminated sediment from County Drain #30; and consolidation of the materials from the eastern lagoons and County Drain #30 in the western lagoons--which will then be covered with an EPA-approved soil cap.

In addition, contaminated ground water from both lagoon areas will be filtered through a constructed wetland for cleansing. The plan also includes ongoing surface- and ground-water monitoring, as well as enforceable restrictions on future land and ground-water use at the site (other than industrial uses).

Next, EPA and the parties will negotiate an agreement under which the responsible parties will design and construct the cleanup plan. Such an agreement is anticipated by late 1998.

Metal plating wastes from local companies were discharged to the western lagoons from 1939 to 1949--when they became overloaded and leaks were first reported. The eastern lagoons were constructed in 1949. The western lagoons continued to be used until 1980, and the eastern lagoons until 1981. The site is bordered to the east by Lincoln St., to the south by Filmore and Union Sts., to the West by Burr Oak St., and County Drain #30 to the North.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 9, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa200.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Steve Renninger  
(513) 569-7539

Media Contact: Stuart Hill  
(312) 886-0689

For Immediate Release: July 8, 1998

No. 98-OPA201

## **EPA: ADDITIONAL CLEANUP TO BEGIN SOON AT CITY BUMPER SITE; MEETING JULY 15**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold an informal meeting to discuss additional plans for cleanup of hazardous waste--including mercury--from the City Bumper site, Cincinnati, OH.

The meeting will be held Wednesday, July 15, 7 to 9 p.m., St. Michael's School Cafeteria, 2110 St. Michael's Ave. Representatives from EPA, as well as the Cincinnati Office of Environmental Management and the Cincinnati Health Department, will be available to answer questions about the cleanup.

The property, a former electroplating plant at 636 Burns St., was the site of an EPA hazardous waste removal from fall 1992 to summer 1995. At that time, numerous containers of cyanide, chromium, and other caustics were disposed of, underground storage tanks were removed, buildings on the property were decontaminated, and fire hazards were removed. Ground-water and soil contamination at the site were also taken care of.

Wednesday's meeting will cover additional plans to remove hazardous wastes from two towers remaining at the site. The Cincinnati Office of Environmental Management discovered the additional waste material in 1997. EPA is reviewing the plan for tower demolition and off-site disposal of the waste.

The cleanup will be paid for by a group of companies responsible for the hazardous wastes at the site. A Cincinnati-based EPA Superfund emergency response team will oversee the work.

Sampling, perimeter air monitoring, and demolition of the towers will begin in the next few weeks. A security fence was installed at the site in June. Residents can expect to see construction vehicles and workers in protective clothing at the site.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 9, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa201.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: James Cha  
(312) 886-0813

Technical Contact: Robert Cvengros  
(312) 886-2785

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: July 8, 1998

No. 98-OPA202

## **EPA SUES MICHIGAN PEAT FOR POLLUTING STREAM & HARMING RARE BOG**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice recently filed suit against the Bay-Houston Towing Co. (Houston, TX), including its Michigan Peat division, for illegally discharging pollutants into the Minden Bog and Black River Drain in Sanilac County, MI. The company mines horticultural peat from 850 acres of the forested bog.

The lawsuit was filed on EPA's behalf by Justice on June 29 in Federal Court in Detroit. It alleges that almost every day since October 1972, Michigan Peat has discharged wastewater without a permit into the Black River Drain -- a tributary to the Black River, which in turn flows into Lake Huron. The polluted wastewater -- containing aluminum, arsenic, barium, calcium, iron, magnesium, manganese, mercury, phosphorus, sulfide and total suspended solids -- was discharged through a complex of ditches.

In addition, the suit alleges that for more than 5 years, the company used earth-moving equipment to discharge soil, mud, clay, peat moss, gravel, woody vegetation, and tree stumps into about 850 acres of the Minden Bog.

Michigan Peat does not have and never has had permits for these activities, as required by the Clean Water Act. The violations were discovered by State and Federal inspectors.

"EPA expects Michigan Peat to play by the rules," said David A. Ullrich, acting EPA regional administrator. "Unpermitted mining activities on Minden Bog have threatened both its unique ecosystem and the water quality of the Black River and the Great Lakes."

Minden Bog is one of the last raised bogs in Michigan, its spongelike nature controls floods and its unique soil sustains many rare plants.

In February 1998 EPA issued an administrative order to the company to stop the illegal discharges and submit a wetlands restoration plan. The company stopped dredging and filling the bog, but did not meet all the terms of the order and contested it in court. Several months earlier, EPA had instructed the company to submit permit applications to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

The suit is asking the court to order the company to immediately stop unpermitted discharges into the Black River Drain, stop unpermitted discharges of material into the wetlands, submit a restoration plan for the site, restore the affected wetlands to their original contours, and to pay a penalty.

Under the Clean Water Act, the company may be fined \$25,000 per day for each violation.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 9, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa202.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Ken Glatz  
(312) 886-1434

Media Contact: Susan Pastor  
(312) 353-1325

For Immediate Release: July 8, 1998

No. 98-OPA203

## **EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON PENTA WOOD PRODUCTS STUDY; MEETING JULY 15**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is seeking public comments on a proposed plan for cleaning up pentachlorophenol (PCP)- and arsenic-contaminated soil and sediment, and PCP-contaminated ground water at the Penta Wood Products Superfund site, Town of Daniels, WI.

A public meeting to discuss the plan will be held Wednesday, July 15, 7 p.m., Burnett County Government Center, Room 165, Highway 35/70 Intersection, Siren.

The site, an abandoned 82-acre wood treating facility, operated from 1953 to 1992. From 1994 to 1996, EPA removed 28 storage tanks and 43,000 gallons of a PCP-oil mixture and sludge, solidified 4,000 cubic yards of highly contaminated arsenic soil, and removed 1,600 cubic yards of highly contaminated PCP soil from the property.

---

EPA's recommendation, based on engineering studies, is to:

- Consolidate and cover contaminated soil and sediments, and wood debris;
- Destroy PCP in the soil via a technology called "bioventing;"
- Remove the floating PCP-oil layer from ground water, and treat the highly contaminated ground water that comes with the PCP-oil

layer; and

- Monitor the natural attenuation cleanup of the remaining untreated ground water.

Written comments on EPA's recommendations will be accepted through August 8. They should be sent to Susan Pastor, Office of Public Affairs (P-19J), U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

Following the comment period, EPA will sign a Record of Decision, the document outlining the cleanup action to be taken. The document will include EPA's responses to all comments received.

Copies of the engineering studies, proposed plan, and other site-related documents are available for review at the Grantsburg Public Library, 416 South Pine St., Grantsburg. An administrative record, which contains information upon which the cleanup plan will be based, has also been placed at the Burnett Community Library, 7451 West Main St., Webster.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 9, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa203.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Peter Felitti  
(312) 886-5114

Technical Contact: Jim Hahnenberg  
(312) 353-4213

Media Contacts: Bri Bill  
(312) 353-6646

Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: July 9, 1998

No. 98-OPA204

## **EPA PROPOSES LOWER FOX RIVER FOR NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST; COMMENT PERIOD TO BE PUBLISHED IN FEDERAL REGISTER**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said today that a 39-mile stretch of Wisconsin's Lower Fox River will be proposed for addition to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) of hazardous waste sites.

The NPL is a nationwide list of hazardous waste sites that pose risks to human health and the environment and need further investigation. Sites placed on the list are eligible for long-term cleanup under the Superfund program. A more detailed NPL announcement with information on other proposed Region 5 sites and revised national NPL site totals will follow next week.

Proposed listing does not automatically assume a site will be included on the NPL. Prior to formal listing on the NPL, the proposed listing must go through a required public comment period--which allows interested parties to provide EPA with their opinions and questions regarding the proposed listing. A number of factors, including new technical information and/or

an EPA settlement with potentially responsible parties, may eliminate the need to proceed with formal listing.

"Proposed NPL listing for the Lower Fox should accelerate the negotiating process between EPA and its partners with the Fox River Group of paper mills who contributed PCB contamination to the river," said EPA Acting Regional Administrator David Ullrich. "We hope that a global agreement for a comprehensive cleanup can be reached. Formal listing, however, provides a vehicle in which a step-by-step cleanup process may begin--and stay on track--for the benefit of the people and natural resources of Wisconsin and the Great Lakes. Establishing a process by which cleanup can occur has always been, and remains, EPA's top priority."

A 60-day public comment period will be announced soon in the Federal Register, with detailed instructions on how and where to submit comments.

For more information on the Lower Fox River cleanup effort and the intergovernmental partnership among EPA, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Menominee and Oneida Tribes, see EPA Region 5's World Wide Web site:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region5/foxriver/>

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa204.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Timothy Chapman  
(312) 886-6829

Technical Contact: Joseph Cardile  
(312) 353-2151

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: July 10, 1998

No. 98-OPA205

## **EPA CITES CHRYSLER FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Chrysler Corp. for alleged clean-air violations at the Chrysler Technology Center, 800 Chrysler Dr. East, Auburn Hills, MI.

EPA said Chrysler knowingly released ozone-depleting refrigerants into the air on November 11, 1997, during routine maintenance of the center's air-conditioning system.

---

This is a preliminary finding of violation. To resolve it, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. Chrysler has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants deplete the stratospheric ("good") ozone layer, which prevents dangerous amounts of cancer-causing ultraviolet rays from the sun reaching the earth. Production of some of these chemicals was stopped in 1995, and Federal law strictly controls their use

and handling. Releasing them into the air is forbidden under the Clean Air Act.

Information on compliance with the refrigerant recycling rule can be found on the worldwide web at: [www.epa.gov/ozone/](http://www.epa.gov/ozone/) under the heading "Stationary Refrigerant & AC."

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa205.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Cynthia Kawakami  
(312) 886-0564

Technical Contact: Joseph Cardile  
(312) 353-2151

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: July 10, 1998

No. 98-OPA206

## **EPA CITES DEUTCH & SONS FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited I. Deutch & Sons Scrap Processors for an alleged clean-air violation at the company's scrap-processing facility, 311 Bay Miller St., Cincinnati, OH.

During an EPA inspection of the facility last April 23, an inspector saw Deutch disposing of appliances without first verifying that the refrigerants had been properly removed from the appliance, or from the shipment of appliances.

---

This is a preliminary finding of violation. To resolve the violation, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegation and how to resolve it.

"EPA's goal is to get companies to voluntarily comply with the Clean Air Act," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "When this goal is achieved, we will no longer have to ensure compliance by taking these enforcement actions."

Chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants deplete the stratospheric ("good") ozone layer, allowing dangerous amounts of cancer-causing ultraviolet rays from the sun to reach the earth. Production of some of these chemicals was

stopped in 1995, and Federal law strictly controls their use and handling. Releasing them into the atmosphere is forbidden.

Information on compliance with the refrigerant recycling rule can be found on the worldwide web at: [www.epa.gov/ozone/](http://www.epa.gov/ozone/) under the heading "Stationary Refrigerant & AC."

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa206.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Karl Karg  
(312) 886-79484

Technical Contact: Gurcharn Jhaj  
(312) 886-6815

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: July 10, 1998

No. 98-OPA207

## **EPA CITES NORTHPORTE DEVELOPMENT, SWEEBE FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Northporte Development, Inc. (Traverse City, MI), and Neal A. Sweebe, Inc. (Midland, MI), for alleged violations of Federal asbestos regulations at a Bay City, MI, demolition site.

Northporte Development owns a city block in Bay City (bounded by Broadway, Lafayette, Stanton, and 24th Streets) that Neal A. Sweebe, a demolition operator, demolished.

Federal asbestos regulations require that the proper authorities be notified before demolition begins. EPA said this was not done.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue compliance orders, assess administrative penalties, or bring suits against the companies. The companies have 10 days to request meetings to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to

ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Asbestos is a known carcinogen that can cause mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (a lung disease) many years after exposure.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa207.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Jane Woolums  
(312) 886-6720

Technical Contact: Shaun Burke  
(312) 353-5713

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: July 14, 1998

No. 98-OPA208

## **EPA CITES ACCURATE COATINGS FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$41,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Accurate Coatings and Dispersions, Inc., for alleged violations of federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's paint dispersion plant, 192 West 155th St., South Holland, IL. EPA has proposed a \$41,000 penalty.

EPA said Accurate was operating paint dispersion mixing tanks without the required covers to cut down emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC's). EPA and State inspectors discovered the alleged violations.

---

The company is in the Chicago metropolitan area, which does not meet the health-based standard for ground-level ozone (smog), a byproduct of VOC's.

EPA notified Accurate of the violations last December. Since then, the company has met with the State and proposed a plan to ensure compliance.

Accurate has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the

allegations anytime.

"EPA's goal is to get all companies to voluntarily comply with the Clean Air Act," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "When this goal is achieved, we will no longer have to ensure compliance by taking these enforcement actions."

VOC's combine in the atmosphere with other chemicals to form ground-level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 15, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa208.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Richard Murawski  
(312) 886-6721

Technical Contact: Shaun Burke  
(312) 353-5713

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: July 14, 1998

No. 98-OPA209

## **EPA CITES AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently cited American Electric Power Co. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's Tanners Creek Station, Lawrenceburg, IN.

EPA said American Electric Power allowed sulfur dioxide emissions at the station to exceed federally enforceable State standards. The company also accepted coal at the station with a higher sulfur content than allowed.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. American Electric Power has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's goal is to get companies to voluntarily comply with the Clean Air Act," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "When this goal is achieved, we will no longer have to ensure compliance by taking these enforcement actions."

Sulfur dioxide causes acid rain. Exposure to sulfur dioxide can impair breathing, aggravate existing respiratory diseases like bronchitis, and

reduce the ability of the lungs to clear foreign particles. Children, the elderly, and people with existing heart and lung conditions are most sensitive.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 15, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa209.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Robert Guenther  
(312) 886-0566

Technical Contact: Bonnie Bush  
(312) 353-6684

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: July 14, 1998

No. 98-OPA210

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH FOUNTAIN FOUNDRY; INCLUDES \$18,000 FINE & \$115,000 PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Fountain Foundry Corp. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's Veedersberg, IN, gray-iron foundry. The agreement includes an \$18,000 penalty and a \$115,000 environmental project.

EPA said the environmental project will reduce or prevent particulate, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compound, and lead emissions from the foundry. The project will cut emissions below levels required by law.

EPA cited Fountain Foundry in December 1993 for violating federally enforceable State emissions standards for opacity (the amount of light obscured) and in June 1995 for failure to comply with an EPA administrative order.

"We are pleased that Fountain Foundry has agreed to complete this project that will cut emissions of these air pollutants beyond what the law requires," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most. Nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds combine in the air to form ground-level ozone. Lead is a hazardous air pollutant that may affect reproduction and childhood development.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 15, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa210.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Thor Ketzback  
(312) 353-6720

Technical Contact: Terence Bonace  
(312) 886-3387

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: July 14, 1998

No. 98-OPA211

## **EPA REACHES \$35,600 SETTLEMENT WITH WOZNIAK FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled with Wozniak Industries, Inc. (Oak Brook Terrace, IL), for violation of Federal rules on the reporting of toxic chemicals. The company will pay a \$35,600 fine.

Wozniak was cited for failing to report to EPA and the State of Illinois the required data on nickel and manganese--classified as toxic under the law--being used at its facility in 1991 and 1992.

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act requires certain manufacturers to provide data on specific toxic chemicals being manufactured or used at their facilities. EPA uses this and other information to update its national toxic-chemicals release inventory, which is available to the public through various ways, including through a national computerized database. Companies make their reports annually to EPA and their State.

The company has certified it is now in compliance with Federal reporting requirements.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 15, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa211.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Virginia Narsete  
(312) 353-1732

For Immediate Release: July 14, 1998

No. 98-OPA212

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA TO REMOVE TOXIC TRAILER**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today it will remove a trailer--located at 141 Main St., Macksburg, OH--that is contaminated with mercury. The removal will begin at 9 a.m. on July 15, and is expected to take between 6 and 8 hours to complete.

The trailer was damaged by the recent Muskingum River floods but was already contaminated. EPA believes that the contamination is limited only to the trailer, but it will study surrounding soils after the removal to make sure the contamination has not spread.

EPA has been assisting in cleaning up potentially hazardous materials after the floods. The public is asked to call 800-282-9370 or (740) 385-8501 to report stray drums, cylinders, or anything that looks like it might have contained chemicals.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa212.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Gary Victorine  
(312) 353-0398

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: July 15, 1998

No. 98-OPA213

## **EPA RELEASES RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON WTI RISK ASSESSMENT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released its response to comments received last August on its risk assessment of the Waste Technologies Industries (WTI) commercial hazardous waste incinerator in East Liverpool, OH.

The document responds to questions raised during an EPA availability session August 14 when eight EPA representatives met in the East Liverpool City Hall Council Chambers with community members and other parties interested in the regulation of WTI.

It also addresses questions raised in eight issues of "Waste Not", a newsletter edited by Dr. Paul Connett, professor of chemistry at St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY.

The WTI risk assessment was completed and released to the public May 8, 1997. Two public briefings, a news conference, and a briefing for local government officials were held in East Liverpool on the day the risk assessment was released.

Copies of the 58-page document can be obtained by calling the EPA Region 5 Waste Management Branch at 312-353-0398. They can be mailed or sent to e-mail addresses.



###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 16, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa213.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: July 15, 1998

No. 98-OPA214

## **EPA AWARDS GRANTS TO 17 MORE BROWNFIELDS PROJECTS IN MIDWEST**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today announced 17 grants to brownfields redevelopment pilot projects that will return urban properties to productive use and accelerate economic growth.

The grants--each for \$200,000--have been awarded to the cities of Canton, IL; Cleveland, OH; Columbus, OH; East Moline, IL; Flint, MI; Glendale, WI; Hamilton, OH; Kenosha, WI; Saginaw, MI; St. Joseph, Benton Harbor, and Benton Charter Township, MI; Springfield, OH; Toledo, OH; Waukegan, IL; Youngstown, Campbell, and Struthers, OH; and Ypsilanti, MI. In addition, the Southern Ohio Port Authority, OH, and Wayne County, MI, also received grants.

---

The 2-year grants are being funded by EPA as part of its Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative--a national model for revitalizing urban communities. Region 5 now has 42 of the 228 brownfields national pilot projects. Region 5 was the first Region to implement a brownfields strategy, including awarding grants for pilot projects, conducting outreach efforts, forming partnerships with State and local governments, and entering into "Memoranda of Agreement" with State Voluntary Cleanup programs to address liability concerns.

Brownfields are abandoned or underused contaminated industrial or commercial properties that are often avoided by developers because of potential environmental liabilities. Brownfields projects yield economic benefits and protect the environment by encouraging development on existing sites, rather than in undeveloped areas.

For more information on brownfields in Region 5, visit EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 15, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa214.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Sonia Vega  
(312) 886-7191

Media Contact: Derrick Kimbrough  
(312) 886-9749

For Immediate Release: July 16, 1998

No. 98-OPA215

## **EPA TO DISCUSS AVANTI SITE CLEANUP; MEETING JULY 20**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold an informal meeting to discuss the ongoing cleanup at the Avanti Superfund site, Indianapolis, IN. The meeting will be held Monday, July 20, 7 to 9 p.m., Hawthorne Baptist Church, 336 South Holmes St.

---

Representatives from EPA will be available to meet with community members one-on-one to discuss the cleanup and answer questions about the site. There will not be a formal presentation.

Site-related documents are available for review at two locations: Hawthorne Baptist Church, and West Indianapolis Public Library, 1216 Kappes St.

The Avanti site includes numerous residential and commercial properties that were contaminated by a lead smelting facility which closed in the late 1970's.

For more information, contact: Derrick Kimbrough, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, 800-621-8431.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 16, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa215.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Don de Blasio  
(312) 886-4360

For Immediate Release: July 16, 1998

No. 98-OPA216

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA TO HOLD MEDIA  
BRIEFING, PUBLIC HEARING ON PETOSKEY SUPERFUND  
SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a media briefing and public meeting, followed by a public hearing, on the Petoskey Municipal Well Field site, Petoskey, MI. EPA will present its options and recommendations for cleanup of contaminated soil and ground water at Petoskey Manufacturing Co., 200 West Lake St., Petoskey.

The media briefing will be from 3 to 4 p.m., Wednesday, July 22, in the Petoskey City Council Chambers, 100 West Lake St.

The public meeting will be at 7 p.m., followed by the public hearing at 7:30 p.m., also in the Petoskey City Council Chambers.

No further information about the options and recommendations will be available before July 22.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 16, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa216.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Jacqueline Nwia  
(312) 886-6081

Technical Contact: William Jones  
(312) 886-6058

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: July 16, 1998

No. 98-OPA217

## **EPA REVOKES OLD SMOG STANDARD FOR 4 AREAS IN MICHIGAN, INDIANA, AND OHIO; NEW STANDARD APPLIES**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is revoking its old outdoor (ambient) air quality standard for ground-level ozone (smog) in 4 areas in EPA Region 5 -- Detroit-Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids (MI), Warrick County (IN), and Dayton-Springfield (OH).

The change, signed July 15 by EPA Administrator Carol Browner, will take effect when it is published in the Federal Register, which is expected to happen within a few days. Morgan County (KY) and Poughkeepsie (NY) are the only other areas named.

---

The change is being made for these six areas because they have not violated the standard over the last three years, based on 1995-1997 data.

In 1997, EPA changed its outdoor standard for ground-level ozone from 0.12 parts per million over a 1-hour period to a standard of 0.08 parts per million over an 8-hour period.

EPA said that, in the year 2000, it will decide which areas do not meet the new standard and designate them as nonattainment. Until then, all areas of the country must continue to carry out the programs that led to their

attaining the old standard.

When ground-level ozone is inhaled, even at low levels, it can cause breathing problems and aggravate asthma in children, the elderly, those with lung diseases, and even otherwise healthy adults who are working or exercising outside on a smoggy day.

More information on the change is available on the World Wide Web at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/airlinks>.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 17, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa217.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Ignacio Arrazola  
(312) 886-7152

Technical Contact: Julie Brandt  
(312) 886-6768

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: July 17, 1998

No. 98-OPA218

## **EPA CITES FORD FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Ford Motor Co. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's Cleveland Casting Plant, 5600 Henry Ford Blvd., Brookpark, OH.

EPA said the company exceeded State particulate (dust, soot, smoke) emission limits at the No. 7 cupola furnace during a November 1997 stack test. Calculations show that excess emissions from the cupola have been over 10 tons per year.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days from receipt of the finding to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 17, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa218.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Bri Bill  
(312) 353-6646

For Immediate Release: July 17, 1998

No. 98-OPA219

## **MEETING ON LOWER FOX RIVER PCB'S AND PUBLIC- ECOLOGICAL HEALTH JULY 27**

A public presentation on "Restoring the Lower Fox River: Perspectives on PCB's and Public and Ecological Health" will be held Monday, July 27, 7 p.m., Liberty Hall, 800 Eisenhower Dr., Kimberly. (Liberty Hall is east of the intersection of Highway 441 and County Trunk Highway CE.)

A series of speakers, representing different views and expertise, will discuss current scientific perspectives on human health and ecological effects associated with PCB exposure.

Speakers will include: Theo Colborn, senior scientist, World Wildlife Fund; Chris De Rosa, director of toxicology, U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry; and Donald Tillett, environmental toxicologist, U.S. Geological Survey. A scientist representing the Fox River Group has also been invited to participate.

The event is cosponsored by EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Menominee Nation, and Oneida Nation.

For more information, contact Bri Bill, EPA community involvement coordinator, 800-621-8431.

Separate from the July 27 PCB's meeting, a meeting to provide an update and answer questions about the status of PCB-contaminated sediment cleanup studies now underway will be held Tuesday, July 21, 6:30 to 9 p.m., Harper Hall, Lawrence University Music Drama Center building,

420 E. College Ave., Appleton. Representatives from EPA, WDNR, FWS, Menominee Nation, and Oneida Nation will attend the meeting.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 20, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa219.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: John Steketee  
(312) 886-0558

Technical Contact: Kendall Moore  
(312) 353-1147

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: July 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA220

## **EPA REACHES \$193,260 SETTLEMENT WITH EAST OHIO GAS FOR PCB VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled with East Ohio Gas (Cleveland, OH) for violating Federal PCB rules. The company will pay a \$193,260 fine.

After East Ohio Gas notified EPA that it had PCB violations at its Cleveland-area facilities, it conducted a company-wide audit to determine its compliance with Federal PCB rules.

Among the 161 counts identified in the complaint are allegations that the company failed to properly manufacture, use, label, store, record, and dispose of PCB's and PCB containing items at a number of its facilities in Ohio. In addition, East Ohio Gas failed to prepare, carry out, and have available for inspection, a spill prevention control and countermeasures plan, as required by law.

"Because East Ohio Gas informed EPA on its own that it was not meeting environmental regulations, the company avoided a much larger penalty," said Norman Niedergang, director of the regional Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division. "However, the company will pay a \$193,260 fine to offset the economic benefit it received by not fully complying with PCB

regulations."

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once widely used in industry as coolants and insulators. EPA banned the manufacture of PCB's in 1979 because of evidence that they accumulate in the environment and present health hazards for people. Under the Toxic Substances Control Act, EPA regulates the proper cleanup, disposal, marking, recordkeeping, storage, and limited use of PCB's to protect the public from these potentially dangerous chemicals.

The company has certified it is now in compliance with Federal PCB rules.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 20, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa220.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact :Terese Van Donsel  
(312) 353-6564

Media Contact :Don de Blasio  
(312) 886-4360

For Immediate Release: July 22, 1998

No. 98-OPA221

## **EPA PROPOSES CLEANUP AT PETOSKEY SUPERFUND SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today is proposing its options to address soil and ground-water contamination at the Petoskey Municipal Well Field Superfund site, Petoskey, MI. EPA will be accepting public comments on its proposals through August 18, 1998.

The proposed action would cover an area immediately next to Petoskey Manufacturing Co. (PMC), 200 West Lake St., Petoskey.

Options evaluated to address soil contamination at the Petoskey site included: no action; construction of an asphalt cover to slow leaching of contaminants from soil to ground water; and, excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil, with soil vapor extraction from deeper soils of trichloroethene (TCE), also known as trichloroethylene.

Options that were evaluated to address contaminated ground water include: no action; monitoring contaminant levels in ground water and allowing them to naturally reduce over time; and, extraction and treatment of contaminated ground water, with monitoring of contaminant levels.

For soil contamination, EPA is recommending its alternative 3: Excavate soil to 5 Ft ; vapor extraction to remove VOC's from deeper soils; and deed restrictions requiring property owners to exercise "due care" if the building is demolished.

This cleanup would remove contaminants that exceed the State of Michigan's recommended levels for residential properties and would address the source of ground-water contamination.

For ground-water contamination, EPA is recommending its alternative 2: Monitor ground-water contaminant concentrations, with natural attenuation (a natural decrease in contaminant levels) of existing contaminants.

Ground-water monitoring would allow EPA and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to determine when contaminants drop to levels safe for consumption and to evaluate the potential impact of discharging ground water to Lake Michigan.

With the recommended soil cleanup alternative, the recommended ground-water alternative would allow the current contaminants in ground-water to decline naturally (by dilution and dispersion) without active treatment.

If you have questions, or would like additional information about the Feasibility Study, write, call, or e-mail:

Don de Blasio  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
U.S. EPA (P-19J)  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590  
(312) 886-4360 or (800) 621-8431, or [deblasio.don@epa.gov](mailto:deblasio.don@epa.gov)

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 22, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa221.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Leslie Kirby  
(312) 886-7166

Technical Contact: Newton Ellens  
(312) 353-5562

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: July 21, 1998

No. 98-OPA222

## **EPA CITES ELECTROLIZING FOR CLEAN AIR ACT VIOLATION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Electrolizing Corp. of Ohio for an alleged violation of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's electroplating plant, 1325 East 152 St., Cleveland, OH.

Specifically, EPA said Electrolizing failed to do initial performance testing for its eight hard-chrome plating tanks by the July 25, 1997, deadline.

---

(Federal regulation went into effect for hard-chrome plating tanks and anodizing tanks January 25, 1997.)

This is a preliminary finding of violation. To resolve the violation, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. Electrolizing has 10 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to

ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist, released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 22, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa222.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Tom Krueger  
(312) 886-0562

Media Contact: Bri Bill  
(312) 353-6646

For Immediate Release: July 24, 1998

No. 98-OPA223

## **EPA: EXCAVATION TO BEGIN AT MARINA CLIFFS SITE; TOURS SET FOR JULY 30**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that excavation of contaminated soil and buried hazardous materials at the Marina Cliffs site (a.k.a. Northwestern Barrel site) will begin soon. Work crews are currently setting up at the site, which is at 5th Ave. and Marina Rd., South Milwaukee, WI.

A series of site tours will be held Thursday, July 30, at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 6 p.m. EPA and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will discuss the current work, answer questions, and lead a walk along the site fence. Interested residents should meet at the gate off 5th Ave. on Marina Rd. Parking is available along Marina Rd.

The excavation--in the ravine, Lake Michigan bluff, and upland areas of the site--will be done by a contractor, jointly monitored by EPA and WDNR. Along with the removal and off-site disposal of any hazardous materials found at the site, work crews will complete a magnetic survey of the site to identify any buried containers. They will also run an air monitoring system, which will screen for concentrations of dust, strong or unusual odors, and releases of any chemicals uncovered by the work.

If these steps do not minimize odors, the work causing the odors will stop until additional controls are established, or weather conditions are better.

Area residents can expect to see construction equipment and workers in protective clothing at the site. Protective clothing is required for all waste handlers by U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Vehicle traffic around the site will also increase. Site activities will take place on weekdays between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.

The excavation work follows a series of soil samples taken in late June near the Marina Cliffs Condominiums and at property owned by the City of South Milwaukee, south of the site fence near the Lake Ridge Apartments. Those samples--due back from laboratory analysis by mid-August--will help EPA and WDNR determine if former site activities and operations have affected soils in these areas.

Prior to this round of sampling, a series of surface and subsurface soil tests have shown that chemical concentrations in residential areas near the site are typical of those found in urban environments. However, at one spot--known as borehole 5--samples collected from depths below 6 feet showed higher levels of some chemicals than normal. This area is being evaluated further.

EPA will notify the public of the sampling results when they become available and will place the results in the site information repository at the South Milwaukee Library. A phone number and answering machine for a site trailer will be posted at the entrance to the site. Residents with questions or concerns may call this number, and an EPA or WDNR representative will return the call or come out to discuss the concern (during work hours).

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa223.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Steve Murawski  
(312) 886-6741

Technical Contact: Lynn Kuo  
(312) 886-6797

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: July 24, 1998

No. 98-OPA224

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA TO HOLD MEETING ON AIR ISSUES IN SANDUSKY JULY 29**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a meeting on Wednesday, July 29, in Sandusky, OH, to hear and discuss citizen concerns about air pollution issues in the area.

The session will be from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Groton Township Hall, 9414 Portland Rd. Three EPA officials will be at the meeting.

The meeting will serve as a forum for interested parties to present their concerns and ask questions. The recent installation of particulate (dust) monitors on the Rogers Group limestone quarry site will be discussed.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa224.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contacts: Bri Bill  
(312) 353-6646

Susan Pastor  
353-1325

For Immediate Release: July 28, 1998

No. 98-OPA225

## **EPA: LOWER FOX RIVER SUPERFUND LISTING PUBLISHED IN FEDERAL REGISTER; 60-DAY COMMENT PERIOD BEGINS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said today that its proposal to place Wisconsin's Lower Fox River on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) has formally been announced in the Federal Register. With today's publication, a 60-day comment period on the proposed listing of the PCB-sediment contaminated river is now underway.

The Lower Fox River is one of 14 new sites proposed for the NPL (three of which are federal facilities). In EPA Region 5, there are two other sites being proposed, both in Illinois: Indian Refinery-Texaco, Lawrenceville, and Evergreen Manor, Roscoe. Currently, there are 1,194 final NPL sites and 56 proposed sites. Of these, 514 sites have reached construction completion status.

---

Anyone may comment on the proposed listing. To submit comments, please note the site name--Wisconsin's Lower Fox River--and provide one original and three copies to: Docket Coordinator, U.S. EPA Headquarters CERCLA Docket Office (5201G), 401 M Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Comments may also be e-mailed in ASCII format to: [superfund.docket@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:superfund.docket@epamail.epa.gov).

EPA will hold meetings to explain the NPL process and answer questions during the comment period. Meeting dates and locations will be announced soon. There will also be meetings on other Lower Fox River

issues.

Detailed information on the proposed listing and other Lower Fox River cleanup issues is available for review at Appleton Public Library, 225 North Oneida St.; Brown County Library, 515 Pine St., Green Bay; Kaukauna Public Library, 111 Main Ave.; Oshkosh Public Library, 106 Washington Ave.; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Reading Room, 1015 Challenger Ct., Green Bay; and U.S. EPA's Chicago Records Center, 77 W. Jackson Blvd. Lower Fox River information is also posted on EPA Region 5's website at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/foxriver>.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 28, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa225.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: John J. O'Grady  
(312) 886-1477

Media Contact: Noemi Emeric  
(312) 886-0995

For Immediate Release: July 29, 1998

No. 98-OPA226

## **EPA SELECTS FINAL CLEANUP PLAN FOR WOODSTOCK MUNICIPAL LANDFILL**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently selected a final amended cleanup plan for the Woodstock Municipal Landfill Superfund site, McHenry County, IL

The final plan, developed with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), includes a modification of the previously approved landfill cap and the selection of natural attenuation--allowing for the natural dispersal of the contaminants--to deal with the vinyl chloride ground-water plume.

Based on the latest data, EPA has determined that the site's ability to contaminate ground water is somewhat less than previously indicated. Therefore, installation and operation of a groundwater extraction, treatment, and discharge system is--under the final plan--required only if natural dispersal of the vinyl chloride does not take place at a rate acceptable to EPA and IEPA.

The modified landfill cap, to be paid for by the responsible parties, will cost about \$4.5 million to construct--significantly less than the original \$6.2 estimate. In addition, the selection of natural attenuation for the vinyl chloride plume will save the responsible parties about \$800,000.

The final plan includes many elements from the original 1993 cleanup plan: excavation and consolidation of contaminated sediments and sludges



under the landfill cap; installation and maintenance of a landfill gas venting system; a comprehensive monitoring program; mitigation of wetland areas where sediment is removed, or wetlands are lost or damaged; installation of a surface-water and sedimentation control system; and institutional controls to limit land and ground-water use.

The 43-acre site was a privately owned dump and open-burning area from 1935 to 1958, when it was purchased by the City of Woodstock. It was a mixed-use landfill, accepting municipal, commercial, and industrial waste until 1975.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 29, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa226.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Nidhi K. O'Meara  
(312) 886-0568

Technical Contact: Gurcharn Jhaj  
(312) 886-6815

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: July 29, 1998

No. 98-OPA227

## **EPA CITES BILLMAX PROPERTIES & UPRIGHT WRECKING FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Billmax Properties (Farmington Hills, MI) and Upright Wrecking (Detroit, MI) for alleged violations of Federal asbestos regulations at a demolition site, 14841 West McNichols, Detroit.

---

EPA said Billmax Properties, owner of the site, and Upright Wrecking, the demolition contractor, failed to notify proper authorities as required by asbestos regulations. They also failed to thoroughly inspect for asbestos before starting demolition.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the companies. The companies have 30 days from receipt of the finding to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Asbestos is a known carcinogen that can cause mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (a lung disease) many years after exposure.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 29, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa227.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Janice Loughlin  
(312) 886-7158

Technical Contact: Howard Caine  
(312) 353-9685

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: July 29, 1998

No. 98-OPA228

## **EPA CITES HPA MONON FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited HPA Monon Corp. for alleged violations of federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's truck-trailer manufacturing plant, Monon, IN.

EPA said HPA Monon exceeded opacity (the amount of light obscured) limits for visible particulate emissions (smoke, dust, ash). The company also built a boiler that has the potential to emit significant levels of carbon monoxide and particulates (smoke, dust, ash) before getting a State permit designed to keep it from significantly lowering air quality in an area that meets Federal outdoor air standards.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days from receipt of the finding to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: July 29, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa228.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: July 29, 1998

No. 98-OPA229

## **EPA PROPOSES 2 ILLINOIS SITES FOR SUPERFUND LIST**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced that two Illinois sites--Indian Refinery-Texaco (Lawrenceville) and Evergreen Manor (Roscoe)--have been proposed for the Superfund National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites.

Sites on the list are eligible for long-term cleanup under the Superfund program. With the proposed listing published yesterday in the Federal Register, a 60-day comment period ending September 28 is now under way.

These are 2 of 14 new sites proposed for the list (three of which are Federal facilities). In EPA Region 5, besides the 2 Illinois sites, Wisconsin's Lower Fox River is also on the proposed list.

Currently, there are 1,194 final sites and 56 proposed sites nationwide. Of these, 514 sites have reached construction completion status.

The Indian Refinery-Texaco site is an oil refining facility that ceased operations in November 1995. The Evergreen Manor site consists of a 2 1/4 mile-long plume of ground water contaminated with as many as 17 organic compounds. More than 85 residential wells are affected by the plume.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))  
Last Updated: July 29, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa229.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contacts: Phillipa Cannon (EPA)  
(312) 353-6218

Susan Nameth (Environment Canada)  
(416) 739-4937

For Immediate Release: July 30, 1998

No. 98-OPA230

## **U.S. AND CANADA TO MONITOR TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS AROUND THE GREAT LAKES**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Environment Canada today agreed to continue monitoring toxic substances in the air around the Great Lakes.

They will do so through the Integrated Atmospheric Deposition Network (IADN), a leading international effort that has helped establish the significance of long-range atmospheric transport of toxic substances. The network is designed to assess the magnitude and trends of atmospheric deposition of target chemicals including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), chlorinated pesticides, and trace metals such as lead and mercury. Stations on remote shores of each lake collect regional contaminant data that is representative of the air over each lake and that is not affected by local sources. Concentrations of target chemicals are measured in rain and snow, airborne particles, and airborne organic vapors.

At a meeting in Chicago of the Binational Executive Committee on the Great Lakes, John Mills, Ontario Region Director General of Environment Canada, and David A. Ullrich, Acting Great Lakes National Program Manager for EPA, signed a 7-year plan to continue the work of IADN. IADN, required by the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the U.S. and Canada, is a joint EPA and Environment Canada program. Through IADN, air pollution in the region has been studied since 1990. The network assesses the input to aquatic systems of airborne, persistent,



organic pollutants (POPs).

"This IADN Implementation Plan recognizes the continuing commitment of our two nations to deal with airborne persistent toxic chemicals," said Mr. Mills. "We recognize that global action will be required to ultimately remove these chemicals from the environment, but IADN is our insurance to confirm the effectiveness of pollution reduction."

"Pollution needs no passport to cross a border and it will take coordinated efforts to control it," said David A. Ullrich. "Our countries share a precious resource -- the Great Lakes -- and we are committed to working together to protect it."

The renewed commitment to this cooperative effort will help assess progress in reducing levels of toxic pollutants in the shared Great Lakes ecosystem. Recent reports have shown that air concentrations of PCBs and other persistent organochlorines have declined in the Great Lakes region.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa230.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Mike McAteer  
(312) 886-4663

Media Contact: Susan Pastor  
(312) 353-1325

For Immediate Release: July 31, 1998

No. 98-OPA231

## **EPA: OPEN HOUSE AUGUST 5 AT LINCOLN FIELDS WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold an open house at the new Lincoln Fields Superfund site water treatment plant. It will be held Wednesday, August 5, 1 to 7 p.m., Lincoln Fields Treatment Facility, U.S. 42 North to Crider Road East, Mifflin Township, OH.

EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives will be available to guide visitors through the water treatment plant. Casual clothing is recommended.

For more information, call Susan Pastor, EPA community involvement coordinator, 312-353-1325, or 800-621-8431.

The site covers about a square mile, bordered by Yale Ave. to the north, Stewart Rd. to the east, Grace St. to the south, and Illinois Ave. to the west. EPA believes that ground water in this area was contaminated by a former dry cleaning plant that used hazardous chemicals in its operations.

To address the situation, EPA constructed a new alternate water supply for the affected community. Currently, all homes requesting the new water supply are being connected to the system. The final connection is expected by early September.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa231.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Thomas Krueger  
(312) 886-0562

Technical Contact: Farro Assadi  
(312) 886-1424

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 3, 1998

No. 98-OPA232

## **EPA CITES CHEMREX FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$127,642 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Chemrex, Inc. for alleged clean-air violations at its adhesive production plant, 23930 Concord, Mattawan, MI. EPA has proposed a \$127,642 penalty.

(Chemrex makes adhesives for the construction industry at the plant.)

---

EPA notified Chemrex last March that two adhesive-production lines were emitting volatile organic compounds (VOC's) above limits set by the facility's State permits. The violations were discovered during a State inspection in June 1997.

Chemrex has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations.

"EPA's goal is to protect public health and the environment, and we will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

VOC's combine in the atmosphere with other chemicals to form ground-level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa232.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Karl Karg  
(312) 886-7948

Technical Contact: Margaret Sieffert  
(312) 353-1151

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 3, 1998

No. 98-OPA233

## **EPA CITES CITGO FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$45,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against CITGO Petroleum Corp. for alleged violations of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the petrochemical manufacturing unit of its oil refinery, 135th St. and New Ave., Lemont, IL. EPA has proposed a \$45,000 penalty.

(CITGO makes benzene, toluene, xylene, hexane, and heptane at the unit.)

EPA notified CITGO in March that it had failed to properly document weekly visual pump-leak detection inspections. The violations were found during an EPA inspection in July 1997 and in a CITGO response last November to an EPA information request.

The complaint alleges that CITGO failed to provide records of required inspections for leak detection during EPA's July inspection, and failed to furnish the records in response to EPA's information request.

CITGO has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations.

Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division said: "EPA will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with hazardous air pollutant regulations. Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment."

In addition to being hazardous air pollutants, these chemicals are also volatile organic compounds that contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or smog. Ground-level ozone can cause breathing problems, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and can aggravate asthma. It can reduce lung function and resistance to colds and other infections and may speed up aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and people with chronic respiratory diseases are the most sensitive.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa233.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Janice Loughlin  
(312) 886-7158

Technical Contact: Howard Caine  
(312) 353-9685

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 3, 1998

No. 98-OPA234

## **EPA CITES BETA STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Beta Steel Corp. for alleged violations of Federal and State clean-air regulations at the company\*s steel-making plant, 6600 U.S. Highway 12, Portage, IN.

EPA said Beta, which began operating an electric arc furnace in its meltshop in April 1997, failed to:

- operate a continuous monitor to measure the opacity (the amount of light obscured) of emissions from the meltshop baghouse stack;
- do performance testing for particulates (smoke, dust, ash), opacity, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC's) within 180 days after furnace start up; and
- install a furnace static pressure monitor in the correct location.

Beta exceeded emission limits for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC's) during stack tests in January.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit



against the company. Beta Steel has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's goal is to get companies to voluntarily comply with the Clean Air Act," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "When this goal is achieved, we will no longer have to ensure compliance by taking these enforcement actions."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most. Sulfur dioxide causes acid rain. Exposure to sulfur dioxide can impair breathing, aggravate existing respiratory diseases like bronchitis, and reduce the ability of the lungs to clear foreign particles.

Nitrogen oxide and VOC's combine in the atmosphere with other chemicals to form ground-level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa234.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Joseph Williams  
(312) 886-7948

Technical Contact: Margaret Sieffert  
(312) 353-1151

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 4, 1998

No. 98-OPA235

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH CLEVELAND LAMINATING; INCLUDES \$11,708 FINE & POLLUTION- CUTTING PROJECT TO COST MORE THAN \$350,000**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Cleveland Laminating Corp. on alleged violations of Federal and State clean-air regulations at the company's plant, 2909 East 79th St., Cleveland, OH.

---

The agreement includes an \$11,708 penalty and a project to convert Cleveland Laminating's manufacturing process from using adhesives containing volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants to water-based adhesives. The project, expected to cost more than \$350,000, should cut emissions by 75 percent by the end of 1999.

(Cleveland Laminating makes laminated foils, films, and fire-resistant fabrics.)

EPA said the company operated without a State permit from December 1993 until February 1995. It did not apply for a Federal permit until December 24, 1997, although applications were due October 1, 1996.

"EPA is pleased that Cleveland Laminating has agreed to this project that

should significantly cut the company's air-pollutant emissions," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa235.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Mary McAuliffe  
(312) 886-6237

Technical Contact: Cynthia Curtis  
(312) 353-6959

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 4, 1998

No. 98-OPA236

## **EPA CITES ELKHART FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$100,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Elkhart Products Corp. for alleged violations of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's plants, 1255 Oak St., Elkhart, IN, and 700 Rainbow Rd., Geneva, IN. EPA has proposed a \$100,000 penalty.

(Elkhart makes copper and aluminum tubing for heating and air conditioning units.)

EPA notified Elkhart in March that the two plants failed to comply with Federal standards for hard-chrome electroplating plants from January 25, 1997, when the standards went into effect, until early June 1997.

Elkhart tested its uncontrolled stacks at the two plants in January 1997 and found their chromium emissions were above the Federal standard. The company installed control equipment at both plants in spring 1997. Stack tests in June 1997 showed both plants were in compliance with Federal standards.

Elkhart has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and

request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforation of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa236.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Constandina Dalianis  
(312) 353-1027

Technical Contact: Linda Hamsing  
(312) 886-6810

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 4, 1998

No. 98-OPA237

## **EPA CITES ICOR INTERNATIONAL FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited ICOR International, Inc. (2351 Kentucky Ave., Indianapolis, IN), for alleged violations of stratospheric ozone regulations.

EPA said ICOR, which makes a substitute refrigerant called HOT SHOT and a refrigerant recovery device called Spooter II, failed to:

- equip small cans of HOT SHOT with required fittings;
- maintain certification of Spooter II equipment by an EPA-approved testing organization; and,
- properly label Spooter II equipment.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve the violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. EPA met with ICOR on July 30 to discuss the allegations and the steps ICOR has taken, and will take, to achieve and maintain compliance.

"EPA's goal is to get companies to voluntarily comply with the Clean Air Act," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and

Radiation Division. "When this goal is achieved, we will no longer have to ensure compliance by taking these enforcement actions."

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 4, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa237.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Gaylene Vasaturo  
(312) 886-1811

Technical Contact: Farro Assadi  
(312) 886-1424

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 4, 1998

No. 98-OPA238

## **EPA CITES IROQUOIS FOUNDRY FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Iroquois Foundry Co. for alleged clean-air violations at its metal-casting operation, Highway 11 and County Highway M Ave., Browntown, WI.

EPA said the foundry's cupola melting furnace exceeded State limits for particulates (smoke, dust, ash), visible emissions, and carbon monoxide. The violations were discovered during a State inspection in August 1997 and a stack test at the cupola done May 21, 1998.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. EPA met with Iroquois Foundry on July 27 to discuss the alleged violations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's goal is to protect public health and the environment, and we will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, or those with heart or lung conditions the most.



###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 5, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa238.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Michael Berman  
(312) 886-6837

Technical Contact: Margaret Sieffert  
(312) 353-1151

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 5, 1998

No. 98-OPA239

## **EPA CITES BAYER FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$54,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Bayer Corp. for alleged clean-air violations at its polymers manufacturing plant, 356 Three Rivers Pkwy., Addyston, OH. EPA has proposed a \$54,000 penalty.

---

EPA said Bayer exceeded federally enforceable State sulfur dioxide emission limits, by burning high-sulfur coal in boiler No. 8.

Bayer has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Sulfur dioxide causes acid rain. Exposure to sulfur dioxide can impair breathing, aggravate existing respiratory diseases like bronchitis, and reduce the ability of the lungs to clear foreign particles. Children, the

elderly, and people with existing heart and lung conditions are most sensitive.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 6, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa239.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Louise Gross  
(312) 886-6844

Technical Contact: Loren Denton  
(312) 886-6814

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 5, 1998

No. 98-OPA240

## **EPA CITES PROPHETER FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Bob Prophter Construction Co. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's Toulon, IL, hot-mix asphalt plant.

EPA said Prophter exceeded Federal limits for particulates (smoke, dust, ash) and opacity (the amount of light obscured). In addition, the company failed to comply with an EPA agreement reached earlier. EPA discovered the violations during a September 10, 1997, inspection and from compliance testing done the next day by Prophter.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. Prophter has 30 days from receipt of the finding to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the Clean Air Act," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "In order to protect public health and the environment, we will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with clean-air regulations."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, or those with heart or lung conditions the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 6, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa240.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: August 5, 1998

No. 98-OPA241

## **Note to Correspondents: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND INDIANA TO ANNOUNCE MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL SETTLEMENTS WITH NW INDIANA STEELMAKER**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Justice, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with the Indiana Departments of Environmental Management and Natural Resources, will announce major environmental settlements with a Northwest Indiana steelmaker on August 6 at 11 a.m., at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, Gary, IN.

The settlements include projects to help clean up the Grand Calumet River and expand rare dune and swale habitat at the National Lakeshore.

### **WHO:**

Lois Schiffer, assistant attorney general, Department of Justice Environment Division; Mayor Scott King of Gary, IN; David A. Ullrich, EPA acting regional administrator; Mat Millenbach, Department of Interior's Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program manager; John Hamilton, commissioner, Indiana Department of Environmental Management; and Larry Macklin, director, Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Representatives of the company and local environmental groups have also been invited.

### **WHERE:**

Douglas Center for Environmental Education, Miller Beach, Gary, IN.

- From Chicago - I94 East to IN51 North, West on US20 about 2 miles to Lake St., North on Lake St. 1 mile Or I90 East to I94West to IN51 North,

West on US20 about 2 miles to Lake St., North on Lake St. 1 mile.

- From Indianapolis - I65 to I94 East to IN51 North, West on US20 about 2 miles to Lake St., North on Lake St. 1 mile.

**WHEN:**

11 a.m. CST

**NOTE:**

David Ullrich will also be available for interviews at EPA's Regional office in Chicago after 4 p.m. on August 6. To make arrangements to speak to Mr. Ullrich, call (312) 353-6218.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 6, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa241.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Mary McAuliffe  
(312) 886-6237

Technical Contact: Kevin Vuilleumier  
(312) 886-6188

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA242

## **EPA CITES MAGNESIUM REFINING TECHNOLOGIES FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently cited Magnesium Refining Technologies, Inc. (MagReTec), for alleged clean-air violations at the company's Bellevue, OH, magnesium scrap smelter.

MagReTec refines magnesium die-cast scrap for reuse in die-cast processes. Refining the scrap produces emissions of particulates (smoke), hydrochloric acid (a hazardous air pollutant), nitrogen oxide, and carbon monoxide.

EPA said MagReTec exceeded emission limits for particulates and hydrochloric acid, set in its State permit, during stack tests done in late April and early May.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. MagReTec has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the Clean Air Act," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "To



protect public health and the environment, we will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with clean-air regulations."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most. Particulates and hydrochloric acid can irritate the respiratory tract.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa242.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Jeffrey Cox  
(312) 353-3112

Technical Contact: Tom Crosetto  
(312) 886-6294

Media Contact: Karen Thompson  
(312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release: August 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA243

## **EPA SETTLES WITH WITCO FOR TOXIC CHEMICAL VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$12,150 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled a civil administrative complaint against Witco Corp. (Chicago, IL) for multiple violations of Federal rules on keeping track of potentially toxic chemicals. The company will pay a \$12,150 fine.

Witco, a chemical manufacturer, (6200 West 51st St.), was cited for failure to keep records on the distribution of a new chemical substance, with potential health effects that EPA has not had an opportunity to evaluate.

Under the Toxic Substances Control Act, EPA can test, regulate, and screen chemicals produced in or imported into the United States. Those that pose health or environmental hazards are tracked, controlled, or banned as necessary.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 25, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa243.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contacts: Phillipa Cannon (EPA)  
(312) 353-6218

Kathleen Berg (Nature Museum)  
(773) 549-0606, ext. 2061

For Immediate Release: August 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA244

## **EPA, NATURE MUSEUM TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE ON SHIP AUG. 18**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, Nature Museum, and Lake Michigan Forum will hold an open house aboard the R/V W.G. Jackson on August 18, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., at the south dock of Navy Pier, Chicago. The ship is visiting Chicago as part of the Lake Michigan Forum's "Making Lake Michigan Great" tour.

---

Information on Lake Michigan will be available, as well as on EPA's Lakewide Management Plan for Lake Michigan. Nature Museum staff will help visitors test Lake Michigan water and sediments. Visitors will also preview the new "Lake Michigan Explorer" interactive software and exhibits of the new Nature Museum, scheduled to open in spring 1999.

The W.G. Jackson is a 65-foot research vessel with an onboard laboratory that belongs to Grand Valley State University's Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute. It has been touring communities around Lake Michigan to acquaint the public with the lakewide management plan.

The Lake Michigan Forum was formed to provide input to EPA on the plan and includes representatives from academia, business, environmental and sportfishing groups, and local governments.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 14, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa244.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Leslie Kirby  
(312) 886-7166

Technical Contact: David Schulz  
(312) 886-6790

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 13, 1998

No. 98-OPA245

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH INDIANAPOLIS POWER & LIGHT ON CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Indianapolis Power and Light Co. (IPL) on alleged clean-air violations at its Perry K Station, Indianapolis, IN. No monetary penalty is involved.

IPL has agreed to reduce its particulate emissions by cutting back on the amount of coal used to fire one of its boilers until that boiler is converted to cleaner burning coke-oven gas or natural gas. IPL will do stack tests and additional reporting to ensure compliance.

EPA cited IPL in August 1997 for exceeding Indiana particulate (smoke, dust, ash) emission limits at four of its six coal-fired boilers (units 11, 12, 15, and 16). Coal analysis data showed that IPL also violated State sulfur dioxide emissions limits at all six coal-fired boilers (units 11 through 16).

"EPA is pleased that IPL is taking these steps to cut its particulate and sulfur dioxide emissions," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "Additional stack testing and reporting should help ensure protection of human health and the environment near this plant."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most. Sulfur dioxide causes acid rain. Exposure to sulfur dioxide can impair breathing, aggravate existing respiratory diseases like bronchitis, and reduce the ability of the lungs to clear foreign particles.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 14, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa245.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Alan Walts  
(312) 353-8894

Technical Contact: Loren Denton  
(312) 886-6814

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 13, 1998

No. 98-OPA246

## **EPA CITES R&M APPLIANCE FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$35,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against R&M Appliance Service, Inc. (10065 South 76th Ave., Bridgeview, IL), for alleged clean-air violations. EPA has proposed a \$35,000 penalty.

EPA said R&M failed to respond to information requests made during an EPA inspection last September, and by mail last December, on the use of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) refrigerants in its air-conditioning service and maintenance business.

---

In addition, R&M failed to respond in a complete and timely manner to an EPA administrative order issued last January, requiring the company to supply information on its CFC use.

The Clean Air Act requires all companies removing and replacing CFC refrigerants in air-conditioning equipment to employ properly trained and certified technicians, use EPA-certified equipment, and account for all CFC's in their possession.

R&M has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and

request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

"EPA's mission is to protect human health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations."

CFC's are a major cause of depletion of stratospheric ("good") ozone. It shields the earth from dangerous ultraviolet radiation, which can cause skin cancer and cataracts and can weaken the immune system. Production of some CFC's was stopped in December 1995.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 14, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa246.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contacts: Phillipa Cannon (EPA)  
(312) 353-6218

Kathleen Berg  
(CAS/Nature Museum)  
(773) 549-0606, ext. 2061

For Immediate Release: August 13, 1998

No. 98-OPA247

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS:  
GIRL SCOUTS, PUBLIC WILL TEST LAKE MICHIGAN WATER  
AT EPA, NATURE MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE ON SHIP AUG. 18**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, Chicago Academy of Science's Nature Museum, and Lake Michigan Forum will hold an open house for Chicago Girl Scouts and the public aboard the R/V W.G. Jackson on August 18. The media are invited to accompany Girl Scouts as they test Lake Michigan water near the shore and further out in the lake. The ship will depart from the south dock of Navy Pier at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., with cruises lasting about 1-1/2 hours. If possible, please let Theresa Reilly at the Chicago Academy of Sciences (773-549-0606, ext. 3031) know if you plan to attend, as space on the ship is limited.

The ship will be open to the public from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Information on Lake Michigan will be available, as well as on EPA's Lakewide Management Plan for Lake Michigan. Nature Museum staff will help visitors test Lake Michigan water and sediments. Visitors will also preview the new "Lake Michigan Explorer" interactive software and exhibits of the new Nature Museum, scheduled to open in spring of 1999.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 25, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa247.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



EPA Contacts: Noemi Emeric  
(312) 886-0995

Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

MCSC Contact: Antonio Perez  
(414) 276-6272

For Immediate Release: August 17, 1998

No. 98-OPA248

## **EPA: \$200,000 BROWNFIELDS JOBS TRAINING GRANT AWARDED TO MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY SERVICE CORPS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded a \$200,000 Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot grant to Milwaukee Community Service Corps (MCSC), Milwaukee, WI.

The grant is one of 11 competitive grants awarded nationwide, totaling \$2 million. The Milwaukee Community Service Corps grant was the only one awarded to an organization in the six EPA Region 5 States (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI).

The pilot grants bring together community groups, job training organizations, educators, labor groups, investors, lenders, and developers to address the issue of providing environmental employment and training for residents in communities affected by vacant or underutilized brownfields properties. The goals of the pilots are to get more of these properties back to productive reuse and prepare the trainees for future employment in the environmental industry.

The MCSC grant targets disadvantaged 18 to 23 year-olds in the Menomonee River Valley area, which has suffered from a decline in shipping, rail, and manufacturing jobs. The grant will contribute

significantly to MCSC's plans to train 22 students in environmental assessment and cleanup technologies job skills and reach a 95 percent placement rate over the course of a 12-month curriculum.

In addition to the grant, MCSC will utilize other leveraged services or funds to complete the job training initiative. MCSC's local partners include: the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, Milwaukee Economic Development Corp., National Association of Service and Conservation Corps, HNTB Companies, and the Milwaukee Mayor's Office.

For more information, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa248.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



EPA Contact: Leo Rosales  
(312) 353-6198

OEPA Contact: Jennifer Peterson  
(614)644-2160

For Immediate Release: August 17, 1998

No. 98-OPA249

## **EPA AND OHIO EPA: CLEANUP BEGINS AT CENTURY 21 PAINT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) said today that cleanup will begin this week at the Century 21 Paint site, Austintown, OH. Area residents can expect to see workers wearing protective equipment and increased construction vehicle traffic for the next 4 to 8 weeks.

Century 21, a paint recycler at 166 South Meridian St., suffered a major fire on August 9. More than 100,000 paint containers and numerous pallets of asphalt shingles were damaged in the blaze.

OEPA acted as the lead state regulatory agency in responding to the fire, coordinating with the Austintown Fire Department and more than a dozen other police and fire departments, emergency management organizations, and Federal, State, and local agencies to bring the fire under control.

A Westlake, OH-based EPA Superfund emergency response team will manage the site cleanup.

The cleanup will include:

- Assessment of appropriate and cost-effective disposal strategies for numerous piles of heat-fused oil- and latex paint containers;
- Reinforcement of temporary containment trenches and berms setup

at the site to reduce the risk of runoff from reaching Bears Den Run, a creek at the west edge of the site which empties into Mill Creek and the Mahoning River; and

- Consolidation and disposal of tens of thousands of paint containers and many tons of scattered absorbent materials used by response agencies to stabilize a mixture of spilled paint and runoff from a storm that occurred the night of the fire.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa249.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Jane Woolums  
(312) 886-6720

Technical Contact: Cynthia Curtis  
(312) 353-6959

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 18, 1998

No. 98-OPA250

## **EPA: JUDGE ORDERS AMERICAN DISPOSAL TO PAY \$29,040 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said an administrative law judge has recently ordered American Disposal, Inc., a Chicago-based disposal company, to pay a \$29,040 penalty for failure to provide information requested by EPA in 1996.

EPA filed an administrative complaint in July 1997 proposing a \$29,040 penalty against American Disposal, alleging the company had failed to supply information on its asbestos waste transport operations, as required by the Clean Air Act.

Because American Disposal did not meet filing requirements for a hearing on EPA's charges, the judge granted an EPA motion for default. According to the order, all facts alleged in EPA's complaint are deemed admitted, and American Disposal is considered to have surrendered its right to a hearing.

In its complaint, EPA said records show that American Disposal was involved in at least 20 asbestos waste transportation jobs in Illinois, but had not supplied EPA with information on any of these jobs, as required by EPA's information request.

EPA said American Disposal has a history of not complying with EPA requests. In 1994, the company did not comply with an earlier EPA information request until a follow-up letter and an administrative order was issued. The response was more than a year overdue.

Dry, easily crumbled (friable) asbestos is a known carcinogen, which can lead to mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestoses (a lung disease) many years after exposure.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 25, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa250.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Jim Hahnenberg  
(312) 353-4213

Media Contacts: Susan Pastor  
(312) 353-1325

Bri Bill  
353-6646

For Immediate Release: August 21, 1998

No. 98-OPA251

## **EPA TO DISCUSS PROPOSED SUPERFUND LISTING IN APPLETON AND GREEN BAY SEPT. 2**

NOTE TO EDITOR: An availability session specifically for media will precede the Appleton meeting from noon to 1 p.m.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold two informal meetings September 2 to discuss its proposal to add Wisconsin's Lower Fox River to the Superfund National Priorities List.

The meetings are 1 to 4 p.m., Lawrence University, Harper Music Hall, Appleton, and 6 to 9 p.m., Brown County Public Library, Rooms 1 and 2, 515 Pine St., Green Bay. Fox Valley residents are invited to meet one-on-one with EPA representatives, who will provide information and answer questions on the listing process and the public comment process.

There will not be a formal presentation at these meetings.

Detailed information on the proposed listing and other Lower Fox River cleanup issues is available for review at Appleton Public Library, 225 North Oneida St.; Brown County Library, 515 Pine St., Green Bay; Kaukauna Public Library, 111 Main Ave.; Oshkosh Public Library, 106 Washington Ave.; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Reading Room, 1015

Challenger Ct., Green Bay; and U.S. EPA's Chicago Records Center, 77 W. Jackson Blvd. Lower Fox River information is also posted on EPA Region 5's website at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/foxriver>.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 25, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa251.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: John J. O'Grady  
(312) 886-1477

Media Contact: Noemi Emeric  
(312)886-0995

For Immediate Release: August 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA252

## **EPA: EXCAVATION BEGINS NEXT WEEK AT NORTH CHICAGO VACANT LOT SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that contaminated-soil excavation will begin next week at the North Chicago Vacant Lot site, North Chicago, IL. The Superfund site is at the northeast corner of Commonwealth Ave. and Martin Luther King Dr.

Residents can expect to see workers in protective clothing and construction vehicles at the site through late fall. Projected cost of the cleanup: \$3 million.

A fire occurred at the vacant lot in 1988, when fill material overheated and ignited brush and debris. After the fire, EPA analyzed the soil and found high levels of heavy metals, including lead and an ash-like material containing coal residues.

Following a study of cleanup alternatives, EPA held a public meeting last November 12, along with a public comment period, to discuss its plan.

The plan, now under way, includes

- lead-contaminated soil, to a depth of 2 feet;
- PCB-contaminated soil; and
- EPA is also in the process of taking procedural steps to add excavation of contaminated sediments from nearby Pettibone Creek

to this action.

Residents with questions about the cleanup may call Noemi Emeric, community involvement coordinator, 312-886-0995. Site documents and other information are available for review at the North Chicago Public Library, 2100 North Argonne Dr.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 25, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa252.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Louise Gross  
(312) 886-6844

Technical Contact: Kathy Triantafillou  
(312) 353-4293

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA253

## **EPA CITES 3 WISCONSIN PARTIES FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Sonag Co., Wisconsin Division of Facilities, and Wisconsin Electric Power Co. for alleged violations of Federal regulations for asbestos, a hazardous air pollutant.

Sonag (N59 W14909 Boblink Ave., Menomonee Falls) renovated Waupun Correctional Institute, Waupun (whose buildings and grounds are under the Wisconsin Division of Facilities, 101 East Wilson St., Madison) in 1997 and Wisconsin Electric Power (231 West Michigan St., Milwaukee) in 1998.

EPA said Sonag renovated the facilities without properly wetting all regulated asbestos-containing material and keeping it wet through all the procedures required for asbestos removal. The alleged violations were discovered during State inspections.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue compliance orders, assess administrative penalties, or bring suits against the parties. The three parties have 10 days from receipt of the findings to request meetings to discuss the allegations and how to resolve

them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing asbestos regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division.

Asbestos is a known carcinogen that can cause mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (a lung disease) many years after exposure.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 25, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa253.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Sherry Estes  
(312) 886-7164

Technical Contact: John O'Grady  
(312) 886-1477

Media Contact: Leo Rosales  
(312) 353-6198

For Immediate Release: August 26, 1998

No. 98-OPA254

## **EPA: CLEANUP TO PROCEED AT UNITED SCRAP LEAD SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and U.S. Department of Justice have recently lodged a consent decree with the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, Western Division, Dayton, under which the responsible parties agreed to clean up the United Scrap Lead Superfund site, 1 mile south of Troy, OH.

The United Scrap Lead site was a lead-battery reprocessing plant from the early 1940's until 1980. Much of the \$19.5 million project will focus on an 8-acre former disposal area for lead-acid battery chips. Lead-contaminated soils will also be cleaned up.

EPA selected a final amended cleanup plan for the site in June 1997. In August 1992, EPA carried out some parts of the original cleanup plan, while other parts were being reconsidered. The initial 1992 cleanup dealt with off-site contaminated areas and secured on-site contaminated soils and battery-casing chips.

Design work for the cleanup plan commenced with the lodging of the consent decree. Work at the site can begin as soon as the consent decree is entered. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency agrees with the cleanup plan for the site.

Site documents for United Scrap Lead are available for review at Troy-Miami County Public Library, 419 West Main St.

A 30-day comment period for the consent decree was announced August 14 in the Federal Register. Written comments may be sent to:  
Environmental Enforcement Section, U.S. Department of Justice, P.O. Box 7611, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 26, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa254.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Miguel Del Toral  
(312) 886-5253

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: August 24, 1998

No. 98-OPA255

## **EPA SEEKS COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO WISCONSIN'S DRINKING WATER PROGRAM**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today announced a public- comment period on its tentative decision to approve changes in the State of Wisconsin's drinking water protection program.

---

To meet EPA guidelines, Wisconsin has made minor technical changes in its drinking water regulations on lead and copper, chemical contaminants, and analytical methods.

If there is sufficient public interest, EPA will hold a public hearing. Hearing requests and comments should be postmarked no later than September 21 and sent to: Safe Drinking Water Branch, Water Division, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

Documents are available for public review Monday through Friday at the offices of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in Madison and at the EPA office in Chicago.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 25, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa255.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Miguel Del Toral  
(312) 886-5253

Technical Contact: Kathy Triantafillou  
(312) 353-4293

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: August 24, 1998

No. 98-OPA256

## **EPA SEEKS COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO INDIANA'S DRINKING WATER PROGRAM**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today announced a public- comment period on its tentative decision to approve changes in the State of Indiana's drinking water protection program.

To meet EPA guidelines, Indiana has made minor technical changes in its drinking water regulations on lead and copper, chemical contaminants, and analytical methods.

If there is sufficient public interest, EPA will hold a public hearing. Hearing requests and comments should be postmarked no later than September 21 and sent to: Safe Drinking Water Branch, Water Division, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

Documents are available for public review Monday through Friday at the offices of Indiana Department of Environmental Management in Indianapolis and at the EPA office in Chicago.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 25, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa256.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Lillian M. Pinzon  
(312) 886-7154

Technical Contact: Ihsan Eler  
(312) 886-6249

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: August 25, 1998

No. 98-OPA257

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF WADSWORTH; INCLUDES \$70,600 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with the City of Wadsworth, OH, resolving an administrative complaint issued to the city for discharging excess pollutants into the River Styx. The city will pay a \$70,600 fine.

In September 1997, EPA alleged that from November 1992 through May 1996, the city's wastewater treatment plant violated its discharge permit by discharging excess amounts of copper, oil and grease, total suspended solids, chlorine, dissolved oxygen, and fecal coliform into the river. EPA also alleged that the plant failed to meet certain requirements of its pretreatment program. The Wadsworth treatment plant now meets the requirements of its pretreatment program and discharge permit.

The quality of our Nation's waters depends on the responsible behavior of discharge permit holders, said Jo-Lynn Traub, regional Water Division director. Wadsworth is now in compliance with Clean Water Act regulations, but the fine reflects the seriousness of past violations.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 25, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa257.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Louise Gross  
(312) 886-6844

Technical Contact: Joseph Cardile  
(312) 353-2151

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 27, 1998

No. 98-OPA257A

## **EPA CITES COHEN; INCLUDES \$105,550 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Cohen Industrial Scrap Processors for alleged clean-air violations at its scrap processing facility, 990 West 5th St., Cincinnati, OH. EPA has proposed a \$105,550 penalty.

EPA said Cohen improperly disposed of appliances containing ozone-depleting refrigerants. During an inspection last April, EPA observed Cohen employees releasing refrigerants into the air while disposing of an appliance. The employees also failed to recover any remaining refrigerants or to verify that all refrigerants had been recovered from the appliances before disposal in accordance with EPA regulations.

Cohen has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the Clean Air Act," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "To protect public health and the environment, we will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with clean-air regulations."

Chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants deplete the stratospheric, or "good," ozone layer, allowing dangerous amounts of cancer-causing ultraviolet rays from the sun to strike the earth. Production of some of these chemicals was stopped in 1995, and Federal law strictly controls their use and handling. Releasing them into the air is forbidden.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 31, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa25a.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Thomas Martin  
(312) 886-4273

Technical Contact: Charles G. Hall  
(312) 353-3443

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 28, 1998

No. 98-OPA258

## **EPA CITES DARLING INT'L FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Darling International (Cleveland, OH) for alleged violations of the federally enforceable Ohio air pollution nuisance rule and other State regulations, at its animal rendering plant, 3275 West 65th St.

Specifically, EPA said Darling failed to properly operate and maintain its air pollution control equipment, as required by its permit, and released unreasonable amounts of odorous compounds into the air.

---

Citizens have made numerous odor complaints about Darling to the Cleveland Division of Air Pollution Control over the past several years. In 1996, citizens made 133 complaints; in 1997, they made 39 complaints; and, as of August 7, 1998, citizens have made 36 complaints. Most of the complaints have been reported during the months June through September.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve these violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how they can be resolved.



"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all steps necessary to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Citizens may call Charles Hall at 312-353-3443 to report complaints or to provide information about the Darling facility.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 31, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa258.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Audrie Washington  
(312) 886-0669

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 31, 1998

No. 98-OPA259

## **EPA RECOGNIZES SMALL BUSINESSES FOR JOINING POLLUTION-CUTTING, ENERGY-SAVING PROGRAM**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today 83 small businesses within the six-State Region have recently pledged to become energy efficient and to cut pollution by joining EPA's Energy Star Small Business, a voluntary program. They join more than 500 other small businesses nationwide that take part in this program.

EPA said the companies can save from 30 to 50 percent in energy costs by making the upgrades recommended by the program and, at the same time, make significant contributions to pollution control. The reduction in energy use cuts emissions of air pollutants that contribute to smog, acid rain, and global climate change.

---

"We welcome these companies to Energy Star Small Business," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "By participating in the program, they can significantly reduce their energy costs and cut pollution at the same time. It's a true win-win situation."

In exchange for their pledge to be energy efficient, invest in efficient equipment when the time comes to replace old equipment, and share their success with others, small businesses that join the program receive unbiased technical information and assistance from EPA to complete the upgrade.

Small businesses can get help from EPA's 100-page guidebook, "Putting Energy into Profits," from its World Wide Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/smallbiz>) or from its toll-free hotline (1-888-STAR-YES) staffed with energy engineers.

EPA also provides information on where to obtain financing for an upgrade, and no reporting is required. Partners who call the hotline with their upgrade information will receive free publicity and marketing for their efforts.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 31, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa259.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Jose DeLeon  
(312) 353-7456

Technical Contact: Jeffrey L. Gahrns  
(312) 886-6794

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 31, 1998

No. 98-OPA260

## **EPA CITES DETROIT EDISON FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Detroit Edison Co. for alleged violations of Federal and State clean-air regulations at the company's Conners Creek Power Plant, 200 Lycaste St., Detroit, MI.

EPA said Detroit Edison began to modernize the plant without first seeking a construction permit and without installing appropriate emission controls. The company announced plans earlier this year to reactivate the plant, to meet possible periods of peak consumer energy demands.

Emissions requiring control would include particulates (smoke, soot, dust), sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides -- all of which can affect human health. This case has raised environmental and public health concerns on both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. Detroit Edison has 30 days from receipt of the finding to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the Clean Air Act," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "To protect public health and the environment, we will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with clean-air regulations."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, or those with heart or lung conditions the most. Sulfur dioxide causes acid rain. Exposure to sulfur dioxide can also impair breathing, aggravate existing respiratory diseases like bronchitis, and reduce the ability of the lungs to clear foreign particles.

Nitrogen oxides combine in the atmosphere with other chemicals to form ground-level ozone (smog), which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. Ozone can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Wayne County Air Quality Management Division issued notices of violation to Detroit Edison in July alleging these same violations. EPA has been working closely with both State and county officials on this issue. MDEQ is authorized to implement and enforce the Clean Air Act within the State and remains the lead agency in dealing with Detroit Edison on the Conners Creek facility.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: August 31, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa260.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Gaylene Vasaturo  
(312) 886-1811

Technical Contact: Farro Assadi  
(312) 886-1424

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: September 1, 1998

No. 98-OPA261

## **EPA CITES IROQUOIS FOUNDRY; INCLUDES \$136,952 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Iroquois Foundry Co. for alleged clean-air violations at its metal-casting operation, Highway 11 and County Highway M Ave., Browntown, WI. EPA has proposed a \$136,952 penalty.

---

EPA notified Iroquois in July that its foundry's cupola melting furnace exceeded State limits for particulates (smoke, dust, ash), visible emissions, and carbon monoxide. The violations were discovered during a State inspection in August 1997.

Iroquois Foundry has 30 days to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them anytime.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of carbon monoxide can affect children, the elderly, or those with heart or lung conditions the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 9, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa261.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Janice Loughlin  
(312) 886-7158

Technical Contact: Charles G. Hall  
(312) 353-3443

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: September 2, 1998

No. 98-OPA263

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH M.K. MOORE; INCLUDES \$70,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice have recently reached agreement with M.K. Moore & Sons, Inc. (5150 Wagoner Rd., Dayton, OH), to resolve alleged violations of Federal asbestos regulations. A \$70,000 civil penalty is included.

EPA said Moore, an asbestos removal contractor, violated the notification, emission control, and waste disposal requirements of the asbestos regulations at eight separate facilities in Ohio between June 1991 and June 1995. The facilities are in Dayton, Huber Heights, Springfield, New Carlisle, New Madison, and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The Regional Air Pollution Control Agency in Dayton discovered the violations and started enforcement actions. When it was unable to resolve violations at the local level, it referred the case to EPA, through the Ohio EPA. EPA notified Moore in December 1992 and in June 1995 of the violations. In August 1996, Justice filed a complaint against Moore in Federal District Court in Dayton. This agreement was reached to resolve the complaint.



In addition to the penalty, Moore agreed to name an asbestos program manager who will have overall compliance responsibilities, provide employee training, and submit monthly reports on its asbestos removal projects.

"EPA is committed to enforcing asbestos regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take the necessary steps to ensure that asbestos contractors comply with Federal regulations."

Asbestos is a known carcinogen that can cause mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (a lung disease) many years after exposure.

This agreement may be examined at the U.S. Attorney's office in the Dayton Federal Building. The public has until September 14 to comment on the settlement.

Comments should go to the Assistant Attorney General of the Environment and Natural Resources Division, DOJ, Washington, DC 20530, and refer to United States v. M.K. Moore and Sons, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-2-1-2072.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 9, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa263.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Tamara Ohl  
(312) 886-0991

Media Contacts: Noemi Emeric  
(312) 886-0995

Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: September 2, 1998

No. 98-OPA264

## **EPA TO HOLD MEETING AND HEARING ON GRAND CAL CLEANUP PLAN**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a public meeting and a hearing in Gary, IN, September 9, to discuss and hear comments on plans by USX Corp. to clean up contaminated sediments in the Grand Calumet River. The meeting will be at Indiana University Northwest, from 6 to 8 p.m.

EPA has recently reached agreement with USX to remove contaminated sediments from a 5-mile stretch of the river. About 687,000 cubic yards of sediments would be removed. About 125,000 cubic yards of these sediments are contaminated with PCB's, and EPA believes they pose a threat to human health and the environment. USX has also agreed to investigate and clean up other areas at its Gary Works facility.

As required by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, USX will properly dispose of and manage the sediments when they are removed from the river. USX proposes building a corrective action management unit on its property to contain all the sediments and prevent any releases of hazardous substances.

EPA encourages the public to comment on this proposal. The comment

period will run until Sept. 21. Comments, postmarked by that date, should be sent to Tamara Ohl (DE-9J), U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604

The administrative record may be reviewed at Gary Public Library Reference Desk, 22 West 5th Ave. and Indiana University NW, Center for Data and Analysis Library, 3400 Broadway, Gary.

To obtain a fact sheet on this project, call Noemi Emeric, Community Involvement Coordinator, 312-886-0995

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 21, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa264.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: John O'Grady  
(312) 886-1477

Media Contact: Leo Rosales  
(312) 353-6198

For Immediate Release: September 3, 1998

No. 98-OPA265

## **EPA: CLEANUP TO PROCEED AT ARCANUM IRON & METAL SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and U.S. Department of Justice have recently lodged a consent decree with the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, Western Division, Dayton, under which the responsible parties agreed to clean up the Arcanum Iron & Metal Superfund site, Darke County, OH.

Arcanum, which is in Twin Township, is a former lead-battery reprocessing plant. The 4.5-acre facility operated from the early 1960's until 1982. A \$5.8 million cleanup will include removal of 4,000 cubic yards of lead-acid battery casing chips, demolition and disposal of three buildings, plus disposal of contaminated soils, drums, trailers, and storage tanks. EPA selected a final amended cleanup plan for this site in June 1997.

Work at Arcanum could begin after the consent decree is entered. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency agrees with the cleanup plan.

Site documents are available for review at Arcanum Public Library, 101 North St., Arcanum.

A 30-day comment period for the consent decree will be announced soon in the Federal Register. Written comments may be sent to: Environmental Enforcement Section, U.S. Department of Justice, P.O. Box 7611, Ben

Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 9, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa265.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: William Wagner  
(312) 886-4684

Technical Contact: David Schulz  
(312) 886-6790

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: September 8, 1998

No. 98-OPA266

## **EPA CITES FIRST ENERGY FOR AIR POLLUTION AT 2 CLEVELAND-AREA POWER PLANTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited First Energy Corp. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's coal-fired power plants in Avon Lake and Eastlake, OH.

---

EPA said the two First Energy plants exceeded State visible-emission limits. Particulates (smoke, soot), which cause the visible emissions, are byproducts of coal burning.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue compliance orders, assess administrative penalties, or bring suit against the company. First Energy has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the Clean Air Act," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "To protect public health and the environment, we will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with clean-air regulations."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 11, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa266.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Tom Kenney  
(312) 886-0708

Technical Contact: Louis Sass  
(312) 886-2871

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: September 8, 1998

No. 98-OPA267

## **EPA: MINNESOTA STORAGE-TANK SWEEP NETS COMPLIANCE DATA**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said an enforcement sweep of underground storage tanks in Minnesota, including tribal lands, has netted valuable information about compliance with the stricter 1998 tank standards, which may require tank upgrading or closure.

"We found that about 58 percent of the underground storage tank facilities inspected had not yet been upgraded or closed," said Andrew Tschampa, chief of the Underground Storage Tank Section. He said EPA has no intention to extend the December 22, 1998, deadline and will enforce tank upgrade requirements.

This action was aimed at encouraging those who have not yet upgraded, replaced, or closed their substandard tank systems before the deadline to meet the 1998 upgrade requirements and at identifying and correcting violations of State and EPA regulations that require leak detection at underground storage tank facilities.

---

Since early 1995, EPA has encouraged owners and operators to meet the requirements for spill, overflow, and corrosion protection on time. The requirements were published in 1988, giving owners and operators more



than 10 years to meet the new standards. Systems that do not meet the new standards must be upgraded, replaced, or closed.

EPA made the sweep during the week of May 11. Of the 79 facilities visited by EPA's compliance and enforcement teams, 67 percent were marketers (gasoline stations) and 33 percent were non-marketers (company or institutional refueling facilities). Forty-two percent had already met 1998 standards and 58 percent had not. Of those not meeting 1998 standards, half said they plan to upgrade or replace their substandard systems before the deadline and half said they plan to close.

Thirty-five percent of the facilities were not in compliance with present leak detection requirements, which have been in effect since 1993. Thirty-four percent of the marketers and 38 percent of the non-marketers were not in compliance with leak-detection requirements.

EPA took 26 enforcement actions during the sweep: 5 notices of violation, 15 other actions, and 6 field citations with \$3,350 total penalties.

Field citations are similar to traffic tickets issued on site by EPA enforcement officers. They are generally used for first-time violators and for easily correctable violations. If a field citation is ignored, or the owner or operator otherwise refuses to settle, more formal enforcement actions may be taken, with top penalties of \$11,000 per day, per violation.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 11, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa267.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Leslie Kirby  
(312) 886-7166

Technical Contacts: Katherine Keith  
(312) 353-6956

Howard Duckman  
(312) 886-6716

William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: September 9, 1998

No. 98-OPA268

## **EPA, DOJ SUE CLARK FOR MULTIPLE POLLUTION VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice today filed a civil complaint against Clark Refining and Marketing, Inc., for alleged violations of five separate environmental laws at the company's Blue Island, IL, oil refinery.

Clark is liable for penalties of up to \$25,000 per day for each violation occurring before January 30, 1997, and for penalties of up to \$27,500 per day for each violation occurring after January 29, 1997. The complaint asks for an injunction against further violations of environmental laws.

The complaint alleges that Clark violated the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (hazardous waste control), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

Among the products Clark makes at the Blue Island refinery are gasoline,

liquid petroleum gas, heating fuel, jet fuel, diesel fuel, and asphalt. The refinery processes 80,000 barrels of crude oil per day.

Clean-air violations alleged in the complaint include releases of sulfur dioxide that exceed EPA standards and failure to comply with regulations governing benzene. Clean-water violations include discharges of oil and grease compounds generated during the refining process in violation of its permit and discharging oil into the Cal-Sag Canal.

The complaint alleges Clark violated hazardous waste regulations, including disposal of hazardous waste without a permit. In addition, Clark failed to notify EPA of releases of hazardous substances, as required by law.

Benzene, a known human carcinogen, is volatile and flammable at room temperature. Sulfur dioxide can cause acid rain and can irritate and inflame lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and those with existing lung disease are the most vulnerable. Oil and grease kill fish and waterfowl and damage the aquatic food chain.

The complaint was filed with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 21, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa268.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Leslie Kirby  
(312) 886-7166

Technical Contact: Denny Dart  
(312) 886-1426

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: September 10, 1998

No. 98-OPA269

## **EPA CITES USS/KOBE STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited USS/Kobe Steel Co. for alleged clean-air violations at its Lorain, OH, steel plant.

EPA said visible emissions of particulates (soot, smoke) from the cast house of the No. 3 blast furnace and the gas flare of the company's two blast furnaces exceeded State limits.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. USS/Kobe has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the Clean Air Act," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "To protect public health and the environment, we will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with clean-air regulations."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 11, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa269.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Janice Loughlin  
(312) 886-7158

Technical Contact: Brent Marable  
(312) 886-6812

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: September 11, 1998

No. 98-OPA270

## **EPA CITES PETERS-REVINGTON; INCLUDES \$40,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Peters-Revington Co. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's Delphi, IN, furniture-making plant. A \$40,000 penalty is proposed.

EPA said that, during November 1997, Peters-Revington exceeded emission limits for hazardous air pollutants, such as formaldehyde and methylene chloride, used in furniture making. EPA notified the company of the violations in June.

Peters-Revington has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Breathing formaldehyde can cause eye, nose, and throat irritation. Other effects are coughing, wheezing, chest pains, and bronchitis. Formaldehyde is a probable human carcinogen of medium hazard.

Methylene chloride is a probable human carcinogen of low hazard. Breathing high levels can irritate the nose and throat. Long-term exposure to methylene chloride can cause headaches, dizziness, nausea, and memory loss.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 14, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa270.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Andre Daugavietis  
(312) 886-6663

Technical Contact: Newton Ellens  
(312) 353-5562

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: September 11, 1998

No. 98-OPA271

## **EPA CITES UNITED HARD CHROME FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited United Hard Chrome Corp. for alleged violations of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's electroplating plant, 2202 Gilbert Ave. NE, Canton, OH.

United, which operates a hard-chrome plating facility, violated a chrome emission limit, EPA said. In addition, the company failed to do initial performance testing for its hard-chrome plating tanks by the July 25, 1997, deadline.

---

Federal regulations went into effect for hard-chrome plating tanks and anodizing tanks January 25, 1997. United was required to meet certain requirements from that date.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve the violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. United has requested a conference to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the



regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist, released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 14, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa271.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Kris Vezner  
(312) 886-6827

Technical Contact: Linda Hamsing  
(312) 886-6810

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: September 15, 1998

No. 98-OPA272

## **EPA, DOJ FILE SUIT AGAINST AMERICAN NATIONAL CAN FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice have filed a civil judicial complaint against American National Can Co., 8770 West Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, for alleged violations of Federal asbestos regulations. A penalty of \$25,000 per day for each violation is sought.

The violations occurred at an abandoned industrial plant, 6017 South Western Ave., Chicago. It was owned by American National Can and was demolished in 1995. In 1994-95, while the company was making plans to have the building demolished, EPA made several inspections and observed dry, loose asbestos material strewn about. On several occasions, the facility was not secured.

In August 1994, EPA ordered American National Can to clean up the asbestos, but, during subsequent inspections, found the material still scattered about the building.

"EPA will take whatever steps are needed to ensure that companies comply with asbestos regulations," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "Asbestos is potentially a

serious threat to human health and the environment."

Asbestos is a known carcinogen that can cause mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (a lung disease) many years after exposure.

###

**UPDATE:** On July 31, 2000, the Northern District Court of Illinois granted American National Can Co.'s motion for summary judgment and dismissed the complaint against American National Can Co.

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: May 21, 2001

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa272.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Kevin Chow  
(312) 353-6181

Technical Contact: Bonnie Bush  
(312) 353-6684

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: September 15, 1998

No. 98-OPA273

## **EPA CITES BUSSE FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited R.I. Busse, Inc., for alleged clean-air violations at the company's concrete crushing facility, 1520 Midway Ct., Elk Grove Village, IL.

---

EPA said particulate emissions (dust) from Busse's primary crusher exceeded Federal limits for opacity (the amount of light obscured) during EPA inspections in July.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve the violations, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. Busse has 30 days from receipt of the finding to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, or those with heart or lung conditions the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 21, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa273.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Beth Reiner  
(312) 353-6576

Media Contact: Susan Pastor  
(312) 353-1325

For Immediate Release: September 16, 1998

No. 98-OPA274

## **EPA PICKS SOIL-SEDIMENT CLEANUP PLAN FOR LEAD BATTERY RECYCLER SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has chosen a plan to clean up contaminated soil and sediment at the Lead Battery Recycler Superfund site, Toledo, OH.

The plan includes: deed restrictions, excavation and disposal of lead-contaminated soils above 1,540 parts per million (ppm) and off-site soils (beyond the site fence) above 400 ppm, backfill with clean soil, regrading to promote drainage, and seeding, if necessary. Estimated cost: \$488,000 to \$645,000.

EPA chose this plan because it is environmentally effective, comparatively easy to carry out, and cost effective. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency supports the plan. EPA held a public meeting to discuss the plan on June 24, along with a 30-day comment period.

With the final cleanup plan now selected, EPA will notify the parties believed to be responsible for the contamination and request that they do the cleanup. If they refuse, EPA can use Federal money to clean up the site. Work is expected to begin next spring.

The Lead Battery Recycler site, 5715 Angola Rd., occupies about 3 acres. It is bordered by Angola Rd. to the north, World Energy Systems of Toledo, Inc., to the east, Conrail railroad tracks and a drainage ditch to the

south, and Able Equipment, Inc., to the west. EPA believes the area was contaminated by a lead-battery recycling facility that operated at the site from 1981 to 1983.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 17, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa274.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Patrick Kuefler  
(312) 353-6268

Legal Contact: Kevin Chow  
(312) 353-6181

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: September 16, 1998

No. 98-OPA275

## **EPA CITES PIERCE & STEVENS FOR HAZ. WASTE VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$123,695 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently issued an administrative order against Pierce & Stevens Corp. for hazardous waste violations at its Carol Stream, IL, facility. The order includes a \$123,695 penalty.

In December, EPA inspectors found several violations at the plant, including improper storage of hazardous waste without a permit. The order requires the company to investigate any spills of hazardous wastes that may have occurred at the plant as a result of the violation. (The Carol Stream plant produces specialty adhesives and coatings.)

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, EPA regulates the management and disposal of municipal and industrial solid wastes, from the time of production to their final disposal.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 17, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa275.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Terry Rondtree  
(312) 353-3236

Media Contacts: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

Bob Paulson  
(312) 886-0272

For Immediate Release: September 21, 1998

No. 98-OPA277

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA TOUR OF UNION CARBIDE SITE, TUES., SEPT. 29, NOON TO 1:30 P.M.**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), and Union Carbide Corporation will hold a media briefing and tour of the Union Carbide Superfund site, Marietta, OH, Tuesday, September 29, from Noon to 1:30 p.m. (The briefing was originally scheduled for June, but postponed due to area flooding.)

The event begins promptly at Noon, at the Amoco Employee Park located next to the Amoco site. The park entrance is about 4 miles west of Marietta on Route 7 North. Following a short required health and safety presentation, van transportation will be provided to the restricted access Union Carbide site. The entire event will take about 90 minutes, including the health and safety presentation, site tour, and van rides from Amoco lot and back.

The tour will include stops and/or photo opportunities at the completed (and now grass covered) North landfill, a creek that runs through the property, and the Marietta Site A and Site B Landfills.

Following the tour, Union Carbide will receive a commendation plaque

for its cleanup efforts from regional Superfund Director William Munro. Representatives from EPA, OEPA, and Union Carbide will be available to discuss the project and the work to be done over the next few years. Local officials and environmental group representatives have also been invited.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUESTED BY NO LATER THAN 1 P.M., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25. To reserve space, call Tom Sprick, Union Carbide Public Affairs: 203-794-6992. Visitors to the site should wear comfortable shoes and be prepared for a short hike.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 21, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa277.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Patrick Kuefler  
(312) 353-6268

Legal Contact: Steve Murawski  
(312) 886-6741

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: September 21, 1998

No. 98-OPA278

## **EPA CITES 3M FOR HAZ. WASTE VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$287,726 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently issued an administrative order to 3M Specialty Adhesives & Chemicals (3M) for hazardous waste violations at its Cordova, IL, facility and has proposed a \$287,726 penalty.

---

In December, EPA inspectors found several violations at the plant, including hazardous waste stored without the proper permits and labels, hazardous waste stored in leaking or damaged containers, and improper recordkeeping.

The order requires the company to investigate and clean up any spills of hazardous wastes that may have occurred at the plant as a result of the violations.

The Cordova plant produces specialty chemicals, primarily for other 3M manufacturing facilities throughout the country.

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, EPA regulates the management and disposal of municipal and industrial solid wastes, from the time of production to their final disposal.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 21, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa278.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Andre Daugavietis  
(312) 886-6663

Technical Contact: Julie Brandt  
(312) 886-6768

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: September 22, 1998

No. 98-OPA279

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH LWG FINISHING; INCLUDES \$20,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with LWG Finishing Co. (Hard Surface Technology) on alleged violations of Federal chromium regulations at the company's electroplating plant, 9461 Le Saint Dr., Fairfield, OH. A \$20,000 penalty is assessed.

---

EPA cited LWG Finishing last December for exceeding its total chromium emissions limit from two hard-chrome electroplating tanks. Under the agreement, the company will take specified steps to abide by work practice, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements of the Federal chromium regulations.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic acid mist released to the atmosphere as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose

short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 28, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa279.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: September 23, 1998

No. 98-OPA280

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA, INDIANA TO SIGN POLLUTION PREVENTION AGREEMENT WITH STEEL MILLS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and Lake Michigan Forum will sign a voluntary pollution prevention agreement with three northwest Indiana steel mills -- USX-Gary Works, Ispat Inland Indiana Harbor Works, and Bethlehem Steel Burns Harbor -- on September 25 at noon at Olympia Plaza Hotel, Dyn III Room, 4141 Calumet Ave., Hammond, IN. Details of the agreement will be available at the signing ceremony.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 23, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa280.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Becky Frey  
(312) 886-4760

Media Contact: Derrick Kimbrough  
(312) 886-9749

For Immediate Release: September 25, 1998

No. 98-OPA281

## **EPA EXPANDS KERR-MCGEE RESIDENTIAL TESTING AREA**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today it has expanded its residential study area in West Chicago, IL, as part of its effort to identify and clean up properties contaminated with radioactive thorium.

Since 1994, EPA has tested about 1,500 properties--primarily residential yards--and now is expanding its study area to include 650 additional properties. Most of the newly identified properties are on West Chicago's North Side, bordered roughly by National St., Route 59, Main St., and the Union Pacific, and Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern railroad tracks. A few additional properties in other areas of West Chicago will also be tested.

EPA decided to expand the study area after reviewing its preliminary testing data from the North Side, along with data from tests done by the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety and the City of West Chicago at other nearby properties. Collectively, these data--and the fact that some contaminated properties were found on the North Side during a Kerr-McGee voluntary cleanup in the mid-1980's, indicated other properties on the North Side could be contaminated too.

"EPA is expanding the residential testing area to ensure that the cleanup is thorough and complete," said Regional Superfund Director William Munro. "The community has been extremely cooperative since the testing began in 1994, but we are quite certain everyone would like us to do a



thorough job now, rather than potentially start more tests a few years down the road."

In July, EPA sent access-request letters to most owners of the 650 new properties. Testing will begin in October and will continue through 1999. In some cases EPA will re-examine properties that Kerr-McGee voluntarily cleaned up in the mid-1980's. The retesting is necessary, because current EPA cleanup standards are more stringent than those used earlier. Thus, properties that were cleaned up in the mid-1980's may still have hazardous levels of contamination.

In general, the cleanup calls for removal of contaminated soils, backfilling excavated areas with clean soils, and restoring the properties. All testing will be done by EPA at no cost to the property owner. Kerr-McGee will pay for any cleanup required.

Since 1995, Kerr-McGee has cleaned up about 350 properties and shipped some 84,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil to a disposal site in Utah. EPA estimates that the residential cleanup will continue for another 2 years.

Properties were contaminated when radioactive materials (thorium mill tailings) from the Kerr-McGee Rare Earths facility were used as fill throughout West Chicago and parts of DuPage County. The Rare Earths facility operated from 1931 to 1973. The residential areas site is one of four separate Kerr-McGee Superfund sites in West Chicago.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 28, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa281.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Philip King  
(312) 353-9062

Legal Contact: Craig Melodia  
(312) 353-8870

Media Contact: Karen Thompson  
(312) 353-8547

For Immediate Release: September 24, 1998

No. 98-OPA282

## **EPA OK'S OHIO'S LEAD-BASED PAINT PROGRAM**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently authorized the Ohio Department of Health to administer and enforce a lead-based paint activities program for the State.

Under the Toxic Substances Control Act, EPA developed and carried out a nationwide program to reduce hazards from lead-based paint. State and tribal governments, however, may apply to EPA for authorization to administer their own programs in lieu of the Federal program. To get EPA approval, State programs must be "as protective as" the Federal program and be properly enforced.

Lead-based paint programs provide for accreditation and training of instructors, testing and certification of contractors and consultants, and enforcement of work-practice standards which ensure safety and uniformity when cleaning up lead-based paint hazards in homes and schools.

Ohio's lead program not only meets but exceeds public protection required under Federal rules, with more frequent licensing and accreditation, longer training hours, more stringent qualifications for course instructors, and mandatory third-party certification exams for workers.

Norman Neidergang, director of the regional Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division said: "Ohio's judicious departures from the Federal model result in a well-thought-out lead poisoning protection program that provides the public a safe and effective lead-hazard reduction workforce."

EPA's authorization of the Ohio lead program takes effect October 1, 1998.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 28, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa282.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Douglas Aburano  
(312) 353-6960

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: September 24, 1998

No. 98-OPA283

## **EPA: 5 STATES IN REGION MUST MAKE PLANS TO CUT NITROGEN OXIDE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said five Midwestern States -- Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin -- (along with 17 other States in the eastern half of the country and the District of Columbia) will be required, by September 1999, to submit plans to EPA for cutting emissions of nitrogen oxide, a precursor of ozone (smog). The rule was signed today by EPA Administrator Carol Browner.

The cuts will improve air quality in States east of the Mississippi River by decreasing the transport of ozone across State boundaries.

The States have been given nitrogen oxide budgets which they must meet by 2007. Each State affected by the rule must develop a plan to meet this budget. Although the nitrogen oxide budget does not have to be met until 2007, the control that will be required by the States must be in place by May 1, 2003.

EPA is not prescribing specific controls. The rule gives States flexibility to decide which sources must cut emissions. States will have the ability to meet the requirements by cutting emissions from the sources they choose. However, utilities and large non-utility power plants would be the most likely sources of nitrogen oxide emissions reductions, EPA said.

To deal with the problem of ozone transport, EPA worked in partnership

with 37 States and the District of Columbia, industry representatives, and environmental groups. The partnership, known as the Ozone Transport Assessment Group (OTAG), met periodically for 2 years to identify and evaluate flexible and cost-effective strategies for cutting long-range transport of ozone and ozone precursors.

The rulemaking is a direct result of EPA's participation in OTAG and is the EPA's best effort to come to grips with the problem of ozone transport by following OTAG recommendations of July 1997.

Ground-level ozone can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. It can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue. Ozone can also cut agricultural yields for crops such as soybeans, wheat, and cotton. Excessive nitrogen from air pollution can result in acidification of lakes, streams, and soils.

The nitrogen oxide reductions from the affected Region 5 States per ozone season (May 1 through September 30) are: Illinois - 100,965 tons; Indiana - 114,169 tons; Michigan - 88,842 tons; Ohio - 132,728 tons; and Wisconsin - 38,851 tons.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 28, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa283.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Gaylene Vasaturo  
(312) 886-1811

Technical Contact: Amy Nerbun  
(312) 886-9861

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: September 23, 1998

No. 98-OPA284

## **EPA TELLS LAKEHEAD PIPE LINE TO RESTORE MILLHURST FEN AND DEVELOP SPILL PLAN**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently ordered Lakehead Pipe Line Co. (Duluth, MN), to restore the Millhurst Fen in Kendall County, IL. The wetland was damaged by two recent discharges of bentonite used in the construction of a crude oil pipeline.

The company must also develop an emergency response plan to clean up and contain future spills. EPA's order does not authorize the discharge of bentonite into the wetland, nor does it preclude enforcement actions for previous or future discharges. It supercedes EPA's August 28, 1998 cease and desist order to stop construction.

---

"Lakehead Pipe Line has already modified the permit it received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to include a spill plan and has resumed construction of the pipeline," said JoLynn Traub, regional Water Division director.

Bentonite is a naturally occurring clay that is combined with other substances for use as a drilling fluid. When the bentonite was released from the drill, it traveled underground and bubbled up into the fen as a liquid, but quickly hardened into a solid layer of clay. The discharge

destroyed a portion of the fen vegetation, and migrated from the fen to Spring Run, a tributary of the Fox River.

EPA is concerned about this site, because it is a high-quality wetland that provides habitat for three of Illinois' threatened or endangered plants, including the beaked spike rush, slender bog arrow grass, and yellow monkey flower.

When complete, the pipeline will run from Edmonton, Alberta (Canada), through Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois to deliver crude oil to the Midwest. About 110 miles of the pipeline will pass through McHenry, Kane, Kendall, and Will Counties in Illinois.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 8, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa284.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Terry Roundtree  
(312) 353-3236

Media Contacts: Bob Paulson  
(312) 886-0272

Mick Hans  
353-5050

For Immediate Release: September 29, 1998

No. 98-OPA285

## **EPA COMMENDS UNION CARBIDE FOR PROGRESS AT WASHINGTON COUNTY SITES**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will present an Environmental Partnership Award today to Union Carbide Corporation for its efforts toward meeting cleanup requirements at the North Landfill, and the adjacent Marietta Facility Superfund sites in Warren Township, Washington County, OH. The company's investment in environmental cleanup and long-term monitoring of the sites is projected to be at least \$50 million.

Regional Superfund Director William Muno will present the award to Ron Cottle, Union Carbide Vice President, Health, Safety, and Environment, following a media tour of the approximately \$2 million North Landfill cleanup, as well as the Site A and Site B Landfills--where cleanup design plans are currently being reviewed. Other areas of the Marietta facility site will also be visited.

Although Union Carbide no longer has an active chemical production operation at the Marietta facility site, the company still retains ownership of much of the property and environmental liability for its inactive waste disposal areas. A number of other industrial tenants, including Amoco, Chevron, and Elkem Metals currently operate on or near the property.



As a result of Union Carbide's past operations, soil, sediment, and ground water are contaminated with hazardous substances. The company is addressing this contamination through cleanup agreements with EPA.

"In presenting this award, EPA Region 5 recognizes Union Carbide's achievements in voluntarily moving forward with the North Landfill cleanup and other areas of its property that present potential risks to human health and the environment," said Munro.

"At these sites, Union Carbide has clearly demonstrated a commendable corporate environmental philosophy in meeting its Superfund obligations. By stepping forward and providing the resources to address this contamination, the company is a worthy role model for responsible parties at Superfund sites in other communities."

The award recognizes a number of time- and cost-saving steps taken by the company in working cooperatively with EPA and Ohio EPA (OEPA). These include:

- Agreement by Union Carbide to pay EPA up to \$500,000 in future oversight costs for the Marietta facility in advance--which is very unusual for Superfund sites;
- Voluntary agreement by Union Carbide in May 1996 to cleanup the North Landfill. The work was completed in December 1997, four years ahead of schedule;
- Agreement by Union Carbide to allow OEPA to perform oversight of the Marietta facility landfill cap design and construction. Typically, this role is performed by the Federal agency--thus requiring additional travel, technical review, and legal oversight costs.

The next milestone will be EPA's and OEPA's review and approval of Union Carbide's design plan for the Marietta facility. The design plan should be available for public comment sometime this fall. Heavy construction is expected to begin in 2001, with the landfill cap completed by March 2002.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 5, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa285.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Steve Padovani  
(312) 353-6755

Media Contact: Eileen Deamer  
(312) 886-1728

MDEQ Contact: Mary Schaefer  
(517) 373-9832

For Immediate Release: September 28, 1998

No. 98-OPA286

## **EPA: \$15 MILLION FUNDING APPROVED FOR TORCH LAKE CLEANUP**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) said today that funding has been approved for a \$15 million cleanup at the Torch Lake Superfund site, Houghton County, MI.

The site, on the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, includes Torch Lake, the west shore of the lake, the northern portion of nearby Portage Lake, the Portage Lake Canal, Keweenaw Waterway, the Lake Linden area, the north entry to Lake Superior, Boston Pond, Calumet Lake, and a number of other areas in the Keweenaw Basin. Numerous copper mill tailing and smelting slag piles throughout the area are also considered part of the site.

Cleanup work will proceed on two of the three operable units. Operable Unit 1 includes tailings at Lake Linden, Hubbell-Tamarack City, and Mason. Operable Unit 3 includes tailings at Calumet Lake, Boston Pond, Michigan Smelter, Dollar Bay, Point Mills, Scales Creek, and North Entry. In 1994, EPA determined that no further cleanup was appropriate for Operable Unit 2, Torch Lake itself.

With the funding approval, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture) will manage the work under EPA oversight--and will begin accepting contractor bids to perform the work. Actual construction will begin next summer, most likely in the Lake Linden portion of Unit 1. The project is expected to continue through 2004.

Torch Lake and the surrounding area were home to a number of copper mills and smelting factories for over 100 years, beginning in 1868. Wastes from these operations were historically dumped in Torch Lake and throughout the area. EPA estimates that contaminated sediment in some areas may be up to 70 feet thick.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: September 30, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa286.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Mike McAteer  
(312) 886-4663

Media Contact: Leo Rosales  
(312) 353-6198

For Immediate Release: September 29, 1998

No. 98-OPA287

## **EPA: LINCOLN FIELDS ALTERNATE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM TURNED OVER TO MADISON WATER DISTRICT BOARD**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that it will turn over responsibility for operation and control of the Lincoln Fields Superfund site (Madison Township, Richland County, OH) alternate water supply system to the Madison Water District Board. The transition becomes effective at midnight Sept. 30.

The site covers about a square mile, bordered by Yale Ave. to the north, Stewart Rd. to the east, Grace St. to the south, and Illinois Ave. to the west. (The water treatment plant is on Crider Road at Interstate 71.) EPA believes that ground water in this area was contaminated by a former dry cleaning plant that used hazardous chemicals in its operations.

EPA has designed a new alternate water supply for the affected community. Construction was done by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, under EPA supervision. All homes and businesses requesting the new water supply have been connected to the system. The last connection was finished September 21.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 5, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa287.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Dea Zimmerman  
(312) 353-6344

Media Contact: Karen Thompson  
(312) 353-8547

Legal Contact: Peter Felitti  
(312) 886-5114

For Immediate Release: September 29, 1998

No. 98-OPA288

## **EPA CITES CONTRACTORS, WORKERS FOR PHONY TRAINING CERTIFICATES**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has cited eight asbestos-abatement companies for hiring workers who fraudulently purchased asbestos training certificates. Fines of up to \$5,000 per violation were assessed.

EPA also cited supervisors and workers in Illinois and Indiana for fraudulent purchase of asbestos training certificates. Those fines ranged from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per violation.

The contractors cited and their base operations are: Asbestos Control, Inc. (Arlington Heights, IL); Brandenburg Industrial Service Co., Colfax Corp., Jet Vac, Inc., and L&C Europa Contracting Co., Inc. (Chicago, IL); Dore & Associates Contracting, Inc. (Bay City, MI); Holian Asbestos Removal Encapsulation Corp. (Spring Grove, IL); and Loyalty Environmental, Inc. (Skokie, IL)>

The charges are the result of a 2-year investigation by EPA, Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The contractors and workers got their licenses in either Illinois or Indiana and may have done asbestos

abatement work in either State.

In 1996, Robert Cooley, owner-operator of I.P.C. Chicago, was indicted for selling certificates to individuals who had not taken the 4-or 5-day training courses or the 1-day refresher course on safe handling of asbestos, as required by Federal and State law. He is in jail and is cooperating with officials.

Buyers of the fraudulent certificates were traced, with Cooley's help, through Illinois' and Indiana's licensing and renewal records systems.

Asbestos is a mineral fiber that can cause lung cancer, mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (a lung disease) many years after exposure. EPA classifies asbestos as a hazardous air pollutant.

EPA requires accreditation of asbestos workers who remove, encapsulate, or do maintenance on dry or crumbling asbestos-containing materials in schools and public and commercial buildings.

To be accredited, a worker must take a 4-day training course on potential health effects of asbestos exposure, personal protective equipment, state-of-the-art work practices, and more. A contractor or supervisor must take a 5-day, EPA-approved course. Workers, contractors, and supervisors all must take an annual 1-day refresher class.

Phyllis Reed, chief of EPA's regional Pesticides and Toxics Branch, said: "Untrained asbestos abatement workers may endanger themselves, their co-workers, and building occupants through unsafe work practices with this hazardous air pollutant. Anyone holding a fraudulent certificate may be subject to civil or criminal penalties."

She added: "Federal and State environmental regulations exist to protect public health and safety. We believe there are no health risks to building occupants resulting from these allegations, based on third-party oversight and air clearance tests."

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 5, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa288.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Richard Clarizio  
(312) 886-0559

Technical Contact: Kevin Adler  
(312) 886-7078

Media Contact: Janet Pope  
(312) 353-0628

For Immediate Release: September 30, 1998

No. 98-OPA289

## **EPA AND GE AGREE ON \$3.6 MILLION CLEANUP PLAN FOR DIXIE AUTO SALVAGE SITE; WORK TO BEGIN SOON**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and General Electric (GE) have recently agreed on a \$3.6 million plan to clean up the Dixie Auto Salvage site, Danville, IL. A public comment period on the agreement ends October 10.

Cleanup is expected to begin the week of October 5, with nearly all work completed by winter.

The 12-acre site, 24455 Illinois State Route 1 (about 3 miles north of Danville), is in a partially wooded residential area, near the North Fork of Vermilion River. During the 1960's and 1970's, Dixie Auto Salvage disposed of and burned lead- and PCB-containing debris at the site. GE manufactured most of the PCB-containing materials found there.

The cleanup plan includes excavation, consolidation, and on-site containment of contaminated soils and debris from the river, beneath an EPA-approved landfill cap. Some finishing work, such as planting grass seed, will be done next spring. The plan also includes deed restrictions on future use of a portion of the site and monitoring of both the cap and groundwater quality, to ensure protection of human health and the environment.



The work--paid for by GE--will be done by an environmental contractor, under direct EPA supervision. Illinois EPA has indicated that it would not object to the cleanup plan.

A copy of the administrative consent order, the cleanup plan, and other site documents are available for review at Danville Public Library. Community members with questions may contact Janet Pope, Community Involvement Coordinator, (P-19J) U.S. EPA, 77 West Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL 60604; 800-621-8431, fax 312-353-1155, e-mail: [pope.janet@epa.gov](mailto:pope.janet@epa.gov).

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 5, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa289.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Tom Williams  
(312) 886-0814

Technical Contact: Kenneth Bardo  
(312) 886-7566

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 1, 1998

No. 98-OPA290

## **EPA TELLS GENERAL MOTORS TO CLEAN UP HAZARDOUS WASTE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has ordered General Motors Corp., Delphi Automotive Systems, to investigate and clean up hazardous-waste contamination at its Vandalia, OH, facility.

EPA said it has identified areas at the 140-acre facility, just east of the Dayton International Airport, where hazardous organic chemicals have leaked or been spilled, contaminating soils, surface water, and ground water.

The EPA order, issued under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, requires GM to immediately control the sources of contamination, capture the contaminated ground-water plume, and conduct a water-use survey and sampling program.

If EPA determines that additional cleanup is needed, it will choose a cleanup method that GM will be required to design, construct, and carry out.

"EPA is committed to the effective cleanup of contamination at hazardous waste facilities," said Norman R. Niedergang, director of EPA's regional

Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division.

GM has 30 days from receipt of the order to request a hearing on the order. To review the administrative record, which includes all relevant information, call the EPA Region 5 Hearing Clerk at (312) 886-3617.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 5, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa290.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Cynthia Kawakami  
(312) 886-0564

Technical Contact: Joseph Cardile  
(312) 353-2151

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 1, 1998

No. 98-OPA291

## **EPA CITES DEUTCH & SONS; INCLUDES \$10,050 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against I. Deutch & Sons Scrap Processors for alleged clean-air violations at the company's scrap-processing facility, 311 Bay Miller St., Cincinnati, OH. EPA has proposed a \$10,050 penalty.

EPA said Deutch did not adequately verify that refrigerants had been recovered from appliances before their disposal.

---

Deutch has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

"EPA's goal is to get companies to voluntarily comply with the Clean Air Act," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "When this goal is achieved, we will no longer have to ensure compliance by taking these enforcement actions."

Chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants deplete the stratospheric ("good") ozone layer, allowing dangerous amounts of cancer-causing ultraviolet rays from the sun to reach the earth. Production of some of these chemicals was stopped in 1995, and Federal law strictly controls their use and handling.

Releasing them into the atmosphere is forbidden.

Information on compliance with the refrigerant recycling rule can be found on the Worldwide Web at: [www.epa.gov/ozone/](http://www.epa.gov/ozone/) under the heading "Stationary Refrigerant & AC."

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 5, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa291.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Ruth McNamara  
(312) 353-3193

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: October 2, 1998

No. 98-OPA292

## **EPA CITES KOCH FERTILIZER STORAGE FOR CHEMICAL RELEASE REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$82,500 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Koch Fertilizer Storage and Terminal Co. (Crawfordsville, IN) for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. EPA has proposed a \$82,500 fine. The facility is a division of Koch Industries, Wichita, KS.

On May 13, 1995, at about 9 p.m., a severe thunderstorm caused a power outage at the Koch facility, resulting in ammonia storage tank compressors going off line. With the compressors shut down, 973 lb of anhydrous ammonia vapors from the facility's refrigeration system were released. Koch was notified of the release by a nearby resident.

All anhydrous ammonia releases above 100 lb must be reported promptly to the National Response Center and the State and local emergency response planning committees. Koch notified both the National Response Center and the State emergency response planning committee the next morning. But the Montgomery County emergency response agency was not notified of the release until June 15, 1995--32 days after the release.

"Compliance with these reporting requirements is critical because fire departments and other authorities must have the necessary information to respond when a release occurs," said Regional Superfund Director William Muno. "Public health, as well as the environment, is at stake."

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 165 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 154 settlements with \$4.02 million in total fines and \$1.52 million in environmental projects.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 5, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa292.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



EPA Technical Contact: Richard Lawrence  
(734) 214-4243

DOE Technical Contact: Tatiana Muessel  
(202) 586-9230

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 2, 1998

No. 98-OPA293

## **EPA TO AWARD FIRST CONTRACT FOR NEW ENERGY- SAVING PROGRAM**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will award its first contract for a new innovative energy-saving, pollutions-cutting program Tuesday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m., at its National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory, 2565 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor, MI.

EPA said the contract for a comprehensive energy systems upgrade at the emissions laboratory will go to Noresco, Framingham, MA.

Congress created the new innovative tool -- Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) -- to encourage Federal agencies to become more efficient and to reduce their energy costs. These efforts will save taxpayers money, save energy, replace aging infrastructures, and make substantial cuts in air pollution.

EPA said the Ann Arbor laboratory upgrades will demonstrate how energy-saving upgrades should be made at other laboratories.

ESPC authority allows Federal agencies to hire contractors to audit facilities, propose energy-saving retrofits, and privately finance, install, and maintain retrofits. Contractors are paid from a share of the savings and



the remaining savings go back to taxpayers and the agency.

The renovation at EPA's Ann Arbor laboratory is expected to achieve a 5 percent reduction in energy consumption, energy cost, water consumption and discharges, and air emissions related to energy production. EPA said guaranteed annual energy-related savings at the Ann Arbor laboratory are more than \$1 million per year.

The mayor of Ann Arbor and the president of Noresco will participate in the event, as well as officials from the White House, EPA's Office of Air and Radiation and Office of Acquisition Management, and the Department of Energy.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 5, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa293.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Audrie Washington  
(312) 886-0669

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 6, 1998

No. 98-OPA295

## **EPA RECOGNIZES UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO POLLUTION-CUTTING, ENERGY-SAVING PROGRAM**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today recognized the University of Michigan for its commitment to EPA's pollution-cutting, energy-saving Energy Star Buildings partnership at a ceremony, Hatcher Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

By joining EPA as an Energy Star partner, the university will save over 71 million kilowatt hours annually and significantly improve the quality of lighting, the comfort of building occupants, and the university's learning environment.

Robert Perciasepe, EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation, presented a certificate of recognition to Henry Baier, assistant vice-president of Facilities and Operations for the university, at a 12:30 p.m. ceremony.

Kate Lewis, communications director for the Energy Star program, said: "EPA applauds the extraordinary commitment the University of Michigan has made by joining EPA as an Energy Star Buildings partner. This partnership shows that energy efficiency can help prevent pollution and save money at the same time. The university's leadership demonstrates that the principles of environmental protection and cost-effective management go hand-in-hand."

The university has committed more than 13 million square feet of building space to the partnership.

Under the terms of the voluntary agreement with EPA, partners have up to 7 years to upgrade to energy-efficient lighting and other whole-building, energy-saving technologies. Partners only have to upgrade space where it is profitable and where it will maintain or improve comfort and productivity.

When these energy-efficient improvements are completed, they will prevent the emissions of more than 128 million lb of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere each year. This is equivalent to planting nearly 18,000 acres of trees.

Energy Star Building partnerships encourage energy-efficient lighting, heating, and cooling systems that cut emissions of air pollutants associated with global warming, smog, and acid rain. More information on the program is available at EPA's World Wide Web site: [www.epa.gov/energystar/](http://www.epa.gov/energystar/), or by calling 1-800-782-7937.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 8, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa295.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Jack Barnette  
(312) 886-6175

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 7, 1998

No. 98-OPA296

## **EPA RECOGNIZES GREEN BAY PACKERS, STATE OF WISCONSIN FOR COMMITMENT TO POLLUTION-CUTTING, ENERGY-SAVING PROGRAM**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today recognized the Green Bay Packers and the State of Wisconsin for their commitment to EPA's pollution-cutting, energy-saving Energy Star Buildings partnership at an official signing and recognition ceremony at Lambeau Field, Green Bay, WI.

EPA Energy Star Buildings Regional Program Manager Jack Barnette presented certificates of appreciation to Robert Harlan, president of the Green Bay Packers, and to Mark Bugher, commissioner of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, at a 10 a.m. ceremony. Barnette, Harlan, and Bugher signed agreements formalizing the projects.

"EPA applauds the extraordinary commitments the Green Bay Packers and the State of Wisconsin have made by joining EPA as Energy Star Buildings partners," Barnette said. "These partnerships show that energy efficiency can help prevent pollution and save money at the same time. The leadership of the Packers and the State of Wisconsin demonstrates that the principles of environmental protection, profitable business, and cost-effective government can go hand-in-hand."

By signing the agreement, the Packers have committed 500,000 square feet of administrative and office space to the program, making them the

first major sports franchise to become a partner in this program. Lighting and buildings upgrades will be performed by another EPA Energy Star Buildings participant, Johnson Controls.

The State of Wisconsin has committed more than 50 million square feet of State-managed building space to the partnership.

Under the terms of the voluntary agreement, participating partners have up to 7 years to upgrade to energy-efficient lighting and other whole-building, energy-saving technologies. Partners only have to upgrade space where it is profitable and where it will maintain or improve comfort and productivity.

When these energy-efficient improvements are completed, they will prevent emissions of 209 million lb of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere each year. This is equivalent to planting more than 25,000 acres of trees. In addition, the State of Wisconsin will cut its electricity use by 104 million kilowatt hours a year.

Energy Star Building partnerships encourage energy-efficient lighting, heating, and cooling systems that cut emissions of air pollutants associated with global warming, smog, and acid rain. More information on the program is available at EPA's World Wide Web site: [www.epa.gov/energystar/](http://www.epa.gov/energystar/), or by calling 1-800-782-7937.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 8, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa296.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



EPA Technical Contacts: Mike Bland  
(312) 353-9196

Karen Reshkin  
353-6353

EPA Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

Purdue Contact: Don Jones  
(765) 494-1178

For Immediate Release: October 6, 1998

No. 98-OPA297

## **EPA RECOGNIZES PURDUE FOR 10-YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL SOFTWARE PARTNERSHIP**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today recognized a successful 10-year partnership with Purdue University (Lafayette, IN) for development of environmental software. To commemorate the partnership, EPA Acting Regional Administrator David Ullrich attended a celebration at Purdue and awarded a plaque to Richard J. Schwartz, Dean of Engineering, and to Victor L. Lechtenberg, Dean of Agriculture.

The software development program involves EPA professional staff, working with undergraduate and graduate students, and faculty, from both the Agricultural Department and the Biological Engineering Department. For many students, the EPA software programs are their very first professional-level assignments. EPA, in turn, is able to produce the software--including state-of-the-art graphics, sound and motion, and interactive teaching devices--at considerable cost savings, compared with commercial software development. All of the programs are available at cost on CD-Rom by mail, or downloadable for free over the Internet.

The cooperative effort has produced more than 50 interactive software programs to date. The programs are used by numerous universities, school districts, government agencies, non-profit organizations, environmental professionals, and individuals, both in the United States and in 80 nations around the world. Over the past decade, programs produced under the cooperative agreement have received commendations from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to IBM to the U.S. Department of Labor.

"The faculty and students who have worked with EPA over the past decade have much to be proud of," said Ullrich. "With modest resources, they have created truly world class software, helping to make complex environmental issues, regulations, and concepts easier to understand--and fun to explore."

Software titles produced under the cooperative agreement include: Environmental Planning for Small Communities; Residential Water Conservation Techniques; Fish Contamination and Fish Consumption Advisories; Mercury in Medical Facilities; Electronic Wetland Herbarium (plant identification); and EPA Grant Writing Tutorial. Several programs are also available in Spanish.

For more information, contact Karen Reshkin at 312-353-6353 or [reshkin.karen@epa.gov](mailto:reshkin.karen@epa.gov), or see EPA's website: [www.epa.gov/seahome](http://www.epa.gov/seahome).

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 6, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa297.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Ron Murawski  
(312) 886-2940

Media Contact: Gordon Blum  
(312) 353-8501

For Immediate Release: October 7, 1998

No. 98-OPA298

## **EPA SELECTS \$7.2 MILLION CLEANUP PLAN FOR H.O.D. LANDFILL**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today it has selected a \$7.2 million plan to clean up contaminated soils at the abandoned H.O.D. Landfill Superfund site, Antioch, IL.

The plan includes: waste cap improvements; enhanced gas and leachate collection systems; ground-water monitoring; and institutional controls and deed restrictions on future uses of the property.

This plan allows EPA contractors to begin design work, with actual construction expected to begin in the spring of 2000.

A 30-day public comment period on the proposed plan selection ended Aug. 20. A public meeting was held Aug. 11. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency supports the plan.

Copies of the plan and other site documents are available for review at Antioch Public District Library, 757 Main St. Residents with questions about the plan may call Gordon Blum, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at 312-353-8501 or 800-621-8431. The H.O.D. Landfill, which operated from about 1963 to 1984, includes two separate disposal areas covering 51 acres of a 121-acre property. A residential area lies to the east of the site, with scattered homes, agricultural land and undeveloped areas to the north, and an industrial park to the west. The



south and west sides are bordered by Sequoit Creek, which flows into Lake Marie (used locally for recreation), and eventually into the Fox River.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 7, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa298.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Bob Mayhugh  
(312) 886-5929

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: October 7, 1998

No. 98-OPA299

## **EPA TO SPONSOR 4 RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINARS IN MINNESOTA**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will present four free seminars during October and November to help Minnesota companies comply with new Risk Management Plan regulations. Pre-registration is required to attend.

The new regulations seek to reduce the risk of airborne chemical accidents, and require that affected facilities develop a program and submit a plan to manage more than 100 toxic or flammable chemicals. The law, finalized in June 1996, becomes effective June 21, 1999.

The seminars will be held:

- Oct. 13 (8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) and Nov. 3 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.), North Memorial Hospital, Robbinsdale
- Nov. 12 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.), Minnesota Inter-Agency Fire Coordination Center, Grand Rapids
- Nov. 24 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.), South Central Technical College, North Mankato

The seminars are co-sponsored by the Minnesota Emergency Response Commission (MERC). Staff from EPA and MERC will be available at the seminars to answer specific questions on the reporting requirements, and how they fit into an overall facility environmental and occupational safety

management program.

For seminar registration information or a free brochure, contact Greg Gehrig at 312-578-9243.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 8, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa299.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Judy Beck  
(312) 353-3849

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: October 8, 1998

No. 98-OPA300

## **EPA ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE DISPOSAL OF MERCURY AND PCB'S**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today announced a joint effort by government and the private sector to inform and encourage small businesses to manage and dispose of mercury and PCB's in an environmentally safe way. It is called the Cook County Cleansweep Partnership and includes EPA, Illinois EPA, City of Chicago Dept. of Environment, Cook County Dept. Of Environmental Control, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Commonwealth Edison Co., Electric Association, University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health, and North Business Industrial Council.

---

The partnership will provide training and information to small businesses -- particularly electrical and demolition contractors -- and local government agencies to help them identify, handle, transport, and dispose of mercury and PCB's. It also will help provide safe, low-cost disposal by a licensed hazardous waste management firm. Businesses with questions about mercury and PCB's can call a new hotline at 312-996-0802.

In recent years, more and more contracts and insurance policies have specified recycling and environmentally safe job sites, EPA noted.

"Mercury and PCB's are a serious concern in Lake Michigan and all the Great Lakes because they are long-lasting and build up in plants and wildlife. They pose a health threat to untrained workers and people who

eat contaminated fish from the Lakes," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "Once these pollutants get into the Lakes, they are very difficult and costly to remove -- that's why pollution prevention efforts are so important."

Mercury and PCB's can cause neurological damage in children. Children exposed to PCB's in the womb have shown learning difficulties and delayed development, EPA said.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa300.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Jerome King  
(312) 886-0981

Media Contact: Gordon Blum  
(312) 353-8501

For Immediate Release: October 9, 1998

No. 98-OPA301

## **LEAD SAMPLING TO BEGIN IN EAST ST. LOUIS; MEETING OCT. 20**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) will soon begin a project to sample soils for elevated lead levels in East St. Louis, IL.

A public meeting to discuss the sampling project will be held Tuesday, Oct. 20, 6 p.m., East St. Louis City Hall. Sampling is expected to begin in late October and continue through March 1999.

The agencies are trying to determine if elevated lead levels have collected in area soils, due, in part, to air pollution from now-closed facilities such as metal smelters, and glass, ceramics, and battery manufacturers. Other sources of lead that may collect in soils--and may contribute to elevated blood-lead levels in people: leaded gasoline, and debris from demolished or abandoned buildings painted with lead-based paint.

Random soil samples will be collected from these neighborhoods: Emerson Park, Franklin Park, Goose Hill, Northend, Southend, Rush City, and Winstanley/Industry Park. IDPH will conduct the soil sampling, funded by a \$75,000 EPA Gateway Initiative grant in cooperation with IEPA. The Gateway Initiative, launched in 1994, is a coordinated effort among EPA, and other Federal, State, and local agencies to address Metro East environmental issues.

The new lead sampling data collected will be added to existing data, and ultimately compared with EPA's national hazard ranking system to determine if there are any environmental risks in East St. Louis neighborhoods.

High blood-lead levels in young children can cause developmental disorders, including low IQ scores, hearing problems, and kidney damage.

Residents with questions about the sampling project may call Gordon Blum, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, 800-621-8431 or 312-353-8501.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 13, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa301.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: David Stoltenberg  
(312) 353-5784

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: October 9, 1998

No. 98-OPA302

## **EPA RECOGNIZES REGIONAL SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS AMONG TOP IN NATION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently named four regional-municipal wastewater treatment plants among the best operated in the Nation for 1998. They are:

- Cold Spring, MN -- best in small, secondary category. The plant received the award for excellent pollutant removal; an exemplary compliance record; plant improvements that resulted in considerable cost savings; providing sewage treatment to the city of Rockville, which eliminated the need and expense of constructing a separate treatment plant; and an outstanding industrial pre-treatment program which resulted in an 80 percent reduction in pollutants received from a local brewery. The plant discharges into the Sauk River.
- Watertown, MN -- best in small advanced category. The plant received the award for excellent pollutant removal; and exemplary compliance record; saving 20 percent on power costs by using its own generator on high electrical use days; a strong staff training program; and using an aquarium with goldfish as a final test of the treated sewage. The plant discharges into the south fork of the Crow River.
- Dyer, IN -- second place in medium, advanced category. The plant



was recognized for its excellent compliance record; public education program, which includes a web site; computerized, preventive maintenance; aggressive sewer maintenance; staff training; and computerized laboratory. The plant discharges into a tributary of the Little Calumet River.

- Dale Sanitary District, No. 1, Dale, WI -- second place in the most improved plant category. The plant had been in noncompliance since 1987 and was facing possible reconstruction to solve operation problems. But, with the help of an EPA trainer, the community, and a consulting engineering firm, the plant's performance dramatically improved, and now it will not need to expand in order to meet its permit limits. Its improved operation helps to protect water quality in the Rat and Wolf Rivers, Lake Winnebago, and, ultimately, Lake Michigan.

Other Region 5 national wastewater management award winners are:

- City of Saginaw, MI -- first place winner of the Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program Excellence Award.
- Lime Lake Reclamation Project of PPG Industries (Baberton, OH) and the Tim Frank Septic Tank Cleaning Co. (Huntsberg, OH) -- special awards in the National Beneficial Use of Biosolids Program.

EPA presented the awards on October 5 at the 71st Annual Water Environment Federation Conference in Orlando, FL.

At a regional level, EPA also recognized Wabash, IN, and North Shore Sanitary District, Waukegan, IL, as the best operated wastewater treatment plants in their categories. Second place regional winners were Breese, IL; Oolitic, IN; Cadillac, MI; and Richwood, OH.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 21, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa302.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contacts: Russ Hart (Moss)  
(312) 886-4844

Ken Glatz (PW)  
(312) 886-1434

Media Contact: Susan Pastor  
(312) 353-1325

For Immediate Release: October 15, 1998

No. 98-OPA304

## **EPA PICKS CLEAN-UP PLANS FOR MOSS-AMERICAN, PENTA WOOD SITES**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently selected clean-up plans for two Wisconsin Superfund sites: Moss-American (Milwaukee) and Penta Wood Products (Town of Daniels).

The Moss-American plan is amended from the original 1990 plan, based on new technical information and EPA's recent experience with similarly contaminated sites. The site contains creosote-contaminated soil and sediment from a wood-preserving facility that operated at the site from 1921 to 1976. The plan includes: low temperature thermal desorption (which vaporizes contaminants from the soil via indirect heat, for collection and disposal off-site); revision of the exposure scenarios (used to calculate clean-up levels) for the areas of the site owned by Union Pacific Railroad to levels which reflect the site's industrial, rather than residential, use; and adoption of State soil clean-up levels that protect users of the site, the ground water, and the surface water.

EPA held a public meeting to discuss the amended Moss-American plan on March 18, along with a 30-day comment period. With the plan selection, EPA will notify the parties believed to be responsible for the contamination and request that they do the cleanup. Work is expected to

begin in spring 1999. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) conditionally supports the Moss-American plan.

The \$8.2 million Penta Wood plan addresses arsenic-contaminated soils and pentachlorophenol (PCP)- and fuel oil-contaminated ground water, soil, and sediment at the site. Penta Wood Products, a wood treatment facility, operated at the site from 1953 to 1992.

The plan includes: consolidation and cover of the contaminated soils and sediments, and wood debris; destruction of PCP in the soil via bioventing technology; removal of a floating PCP-oil layer from the ground water, with treatment of the highly contaminated ground water; and monitoring the remaining untreated ground water as it recovers naturally.

EPA held a public meeting to discuss the Penta Wood plan on July 15, along with a 30-day comment period. Work--to be paid for directly by EPA, with participation by WDNR--is also expected to begin in spring 1999. WDNR supports the Penta Wood plan.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 16, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa304.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Mary McAuliffe  
(312) 886-6237

Technical Contact: Bonnie Bush  
(312) 353-6684

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 19, 1998

No. 98-OPA306

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH ALLIED METAL; INCLUDES \$23,100 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Allied Metal Co. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's aluminum recycling plant, 2059 South Canal St., Chicago, IL. A \$23,100 penalty was assessed.

(The company makes ingots from recycled scrap aluminum and sells them to companies that make aluminum products.)

EPA cited Allied Metal last January for allowing emissions from its roof monitor to exceed federally enforceable State limits for opacity (amount of light obscured by particulates -- smoke, dust, ash) during EPA inspections in September and December 1997.

Under the agreement, the company will install and maintain monitoring equipment and make visible emissions observations for opacity on the roof vent.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to

ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 19, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa306.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Terese Van Donsel  
(312) 353-6564

Media Contact: Don de Blasio  
(312) 886-4360

For Immediate Release: October 16, 1998

No. 98-OPA307

## **EPA SELECTS CLEANUP PLAN FOR PETOSKEY SUPERFUND SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently selected a plan to cleanup soil contamination at the Petoskey Municipal Well Field Superfund site, Petoskey, MI. The plan also includes installation of additional ground-water monitoring wells and requirements for long-term monitoring of ground-water contamination levels.

The \$395,000 plan--to be paid for by EPA--covers an area next to Petoskey Manufacturing Co. (PMC), 200 West Lake St. Design plans will be prepared during the winter and spring, with work at the site set to begin next summer.

PMC, a metal fabrication facility since 1946, historically disposed of spent solvents, paint sludges, and other waste materials on the ground outside the facility. As a result of this practice, there is significant soil- and ground water-contamination in the immediate area.

For the soil contamination, EPA selected its alternative 3: Excavate soil to 5 ft.; construct a vapor extraction system to remove volatile organic compounds from deeper soils; and deed restrictions requiring property owners to exercise "due care" if the building is demolished. This plan will remove contaminants that exceed the State of Michigan's recommended levels for residential properties, while also addressing the source of ground-water contamination.

To address polluted groundwater, EPA selected its alternative 2: Monitor ground-water contaminant concentrations, with natural attenuation (a natural decrease, without technical intervention) of existing contaminants. Ground-water monitoring allows EPA to determine when contaminant levels are safe for human consumption, and to evaluate the potential impact of the discharging ground water on Lake Michigan.

With this plan for groundwater, the contamination level at the site is expected to decline naturally without active treatment. If contaminant levels in ground water do not drop as expected once the source of the contamination is removed, EPA could intervene and require additional remediation steps.

Additionally, EPA will prohibit the installation and use of private wells in areas near PMC where the ground water contains unsafe levels of contamination.

A 30-day public comment period on EPA's proposed plan ended Aug. 18. A public meeting was also held. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality agrees with the plan.

Residents with questions about the cleanup may contact Don de Blasio, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at 800-621-8431 or e-mail: [deblasio.don@epa.gov](mailto:deblasio.don@epa.gov).

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 19, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa307.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: William Wagner  
(312) 886-4684

Technical Contact: Charles G. Hall  
(312) 353-3443

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 20, 1998

No. 98-OPA308

## **EPA CITES MARSULEX FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Marsulex, Inc., for alleged violations of Federal and State clean-air regulations at the company's sulfuric acid production plant, 1400 Otter Creek Rd., Oregon, OH.

EPA said Marsulex and the former owner, Coulton Chemical Corp., exceeded Federal and federally enforceable State sulfur dioxide emission limits. They also made changes to the plant without installing appropriate pollution controls.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company has 30 days from receipt of the findings to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."



Sulfur dioxide causes acid rain. Exposure to sulfur dioxide can impair breathing, aggravate existing respiratory diseases like bronchitis, and reduce the ability of the lungs to clear foreign particles.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 20, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa308.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Ignacio Arrazola  
(312) 886-7152

Technical Contact: Julie Brandt  
(312) 886-6768

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 21, 1998

No. 98-OPA309

## **EPA CITES FORD FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$55,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Ford Motor Co. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's Cleveland Casting Plant, 5600 Henry Ford Blvd., Brook Park, OH. A \$55,000 penalty is proposed.

---

EPA cited Ford last June for exceeding State particulate (dust, soot, smoke) emission limits at its No. 7 cupola furnace. Excess cupola emissions have been calculated at over 10 tons per year.

Ford has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, or those with heart or lung conditions the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 21, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa309.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Ann Coyle  
(312) 886-2248

Technical Contact: Jennifer Darrow  
(312) 886-6315

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 21, 1998

No. 98-OPA310

## **EPA CITES ELLEFSON FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Ellefson & Sons Building Co., Inc. (Dearborn Heights, MI), for alleged violations of Federal asbestos regulations at seven demolition sites in Detroit, MI.

---

EPA said Ellefson failed to thoroughly inspect the facilities for asbestos, a hazardous air pollutant, and to notify the proper authorities before starting demolition, as required by EPA regulations.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the parties. The company has 10 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Asbestos is a known carcinogen that can cause mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (a lung disease) many years after exposure.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa310.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Bob Mayhugh  
(312) 886-5929

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: October 21, 1998

No. 98-OPA311

## **EPA TO SPONSOR RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINARS IN INDIANA**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will present free seminars during October and November to help Indiana companies comply with new Risk Management Plan regulations. Pre-registration is required to attend.

The new regulations seek to reduce the risk of airborne chemical accidents, and require that affected facilities develop a program and submit a plan to manage more than 100 toxic or flammable chemicals. The law, finalized in June 1996, becomes effective June 21, 1999.

The seminars will be held: Thursday, Oct. 29 (8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.), South Bend Regional Small Business Development Center, 300 North Michigan, South Bend; and Thursday, Nov. 5, (8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.), Indiana University Southeast Library, 4201 Grant Line Rd., New Albany. Registration is already full for a third seminar, Monday, Nov. 9, in Indianapolis.

The seminars are co-sponsored by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and the Indiana Chapter of the Air Waste Management Association. Staff from EPA and IDEM will be available at the seminars to answer specific questions on the reporting requirements, and how they fit into an overall facility environmental and occupational safety management program.

For seminar registration information or a free brochure, contact Greg Gehrig at 312-578-9243.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa311.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Louise Gross  
(312) 886-6844

Technical Contact: Katherine Keith  
(312) 353-6956

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 21, 1998

No. 98-OPA312

## **EPA CITES JENNINGS PUMP FOR CLEAN AIR ACT VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Jennings Pump Co. for alleged violations of Federal regulations for chromium -- a hazardous air pollutant -- at its electroplating plant, 19175 Mount Elliott Rd., Detroit, MI.

EPA said Jennings failed to do an initial compliance test in 1996 and failed to keep required records.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. Jennings has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic acid mist released to the atmosphere as part of the



electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa312.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Constandina Dalianis  
(312) 353-1027

Technical Contact: Linda Hamsing  
(312) 886-6810

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 21, 1998

No. 98-OPA313

## **EPA CITES ICOR INTERNATIONAL; INCLUDES \$99,850 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against ICOR International, Inc. (2351 Kentucky Ave., Indianapolis, IN), for alleged violations of stratospheric ozone regulations. A \$99,850 penalty was proposed.

ICOR International makes a substitute refrigerant called HOT SHOT and a refrigerant recovery device called Spooter II.

In the complaint, EPA cited ICOR for failing to:

- equip small cans of HOT SHOT with required fittings;
- maintain certification of Spooter II equipment by an EPA-approved testing organization; and,
- properly label Spooter II equipment.

ICOR has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations.

"EPA's mission is to protect human health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation

Division. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations."

Chlorofluorocarbons deplete the stratospheric ("good") ozone layer that shields the earth from dangerous ultraviolet radiation, which can cause skin cancer and cataracts and can weaken the immune system. Production of some CFC's was stopped in December 1995.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa313.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contacts: Phillipa Cannon (EPA)  
(312) 353-6218

Peter Blum (IDEM)  
(317) 232-8557

For Immediate Release: October 21, 1998

No. 98-OPA314

## **EPA AND IDEM OK SAFETY-KLEEN FOR PCB STORAGE AND TREATMENT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) have given Safety-Kleen (East Chicago, IN) a permit to store and treat PCB-contaminated waste oil.

This action follows five years of evaluation, inspection, analysis, testing, and public participation. Safety-Kleen -- a waste oil re-refiner -- has met all regulatory and permit requirements. In addition, specific conditions in the permit address community concerns raised during the comment period and enhance protection of human health and the environment.

Safety-Kleen's approved process reduces PCB levels below 2 parts per million, a level considered to be virtually PCB-free. This process will not release PCB's into the environment and will not generate toxic substances, such as dioxins and furans.

"The agencies are aware that there are community concerns about processing PCB-contaminated oil at this facility," said David A. Ullrich, acting regional administrator. "EPA has done a comprehensive review of the company's procedures for handling PCB waste and has required extensive changes in their procedures. EPA believes these changes and conditions in the permit will protect human health and the environment at the East Chicago facility."

Special conditions added to the permit include:

- frequent inspections and testing of process equipment by Safety-Kleen;
- separation of reactive or ignitable waste from PCB-contaminated waste oil;
- safety training of each employee involved in the process;
- development of a risk management plan including hazard assessment, a chemical accident (spill/release) prevention program, and an emergency response program; and
- immediate cut off of the PCB feed if odors are released and it is determined that it is coming from the PCB process and would affect East Chicago or a neighboring community.

IDEM reviews, grants, or denies applications for PCB disposal or destruction under State regulations. EPA regulates the use, storage, and disposal of PCB's under the Toxic Substances Control Act.

This permit will allow Safety-Kleen to treat PCB-contaminated waste oil that has been stored at the facility since a September 1997 incident when it accepted PCB-contaminated oil.

In addition, under a separate settlement with EPA for recordkeeping violations (not involving PCB's) that occurred in 1991, Safety-Kleen has agreed to dispose of PCB-contaminated oils from public organizations, community groups, and private organizations or individuals, and to carry out a program to encourage eligible organizations to use this service. This project will cost at least \$667,040 and the company will also pay a \$141,5000 fine.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa314.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Tom Turner  
(312) 886-6613

Technical Contact: Michelle M. Farley  
(312) 886-6778

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 22, 1998

No. 98-OPA315

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH STONECO; INCLUDES \$3,375 FINE & \$32,500 POLLUTION-CONTROL PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Stoneco, Inc., on alleged clean-air violations at the company's limestone quarry, 4715 West Sterns Rd., Ottawa Lake, MI.

The agreement includes a \$3,375 penalty and construction of a \$32,500 wheel-wash operation at the company's Maumee, OH, quarry 15 miles from the Ottawa Lake quarry. The project is designed to cut dust pollution from trucks leaving the facility. Stoneco has agreed to complete it by next August and will operate it for at least three years.

EPA cited Stoneco last April for failure to notify the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality of expected and actual startup dates for three new stone conveyors. EPA also alleged that the company began operating the new conveyors in violation of a State construction waiver.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa315.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Jane Woolums  
(312) 886-6720

Technical Contact: Joseph Cardile  
(312) 353-2151

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 22, 1998

No. 98-OPA316

## **EPA CITES CHRYSLER; INCLUDES \$16,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Chrysler Corp. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's Technology Center, 800 Chrysler Dr. East, Auburn Hills, MI. EPA has proposed a \$16,000 penalty.

EPA said Chrysler did not recover refrigerants from one of its chillers before performing routine maintenance.

---

Chrysler has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

"EPA's goal is to get companies to voluntarily comply with the Clean Air Act," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "When this goal is achieved, we will no longer have to ensure compliance by taking these enforcement actions."

Chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants deplete the stratospheric ("good") ozone layer, allowing dangerous amounts of cancer-causing ultraviolet rays from the sun to reach the earth. Production of some of these chemicals was stopped in 1995, and Federal law strictly controls their use and handling.



Releasing them into the atmosphere is forbidden.

Information on compliance with the refrigerant recycling rule can be found on the Worldwide Web at: [www.epa.gov/ozone/](http://www.epa.gov/ozone/) under the heading Stationary Refrigerant and Air Conditioning.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa316.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Sabrina Argentieri  
(312) 353-5485

Technical Contact: Joseph Cardile  
(312) 353-2151

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 22, 1998

No. 98-OPA317

## **EPA CITES K.B. RECYCLING; INCLUDES \$17,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against K.B. Recycling (394 North 2nd St., West Branch, MI) for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act. EPA has proposed a \$17,000 penalty.

EPA said K.B. Recycling failed to respond to an information request made in June 1997 on the company's practices, with regard to disposal of appliances containing ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons.

In addition, the company failed to comply with an EPA administrative order issued last February, requiring it to respond to the information request.

K.B. Recycling has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

"EPA's mission is to protection human health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations."

CFC's are a major cause of depletion of stratospheric ("good") ozone. It shields the earth from dangerous ultraviolet radiation, which can cause skin cancer and cataracts and can weaken the immune system. Production of some CFC's was stopped in December 1995.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa317.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Andre Daugavietis  
(312) 886-6663

Technical Contact: Julie Brandt  
(312) 886-6768

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 22, 1998

No. 98-OPA318

## **EPA CITES CHROME INDUSTRIES; INCLUDES \$34,542 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Chrome Industries, Inc., alleging violations of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's electroplating plant, 3041 Perkins Ave., Cleveland, OH. A \$34,542 penalty is proposed.

EPA cited Chrome Industries last December for exceeding its total chromium emissions limit from three-hard chrome electroplating tanks at its Cleveland plant, as well as missing the deadline for its initial performance test.

Chrome Industries has already signed an agreement to institute and maintain certain work practice, record keeping, and reporting requirements of the Federal chromium regulations. The company has been cooperating with EPA to resolve the violations.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa318.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contacts: Jeffrey McDonald  
(Kaiser-Francis case)  
(312) 353-6288

Harlan Gerrish  
(Terra Energy case)  
(312) 886-2939

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: October 22, 1998

No. 98-OPA319

## **EPA CITES OPERATORS OF MICHIGAN INJECTION WELLS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited two operators of underground injection wells in Michigan -- Kaiser Francis Oil Co. (Tulsa, OK) and Terra Energy, Ltd. (Traverse City, MI) -- for violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Kaiser operates in Clare County, 13 wells into which it injects fresh water to enhance production of oil and gas. EPA alleges that the company failed to notify EPA on time about one of these wells losing its mechanical integrity, potentially endangering underground sources of drinking water. Kaiser also continued to inject water into the impaired well and failed to include complete information in monitoring reports for that well. In addition, EPA alleges that the company failed to demonstrate on time the mechanical integrity of six wells, injected fluids into several wells at pressures higher than permitted, and failed to submit some required monthly and quarterly monitoring reports. EPA has ordered the company to comply with its permit and all underground injection control regulations and has proposed a penalty of \$100,900.

Terra operates in Otsego County, a well into which it injected brine. EPA

alleges that the company did not submit required monitoring reports for the well, or the fluid it injected into the well. And -- after temporarily stopping use of the well in 1994 -- did not plug it, notify EPA that it had stopped using it, or demonstrate that the well would not endanger underground sources of drinking water during its abandoned status. EPA has proposed a penalty of \$28,750.

"Underground injection control regulations are designed to protect underground sources of drinking water from contamination," said Jo-Lynn Traub, regional Water Division director. "To ensure that drinking water sources are safe, when a well fails, the operator must notify EPA orally within 24 hours and in writing within 5 days."

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa319.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Padmavati Klejwa  
(312) 353-8917

Technical Contact: Newton Ellens  
(312) 353-5562

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 26, 1998

No. 98-OPA320

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH DIAMOND CHROME PLATING; INCLUDES \$20,000 FINE & \$300,000 POLLUTION- CONTROL PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Diamond Chrome Plating, Inc., on alleged violations of Federal regulations for chromium -- a hazardous air pollutant -- at the company's Howell, MI, electroplating plant.

The agreement includes a \$20,000 penalty and a \$300,000 project that involves early replacement of two emission control systems, designed to cut chromium emissions.

In an administrative complaint, filed on the same day as the agreement, EPA said the company violated recordkeeping, monitoring, and reporting requirements of the chromium regulations, which went into effect for hard-chrome plating and anodizing tanks January 25, 1997.

Diamond Chrome has previously participated, and continues to participate, in a research project under an EPA program called the Common Sense Initiative. It is an innovative approach to environmental protection for specific industry sectors, involving government, labor, and environmental organizations.



This research project involves testing low-cost technology that suppresses fumes from chrome plating tanks to meet EPA emissions standards. The project is in partnership with EPA's national risk management research laboratory, other industry test sites, and others.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting regional director of the Air and Radiation Division. "While participation in this project does not shield a company from enforcement actions, EPA and Diamond Chrome have worked cooperatively to achieve an acceptable outcome for all parties and the environment."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

More information on the Common Sense Initiative can be obtained by calling David Ferguson, 513-569-7518, or at EPA's World Wide Web site: [www.epa.gov/commonsense](http://www.epa.gov/commonsense).

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa320.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Larry Johnson  
(312) 886-6609

Technical Contact: Newton Ellens  
(312) 353-5562

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 26, 1998

No. 98-OPA321

## **EPA CITES RAYCO; INCLUDES \$53,557 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Rayco Plating, Inc., for alleged violations of Federal regulations for chromium, a hazardous air pollutant, at the company's electroplating plant, 10023 West Fort St., Detroit, MI. EPA has proposed a \$53,557 penalty.

EPA said Rayco violated various recordkeeping, monitoring, and testing requirements for chromium emissions. Federal regulations for decorative plating tanks and anodizing tanks went into effect January 25, 1996.

Rayco has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist, released into the air as part of the

electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa321.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Nidhi K. O'Meara  
(312) 886-0568

Technical Contact: Newton Ellens  
(312) 353-5562

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 26, 1998

No. 98-OPA322

## **EPA CITES BILLMAX PROPERTIES & UPRIGHT WRECKING; INCLUDES \$20,020 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Billmax Properties (Farmington Hills, MI) and Upright Wrecking (Detroit, MI) for alleged violations of Federal asbestos regulations at a demolition site, 14841 West McNichols, Detroit. EPA has proposed a \$20,020 penalty.

---

EPA said Billmax Properties, owner of the site, and Upright Wrecking, the demolition contractor, failed to notify proper authorities as required by asbestos regulations. They also failed to thoroughly inspect for asbestos before starting demolition.

The companies have 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. They may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Asbestos is a known carcinogen that can cause mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (a lung disease) many years after exposure.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa322.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Mike McClary  
(312)886-7163

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: October 26, 1998

No. 98-OPA323

## **EPA CITES LOWE'S HOME CENTERS FOR HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL RELEASE; PROPOSES \$20,625 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Lowe's Home Centers, Inc. (Ft. Wayne, IN) for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. EPA has proposed a \$20,625 fine.

EPA alleges that on June 4, 1997, three employees of the Ft. Wayne Lowe's Home Center at 4430 Illinois Rd., illegally dumped 12 32 oz. bottles of concentrated Ortho Diazinon, a pesticide, into an area behind the building which is adjacent to a marsh. The bottles were discarded because they were mislabeled by the manufacturer. Each bottle of the pesticide contained enough of the concentrated chemical to make 1,200 gallons of spray.

The incident was reported to the National Response Center 14 hours after the release. The Superfund law requires that certain chemical release quantities be immediately reported to the National Response Center. The illegally dumped diazinon represented nearly six times the quantity required to be reported.

Cleanup of the release required the excavation of a full rolloff box of contaminated soil. Environmental sampling of the marsh indicated that the concentrations of the pesticide in the marsh were not high enough to seriously affect the wildlife in the area.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 190 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 173 settlements with \$4.21 million in total fines and \$2.31 million in environmental projects.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 27, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa323.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: James Cha  
(312) 886-0813

Technical Contact: Julie Brandt  
(312) 886-6768

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 28, 1998

No. 98-OPA325

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH RICHARDS INDUSTRIES; INCLUDES \$27,500 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Richards Industries, Inc., on alleged violations of Federal chromium testing and reporting regulations at the company's electroplating plant, 3170 Wasson Rd., Cincinnati, OH. A \$27,500 penalty is assessed.

EPA cited Richards on April 16, 1998, for failure to conduct a timely, valid performance test, to show that chromium emissions from its plant comply with the Federal total chromium emission limit. Richards was also cited for failure to submit a complete report of test results.

---

EPA said the company completed the required emissions test on April 29, 1998, and submitted the required report. The results show the company's emissions to be in compliance with the Federal chromium limit.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "To ensure that companies are complying with emission limits for these pollutants, it is crucial that they properly and timely perform and report the emissions testing, as required



by the Clean Air Act."

Hexavalent chromium, which is regarded as a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, with possible short-term effects that include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects could include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

EPA has no evidence that the company has ever exceeded the Clean Air Act emission standard for this chemical, and the company's emission testing has shown compliance with the applicable emission limits for chromium.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: October 29, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa325.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Laura McKelvey  
(919) 541-5497

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: October 30, 1998

No. 98-OPA326

## **EPA SEEKS INPUT ON ITS URBAN AIR TOXICS STRATEGY; MEETINGS NOV. 5 AND 6 IN CHICAGO**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold public meetings Thursday and Friday, Nov. 5 and 6, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel, 151 East Wacker Dr., Chicago, to take comments on its recently released draft strategy for dealing with control of toxic air pollutants in cities.

EPA wants input from States, industry, environmental justice groups, environmental groups, and the general public.

The Chicago meetings are the third of four sets of meetings being held nationwide this fall, and the only ones in the Midwest. Meetings have already been held in Washington, D.C., and Research Triangle Park, NC. A meeting is scheduled for Nov. 19 in San Francisco, CA.

EPA said it intends to fully analyze and integrate, where appropriate, the comments received before issuing its final strategy in June 1999.

Three sessions with the same format will be held Nov. 5. The first session will be from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The second session will be from 1:30 to 4 p.m., and the third session will be from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

The Nov. 6 session, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., will consist of separate discussions of Chicago's Cumulative Risk Initiative and how it relates to the Urban Air Toxics Strategy.

Attendees are encouraged, but not required, to bring hard copies of their comments. A copy of the strategy can be obtained from EPA's World Wide Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/uatw/112k/riurban.html>. For further technical information on the strategy, call Laura McKelvey of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at 919-541-5497.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 1, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa326.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Karen Reshkin  
(312) 353-6353

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: October 30, 1998

No. 98-OPA327

## **FREE EPA GRANT-WRITING TUTORIAL SOFTWARE AVAILABLE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently made available a free software program to help organizations complete applications for various EPA grants. The software, "EPA Grant Writing Tutorial," is intended to help those who are new to the Federal grant application process generate more competitive proposals.

The tutorial presents Federal grant forms and procedures in an easy-to-follow, interactive format, including detailed tips on completing standard forms, and a mock grant-writing exercise, where users can compare their results with examples from a successful application. It also includes program-specific sections on three community organization-oriented grant programs: Environmental Justice, Environmental Justice Through Pollution Prevention, and Environmental Education.

The grant-writing software was developed by Purdue University (Lafayette, IN) through a cooperative agreement with EPA Region 5.

The program runs right off the website, or it can be downloaded to a PC or Mac from: [www.epa.gov/seahome/grants.html](http://www.epa.gov/seahome/grants.html). Other free EPA environmental software can also be found at this site. The software can also be purchased for \$15 on a CD-ROM (which contains 11 programs altogether) from Purdue; to order, call Carol Sikler at 765-494-1174.

Since 1988, EPA and Purdue have produced more than 50 interactive software programs. Recent titles include: Environmental Planning for Small Communities, Chemical Contamination in Fish, Ground Water Primer, Household Waste Management, and Mercury in Medical Facilities. Several programs are also available in Spanish.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 1, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa327.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Beth Reiner  
(312) 353-6576

Media Contact: Susan Pastor  
(312) 353-1325

WDNR Contact: Hank Kuehling  
(608) 275-3286

For Immediate Release: October 30, 1998

No. 98-OPA328

## **EPA: GROUND-WATER CONTAMINATION GREATLY IMPROVED AT REFUSE HIDEAWAY SITE; CLEANUP PLAN COMPLETE, WITH MONITORING TO CONTINUE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) said today that ground-water contamination at the Refuse Hideaway Landfill Superfund site (Middleton, WI) has now met the environmental standards outlined in a 1995 cleanup plan (called a Record of Decision).

As a result of this improvement, the ground-water extraction and treatment portion of the plan is no longer necessary--and construction of the site remedy is now considered complete. However, long-term operation and maintenance of the landfill cap, gas and leachate collection and ground-water monitoring systems will continue, under oversight of WDNR.

The site was a mixed-use residential and commercial landfill from 1974 to 1988. Leachate from the facility drained into soils at the site, resulting in extensive ground-water contamination, as well as contamination of three private wells. The site operator declared bankruptcy in early 1989. From 1989 to 1992, WDNR took--and paid for--steps to address the immediate environmental concerns, but was unable to come to an agreement with the responsible parties to pay for additional work. The site was then referred

to EPA, which placed the site on the National Priorities List in October 1992.

Following further study, WDNR issued a cleanup plan in June 1995 which included: extraction of ground water contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOC's) above 200 parts per billion (ppb), and long-term operation and maintenance of the landfill cap, gas, and leachate, and ground-water monitoring systems installed by WDNR.

Two separate rounds of ground-water sampling in early 1998 showed that none of the site wells contained VOC's above 200 ppb (the highest reading was 178 ppb). EPA believes the decrease is due to a combination of the leachate and gas extraction systems previously installed by WDNR and natural attenuation--naturally occurring dilution and dispersal of the contaminants--of the ground-water system. EPA's Explanation of Significant Differences document, which outlines the justification for discontinuing plans for the ground-water extraction system, was issued September 30, 1998.

With remedial construction completed and WDNR's monitoring ongoing, EPA will initiate negotiations with the responsible parties to assume long-term operation and maintenance of the site. Environmental progress at the Refuse Hideaway site will be reviewed by EPA every 5 years, with the first review scheduled for June 2000.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 1, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa328.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Steve Renninger  
(513) 569-7539

Media Contact: Leo Rosales  
(312) 353-6198

**NOTE TO MEDIA:** EPA Project Coordinator Steve Renninger and EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Leo Rosales will be available for interviews at the site today (Monday), from 2 to 4 p.m. They can be reached via the site trailer phone line: 973-235-0694.

For Immediate Release: November 2, 1998

No. 98-OPA329

## **CLEANUP BEGINS AT VALLEYCREST LANDFILL SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that a comprehensive search for, and removal of, hazardous industrial waste at the Valleycrest Landfill site (Dayton, OH) will begin this week. The landfill is at 200 Valleycrest Dr., between Brandt Pike and Valley St. (The site is also known as the North Dayton Sanitary Landfill.)

The work will be performed by environmental contractors selected by the Valleycrest Landfill Site Group (VLSG), a group of companies responsible for hazardous materials sent to the site. The project follows an administrative order on consent agreement between EPA and VLSG, signed on September 15. A Chicago-based EPA Superfund emergency response team, as well as a team from Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) will monitor the project.

EPA geophysical surveys conducted this past May identified several areas with concentrations of buried metal objects, possibly including drums and other containers of hazardous material. Also, in June, construction of a landfill gas control system began. The system is designed to address potential hazards from gas produced by decaying waste at the site. Final



operational adjustments to the landfill gas system will be completed in the next few weeks.

The 102-acre site was formerly a gravel pit, which accepted industrial and municipal waste from 1965 to 1975. It also accepted foundry sand, flyash, and baghouse dust in some areas of the site from the mid-1970's through 1989.

The project starting this week will involve removal of buried drums containing hazardous waste and other contaminated material. The materials will be disposed of at EPA-approved facilities. Excavated areas will be backfilled.

The project is expected to last several months. Residents with questions about the cleanup may call Leo Rosales, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, 800-621-8431.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 2, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa329.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Betty Lavis  
(312) 886-7183

Media Contact: Stuart Hill  
(312) 886-0689

MDEQ Contact: Dave Wierzbicki  
(616) 246-1741

For Immediate Release: November 2, 1998

No. 98-OPA330

## **EPA: \$3.7 MILLION CLEANUP COMPLETE AT CRYSTAL REFINING SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that its \$3.7 million cleanup at the Crystal Refining Co. site (Carson City, MI) is now complete.

The site, at 801 North Williams St., was a crude-oil refinery from 1935 to 1991. It includes a 12.5-acre parcel and a 18-acre parcel, separated by a cemetery and the inactive Grand Trunk Railroad line.

Last April, a Chicago-based Superfund emergency response team, in cooperation with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), began work at the site. The project included:

- Construction of a ground-water collection and treatment system, which will prevent further oil releases in nearby Fish Creek.
- Demolition and off-site disposal of 1,500 tons of refinery equipment, including pipelines, oil tanks, asbestos-covered equipment, and hazardous material from a process laboratory.
- Consolidation and off-site disposal of 250 oil tanks and 500 drums

and small containers of various chemicals and chemical wastes.

- Treatment and off-site disposal of 17,000 tons of contaminated material from eight sludge lagoons.

Significantly, the sale of scrap metal generated \$140,000 from a local recycling facility, which was used to defray the cost of the project. EPA also regraded the entire property and repaired access roads in the cemetery and along the site border.

With the cleanup complete, MDEQ assumes responsibility for operation and maintenance of the ground-water collection and treatment system. The site is now available for redevelopment, with future use of the site to be coordinated through MDEQ.

Funding for the cleanup was shared by two EPA statutes: Superfund (\$1.9 million) and the Oil Pollution Act (\$1.8 million).

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 3, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa330.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Mary McAuliffe  
(312) 886-6237

Technical Contact: Denny Dart  
(312) 886-1426

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: November 2, 1998

No. 98-OPA331

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH AUSTEEL LEMONT; INCLUDES \$225,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Austeel Lemont Co., Inc., on alleged clean-air violations at the company's steel production plant, New Ave. and Ceco Rd., Lemont, IL. A \$225,000 civil penalty was assessed.

In an administrative complaint filed on the day of the agreement, EPA said Austeel violated State and Federal rules limiting the opacity (the amount of light obscured by particulates -- smoke, dust, ash) of visible emissions from the company's electric arc furnace roof vent.

Austeel Lemont has taken steps to permanently comply with these standards. In addition to payment of a civil penalty, Austeel Lemont agreed to permanently operate its pollution control device in compliance with EPA standards for new emission sources, and in addition, for the next three years in a manner that cuts visible emissions even below the level required for new sources.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to

ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 2, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa331.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Nidhi O'Meara  
(312) 886-0568

Technical Contact: Michael H. Murphy  
(312) 353-6686

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: November 3, 1998

No. 98-OPA332

## **EPA CITES USEC FOR VIOLATING CLEAN AIR ACT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited United States Energy Corp. (USEC) for alleged violations of Federal regulations for hazardous air pollutants at the company's Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, 3930 U.S. 23 Perimeter Rd., Pike County, OH.

EPA said USEC, which leases the plant from the Department of Energy, failed to submit an annual report to EPA to show compliance with Federal regulations for radionuclides (in this case, enriched uranium) by June 30, 1998.

---

Under EPA regulations, such facilities must submit an annual report to EPA showing compliance with radionuclide emission standards. They must calculate the highest effective dose equivalent to any member of the public at any nearby offsite point where there is a residence, school, business, or office.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. USEC has 30 days from receipt of the findings to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Potential long-term health effects from this radionuclide include kidney damage from heavy metal exposure, lung cancer, and tumors of lymphatic tissues.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 3, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa332.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Michael Mikulka  
(312) 886-6760

Legal Contact: Sean Mulrone  
(312) 886-7150

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: November 3, 1998

No. 98-OPA333

## **EPA CITES SAFETY-KLEEN'S DOLTON FACILITY FOR TREATING WASTE WITHOUT A PERMIT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently issued an administrative complaint and compliance order against Safety-Kleen, Inc. (Columbia, SC) for hazardous-waste violations at the company's Dolton, IL, recycling center.

The Dolton plant is a chemical and solvent reclamation and recycling facility where used solvents are either regenerated or blended into fuels derived from hazardous wastes.

EPA alleges that Safety-Kleen had begun using a new system to treat hazardous waste at the facility without first obtaining necessary permits.

"Although the new system improves worker safety by eliminating human contact with the hazardous substances, Safety-Kleen did not obtain the required permit," said Joseph Boyle, chief Hazardous Waste Enforcement and Compliance Assurance branch. "The company recently applied to Illinois EPA for a modified hazardous-waste permit and temporary authorization to use the new system."

The order requires the company to identify all hazardous waste at the



facility, stop shipping hazardous waste off site without a manifest, and shut down facility operations that are not authorized by an effective hazardous-waste permit.

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, EPA regulates the management and disposal of municipal and industrial hazardous wastes, from the time of production to their final disposal.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 10, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa333.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Constandina Dalianis  
(312) 353-1027

Technical Contact: Cynthia Curtis  
(312) 353-6959

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: November 4, 1998

No. 98-OPA335

## **EPA CITES E.P. GRAPHICS FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited E.P. Graphics, Inc., for alleged violations of federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's printing plant, 169 South Jefferson St., Berne, IN.

Specifically, the company's control system for two of its printing lines failed to capture 100 percent of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions and to destroy 90 percent of them, as required by State permit. At EPA's request, E.P. Graphics retested the system on Sep. 29 and 30.

---

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. The company is scheduled to meet with EPA today, Wednesday, Nov. 4, to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

EPA's investigation of E.P. Graphics was prompted by citizen complaints of burning throats and difficult breathing, as well as periodic acrid smells from the plant over the past 3 years.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the

regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will continue to listen to the environmental concerns raised by the citizens of Berne."

VOC's combine in the atmosphere to form ground-level ozone (smog). Ground-level ozone can cause breathing problems, asthma attacks, eye irritation, and stuffy nose. It can also reduce lung function and resistance to colds and other infections and may speed up aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and those with existing lung problems are most susceptible.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 5, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa335.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Constandina Dalianis  
(312) 353-1027

Technical Contact: Loren Denton  
(312) 886-6814

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: November 4, 1998

No. 98-OPA336

## **EPA CITES VILLAGE OF FREEBURG FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited the Village of Freeburg (IL) for alleged violations of State clean-air regulations at the village electrical generating plant, 412 West High St.

EPA said Freeburg built two new distillate fuel generators without first getting a permit. Potential nitrogen oxide emissions from the generators are about 315 tons per year.

Nitrogen oxides are precursors of ozone (smog), and Freeburg is in the Metro-East St. Louis area that does not meet national health-based standards for ozone. Federally enforceable State regulations require major nitrogen oxide emitters that build in areas not meeting this standard to install the most stringent control technology available.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the village. The village has 30 days from receipt of the findings to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the

regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Ground-level ozone can cause breathing problems, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and can aggravate asthma. It can reduce lung function and resistance to colds and other infections and may speed up aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and people with chronic respiratory diseases are the most sensitive.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 5, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa336.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Nidhi O'Meara  
(312) 886-0568

Technical Contact: Michael H. Murphy  
(312) 353-6686

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: November 4, 1998

No. 98-OPA337

---

## **CORRECTION TO RELEASE NO. 98-OPA332 EPA CITES USEC FOR VIOLATING CLEAN AIR ACT**

In a release issued yesterday (November 3, 1998), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 incorrectly stated the name of a company that it had cited for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act as United States Energy Corp. (USEC). The correct name of the company cited by EPA is United States Enrichment Corp.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 5, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa337.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Contact: Donald Baumgartner  
(312) 886-7835

For Immediate Release: November 4, 1998

No. 98-OPA338

## **EPA TO COSPONSOR PEST CONTROL WORKSHOP**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), University of Illinois Extension, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the Safer Pest Control Project will sponsor a "Common Sense Methods for Pest Control" training workshop Thursday, Nov. 12, from 9 a.m. to noon, at West Garfield Neighborhood Health Center, 10 South Kedzie Ave.

The training session is for public health and social service providers who work with the community in the areas of human health, sanitation and building management. Topics include: insecticide misuse--methyl parathion in Chicago, childhood asthma and cockroaches, cockroach identification and monitoring, non chemical approaches to cockroach management, and insecticide safety precautions. Free pest control tool kits and educational materials will be distributed.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa338.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Contact: Noemi Emeric  
(312) 886-0995

For Immediate Release: November 5, 1998

No. 98-OPA339

## **GARY MAYOR TO OPEN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FORUM NOV. 10**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, in partnership with the City of Gary, will host an environmental information forum at the Genesis Conference Center, 5th Avenue and Broadway, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Mayor Scott L. King will make the keynote address. Gail Ginsberg from EPA's Office of Regional Counsel will open the session.

The session will provide an opportunity for residents to learn from each other and from experts in various environmental fields. An educational focus will assist the community in developing local partnerships and networks. The goal is to form a Regional Environmental Justice Stakeholder Partnership Network (ESPN), made up of decision-makers from city, State, and Federal agencies, universities, and community organizations.

Sessions are:

- Gary Mayor Scott L. King, keynote address--10:20 to 10:45 a.m.
- Neighborhood initiatives to prevent illegal dumping--11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
- Interactive grant-writing workshop--11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
- Brownfields redevelopment and community involvement--1:45 to 2:30 p.m.
- Environmental job training programs--2:45 to 4:15 p.m.
- Other sessions--air quality with focus on the connection between airborne contaminants and health issues, environmental issues and



their effect on minority populations, and community improvement and leadership development--will also be held.

Additional environmental justice forum information can be found on the [EPA Web site](#).

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa339.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Mony Chabria  
(312) 886-6842

Technical Contact: P.C. Lall  
(734) 692-7685

Media Contact: Denise Gawlinski  
(312) 886-9859

For Immediate Release: November 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA340

## **EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON REVISED CLEANUP PLAN FOR TEXTILE RD. SITE; MEETING NOV. 23**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is seeking comments on changes to a proposed plan to clean up soil contamination at the Textile Road Superfund site, Ypsilanti, MI.

The comment period runs from Nov. 14 through Dec. 14, 1998. A meeting to explain the plan will be held Nov. 23, at 7 p.m., Ypsilanti Township Civic Center, 7200 South Huron Dr.

EPA has changed its recommended cleanup plan so that soils containing PCB concentrations equal to or greater than 50 parts per million (ppm) will be disposed of in a PCB landfill; soils containing PCB's greater than or equal to 26 ppm, but less than 50 ppm, will be disposed of in a State-approved hazardous waste landfill; and soils containing PCB's equal to or greater than 1.2 ppm, but less than 26 ppm, will be consolidated in the northeastern portion of the site. This area will be covered with clean soil and vegetation or other approved soil cover.

PCB's are a group of chemicals once widely used in industry as coolants and lubricants. EPA banned the manufacture of PCB's in 1979 because of evidence that they accumulate in the environment--including in fresh-

water fish and aquatic birds--ane present human health hazards.

The changed plan remains protective of human health and the environment and will allow most of the property to be used for residential development. It incorporates comments from the first public comment period held in 1997.

Oral and written comments on the plan will be accepted at the Nov. 23 meeting. Written comments must be postmarked by Dec. 14 and sent to Denise Gawlinski, P-19J, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. E-mail: [gawlinski.denise@epa.gov](mailto:gawlinski.denise@epa.gov). EPA will respond to all comments received before making a final decision.

Copies of the study, responsiveness summary, and related documents are available for review at Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan, and the Ypsilanti Civic Center, 7200 South Huron Dr.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa340.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Louise Gross  
(312) 886-6844

Technical Contact: Loren Denton  
(312) 886-6814

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: November 10, 1998

No. 98-OPA341

## **EPA CITES PROPHETER; INCLUDES \$72,659 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Bob Propheter Construction for alleged clean-air violations at its hot-mix asphalt plant formerly located in Toulon, IL. EPA has proposed a \$72,659 penalty.

EPA said Propheter exceeded Federal limits for particulates (smoke, dust, ash) and opacity (the amount of light obscured). In addition, the company failed to comply with an EPA agreement reached earlier. EPA discovered the violations during a Sep. 10, 1997, inspection and from compliance testing done the next day by Propheter.

Propheter has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the Clean Air Act," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "To protect public health and the environment, we will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with clean-air regulations."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the

elderly, or those with heart or lung conditions the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 16, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa341.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Mary Fulghum  
(312) 886-4683

Media Contact: Marcia Damato  
(312) 886-0166

For Immediate Release: November 10, 1998

No. 98-OPA342

## **EPA AWARDS \$35,000 GRANT TO BETHLEHEM STEEL ADVISORY GROUP**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 announced today a \$35,000 grant to the Bethlehem Steel Citizens Advisory Committee, Burns Harbor, IN.

The committee includes area residents, representatives of environmental groups, educators, Bethlehem Steel union and management officials, and Federal, State, and local government officials.

The Iron and Steel Subcommittee of EPA's Common Sense Initiative provided the funds. The initiative seeks innovative ways to improve the environment through voluntary approaches and more regulatory flexibility. The Save the Dunes Conservation Fund will manage the grant for the advisory committee.

EPA identified three key objectives for the committee:

- Study a part of Bethlehem Steel's Burns Harbor property south of U.S. 12 for possible preservation as a wildlife habitat.
- Assess the committee's progress and develop a formal outreach and education plan to inform the community of its mission and accomplishments. The plan can be used as a model for other iron and steel community advisory groups.
- Investigate innovative ways to measure environmental performance

in assessing and communicating Bethlehem's own environmental performance, including signs of progress.

The advisory committee's next meeting is Dec. 11 at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Bailly Ranger Station, Mineral Springs Rd., Porter, IN. For more information on the agenda, or on the committee, call Bethlehem Steel Public Affairs, 219-787-3423.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 10, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa342.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Denise Gawlinski  
(312) 886-9859

For Immediate Release: November 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA344

## **EPA, MDEQ TO UPDATE PUBLIC ON PERMIT STATUS OF MICHIGAN DISPOSAL WASTE TREATMENT PLANT; AVAILABILITY SESSION DEC. 2**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will hold an availability session to update the public on the status of the draft hazardous waste operating license and permit for the Michigan Disposal Waste Treatment Plant, Belleville, MI.

The session will be held Wednesday, Dec. 2, from 6 to 9 p.m., Belleville High School, 501 West Columbia, Belleville.

EPA and MDEQ representatives will be available to answer questions on their review of the draft license and permit. The plant has continued operation as a hazardous waste treatment facility under its existing license and permit.

In April 1997, EPA and MDEQ renewed an operating license and permit to Wayne Disposal, Inc., for its hazardous-waste landfill. Both Wayne Disposal and Michigan Disposal Waste Treatment Plant facilities are owned by Environmental Quality Co., and are located at 49350 North I-94 Service Dr., Belleville.

EPA and MDEQ also granted approval for the landfill to accept polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) waste. The agencies evaluated and responded to hundreds of public comments before making decisions.

EPA and the State decided to delay decisions on the draft license and



permit for the treatment plant until Wayne County Air Quality Management Division and the facility resolved air permit issues. Wayne County is holding a public hearing Nov. 19 at Belleville High School to take comments on its proposed consent agreement with the facility on alleged air violations. Wayne County staff will also be present at the Dec. 2 session.

Site-related documents are available for review at information repositories at MDEQ's Southeast Michigan District Office, 38980 Seven Mile Rd., Livonia; Fred C. Fischer Library, 167 Fourth St., Belleville; and Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Rd., Belleville.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 16, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa344.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Mike Ribordy  
(312) 886-4592

Media Contact: Janet Pope  
(312) 353-0628

For Immediate Release: November 12, 1998

No. 98-OPA345

## **EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON DRINKING WATER OPTIONS FOR 4 WINNEBAGO SUBDIVISIONS; MEETING TO BE HELD NOV. 17**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is seeking comments on three drinking-water options for the Evergreen Manor, Hononegah Heights, Olde Farm, and Tresemer subdivisions in Winnebago County, IL.

Ground water in the area has been contaminated by chemicals, including the volatile organic compounds (VOC's) trichloroethene, tetrachloroethene, and 1,1-dichloroethene. EPA and others have concluded that these compounds are possible carcinogens, and the affected wells pose a potential health hazard -- unless the water is treated.

EPA has evaluated ways to provide safe drinking water to these communities and asks the public to comment on these options:

- hooking the communities up to the North Park Public Water District;
- using a carbon filter to treat water at the well (point-of-entry treatment); or
- using carbon filters to treat water at kitchen faucets of each home (point-of-use treatment).

Both point-of-entry and point-of-use carbon filters can provide water free

of VOC's.

Comments will be accepted until Dec. 10 and should be sent to Janet Pope, P-19J, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. EPA will make a decision after the comments are reviewed.

On Nov. 17, EPA will hold an availability session and public meeting to explain the options and answer questions. The availability session is scheduled from 2 to 5 p.m. and the public meeting will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Both at the North Suburban District Public Library, 5562 Clayton Circle, Roscoe, IL.

Copies of the evaluation report and other documents about the ground-water contamination are available for review at the library.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 16, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa345.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Cheryl Allen  
(312) 353-6196

For Immediate Release: November 13, 1998

No. 98-OPA346

## **EPA TO HOLD MEETING ON FIELDS BROOK SUPERFUND SITE NOV. 19**

---

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a public meeting on the status of Fields Brook Superfund site Ashtabula, OH, Nov. 19, from 7 to 10 p.m., at Ashtabula Area Chamber of Commerce, Culver Conference Center, 4536 Main Ave.

EPA will discuss changes that will be made to the cleanup plan because of radium in soil and sediments at the site.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 16, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa346.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Denise Gawlinski  
(312) 886- 9859

Media Contact: Susan Pastor  
(312) 353-1325

For Immediate Release: November 13, 1998

No. 98-OPA347

## **EPA: TECH ASSISTANCE GRANT AVAILABLE; COMMUNITY GROUPS MUST FILE BY DEC. 12**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 announces the availability to community groups of a technical assistance grant for the Lower Fox River Superfund site. The deadline for filing a letter of intent with EPA is Dec. 12, 1998.

The grant provides up to \$50,000 to a qualified community group for hiring independent technical advisors to help interpret and provide comments on site-related information. A group is eligible for a grant if its members are potentially affected by the Lower Fox River cleanup. The group must be incorporated as a nonprofit organization at the time EPA provides the grant. Ineligible groups include potentially responsible parties, academic institutions, political entities, and groups established or sustained by ineligible entities.

Since only one grant is awarded per site, other local groups affected by the Fox River site are encouraged to consolidate efforts with the Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin, Inc., a community organization that has filed a letter of intent with the EPA. Call Executive Director Rebecca L. Katers, 920-437-7304, by Dec. 12. Groups may also file their own letter of intent with EPA by the same date.

Letters of intent and questions about the grant should be directed to:

Denise Gawlinski  
TAG Coordinator  
U.S. EPA (P-19J)  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-886-9859 or 1-800-621-8431  
Fax: 312-353-1155  
E-mail: [gawlinski.denise@epa.gov](mailto:gawlinski.denise@epa.gov)

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 16, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa347.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



EPA Media Contacts: Karen Thompson  
(312) 353-8547 or  
Bill Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

School Contact: Bob Cholewick  
(773) 534-7500 ext. 7539

For Immediate Release: November 13, 1998

No. 98-OPA349

## **WHITNEY YOUNG STUDENTS TO CELEBRATE NEW STATE- OF-THE-ART SCIENCE LAB, EPA WEB SITES**

### **WHO:**

Whitney Young High School Environmental Club members  
David Ullrich, acting regional administrator EPA Region 5  
Bob Cholewick, Whitney Young science faculty  
EPA Environmental Education coordinators

---

### **WHAT:**

Celebrate the completion of Whitney Young's new state-of-the-art computer-science lab and sample EPA's new Explorers' Club, Students' Page, and Environmental Education Center Web sites. Students will be challenged to navigate EPA's Web site on a virtual scavenger hunt.

### **WHEN:**

Monday, November 16, 1998, at 11 a.m.

### **WHERE:**

Whitney Young High School, 211 South Laflin. (Check-in at the main office, near the corner of Admas and Laflin) Lab is on the third floor.

### **WHY:**

To honor National Education Week.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa349.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contacts: Karen Thompson  
(312) 353-8547 or  
Bill Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

School Contact: Bob Cholewick  
(773) 534-7500 ext. 7539

For Immediate Release: November 16, 1998

No. 98-OPA350

## **EPA CELEBRATES EDUCATION WEEK WITH WEB SITES FOR TEACHERS, HIGH SCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY STUDENTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) salutes National Education Week today by unveiling new on-line resources for educators, high school and elementary students across the country.

Region 5 celebrated today at Chicago's Whitney Young High School, where environmental club students, teachers, administrators, and EPA staff also inaugurated the school's newly renovated computer-science lab.

David Ullrich, acting regional administrator, and Bob Cholewick, chair of Whitney Young's science department, hosted the local event and guided students on a virtual scavenger hunt through the new EPA Web sites.

The Environmental Education Center Teachers' Web site--  
[www.epa.gov/teachers/](http://www.epa.gov/teachers/)--is the third in a series of interactive environmental packages designed especially for kids, students, and now--teachers. It features guidance for writing government grants, offers links to community-service project ideas, provides plans for classroom curricula, and highlights scholarship and award opportunities, among many other paperless tools for schools.

---

The teachers' site also provides direct links to the EPA Library and other

environmental Web sites.

"Introduction of the teachers' section on EPA's Web site completes a series that will, we hope, provide teachers and students with information they need to make informed decisions about environmental issues. We are committed to education..today's students, tomorrow's leaders...and to better equipping them to protect our environmental legacy," said Ullrich, who oversees EPA programs in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

The Kids' Web site--[www.epa.gov/kids/](http://www.epa.gov/kids/)--was designed for children ages 5-12. *The Explorer's Club* links to art projects, games, and puzzles, all based on environmental themes, that are crafted to engage and teach students simultaneously. Some favorites are: talking to *Chipmunk Charlie* about life in a polluted park; reading a story about how kids stop the *Garbage Gremlin* by reducing, reusing, recycling; and following a reporter on the trail of *The Missing Ozone*.

Log onto the Students' Web site--[www.epa.gov/students/](http://www.epa.gov/students/)--to interactively: board EPA's research vessel Lake Guardian, to test the fresh water of the Great Lakes; step into the shoes of *Inspector EPA*, to find sources of pollution in your own neighborhood; or, get the latest information on environmental fellowships, internships and mentoring programs.

All three Web sites, developed by a national team of educators, are appropriate for school, home and library research and play. Some are available in Spanish and all are intentionally developed to improve and increase EPA's community and educational outreach through the Internet.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa350.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: John Glover  
(312) 886-0210

Legal Contact: Michael McClary  
(312) 886-7163

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: November 19, 1998

No. 98-OPA351

## **EPA CITES MCLAUGLIN ON HAZ. WASTES**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited McLaughlin Body Co. (Moline, IL) for hazardous waste violations at its facility in Rock Island, IL, and proposed a \$243,409 fine.

---

EPA alleges that from July to December 1997, the company stored without a permit hazardous wastes from its painting operations. Some wastes were stored in drums for longer than the regulatory limit of 90 days. Some wastes were stored in containers that did not have storage dates and were not clearly marked as hazardous waste and visible for inspection.

EPA also alleges that the company did not have at the facility required job descriptions or safety training records for employees who work with hazardous wastes. In addition, McLaughlin did not have available a plan for accidents or spills involving hazardous waste requirements and ordered it not to treat, store, or dispose of hazardous wastes without a permit. The company must submit a plan to Illinois EPA (IEPA) for closing the unpermitted storage area at the facility. Once IEPA approves the plan, McLaughlin must complete all closure activities within the time stated in the approved plan.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 19, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa351.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: John McGuire  
(312) 353-2704

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: November 19, 1998

No. 98-OPA352

## **EPA CITES WEST CHICAGO SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AND INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGERS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited the West Chicago, IL, wastewater treatment plant for exceeding the limits of its wastewater treatment plant and inadequately monitoring wastewater discharged to the plant from industries.

Industrial users include Electronic Support Systems, L.P.; Mapei Corp.; Northwestern Flavors, Inc.; Wincup; General Mills Operations, Inc.; Vlasic Famrs, Inc. (formerly known as Campbell's Fresh, Inc.); Alumax Extrusions Inc.; Advanced Electronics, Inc.; Masonite Corp.; and Viktron West Chicago, L.P.

The plant is permitted to accept wastewater from industrial plants, but is required to issue permits to each of the dischargers, inspect each discharger's wastewater pretreatment system, and monitor and enforce permit limits. EPA alleges that West Chicago did not adequately carry out these requirements and, in addition, failed to investigate cases of noncompliance by dischargers.

---

EPA also alleges that the municipal plant violated its permit limits, from March 1993 through March 1998, by discharging excess amounts of pollutants to the West Branch of the DuPage River including oxygen-demanding pollutants, total suspended solids, ammonia-nitrogen, fecal coliform bacteria, copper, and chlorine.

EPA also cited:

- Vlastic Farms, Inc., for discharging excess amounts of chlorides, cyanide, total dissolved solids, phosphorus and sulfate to the municipal plant;
- Alumax Extrusions for discharging excess amounts of chromium, hexavalent chromium, zinc, and oil and grease to the municipal plant; and
- Advanced Electronics for discharging excess amounts of fluoride cyanide, lead, and copper and not maintaining the required pH (acidity-alkalinity) balance of its wastewater.

Indirect dischargers are regulated by pretreatment standards that set limits on what can be discharged into publicly owned treatment plants. These standards aim to control excessive industrial waste. Such waste, if not controlled, could interfere with the operation of the West Chicago sewage treatment plant.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 19, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa352.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Debra Klassman  
(312) 886-6742

Technical Contact: Denny Dart  
(312) 886-1426

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: November 19, 1998

No. 98-OPA353

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH USS/KOBE STEEL; INCLUDES \$440,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Justice have reached agreement with USS/KOBE Steel Co. on alleged violations of an earlier agreement regarding the company's Lorain, OH, steel plant. A \$440,000 penalty was assessed.

---

EPA said the company failed to timely report carbon monoxide emissions that tested above permitted limits and increased use of soaking pits in December 1996 and January 1997.

USS/KOBE Steel has agreed, among other things, to install a system that will continuously monitor furnace stack emissions and to take steps to cut carbon monoxide emissions if they exceed allowed limits.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling carbon monoxide can weaken heart functions and reduce blood flow to various parts of the body. It can affect children, the elderly, and

people with heart and lung disease the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 19, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa353.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Susan Perdomo  
(312) 886-0557

Technical Contact: Julie Brandt  
(312) 886-6768

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: November 19, 1998

No. 98-OPA354

## **EPA CITES MASTER CHROME; PROPOSES \$137,457 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Master Chrome Service, Inc., alleging violations of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's electroplating plant, 5709 Herman Ave., N.W., Cleveland, OH. A \$137,457 penalty was proposed.

EPA cited Master Chrome last March for exceeding its total chromium emissions limit from two hard-chrome electroplating tanks at its Cleveland plant, as well as missing the deadline for its initial performance test on its three remaining hard-chrome electroplating tanks.

Master Chrome completed the required emission testing in April. The tests have shown all five tanks to be in compliance with Federal chrome emission limits.

The company has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may ask for an informal conference to discuss the allegations any time.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting

director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 19, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa354.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Richard Wagner  
(312) 886-7947

Technical Contact: Kevin Vuilleumier  
(312) 886-6188

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: November 19, 1998

No. 98-OPA355

## **EPA CITES SUN REFINING FOR AIR POLLUTION; PROPOSES \$305,800 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Sun Refining and Marketing Co., alleging clean-air violations at the company's oil refinery, 1819 Woodville Rd., Toledo, OH. A \$305,800 penalty was proposed.

---

EPA said Sun Refining violated Federal regulations for the hazardous air pollutant benzene and State emission limits for sulfur dioxide.

The company has filed an answer to the complaint and requested a hearing. EPA and Sun Refining had an informal telephone conference Nov. 17 to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Benzene is a known human carcinogen, and sulfur dioxide can cause acid rain and can irritate and inflame lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and those with existing lung disease are the most vulnerable.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 20, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa355.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: James Morris  
(312) 886-3388

Technical Contact: Cynthia Curtis  
(312) 353-6959

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: November 23, 1998

No. 98-OPA356

## **EPA CITES SIZE CONTROL FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Size Control Co. for alleged violations of Federal regulations on chromium, a hazardous air pollutant, at two electroplating plants in Elk Grove Village, IL.

EPA said the company violated testing, reporting, and planning requirements of chromium regulations that went into effect January 25, 1997.

---

In October 1997, the company moved its entire facility from 299 Bond St. to 825 Chase Ave.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. Size Control has 30 days from receipt of the finding to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Hexavalent chromium, which is regarded as a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist released into the air as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, with possible short-term effects that include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects could include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 23, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa356.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Andre Daugavietis  
(312) 886-6663

Technical Contact: Julie Brandt  
(312) 886-6768

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: November 23, 1998

No. 98-OPA357

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH CHROME INDUSTRIES; INCLUDES \$30,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Chrome Industries, Inc., on alleged violations of Federal chromium regulations at the company's electroplating plant, 3041 Perkins Ave., Cleveland, OH. A \$30,000 penalty was assessed.

---

The company has agreed to carry out and maintain work practice, record-keeping, and reporting requirements of the chromium regulations.

EPA cited Chrome Industries last December for exceeding its total chromium emissions limit from three hard-chrome electroplating tanks.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist released to the atmosphere as part of the electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-

term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 23, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa357.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Constandina Dalianis  
(312) 353-1027

Technical Contact: Julie Brandt  
(312) 886-6768

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: November 24, 1998

No. 98-OPA358

## **EPA TELLS CLEVELAND ENERGY RESOURCES TO MONITOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has ordered Cleveland Energy Resources to monitor its compliance with Ohio particulate (dust, soot, smoke) emission limits at the company's steam-generating plant, 2274 Canal Rd., Cleveland, OH.

---

(The company operates three coal-fired boilers at the plant, which generates steam for downtown Cleveland.)

The order requires the company to test for particulate emissions, provide emission control information, and submit quarterly reports to EPA and the State.

EPA cited Cleveland Energy Resources last February for alleged violations of the Ohio emission limits on particulates.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect the heart and lungs, especially in children, the elderly, and individuals with existing heart or lung conditions.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 24, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa358.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Sean Mulroney  
(312) 886-7150

Technical Contact: Christina Prasinos  
(312) 886-6819

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: November 24, 1998

No. 98-OPA359

## **EPA CITES LAFARGE FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited LaFarge Corp. for alleged violations of Federal clean-air regulations at the company's Alpena, MI, cement plant.

---

EPA said emissions of particulates (dust, smoke, ash) from the plant exceeded limits set in the Clean Air Act for new sources of air pollution.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. EPA and LaFarge representatives met on November 4 to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the Clean Air Act," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "To protect public health and the environment, we will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with clean-air regulations." Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, or those with heart or lung conditions the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: November 23, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa359.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Contact: Rich Winklhofer  
(440) 835-5200

For Immediate Release: November 25, 1998

No. 98-OPA360

## **EPA GRANTS FOR NE. OHIO PROJECTS TOP \$1.5 MILLION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded more than \$1.5 million in environmental grants to agencies and organizations in Northeast Ohio.

The largest grant--\$325,000 for providing timely, useful, and accurate environmental and human health information to the community--was split between several local groups. EMPACT, (Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking) funds were awarded to: Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency--\$224,437 to build a timely, publicly accessible, air-quality monitoring and reporting system; Kent State University--\$80,000 to design a computerized urban growth and development tracking system; and Earth Day Coalition--\$20,000 for community outreach and education.

Other grants are:

- **\$225,000 to Cleveland State University** Environmental Finance Center, to work with the 34 federally-recognized Indian tribes in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin on economic development and environmental protection. The project will provide technical assistance to tribal officials in community planning, sustainable development, and ecological design.
- **\$200,000 to the City of Cleveland** to assess redevelopment of Brownfields sites in the stockyard and Western-Elmwood-Berea neighborhoods.

- **\$143,306 to Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization** for an urban renewal project. The organization, with EcoCity Cleveland, will introduce the latest "green" building and urban planning designs in conjunction with the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority's rehabilitation of the West 65th St. rapid transit station.
- **\$125,000 to Ashtabula River Partnership** for a project coordinator and office space for a communications center. Both will support the partnership's community outreach for cleanup of contaminated sediments in the lower river.
- **\$100,000 to Case Western Reserve University** for regional cooperation on the use of urban-rural land and infrastructure. The grant will help evaluate land-use patterns.
- **\$100,000 to Shorebank Enterprise Group** for phase II of its plan to set up local markets for recyclables collected in Greater Cleveland. The plan will match local producers of plastic, tire, and construction-demolition waste with other local enterprises that will purchase these wastes and reuse it for new products. Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District and the Cleveland Advanced Manufacturing Program are partners with Shorebank.
- **\$50,000 to Trumbull County Soil and Water Conservation District** to support the Mahoning River Consortium's education and citizen involvement center, school and community education kits, a Mahoning River Days festival, and a storm sewer stenciling project.
- **\$50,053 to Association of Parents to Prevent Lead Exposure (APPLE)**, to conduct a lead exposure awareness and prevention program in high-risk Cleveland neighborhoods, including Fairfax and Mount Pleasant. APPLE will work through Environmental Health Watch.
- **\$43,120 to Clean Air Conservancy** to examine tax policy and measurement-trading of emissions credits, to determine their impact on reducing nitrogen oxide emissions.
- **\$25,000 to Cuyahoga County Health Department** to continue surveillance and apprehension of illegal dumpers in East

Cleveland.

Each year EPA awards grants nationwide to community organizations, academic institutions, and tribal, State, and local governments. They are designed to encourage community-based projects that deal with pollution prevention, sustainable development, and environmental protection.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 8, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa360.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Jeffrey McDonald  
(312) 353-6288

Legal Contact: Bobb A. Beauchamp  
(312) 886-4675

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: December 1, 1998

No. 98-OPA362

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH DETROIT COKE; INCLUDES \$15,500 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has reached agreement with Detroit Coke Corp. (Detroit, MI) on violations of underground injection control regulations of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The company has agreed to pay a \$15,500 fine.

Last February, EPA had alleged that the company failed to submit complete monthly monitoring reports and on three occasions in 1995 and failed to maintain required pressures for two hazardous-waste disposal wells.

Since December 1997, the company has submitted complete monitoring reports and has met the requirements of its hazardous-waste injection permits.

"Improperly managed and monitored hazardous-waste injection wells can pose a threat to underground sources of drinking water," said Timothy Henry, acting director of the regional Water Division. "Although Detroit Coke is now meeting its permit requirements, past violations cannot be ignored."



###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 8, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa362.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: James Cha  
(312) 886-0813

Technical Contact: Ruth McNamara  
(312) 353-3193

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: December 1, 1998

No. 98-OPA363

## **EPA SETTLES WITH TYSON FOODS; INCLUDES \$8,500 FINE AND SAFETY UPGRADE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed a consent order and consent agreement with Tyson Foods, Inc. (formerly known as Hudson Foods), Albert Lea, MN, for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. The company will pay a \$8,500 fine and do an environmental project designed to reduce the risk of further incidents.

EPA's complaint alleged that on June 27, 1996, the company (a food processor) failed to promptly notify the National Response Center and Minnesota Emergency Response Commission of a 3,000 lb release of anhydrous ammonia. Federal laws require immediate notification upon any release of anhydrous ammonia exceeding 100 lb. (After the incident, in January 1998, Hudson Foods was merged into Tyson Foods, Inc.)

The company uses anhydrous ammonia in its refrigeration systems. The release occurred when a cooling-tower tank valve malfunctioned, leading to overheating of the cooling system and, in turn, to the automatic opening of a safety valve. The safety valve released a chemical cloud, part of which floated over to the electroplating facility next door. Two employees had to be temporarily evacuated.

The environmental project requires the company to upgrade its existing ammonia detection system by installing 8 new sensor points and more than 50 new relief valves. The upgrade will cost at least \$31,500.

Anhydrous ammonia is an extremely hazardous substance under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 190 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 173 settlements with \$4.21 million in total fines and \$2.31 million in environmental projects.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 8, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa363.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Mike Berman  
(312) 886-6837

Technical Contact: Rich Boice  
(312) 886-4740

Media Contact: Gordon Blum  
(312) 353-8501

For Immediate Release: December 2, 1998

No. 98-OPA364

## **EPA REVIEWS MIDCO I AND MIDCO II SITES; RESTORATION CONTINUES**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently completed a 5-year status review of the Midco I and Midco II Superfund sites, Gary, IN. The Superfund law requires reviews of sites where cleanup has been completed (at least every 5 years), but where pollutants are contained and will be managed on-site.

Based on current site progress, the soil treatment and final cover will be completed by 2001. The ground-water system will most likely have to operate for decades to come. EPA has overseen the project throughout and believes that, when completed, the cleanup will be able to protect human health and the environment.

Both the 4-acre Midco I and 7-acre Midco II sites were industrial waste recycling, storage, and disposal facilities from 1973 to 1978 (the sites are about 3 miles apart). Both sites contained thousands of improperly stored drums of chemical wastes, numerous tanks, and multiple areas where chemicals were dumped on the ground.

In December 1976, there was a major fire at Midco I, and the company moved to Midco II. Another fire consumed Midco II in August 1977. The

sites were later abandoned, leaving hazardous conditions. The situation was compounded by severe flooding in 1981.

From 1981 to 1989, EPA removed the drums and surface-level wastes, and excavated and removed a subsurface sludge pit and filter bed.

In 1992, a group of companies responsible for the pollution entered into a consent decree with EPA to address the remaining environmental problems.

A ground-water treatment system was completed at Midco II in 1996 and at Midco I in 1997. In addition, some contaminated sediments were excavated in 1994. Minor changes are being made to the cleanup plan subject to further review. Estimated cost of the complete Midco I and Midco II cleanups: \$23 million. The next 5-year review is scheduled for 2003.

A copy of the report is available at Gary Public Library, 220 West 5th Ave., as well as EPA Region 5 Records Center, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604; 312-886-0900, or (outside Illinois) 800-621-8431.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 8, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa364.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Jose C. de Leon  
(312) 353-7456

Technical Contact: Spiros Bourgikos  
(312) 886-6862

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: December 7, 1998

No. 98-OPA365

## **EPA CITES MURPHY OIL FOR CLEAN-AIR VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Murphy Oil USA, Inc., for alleged violations of Federal and State clean-air regulations at the company's Superior, WI, oil refinery.

EPA said Murphy Oil failed to get a permit before it made refinery modifications that significantly increased emissions of sulfur dioxide in an area where air quality meets national outdoor air standards.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. Murphy Oil has 30 days from receipt of the finding to request a meeting to discuss the alleged violations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's mission is protection of human health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations."

Sulfur dioxide can cause acid rain and irritate and inflame lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and those with existing lung disease are the most

vulnerable.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 8, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa365.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Eva Hahn  
(312) 886-6833

Technical Contact: Ruth McNamara  
(312) 353-3193

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: December 7, 1998

No. 98-OPA366

## **EPA CITES MARSH SUPERMARKETS FOR CHEMICAL REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$57,032 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Marsh Supermarkets Inc. (Yorktown, IN) for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. EPA has proposed a \$57,032 fine.

---

Sometime between July 3 and July 7, 1997, an estimated 1,000 lb of anhydrous ammonia was released from Marsh Supermarkets' warehouse refrigeration system when a rooftop relief valve malfunctioned. All anhydrous ammonia releases above 100 lb must be reported promptly to the National Response Center and the State and local emergency response planning committees.

"Compliance with these reporting requirements is critical because fire departments and other authorities must have the necessary information to respond when a release occurs," said Regional Superfund Director William Muno. "Public health, as well as the environment, is at stake."

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 190 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 173 settlements with \$4.21 million in total fines and \$2.31 million in environmental projects.



###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 8, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa366.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Andre Daugavietis  
(312) 886-6663

Technical Contact: Bonnie Bush  
(312) 353-6684

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: December 8, 1998

No. 98-OPA367

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH MOBIL ON AIR POLLUTION VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Mobil Oil Corp. resolving alleged clean-air violations at the company's Joliet, IL, oil refinery.

Mobil has agreed to maintain continuous compliance with the Clean Air Act, install a monitor and alarm on the carbon monoxide boilers system at the refinery's fluid catalytic cracking unit, and do stack testing for carbon monoxide emissions from the common stack of the carbon monoxide boilers and fluid catalytic cracking unit.

EPA cited Mobil in March 1995 for alleged violations of limits on opacity (the amount of light obscured), and emission limits on particulates (smoke, dust, ash) and carbon monoxide from the carbon monoxide boilers and fluid catalytic cracking unit common stack.

Other aspects of the alleged violations were resolved by a February 1997 agreement that included a \$125,000 penalty and an \$80,000 supplemental cleanup project.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public

health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling carbon monoxide can weaken heart contractions and reduce oxygen supplies to various parts of the body and, therefore, the oxygen available to the muscles and various organs. Infants, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with chronic heart and lung disease are likely to be the most susceptible.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 8, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa367.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Steven J. Murawski  
(312) 886-6741

Technical Contact: Joseph Cardile  
(312) 353-2151

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: December 8, 1998

No. 98-OPA368

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENTS WITH 3 WISC. TOWNS ON ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has reached agreements with Hobart, Lawrence, and Ashwaubenon, WI, on alleged violations of Federal regulations on asbestos, a hazardous air pollutant. No penalties were assessed.

On August 27, 1997, as part of a combined fire-training exercise, fire departments from these municipalities intentionally burned a building at Sand Acres Dr. and Main St., DePere, WI, owned by the Village of Ashwaubenon.

EPA said the municipalities did not notify the authorities, thoroughly inspect the building, or properly remove asbestos from the building before beginning the demolition, as required by Federal regulations.

All three have agreed to comply in the future with all requirements of the Federal asbestos regulations, including timely reporting of any plans to demolish a building by intentional burning.

"EPA is committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting

director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that municipalities comply with the Clean Air Act."

Asbestos is a known carcinogen that can cause mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (a lung disease) many years after exposure.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 8, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa368.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Ivan Lieben  
(312) 886-2242

Technical Contact: Newton Ellens  
(312) 353-5562

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: December 9, 1998

No. 98-OPA369

## **EPA CITES DETROIT CHROME FOR CLEAN AIR ACT VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Detroit Chrome Electro Forming Co. for alleged violations of Federal hazardous air pollutant regulations at the company's chromium electroplating plant, 7515 Lyndon St., Detroit, MI.

EPA said the company violated various recordkeeping, reporting, and testing requirements of Federal regulations for chromium emissions.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. Detroit Chrome has 30 days to request a meeting to discuss the allegations and how to resolve them.

"Hazardous air pollutants are potentially a serious threat to human health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply with the regulations."

Hexavalent chromium, a highly hazardous cancer-causing substance, is found in chromic-acid mist, released into the air as part of the

electroplating process. Chromic acid is also a respiratory irritant, whose short-term effects include coughing and wheezing. Noncancerous long-term effects include bronchitis, as well as ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 10, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa369.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Thomas Nash  
(312) 886-0552

Technical Contact: Louis F. Sass  
(312) 886-2871

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: December 9, 1998

No. 98-OPA370

## **EPA TELLS B&R OIL TO PAY \$60,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that its Environmental Appeals Board has upheld a decision by an EPA administrative law judge: B&R Oil Co., Inc. (Granger, IN), must meet Federal financial responsibility requirements for underground storage tanks. The Board ordered the company to pay a \$60,000 fine.

Tank owners and operators must show they can pay for the cost of cleanups and compensation to third parties in case of bodily injury and property damage caused by leaking tanks.

B&R Oil, a petroleum marketer, owns between 100 and 999 underground tanks. The deadline for organizations in this category to get coverage was Oct. 26, 1989.

EPA filed an administrative complaint against the company in 1991, alleging failure to respond to two information requests about B&R's financial responsibility coverage and a notice of violation. At the time, B&R Oil owned about 160 tanks in 38 locations.

EPA then filed an amended administrative complaint in 1996, proposing a \$76,601 penalty. The complaint arose from a series of enforcement actions



targeting financial responsibility violations in Indiana. An administrative law judge ruled against B&R Oil, and the company appealed the finding.

"This is a landmark ruling that will enable EPA to ensure national compliance with the financial responsibility rules," said Andrew F. Tschampa, chief of the regional Underground Storage Tanks Section. "We are happy the board has agreed on EPA's use of information-request letters, asking companies to certify compliance."

The Environmental Appeals Board is the final EPA decisionmaker on administrative appeals under all major environmental laws administered by EPA. It is an impartial, three-member body that is responsible only to the Administrator.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 10, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa370.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Stephanie Ball  
(312) 353-2315

Media Contact: Bob Paulson  
(312) 886-0272

For Immediate Release: December 10, 1998

No. 98-OPA373

## **EPA: ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING UNDER WAY AT TRI-STATE TANK CLEANING SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that environmental sampling at the Tri-State Tank Cleaning site (Coal Grove, OH) began this week. The 4-acre site, 510 Riverside Dr., is an abandoned tank and trailer cleaning facility that had several different owners from 1974 to 1992.

Area residents can expect to see construction vehicles and workers in OSHA-required protective clothing at the site through early next week. The project will proceed as weather allows.

Ground-water and soil sampling will be supervised by a Chicago-based EPA Superfund emergency response team, working in coordination with Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Coal Grove officials. A soil and ground-water cleanup plan will be announced once the sampling and analysis is complete, possibly by summer 1999.

In 1993-94, EPA supervised the removal and disposal of a number of underground and above-ground storage tanks and more than 100 drums of hazardous materials from the site. Ohio EPA has also done ground-water and soil sampling at the site.

The current work will include extensive sampling on site and along the adjacent north bank of the Ohio River. EPA is concerned about

trichloroethylene (TCE) releases to soil and ground water, which potentially could affect Coal Grove's water supply system. The Coal Grove well field is about 1/4 mile away from the Tri-State Tank property. TCE was used in solvent washing processes and disposed of in two trenches at the facility.

A local information repository with site documents will be established in the near future. Residents with questions or concerns about the site may call Bob Paulson, community involvement coordinator, 800-621-8431, or 312-886-0272, or e-mail: [paulson.robert@epa.gov](mailto:paulson.robert@epa.gov).

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 14, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa373.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Mary Setnicar  
(312) 886-0976

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: December 11, 1998

No. 98-OPA375

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA TO HOLD WASTE  
MINIMIZATION CONFERENCE FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES  
DEC. 14-16**

---

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a conference for local businesses on Waste Minimization and Pollution Prevention, from 10:30 a.m. Dec. 14 until noon Dec. 16, Hyatt Regency Hotel, 151 East Wacker Dr., Chicago.

More than 60 speakers and exhibitors will share waste minimization and pollution prevention successes in the pharmaceutical, metal pretreatment, metal finishing, printing, electronics, dry cleaning, and auto industries, among others. Admission is free.

The agenda is available at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/calendar.htm>, or by calling Phillippa Cannon at 312 353-6218.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 14, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa375.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contacts: Leo Rosales  
(312) 353-6198

Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

*NOTE TO MEDIA: A detailed list of recommended safety measures will be distributed at the meeting. For an advance copy, suitable for reprint, please contact Leo Rosales or Mick Hans in EPA's Public Affairs office.*

For Immediate Release: December 11, 1998

No. 98-OPA376

## **EPA: MEETING ON VALLEYCREST CLEANUP DEC. 16**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will host a public meeting to discuss ongoing cleanup and a new site contingency plan during drum removal at the Valleycrest Landfill site (Dayton, OH). The meeting will be Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m., Stebbins High School, 1900 Harshman Rd., Riverside.

Representatives from EPA, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, local emergency response agencies, and the Valleycrest Landfill Site Group (a group of companies potentially responsible for hazardous materials sent to the site) will present an update on site activities, review recommended safety precautions for area residents, and answer questions about the project.

The landfill is at 200 Valleycrest Dr., between Brandt Pike and Valley St. (The site is also known as the North Dayton Sanitary Landfill.) The 102-acre site was formerly a gravel pit, which accepted industrial and municipal waste from 1965 to 1975. It also accepted foundry sand, fly ash, and baghouse dust in some areas of the site from the mid-1970's through 1989.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 14, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa376.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Nidhi O'Meara  
(312) 886-0568

Technical Contact: Kevin Vuilleumier  
(312) 886-6188

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: December 16, 1998

No. 98-OPA377

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH PRO-TEC; INCLUDES \$1.05 MILLION FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) have recently reached agreement with Pro-Tec Coating Co. on alleged clean-air violations at the company's Leipsic, OH, facility.

EPA said Pro-Tec has agreed to pay a \$1.05 million penalty and to spend more than \$5 million on pollution-reduction equipment.

Pro-Tec, a joint venture of U.S. Steel and Kobe Steel, Ltd., does continuous hot-dip galvanizing, coating mill sheets of rolled steel with zinc. The process produces nitrogen oxide and carbon monoxide emissions.

The agreement resolves charges that Pro-Tec failed to get the proper air pollution permits from Ohio EPA and failed to install the best-available control technology -- when the Leipsic facility was built in 1992 and during a significant facility expansion now under way.

---

Under the agreement, Pro-Tec must get an appropriate air pollution permit for its current expansion and must install state-of-the-art pollution control

equipment before starting operation of the new expansion.

The agreement also requires Pro-Tec to install state-of-the-art pollution control equipment on the portion constructed around 1992 as well as apply for a modification to the existing permit for that portion.

The required controls on the expanded part of the plant will cut emissions of nitrogen oxides by about 200 tons per year. Installation of the agreed upon controls at the existing part will cut nitrogen oxide emissions by another 200 tons per year. In all, nitrogen oxide emissions will be cut by about 80 percent, despite the increased production capacity resulting from the expansion.

EPA Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich said: "Clean air requirements for new sources are very important--and Pro-Tec should have met them from the outset. Nonetheless, EPA commends the company for making this significant effort to cut nitrogen oxide emissions and thereby reduce formation of health-threatening ground-level ozone."

Nitrogen oxides combine with other chemicals in the air to form ground-level ozone (smog). Ground-level ozone can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and infections. Ozone can also aggravate asthma and speed up aging of lung tissue.

In addition to human health effects, ground-level ozone can cut the yields of agricultural crops.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 17, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa377.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

MPCA Contact: Dale Trippler  
(651) 296-7746

For Immediate Release: December 17, 1998

No. 98-OPA378

## **EPA PROPOSES WHITTAKER SITE FOR SUPERFUND DELISTING**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that the Whittaker Corp. site (Minneapolis, MN) is set to be taken off the Superfund National Priorities List. A public comment period ends January 12.

The 7.5-acre site, abandoned in 1980, is at 3134 California St., NE.--about one-quarter mile east of the Mississippi River. Past operations at the site include: production of industrial coatings and resins, packaging of automotive products (including antifreeze), and steel distribution. A variety of wastes, and tanks and containers of hazardous chemicals were left at the site.

---

Between 1983-85, EPA, in cooperation with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), oversaw cleanup and disposal of contaminated soil and ground water and removal of more than 600 containers of hazardous chemicals.

A ground-water treatment system was maintained at the site until 1994, when it was shut down by the Whittaker Corp. Following a period of negotiation in which MPCA requested that Whittaker investigate and confirm that there was no longer a hazard at the site, a comprehensive MPCA analysis of the investigation was completed in May 1998. This MPCA review, with concurrence by EPA, confirmed that the soils and

ground water, both on-site and down gradient of the property, no longer pose a threat to human health and the environment.

Comments on the proposed delisting may be sent to: Gladys Beard, U.S. EPA Region 5, Superfund Division (SRW-6J), 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. All comments must be postmarked by January 12. Site information repositories are at EPA's Chicago office and MPCA's main office, 520 Lafayette Rd. North, St. Paul, MN 55155.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa378.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Andre Daugavietis  
(312) 886-6663

Technical Contact: Ruth McNamara  
(312) 353-3193

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: December 17, 1998

No. 98-OPA379

## **EPA CITES TRC CIRCUITS FOR CHEMICAL REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$31,046 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against TRC Circuits, Inc. (Crystal, MN), for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals. EPA has proposed a \$31,046 civil penalty for the violations alleged in the complaint.

During an August 1996 inspection at the printed circuit-board manufacturer, EPA learned that TRC had failed to submit the required 1995 forms for a hazardous chemical--sulfuric acid--to the Minnesota Emergency Response Commission and to the Crystal Fire Department.

TRC eventually submitted the required information in September 1996, considerably later than the annual March 1 deadline. The reporting law is administered by EPA under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

The company has been in compliance with reporting requirements since the inspection, submitting the required forms for the 1996 and 1997 calendar years.

"Compliance with the chemical reporting laws is critical, because fire departments, hospitals, and other authorities must have the necessary information to respond appropriately when a release occurs," said regional Superfund director William Muno. "Public health, as well as the environment, is at stake."

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 190 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 173 settlements with \$4.21 million in total fines and \$2.31 million in environmental projects.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa379.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Sherry Estes  
(312) 886-7164

Technical Contact: Mike Gifford  
(312) 886-7257

Media Contact: Susan Pastor  
(312) 353-1325

For Immediate Release: December 17, 1998

No. 98-OPA380

## **EPA: SAFETY-KLEEN TO OPERATE LEACHATE EXTRACTION SYSTEM AT XXKEM SITE, REIMBURSE COSTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached a settlement with Safety-Kleen Envirosystems Co., under which Safety-Kleen has agreed to assume responsibility for the long-term operation and maintenance of a leachate extraction system for the central portion of the XXKem Superfund site, 3903-3905 Stickney Ave., Toledo, OH. (Safety-Kleen was formerly known as Inland Chemical Corp.) The settlement also provides for collection of petroleum product floating on top of the leachate, and reimbursement of up to \$300,000 in past EPA costs.

The 13-acre XXKem property was at one time occupied by a waste oil and solvent recycling facility. This agreement focuses on the central portion of the site, which contained an industrial waste disposal lagoon.

---

Two other Superfund sites are in the immediate area: Stickney Avenue Landfill and Tyler Street Dump. (XXKem is directly south of the Stickney site.) All three properties contain concentrations of heavy metals, solvents, and oily wastes, which along with combined sewer overflows, agricultural pollution, and runoff from other area dump sites, have contributed to severe pollution of the Ottawa River.

A \$26 million cleanup plan for the Stickney and Tyler sites, announced in January 1998, resulted in placement of a multilayer cover system over the two landfills, along with a portion of the XXKem site. That cover system was installed by the Stickney-Tyler Administrative Group, under an agreement with EPA.

In addition, EPA determined that the leachate in the vicinity of the industrial waste lagoon should be extracted, and properly disposed, to prevent its potential discharge to the Ottawa River. The system was installed and tested by the City of Toledo this past summer and fall. The new consent order with Safety-Kleen provides for the operation and maintenance of the system and addresses the already-covered portion of the XXKem site.

Under the consent order, EPA, in consultation with Ohio EPA, will review the site monitoring data on a regular basis, and may, at any time, require changes to the operation of the leachate extraction system. Ohio EPA will provide technical oversight under a cooperative agreement with EPA.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa380.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Deborah Carlson  
(312) 353-6121

Technical Contact: Linda Hamsing  
(312) 886-6810

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: December 17, 1998

No. 98-OPA381

## **EPA ISSUES SUBPOENA FOR KEIL CHEMICAL EMISSIONS RECORDS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently hand-delivered a subpoena to Keil Chemical requesting documentation of hazardous air pollutant emissions at the facility, 3000 Sheffield Ave., Hammond, IN.

Keil, a division of Ferro Corp., has been operating without a valid permit for air emissions. The facility produces Pyro-Chek, a plastic flame retardant, and in the process, emits ethylene dichloride and vinyl chloride. The substances are hazardous air pollutants that can cause cancer and lead to ozone pollution.

"The documents requested in the subpoena will assist EPA in determining the extent of Keil's non-compliance with the Clean Air Act," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We are committed to enforcing regulations for hazardous air pollutants to protect human health and the environment."

The subpoena requires that Keil produce the documents for EPA review on January 5 and 6.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 18, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa381.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Kevin Chow  
(312) 353-6181

Technical Contact: Bonnie Bush  
(312) 353-6684

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: December 18, 1998

No. 98-OPA382

## **EPA CITES BUSSE FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$55,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against R.I. Busse, Inc., for alleged clean-air violations at the company's rock-crushing facility, 1520 Midway Ct., Elk Grove Village, IL.

EPA cited Busse in September for allowing emissions from its primary rock crusher to exceed Federal limits for opacity (the amount of light obscured by particulates -- smoke, dust, ash).

The company was also cited for failing to operate its equipment in a manner consistent with good air-pollution control practices. EPA discovered the alleged violations during inspections in July.

Busse has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations any time.

"EPA is committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to

ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 21, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa382.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Thomas Martin  
(312) 886-4273

Technical Contact: Nhien Pham  
(312) 353-8657

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: December 21, 1998

No. 98-OPA383

## **EPA CITES ADM FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Archer Daniels Midland Co. (ADM) for alleged violations of federally enforceable State clean-air regulations at the company's East Corn Plant, 4666 Faries Parkway, Decatur, IL.

---

EPA said stack tests done Aug. 25 show that fiber feed dryers 5 and 6 exceeded State emissions limits for particulates (dust).

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. ADM has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the alleged violations and how to resolve them.

"EPA's mission is protection of human health and the environment," said Stephen Rothblatt, acting director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure compliance with clean-air regulations."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can affect children, the elderly, or those with heart and lung conditions the most.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: December 21, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa383.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Mony Chabria  
(312) 886-6842

Technical Contact: Patrick Kuefler  
(312) 353-6268

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050  
Phillippa Cannon  
353-6218

For Immediate Release: December 30, 1998

No. 98-OPA384

## **EPA SETTLES WITH INLAND STEEL ON HAZ. WASTE VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$248,171 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 announced today that it has settled an administrative suit against Inland Steel (Chicago, IL) for hazardous waste disposal and storage violations at its East Chicago, IN, steel mill. The company has agreed to pay a \$248,171 penalty, remove contaminated soils, and improve its management of hazardous waste by constructing a building around the hazardous waste loading area to prevent further contamination.

During a Sept. 1997 inspection, EPA noted several hazardous waste storage and disposal violations of baghouse dust. EPA alleges that Inland Steel disposed of the dust without a permit and without pretreatment and improperly stored it in open and unlabeled containers.

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, EPA regulates the management and disposal of municipal and industrial solid wastes, from the time of production to their final disposal.

###

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs ([kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov))

Last Updated: January 7, 1998

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news98/98opa384.htm>