



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



## US EPA Region 5 1997 News Releases

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### January

[97-OPA001](#): Released 1/3/97

EPA AND ILLINOIS AGREE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

[97-OPA002](#): Released 1/13/97

EPA CONGRATULATES INDIANA FOR BEING FIRST STATE TO  
ADOPT THE GREAT LAKES INITIATIVE

[97-OPA003](#): Released 1/13/97

EPA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD TO JAN. 31 FOR PCB PROPOSAL

[97-OPA004](#): Released 1/10/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

[97-OPA005](#): Released 1/14/97

EPA TO HOLD MEETING JAN. 21 ON GENEVA CITY DUMP-TRUE  
TEMPER SPORTS SITES

[97-OPA006](#): Released 1/16/97

EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON REILLY TAR CLEANUP; MEETING JAN.  
22

[97-OPA007](#): Released 1/16/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: WASTE & PREVENTION  
CONFERENCE FOR HAZ. WASTE GENERATORS FEB. 25-27

[97-OPA008](#): Released 1/22/97

EPA SETTLES WITH BRACH & BROCK CONFECTIONS FOR \$42,000

[97-OPA009](#): Released 1/22/97

EPA GRANTS CONDITIONAL OK FOR MICHIGAN CLEAN-AIR  
PERMIT PROGRAM

[97-OPA010](#): Released 1/24/97

EPA SETTLES WITH AGRI-FINE FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS;

INCLUDES \$19,139 FINE

[97-OPA011](#): Released 1/27/97

EPA CITES WORLD'S FINEST CHOCOLATE FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$45,000 FINE

[97-OPA012](#): Released 1/28/97

EPA TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON PROPOSED SMOG & SOOT REGS JAN. 31

[97-OPA013](#): Released 1/28/97

EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON AMERICAN METALS CLEANUP, WESTLAKE, OH

## February

[97-OPA014](#): Released 2/4/97

EPA SETTLES ON ONALASKA LANDFILL; POLLUTERS TO PAY \$1.85 MILLION

[97-OPA015](#): Released 2/5/97

EPA RECEIVES COPPER RANGE PERMIT APPLICATION; REPOSITORIES SET UP

[97-OPA016](#): Released 2/6/97

EPA: NO CHANGE IN OZONE STATUS FOR CINCINNATI

[97-OPA017](#): Released 2/7/97

EPA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD TO MAR. 17 FOR PCB PROPOSAL

[97-OPA018](#): Released 2/11/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: PRESTOLITE BATTERY SITE PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 20

[97-OPA019](#): Released 2/12/97

EPA CITES ENZYME BIO-SYSTEMS FOR WATER VIOLATIONS

[97-OPA020](#): Released 2/12/97

EPA SETTLES WITH EASTERN ELECTRIC ON PCB VIOLATIONS FOR \$23,000

[97-OPA021](#): Released 2/13/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: WASTE & PREVENTION CONFERENCE FOR HAZ. WASTE GENERATORS FEB. 25-27

[97-OPA022](#): Released 2/12/97

EPA GETS VP's HAMMER AWARD FOR ENERGY-SAVING PROGRAM

[97-OPA023](#): Released 2/12/97

EPA: CLEANUP BEGINS AT AMERICAN ALLIED SITE

[97-OPA024](#): Released 2/12/97

EPA TO HOLD MEETING FEB. 18 ON ARCANUM IRON & METAL SITE

[97-OPA025](#): Released 2/13/97

EPA TO HOLD MEETING FEB. 19 ON UNITED SCRAP LEAD SITE

[97-OPA026](#): Released 2/13/97

EPA SETTLES WITH DIVERSEY CORP. FOR \$62,450

[97-OPA027](#): Released 2/18/97

EPA SETTLES WITH GARTLAND FOUNDRY

[97-OPA028](#): Released 2/15/97

EPA RESPONDS TO CAHOKIA, IL, TIRE FIRE

[97-OPA029](#): Released 2/19/97

EPA ANNOUNCES CLEANUP PLAN FOR CONTAMINATED SOIL AT ORGANIC CHEMICALS SITE

[97-OPA030](#): Released 2/20/97

EPA, IDEM: CLEANUP NEAR END AT PRESTOLITE SITE; TO BE REDEVELOPED

[97-OPA031](#): Released 2/19/97

EPA SETTLES WITH BP CHEMICALS; INCLUDES \$10,625 FINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

[97-OPA032](#): Released 2/19/97

EPA TO HOLD MEETING FEB. 27 ON G & H LANDFILL

[97-OPA033](#): Released 2/19/97

EPA TO FORM ADVISORY GROUP ON GENEVA CITY DUMP-TRUE TEMPER SPORTS SITES; MEETING FEB. 27

[97-OPA034](#): Released 2/19/97

EPA CITES AK STEEL FOR PCB VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$56,000 FINE

[97-OPA035](#): Released 2/19/97

EPA SETTLES WITH KURT MFG ON PCB'S

[97-OPA036](#): Released 2/21/97

EPA SETTLES WITH NIPSCO ON PCB VIOLATIONS

[97-OPA037](#): Released 2/21/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: A VISIT FROM EPA'S ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR MARY D. NICHOLS-- SHE WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN A GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY!

[97-OPA038](#): Released 2/26/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA CLEANUP (CHICAGO) MEDIA AVAILABILITY & PHOTO OP FEB. 28

[97-OPA039](#): Released 2/26/97

EPA TO HOLD MEETING MARCH 4 ON CAM-OR SITE

[97-OPA040](#): Released 2/26/97

EPA SETTLES WITH PATTERSON LABS FOR \$36,000

[97-OPA041](#): Released 2/26/97

EPA CITES RED ARROW FOR AIR POLLUTION; PROPOSES \$80,700 PENALTY

[97-OPA042](#): Released 2/28/97

EPA: CLEANUP UNDER WAY AT DOUBLE A METALS

[97-OPA043](#): Released 2/28/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA MEETS WITH CLEVELAND MAYOR ON 9300 QUINCY AVE. (FORMER SCHMIDT'S BREWERY) SITE

[97-OPA044](#): Released 2/28/97

EPA OK'S FINAL DOCUMENT FOR COPPER RANGE

**March**

[97-OPA045](#): Released 3/3/97

EPA CITES NATIONAL STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA046](#): Released 3/3/97

EPA CITES LTV STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA047](#): Released 3/3/97

EPA SETTLES WITH CENTRAL SOYA FOR \$23,500

[97-OPA048](#): Released 3/4/97

EPA SETTLES WITH L.G.G. REALTY ON PCB'S

[97-OPA049](#): Released 3/3/97

EPA CHANGES POWELL ROAD LANDFILL CLEANUP PLAN;  
MEETING MARCH 11

[97-OPA050](#): Released 3/5/97

EPA PROPOSES TO REDESIGNATE OZONE STATUS OF  
VANDERBURGH COUNTY

[97-OPA051](#): Released 3/7/97

FIRST COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING ON GENEVA  
CITY DUMP-TRUE TEMPER SPORTS SITES TO BE HELD MARCH 13

[97-OPA052](#): Released 3/11/97

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH MOBIL; INCLUDES \$125,000 FINE  
& \$80,000 CLEANUP PROJECT

[97-OPA053](#): Released 3/12/97

MEDIA ADVISORY: FEDERAL WOMEN'S PROGRAM HOSTS  
DISCUSSION ON WOMEN AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

[97-OPA054](#): Released 3/13/97

EPA STOPS SALE OF UNREGISTERED 3M KITCHEN PRODUCTS

[97-OPA055](#): Released 3/20/97

EPA AMENDS ORDER ON UNREGISTERED 3M KITCHEN PRODUCTS

[97-OPA056](#): Released 3/24/97

EPA PRESENTS NATIONAL ENERGY-SAVING AWARD TO UC

[97-OPA057](#): Released 3/24/97

EPA PRESENTS NATIONAL ENERGY-SAVING AWARD TO  
HONEYWELL

[97-OPA058](#): Released 3/26/97

EPA CITES 3M FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$22,500  
FINE

[97-OPA059](#): Released 3/26/97

EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROTECTING DRINKING-WATER  
SOURCES

[97-OPA060](#): Released 3/27/97

EPA CITES SHELL WOOD RIVER REFINERY FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA061](#): Released 3/31/97

EPA CITES LAFARGE FOR HAZ. WASTE VIOLATIONS; SEEKS  
\$436,815 FINE

**April**

[97-OPA062](#): Released 4/2/97

EPA PROPOSES DEPUE, IL, SITE FOR SUPERFUND LIST

[97-OPA063](#): Released 4/2/97

EPA REMINDS OWNERS OF DEADLINE TO UPGRADE OLD STORAGE TANKS

[97-OPA064](#): Released 4/3/97

EPA TO HOLD MEETING APRIL 10 ON BYRON SALVAGE YARD SITE

[97-OPA065](#): Released 4/8/97

EPA CITES DAWSON HEATING FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA066](#): Released 4/8/97

EPA SETTLES WITH HILTON DAVIS FOR HAZ. WASTE VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$64,500 FINE

[97-OPA067](#): Released 4/11/97

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR EARTH DAY 1997

[97-OPA068](#): Released 4/9/97

EPA, ARMY AGREE ON CLEANUP PLAN FOR PORTIONS OF CRAB ORCHARD SITE

[97-OPA069](#): Released 4/10/97

EPA: CLEANUP UNDER WAY AT IMTHURN DRUMS SITE

[97-OPA070](#): Released 4/10/97

EPA CITES SERVICE WEB OFFSET FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA071](#): Released 4/10/97

EPA CITES BAGCRAFT FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA072](#): Released 4/10/97

EPA TO HOLD MEETING APRIL 17 ON B&E LANDFILL SITE

[97-OPA073](#): Released 4/14/97

EPA ANNOUNCES WINNER, REGIONAL FINALISTS OF PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARDS

[97-OPA074](#): Released 4/14/97

EPA, MDEQ GRANT HAZ. WASTE LICENSE AND PERMIT TO WAYNE DISPOSAL, MI, FACILITY; EPA APPROVES APPLICATION TO ACCEPT PCB-WASTE

[97-OPA075](#): Released 4/14/97

EPA CITES TOTAL PETROLEUM FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA076](#): Released 4/14/97

EPA SETTLES WITH ILLINOIS ON AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$20,000 PENALTY & \$15,000 CLEANUP PROJECT

[97-OPA077](#): Released 4/14/97

EPA CHANGES CITY DISPOSAL CLEANUP PLAN; MEETING APRIL 21

[97-OPA078](#): Released 4/15/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: PANEL DISCUSSION IN CHICAGO OF WHITE HOUSE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING CONFERENCE

[97-OPA079](#): Released 4/16/97

EPA CITES ELMER'S CRANE & DOZER FOR CLEAN AIR ACT VIOLATIONS

[97-OPA080](#): Released 4/17/97

NAT'L ENVIRONMENT JUSTICE MEETING IN WISCONSIN MAY 12-16

[97-OPA081](#): Released 4/18/97

EPA TO HOLD MEETING APRIL 29 ON MacGILLIS & GIBBS-BELL  
LUMBER & POLE SITE

[97-OPA082](#): Released 4/21/97

EPA: CLEANUP AT AMERICAN ALLIED ADDITIVES SITE COMPLETE

[97-OPA083](#): Released 4/22/97

EPA CITES EXCEL CIRCUITS FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS;  
PROPOSES \$60,000 FINE

[97-OPA084](#): Released 4/22/97

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH UNO-VEN; INCLUDES \$121,000  
FINE & \$270,000 POLLUTION PREVENTION PROJECT

[97-OPA085](#): Released 4/24/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: HOT-LINE ESTABLISHED FOR  
METHYL PARATHION QUESTIONS

[97-OPA086](#): Released 4/25/97

EPA PICKS CLEANUP PLAN FOR MADISON METRO SITE

[97-OPA087](#): Released 4/25/97

EPA CITES STERN ESTATE FOR PCB VIOLATIONS AT THE OLD  
SCHMIDT'S BREWERY SITE; SEEKS A \$174,000 PENALTY

[97-OPA088](#): Released 4/28/97

EPA PICKS CLEANUP PLAN FOR ROTO-FINISH SITE

[97-OPA089](#): Released 4/30/97

EPA SETTLES WITH A.E. STALEY FOR \$80,000

[97-OPA090](#): Released 4/29/97

EPA STOPS SALE OF UNREGISTERED EKCO KITCHEN PRODUCTS

[97-OPA091](#): Released 4/30/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

## May

[97-OPA092](#): Released 5/6/97

EPA CITES PRODUCTION PLATING FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS;  
PROPOSES \$82,500 FINE

[97-OPA093](#): Released 5/2/97

EPA TO HOLD MEETING MAY 8 ON THERMO-CHEM SITE

[97-OPA094](#): Released 5/5/97

EPA PROPOSES TO ALLOW PCB STORAGE AT ENSR CANTON  
FACILITY

[97-OPA095](#): Released 5/8/97

EPA TECH TEAM BRIEFS E. LIVERPOOL ON RESULTS OF WTI RISK  
ASSESSMENT

[97-OPA096](#): Released 5/8/97

EPA AMENDS ORDER ON UNREGISTERED EKCO KITCHEN  
PRODUCTS

[97-OPA097](#): Released 5/14/97

EPA SIGNS LANDMARK AGREEMENT TO CLEAN UP MANISTIQUE  
RIVER, HARBOR



[97-OPA098](#): Released 5/12/97

EPA TO HOLD MEETINGS MAY 19 & 22 ON SOIL SAMPLING PLAN FOR CENTRAL WAYNE COUNTY SANITATION AUTHORITY

[97-OPA099](#): Released 5/13/97

EPA: LANDFILL CAP CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN AT VAN DALE JUNKYARD

[97-OPA100](#): Released 5/13/97

EPA: BUILDING DEMOLITION TO BEGIN THIS WEEK AT BRUCE PRODUCTS SITE

[97-OPA101](#): Released 5/13/97

EPA: CLEANUP UNDER WAY AT JACO PLATING SITE

[97-OPA102](#): Released 5/13/97

EPA, TRIBES IN MINNESOTA SIGN ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

[97-OPA103](#): Released 5/14/97

EPA: WHEELER PIT SITE 5-YEAR REVIEW REPORT AVAILABLE

[97-OPA104](#): Released 5/14/97

EPA AWARDS BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT GRANT TO ST. PAUL PORT AUTHORITY

[97-OPA105](#): Released 5/14/97

EPA AWARDS BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT GRANTS TO COOK COUNTY, CHICAGO

[97-OPA106](#): Released 5/14/97

EPA AWARDS BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT GRANT TO NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

[97-OPA107](#): Released 5/20/97

EPA SETTLES WITH ARGONNE LAB ON PCB'S

[97-OPA108](#): Released 5/20/97

EPA OK's WTI TRIAL BURN RESULTS; SETS METALS LIMITS

[97-OPA109](#): Released 5/21/97

EPA GIVES CINCINNATI & NORTHERN KENTUCKY MORE TIME FOR SMOG CLEANUP

[97-OPA110](#): Released 5/20/97

EPA ANNOUNCES TOXIC RELEASE INFORMATION FOR MIDWEST

[97-OPA111](#): Released 5/21/97

EPA TO HOLD MEETING MAY 28 ON JOHNSON IRON INDUSTRIES SITE

[97-OPA112](#): Released 5/22/97

EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON CHANGE TO CLEANUP PLAN AT OTT/STORY/CORDOVA SITE; MEETING JUNE 3

[97-OPA113](#): Released 5/22/97

EPA: CLEANUP COMPLETE AT EVANS PRODUCT DITCH

[97-OPA114](#): Released 5/21/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA RESEARCH SHIP AT NAVY PIER ON MEMORIAL DAY

[97-OPA115](#): Released 5/28/97

EPA: FINAL CLEANUP PHASE UNDER WAY AT COMMERCIAL OIL SERVICES SITE

[97-OPA116](#): Released 5/27/97

EPA TO CAR OWNERS: STOP FREON LEAKS, SAVE MONEY

[97-OPA117](#): Released 5/28/97

EPA CITES AK STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA118](#): Released 5/30/97

EPA AMENDS COMPLAINT AGAINST LAFARGE FOR HAZ. WASTE VIOLATIONS

## June

[97-OPA119](#): Released 6/4/97

EPA SETTLES WITH BEHRENS FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$2,881 FINE AND 4 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

[97-OPA120](#): Released 6/4/97

EPA CITES WINNEBAGO MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA121](#): Released 6/3/97

EPA CITES WORTHINGTON CUSTOM PLASTICS, PROPOSES \$94,323 FINE

[97-OPA122](#): Released 6/4/97

EPA CITES CLARK REFINERY FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA123](#): Released 6/5/97

EPA SETTLES WITH RAHR MALTING FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$6,259 FINE AND FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

[97-OPA124](#): Released 6/11/97

EPA OK'S DOW SOIL DISPOSAL REQUEST

[97-OPA125](#): Released 6/9/97

EPA CITES UNION ELECTRIC FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$20,000 FINE

[97-OPA126](#): Released 6/9/97

EPA SETTLES WITH BERKSHIRE FOODS FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$18,000 FINE

[97-OPA127](#): Released 6/9/97

EPA SETTLES WITH WORLD'S FINEST CHOCOLATE FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$33,250 IN FINES

[97-OPA128](#): Released 6/9/97

EPA MIDWEST CHIEF ADAMKUS RETIRES

[97-OPA129](#): Released 6/9/97

ULLRICH ACTING RA AT EPA

[97-OPA130](#): Released 6/12/97

EPA SELECTS CLEANUP PLAN FOR AMERICAN METALS

[97-OPA131](#): Released 6/16/97

EPA TO BRIEF REGIONAL CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES ON SUPERFUND STATUS JUNE 16-17

[97-OPA132](#): Released 6/19/97

EPA: STOUGHTON TO PAY \$1.5 MILLION FOR LANDFILL CLEANUP



[97-OPA133](#): Released 6/25/97

EPA ISSUES REPORT ON SUPERFUND REFORMS

[97-OPA134](#): Released 6/19/97

EPA: PCB RIVER CLEANUP TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK AT FORD  
OUTFALL SITE

[97-OPA135](#): Released 6/13/97

EPA, REILLY REACH AGREEMENT; INCLUDES \$400,00 SETTLEMENT

[97-OPA136](#): Released 6/16/97

EPA CITES CELLO-FOIL FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS;  
INCLUDES \$227,884 FINE

[97-OPA137](#): Released 6/16/97

EPA TO HOST SYMPOSIUM ON ENDOCRINE DISRUPTERS

[97-OPA138](#): Released 6/18/97

EPA TO ACCELERATE CLEANUP OF FOX RIVER

[97-OPA139](#): Released 6/20/97

EPA OBJECTS TO STATE PERMIT FOR MICHIGAN PEAT

[97-OPA140](#): Released 6/25/97

EPA CITES 3 COMPANIES FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES  
\$25,000 PENALTY

[97-OPA141](#): Released 6/27/97

EPA CASE LEADS TO \$678,000 PENALTY, \$8 MILLION PROJECT FOR  
SHELL

[97-OPA142](#): Released 6/30/97

EPA: GROUND-WATER TREATMENT PLANT COMPLETED AT  
MAUTHE SITE; OPEN HOUSE JULY 9

[97-OPA143](#): Released 6/27/97

EPA CITES PAULSTRA FOR AIR POLLUTION

## July

[97-OPA144](#): Released 7/2/97

EPA: WORK TO PROCEED AT FORMER TEXACO/INDIAN REFINING  
SITE

[97-OPA145](#): Released 7/1/97

EPA TO BEGIN CLEANUP OF FIRST CHICAGO HOME  
CONTAMINATED BY DANGEROUS PESTICIDE

[97-OPA146](#): Released 7/1/97

EPA, DUPONT REACH AGREEMENT ON EAST CHICAGO SITE

[97-OPA147](#): Released 7/1/97

EPA PLACES COPPER RANGE DOCUMENTS IN 6 LIBRARIES

[97-OPA148](#): Released 7/2/97

EPA CITES ENVIROSAFE FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS;  
INCLUDES \$140,350 PENALTY

[97-OPA149](#): Released 7/7/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

[97-OPA150](#): Released 7/8/97

EPA SELECTS LEAD CLEANUP PLAN FOR ARCANUM SITE

[97-OPA151](#): Released 7/8/97

EPA SETTLES WITH 3M FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$22,500 FINE

[97-OPA152](#): Released 7/8/97

EPA TO HOLD AIR REDESIGNATION WORKSHOPS

[97-OPA153](#): Released 7/8/97

EPA, STATE TO HOLD TIRE CLEANUP DAYS IN ALTON AREA

[97-OPA154](#): Released 7/10/97

EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON CLEANUP PLAN FOR LINCOLN FIELDS SITE; MEETING JULY 15

[97-OPA155](#): Released 7/10/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA TO HOST SYMPOSIUM ON ENDOCRINE DISRUPTERS MONDAY JULY 14

[97-OPA156](#): Released 7/15/97

EPA ASKS WILLOW RUN CREEK LANDFILL TO ADDRESS PCB AIR EMISSIONS

[97-OPA157](#): Released 7/17/97

EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON AMENDED CLEANUP PLAN FOR ALLIED CHEMICAL SITE; MEETING JULY 24

[97-OPA159](#): Released 7/21/97

EPA CLEANUP COMPLETE AT GREEN INDUSTRIES SITE

[97-OPA160](#): Released 7/18/97

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH TOTAL PETROLEUM; INCLUDES \$35,000 FINE & \$300,000 CLEANUP PROJECT

[97-OPA161](#): Released 7/18/97

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH GAGE; INCLUDES \$10,000 FINE & \$65,500 CLEANUP PROJECT

[97-OPA162](#): Released 7/18/97

EPA UNDERGROUND-TANK SWEEP NETS COMPLIANCE INFORMATION

[97-OPA163](#): Released 7/25/97

EPA: CLEANUP COMPLETE AT JOHNSON PRODUCTS SITE

[97-OPA164](#): Released 7/28/97

EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON CLEANUP PLAN FOR TEXTILE ROAD SITE; MEETING AUGUST 13

[97-OPA165](#): Released 7/28/97

EPA CITES MILLENNIUM PETROCHEMICALS FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA166](#): Released 7/28/97

EPA, DOE SETTLE DISPUTE ON FERNALD; MEETING AUGUST 26

[97-OPA167](#): Released 7/24/97

EPA CLEANUP PLAN FOR FLOODPLAIN-WETLANDS UNIT OF FIELDS BROOK SITE; MEETING JULY 31 TO DISCUSS SOURCE UNIT

[97-OPA168](#): Released 7/24/97

EPA SELECTS CLEANUP PLAN FOR UNITED SCRAP LEAD SITE

[97-OPA169](#): Released 7/25/97

EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON NATIONAL PRESTO SITE STUDY

[97-OPA170](#): Released 7/28/97

EPA CITES MAGRETECH FOR VIOLATING CLEAN AIR ACT

[97-OPA171](#): Released 7/28/97

EPA CITES GREAT LAKES GAS FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA172](#): Released 7/29/97

EPA CITES STRATEGIC MATERIALS FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA174](#): Released 7/29/97

EPA CITES ROUGE STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA175](#): Released 7/29/97

EPA CITES ALCOA FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA176](#): Released 7/31/97

EPA: CLEANUP TO BEGIN AT FULTZ LANDFILL; MEETING AUGUST  
6

[97-OPA177](#): Released 7/29/97

EPA CITES AMERICAN DISPOSAL FOR FAILURE TO REPORT;  
INCLUDES \$29,040 FINE

[97-OPA178](#): Released 7/30/97

EPA CITES STYBERG ENGINEERING FOR AIR POLLUTION

## August

[97-OPA179](#): Released 8/4/97

EPA ASKS CHICAGO CLERGY TO HELP SPREAD WORD ABOUT  
PESTICIDE DANGER

[97-OPA180](#): Released 8/7/97

EPA: PROPOSED CLEANUP PLANS ISSUED FOR 2 TOMAH  
LANDFILLS; MEETING AUG. 18

[97-OPA181](#): Released 8/5/97

EPA TO HOLD FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI AIR-  
REDESIGNATION HEARINGS

[97-OPA182](#): Released 8/6/97

EPA APPROVES CHANGES TO CLEANUP PLAN AT BUCKEYE  
LANDFILL; MEETING AUGUST 13

[97-OPA183](#): Released 8/11/97

EPA SETTLES ON MARCY ROAD MIDNIGHT DUMP SITES

[97-OPA184](#): Released 8/11/97

EPA: CLEANUP COMPLETE AT FROST MANUFACTURING SITE

[97-OPA185](#): Released 8/12/97

EPA CITES CINERGY FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA186](#): Released 8/12/97

EPA CITES ST. PAUL METRO WASTEWATER PLANT FOR AIR  
POLLUTION

[97-OPA187](#): Released 8/14/97

EPA TO HOLD AVAILABILITY SESSION ON WTI RISK ASSESSMENT  
RESULTS

[97-OPA188](#): Released 8/13/97

EPA ENDORSES ILL GROUND-WATER PROTECTION PLAN

[97-OPA189](#): Released 8/18/97

EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON SCRAP PROCESSING STUDY; PUBLIC

MEETING SEP. 16

[97-OPA190](#): Released 8/18/97

EPA CITES 2 NE OHIO REGIONAL SEWER PLANTS FOR EXCELLENCE

[97-OPA191](#): Released 8/19/97

EPA, WESTINGHOUSE AGREE ON CLEANUP OF WEST SIDE, CLEAR CREEK

[97-OPA192](#): Released 8/20/97

EPA: CLEANUP AT JACO PLATING SITE COMPLETED

[97-OPA193](#): Released 8/19/97

EPA: COMMENT PERIOD FOR TEXTILE ROAD SITE EXTENDED THROUGH SEPT. 27

[97-OPA194](#): Released 8/21/97

EPA SELECTS CLEANUP PLAN FOR UNIT 5 OF REILLY TAR & CHEMICAL SITE

[97-OPA195](#): Released 8/21/97

EPA TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON J & L LANDFILL AUGUST 26

[97-OPA196](#): Released 8/25/97

EPA: WORK TO BEGIN AUG. 25 AT WINSTON-THOMAS SITE

[97-OPA173](#): Released 8/26/97

EPA: NEW DRAINAGE SYSTEM COMPLETED AT CELOTEX SITE; WILL HELP PREVENT FLOODING

[97-OPA197](#): Released 8/26/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA HOSTS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

[97-OPA198](#): Released 8/27/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA HOSTS OPEN HOUSE AT RESTORED HOME

[97-OPA199](#): Released 8/28/97

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH GARY DEVELOPMENT; INCLUDES \$86,000 FINE

[97-OPA200](#): Released 8/28/97

EPA CITES 3 PRAIRIE DU CHIEN COMPANIES FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA201](#): Released 8/28/97

EPA CITES DARLING INT'L FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA202](#): Released 8/28/97

EPA CITES CLARK FOR AIR POLLUTION

## September

[97-OPA203](#): Released 9/2/97

EPA SETTLES WITH ALLEN COUNTY CO-OP FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$7,500 FINE AND 2 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

[97-OPA204](#): Released 9/2/97

EPA CITES INDIANAPOLIS POWER & LIGHT FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA205](#): Released 9/2/97

EPA CITES 5 COMPANIES FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS AT OHIO  
DEMOLITION SITE

[97-OPA206](#): Released 9/2/97

EPA CITES DEMOLITION OPERATOR FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATION

[97-OPA207](#): Released 9/3/97

CINCINNATI COMPANY TO REDEVELOP FORMER TOXIC WASTE  
SITE UNDER AGREEMENT WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

[97-OPA209](#): Released 9/5/97

EPA PROPOSES TO DELETE LaGRANDE LANDFILL FROM  
SUPERFUND LIST; PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ENDS OCT. 4.

[97-OPA210](#): Released 9/10/97

EPA: DEMOLITION TO BEGIN AT ROCK ISLAND PLATING; CITY  
ACQUIRES PROPERTY FOR PARK

[97-OPA211](#): Released 9/8/97

EPA CITES ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE CONTROL FOR HAZ. WASTE  
VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$39,800 FINE

[97-OPA212](#): Released 9/8/97

EPA AWARDS \$58,684 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN  
ILLINOIS

[97-OPA213](#): Released 9/8/97

EPA AWARDS \$3,990 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN  
INDIANA

[97-OPA214](#): Released 9/8/97

EPA AWARDS \$65,345 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN  
MICHIGAN

[97-OPA215](#): Released 9/8/97

EPA AWARDS \$17,753 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN  
WISCONSIN

[97-OPA216](#): Released 9/8/97

EPA AWARDS \$9,240 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN  
MINNESOTA

[97-OPA217](#): Released 9/8/97

EPA AWARDS \$34,988 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN OHIO

[97-OPA218](#): Released 9/8/97

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS: PHOTO OPPORTUNITY AT ROCK  
ISLAND PLATING WORKS BUILDING DEMOLITION, WEDNESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 10, 11:00 A.M.

[97-OPA219](#): Released 9/9/97

EPA, ILLINOIS SIGN 'BROWNFIELDS' AGREEMENT

[97-OPA220](#): Released 9/11/97

EPA CELEBRATES POLLUTION PREVENTION WEEK SEP. 15 - 21;  
FREE LESSON PLANS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

[97-OPA221](#): Released 9/11/97

EPA PROPOSES NO FURTHER ACTION AT BELDING SITE; PUBLIC  
MEETING SEP. 16

[97-OPA222](#): Released 9/12/97

EPA COMPLETES 5-YEAR REVIEW OF ALSCO-ANACONDA SITE;  
MONITORING TO CONTINUE

[97-OPA223](#): Released 9/16/97

EPA: RESIDENTIAL CLEANUP ALMOST HALF-WAY DONE AT NL INDUSTRIES-TARACORP SITE

[97-OPA224](#): Released 9/12/97

EPA-IDEM OK DECONTAMINATION PLAN AT SAFETY KLEEN FACILITY

[97-OPA225](#): Released 9/16/97

EPA: MEETING ON ALBION-SHERIDAN TOWNSHIP LANDFILL SEP. 24

[97-OPA226](#): Released 9/15/97

EPA TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE AT LEMBERGER SITES SEP. 25

[97-OPA227](#): Released 9/16/97

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH US ECOLOGY; INCLUDES \$25,000 FINE

[97-OPA228](#): Released 9/16/97

EPA ORDERS HOOSIER CALCIUM TO INSTALL CLEAN-AIR EQUIPMENT

[97-OPA229](#): Released 9/16/97

EPA TESTS SHOW CUTS IN HAZARDOUS AND NONHAZARDOUS WASTE

[97-OPA230](#): Released 9/16/97

EPA TESTS SHOW CUTS IN HAZARDOUS AND NONHAZARDOUS WASTE

[97-OPA231](#): Released 9/17/97

EPA CITES SHELCO STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA232](#): Released 9/17/97

EPA CITES CLOROX FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA233](#): Released 9/18/97

EPA: MEETING ON MEMORIAL DRIVE DUMP SITE SEP. 22

[97-OPA234](#): Released 9/17/97

EPA BEGINS CLEANUP AT AABCO WASTE OIL SITE

[97-OPA235](#): Released 9/17/97

EPA CITES 3 COMPANIES FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS

[97-OPA236](#): Released 9/17/97

EPA CITES 5 FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS

[97-OPA237](#): Released 9/18/97

EPA CITES WISMARQ FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA238](#): Released 9/18/97

EPA CITES APOGEE'S LINETEC DIVISION FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA239](#): Released 9/18/97

EPA: MEETING ON WINSTON-THOMAS SITE SEP. 23

[97-OPA240](#): Released 9/18/97

EPA CITES DYNACHEM FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA241](#): Released 9/19/97

LAND USE STRESSING THE GREAT LAKES

[97-OPA242](#): Released 9/22/97

EPA: CLEANUP BEGINS AT DOVER TAR SITE



[97-OPA243](#): Released 9/23/97

EPA SETTLES WITH DIXIE DISTRIBUTING FOR PCB VIOLATIONS;  
INCLUDES \$35,000 FINE

[97-OPA244](#): Released 9/30/97

EPA PROPOSES CAM-OR SITE FOR SUPERFUND LIST

[97-OPA245](#): Released 9/29/97

EPA SIGNS AMENDED CLEANUP PLAN FOR ALLIED CHEMICAL  
SITE

## October

[97-OPA246](#): Released 10/2/97

EPA TO HOLD HEARING ON PROPOSED HAZ. WASTE DISPOSAL  
WELLS

[97-OPA247](#): Released 10/2/97

EPA CITES GEORGIE BOY MFG. FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA248](#): Released 10/2/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA TO HOST SATELLITE  
BROADCASTS & PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON GLOBAL CLIMATE  
CHANGE

[97-OPA249](#): Released 10/3/97

EPA/DOJ CITE CITY OF CHICAGO'S NORTHWEST INCINERATOR  
FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA250](#): Released 10/3/97

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH 2 CHICAGO-AREA CO's ON  
ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS

[97-OPA251](#): Released 10/3/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR TO  
VISIT ASHTABULA AND CLEVELAND

[97-OPA253](#): Released 10/6/97

EPA APPROVES TWO WTI PERMIT MODIFICATIONS

[97-OPA254](#): Released 10/6/97

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH BELLEN CONTAINER; INCLUDES  
\$182,000 FINE

[97-OPA255](#): Released 10/6/97

EPA CITES U.S. STEEL GARY WORKS FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA256](#): Released 10/6/97

EPA CITES BANTA FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA257](#): Released 10/7/97

EPA CITES GM FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$75,250 FINE

[97-OPA258](#): Released 10/7/97

EPA CITES TIODIZE FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA259](#): Released 10/9/97

EPA COMPLETES REVIEW OF EAU CLAIRE WELL FIELD; GROUND  
WATER IMPROVES, MONITORING TO CONTINUE

[97-OPA260](#): Released 10/9/97

EPA SELECTS CLEANUP PLAN FOR SCRAP PROCESSING SITE

[97-OPA261](#): Released 10/7/97

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH ALLISON TRANSMISSION;  
INCLUDES \$27,500 FINE & \$140,000 CLEANUP PROJECT

[97-OPA262](#): Released 10/14/97

EPA SETTLES WITH PEPSI-COLA FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS;  
INCLUDES \$22,356 FINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

[97-OPA263](#): Released 10/9/97

EPA TO HOLD MEETING ON UNDERGROUND STORAGE-TANK  
REGULATIONS OCTOBER 22

[97-OPA264](#): Released 10/9/97

EPA OK'S CLEANUP PLAN FOR NATIONAL PRESTO SITE

[97-OPA266](#): Released 10/10/97

EPA CITES HARTZ CONSTRUCTION FOR WETLANDS VIOLATIONS

[97-OPA267](#): Released 10/14/97

EPA CITES NATIONAL STEEL; PROPOSES \$270,423 FINE

[97-OPA268](#): Released 10/14/97

EPA SETTLES WITH AK STEEL FOR PCB VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES  
\$11,900 FINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

[97-OPA269](#): Released 10/14/97

EPA CITES DEMOLITION OPERATOR FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS;  
INCLUDES \$17,500 FINE

[97-OPA270](#): Released 10/14/97

EPA CITES STYBERG FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$170,865  
FINE

[97-OPA271](#): Released 10/14/97

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH 3 PARTIES ON ASBESTOS  
VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$17,678 FINE

[97-OPA272](#): Released 10/15/97

EPA CITES NATIONAL STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA272A](#): Released 10/15/97

EPA CITES NATIONAL STEEL FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA272B](#): Released 10/14/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA, LOCAL AGENCIES TO  
CELEBRATE CLEANER LAKE MICHIGAN AND CHICAGO RIVER

[97-OPA274](#): Released 10/16/97

EPA SETTLES WITH PRODUCTION PLATING FOR REPORTING  
VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$20,625 FINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROJECT

[97-OPA275](#): Released 10/16/97

EPA: CLEANUP BEGINS AT DURAKO PAINT SITE

[97-OPA276](#): Released 10/20/97

EPA: FOX RIVER GROUP SUPBITS CLEANUP STUDY PROPOSAL

[97-OPA277](#): Released 10/20/97

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA TO HOLD MEDIA SESSIONS ON  
BOARD OCT. 23

[97-OPA278](#): Released 10/17/97

EPA: NO FURTHER ACTION FOR MARION (BRAGG) DUMP SITE;  
MONITORING TO CONTINUE

[97-OPA279](#): Released 10/20/97

EPA PREPARES TO WRAP UP PESTICIDE TESTING

[97-OPA280](#): Released 10/21/97

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH 3M; INCLUDES \$238,000 FINE

[97-OPA281](#): Released 10/20/97

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH AUTOZONE, CRAWFORD ON ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$21,250 FINE

[97-OPA282](#): Released 10/21/97

EPA: DRUM CLEANUP COMPLETE AT IMTHURN SITE

[97-OPA283](#): Released 10/21/97

EPA SETTLES WITH CENEX FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$13,500 FINE

[97-OPA284](#): Released 10/22/97

EPA CITES AMERICAN WASTE TECHNOLOGIES; PROPOSES \$49,000 FINE

[97-OPA285](#): Released 10/22/97

EPA CITES CONSOLIDATED RECYCLING CO; PROPOSES \$125,000 FINE

[97-OPA286](#): Released 10/23/97

EPA: MICHIGAN METAL FINISHERS GO 'BEYOND COMPLIANCE'; SIGNING CEREMONY OCTOBER 23 IN DETROIT

[97-OPA287](#): Released 10/23/97

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH WORLD COLOR PRESS; INCLUDES \$250,000 FINE

[97-OPA288](#): Released 10/23/97

EPA SETTLES WITH HUF COR; INCLUDES \$17,500 FINE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

[97-OPA289](#): Released 10/27/97

EPA ALTERS REILLY TAR & CHEMICAL CLEANUP PLAN

[97-OPA290](#): Released 10/24/97

EPA CITES LTV STEEL FOR PCB VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$74,000 FINE

[97-OPA291](#): Released 10/24/97

EPA SETTLES WITH STANDARD FORGINGS ON PCB'S; INCLUDES \$51,500 FINE

[97-OPA292](#): Released 10/29/97

EPA CITES GREAT LAKES GAS FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$17,452 FINE

[97-OPA293](#): Released 10/29/97

EPA SETTLES WITH MURPHY OIL FOR TOXIC CHEMICAL VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$48,450 FINE

[97-OPA294](#): Released 10/30/97

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS: PHOTO OP & MEDIA AVAILABILITY AT WASTE INC. SITE (MICHIGAN CITY, IN), NOV. 4

[97-OPA295](#): Released 10/30/97

EPA AWARDS GO TO 2 OHIO BIKE & WALK PROJECTS

[97-OPA296](#): Released 10/31/97

EPA TO TO DISCUSS SOIL-SAMPLING PROJECT AT NOV. 13

MEETING

[97-OPA297](#): Released 10/31/97

EPA: WORK HALTED AT RESIDENTIAL CLEANUP NEAR TEXACO-INDIAN REFINING SITE; EXPECTED TO RESUME SOON

[97-OPA298](#): Released 10/31/97

EPA TO HOLD ENVIRONMENTAL ACADEMY SESSIONS NOV. 5 & 6 IN DETROIT

**November**

[97-OPA299](#): Released 11/3/97

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA CANCELS NOV.4 PHOTO-OP & MEDIA AVAILABILITY AT WASTE INC. SITE

[97-OPA300](#): Released 11/5/97

EPA SETTLES WITH ARLINGTON PLATING; INCLUDES \$12,500 FINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

[97-OPA301](#): Released 11/4/97

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH FORD; INCLUDES \$135,000 FINE

[97-OPA303](#): Released 11/6/97

EPA PICKS CLEANUP PLAN FOR SOURCE CONTROL UNIT, FIELDS BROOK SITE

[97-OPA304](#): Released 11/6/97

EPA: CLEANUP AT PIONEER LAKE SITE NEARLY COMPLETE; MEETING NOV. 12

[97-OPA305](#): Released 11/7/97

EPA CITES ROCHESTER FOR WATER POLLUTION; PROPOSES \$100,000 FINE

[97-OPA306](#): Released 11/7/97

EPA GIVES ILLINOIS \$38.5 MILLION FOR DRINKING-WATER FUND; REGIONAL FIRST

[97-OPA307](#): Released 11/10/97

EPA PICKS CLEANUP PLANS FOR 2 TOMAH LANDFILLS

[97-OPA308](#): Released 11/13/97

EPA: FUEL RECOVERY SYSTEM TO BE FULLY OPERATIONAL AT SYLVAN SLOUGH SITE; OPEN HOUSE NOV. 17

[97-OPA309](#): Released 11/19/97

EPA: \$5.5 MILLION CLEANUP COMPLETED AT BELDING WAREHOUSE SITE

[97-OPA310](#): Released 11/17/97

EPA: PUBLIC MEETING ON CELOTEX SITE NOV. 20

[97-OPA312](#): Released 11/20/97

MERCURY CLEANUP COMPLETE IN SPRINGFIELD, OH

[97-OPA314](#): Released 11/19/97

EPA CRACKS DOWN ON WI CRANBERRY GROWERS FOR WETLANDS VIOLATIONS

[97-OPA315](#): Released 11/20/97

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH ESSROC; INCLUDES \$300,000

FINE

[97-OPA316](#): Released 11/20/97

EPA SETTLES WITH MAGIC FINISHING; INCLUDES \$2,690 FINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

[97-OPA317](#): Released 11/21/97

EPA GRANTS \$265,000 FOR NE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

[97-OPA318](#): Released 11/21/97

EPA ISSUES FINAL RECOMMENDATION ON ABANDONED OHIO GAS PIPELINE

[97-OPA319](#): Released 11/24/97

FEDERAL COURT OK'S SHERWIN WILLIAMS ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP SETTLEMENT

[97-OPA320](#): Released 11/25/97

EPA SETTLES WITH UNION ELECTRIC FOR CHEMICAL VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$5,000 FINE AND 2 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

[97-OPA321](#): Released 11/26/97

EPA: 2 DETROIT CLEANUPS COMPLETED, WORK CONTINUES AT 2 OTHERS

[97-OPA322](#): Released 11/25/97

EPA CITES 5 WISC. COMPANIES FOR PCB VIOLATIONS; SEEKS \$350,000 IN FINES

[97-OPA323](#): Released 11/26/97

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH RED ARROW; INCLUDES \$6,000 FINE AND \$227,000 CLEANUP PROJECT

## December

[97-OPA313](#): Released 12/2/97

EPA: CLEANUP COMPLETE AT LAKESIDE REFINING SITE

[97-OPA324](#): Released 12/1/97

EPA: FINAL CLEANUP BEGINS AT MIDWEST PLATING SITE

[97-OPA325](#): Released 12/1/97

EPA SETTLES WITH DOW CHEMICAL; INCLUDES \$24,760 FINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

[97-OPA326](#): Released 12/1/97

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH WINNEBAGO MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE ON AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA327](#): Released 12/2/97

EPA: VANDERBURGH COUNTY NOW MEETS HEALTH-BASED OZONE STANDARD

[97-OPA328](#): Released 12/4/97

EPA SETTLES WITH AAKASH ON TOXIC CHEMICAL VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$30,000 FINE

[97-OPA329](#): Released 12/9/97

EPA TO HOST INT'L HAZ. MATERIALS SPILLS CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO, APRIL 5 - 9, 1998

[97-OPA330](#): Released 12/8/97

EPA: FASTER, CHEAPER CLEANUP PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSED FOR ALLIED CHEMICAL SITE; PUBLIC MEETING DEC. 16

[97-OPA331](#): Released 12/11/97

EPA AND WDNR TO CONDUCT STUDY FOR FOX RIVER CLEANUP

[97-OPA332](#): Released 12/10/97

EPA TO HOLD PRESS BRIEFING IN ST. LOUIS ON WATER QUALITY & MISSISSIPPI RIVER

[97-OPA333](#): Released 12/15/197

EPA COMPLETES 5-YEAR REVIEW OF OUTBOARD MARINE SITE; CONTAMINANTS REMAIN CONTAINED, MONITORING TO CONTINUE

[97-OPA334](#): Released 12/11/97

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS: PHOTO OP & MEDIA AVAILABILITY FOR WASTE INC. SITE (MICHIGAN CITY, IN) DEC. 15

[97-OPA335](#): Released 12/15/97

EPA COMPLETES FINAL INSPECTION AT WASTE INC. SITE; OPEN HOUSE DEC. 15

[97-OPA336](#): Released 12/12/97

EPA CITES BORDEN FOR AIR POLLUTION

[97-OPA337](#): Released 12/16/97

EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH RUHLIN AND OHIO DOT; INCLUDES \$12,480 FINE AND 3 PROJECTS

[97-OPA338](#): Released 12/16/97

EPA CITES APOGEE'S LINETEC DIV. FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$32,925 FINE

[97-OPA339](#): Released 12/18/97

EPA RECOGNIZES MILWAUKEE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL ENERGY- SAVINGS PROGRAM

[97-OPA341](#): Released 12/23/97

EPA COUNTDOWN IS ON FOR UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

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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



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(217) 785-1871

For Immediate Release: January 3, 1997

No. 97-OPA001

## **EPA AND ILLINOIS AGREE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency have recently signed an agreement to improve environmental protection in Illinois. The agreement is part of a new priority and planning system developed by the two agencies.

Under the Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement, the agencies worked together to identify and rank environmental problems in the State and designed a plan for more effective use of resources to achieve environmental results. In addition, the roles and responsibilities of each agency were clearly defined. In a departure from the past, this year's Federal grant to Illinois EPA is not tied to specific environmental programs -- allowing the State the flexibility to use the money where it is most needed.

Without abandoning basic environmental programs such as permitting and compliance, the agreement allows Illinois EPA to pursue more innovative programs, including pollution prevention and Brownfields urban redevelopment. The two agencies agreed to measure the success of the plan in terms of environmental results, such as cleaner water and cleaner air. More than 30 States are participating this year in the new partnership system. This is the second year that Illinois has participated.

"In the past, there was a one-size-fits-all approach to State environmental protection programs," said EPA Regional Administrator Valdas V. Adamkus. "Under this new system, programs are tailored to the specific needs of each State."

"This new Performance Partnership Agreement is another important step forward for Illinois in fostering more flexible and innovative approaches to enhancing our environment," said Mary Gade, Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. "In fact, we were the first state to sign a Partnership Agreement with U.S. EPA. This approach, in turn, has helped facilitate some unique new partnerships with the private sector to benefit our environment."

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

Last Updated: January 13, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa001.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: January 13, 1997

No. 97-OPA002

## **EPA CONGRATULATES INDIANA FOR BEING FIRST STATE TO ADOPT THE GREAT LAKES INITIATIVE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator Valdas V. Adamkus congratulated Governor Evan Bayh and the State of Indiana today on adopting rules implementing the Federal Great Lakes Water Quality Guidance -- known as the Great Lakes Initiative.

"I congratulate Governor Bayh and the State of Indiana on being the first of the Great Lakes States to adopt rules implementing the Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative," said Mr. Adamkus. "From the beginning, Governor Bayh and the State of Indiana have been leaders in the effort to establish consistent water-quality standards in the Great Lakes basin. Governor Bayh stood with EPA Administrator Carol Browner and me when the final Federal guidance was announced in March 1995. Since then, Indiana has completed an immense amount of work in a very short time to establish its own set of rules."

"The rules the Governor signed Friday will go a long way to limit toxic pollutants entering Lake Michigan."

The Great Lakes Initiative is a comprehensive plan

to restore the health of the Great Lakes, which contain 95 percent of the nation's fresh water. It includes water-quality criteria specifically tailored to protect Great Lakes human, animal, and aquatic life. Criteria are numerical limits expressing the amount of pollutants that can safely enter the waters.

The Federal guidance became final in April 1995 and the Great Lakes States and Tribes have until March 1997 to develop their own plans.

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

Last Updated: January 13, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa002.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Kae Lee  
(312) 886-1771

Media Contact: Cheryl Allen  
(312) 353-6196

For Immediate Release: January 13, 1997

No. 97-OPA003

## **EPA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD TO JAN. 31 FOR PCB PROPOSAL**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has extended its public-comment period as it considers allowing Drug & Laboratory Disposal, Inc., to continue storing PCB-contaminated wastes at its Plainwell, MI, facility. Public comments on the proposal will now be accepted through January 31, 1997.

For more than 15 years, the facility has temporarily stored PCB-contaminated materials generated by others. Under the proposal, the company must operate the facility in such a way as to prevent fires, explosions, and PCB releases. All employees would have to be trained to follow these requirements.

Copies of the company's application and proposed approval are available for review at Ransom District Library, 180 South Sherwood Ave., Plainwell. EPA held a public hearing last December because of significant public interest on the proposal. Comments on the proposal--postmarked by Jan. 31--may be sent to:

Cheryl Allen  
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604

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

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Last Updated: January 13, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa003.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: William Omohundro

For Immediate Release: January 10, 1997

No. 97-OPA004

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS**

Due to the large amount of public interest in the public comment period for EPA's proposal to tighten air pollution standards for ozone and particulate matter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is issuing the following information about the public hearing and media availability being held next week in Chicago. Other hearings and media availability sessions are being held on the same days in Boston and Salt Lake City. For more information on the Chicago hearing, contact Bill Omohundro (312-353-8254) or Nancy Sullivan (312-886-6687).

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## **PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR PROPOSED OZONE AND PARTICULATE MATTER STANDARDS**

In response to the significant level of public interest in the proposed ozone and particulate matter standards, EPA is providing the following information on the public hearing which has been scheduled on January 14-15 to facilitate broad public comment:

### **BACKGROUND**

The Clean Air Act requires the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency to review the most current science every five years to ensure that current standards for pollutants like particulate matter (soot) and ground-level ozone (smog) are adequately protective of public health. That multi-year review of hundreds of independent peer-reviewed scientific studies showed that the standards are not providing adequate protection. EPA proposed last November revised national air quality standards for particulate matter and ozone in an effort to provide public health protection to 133 million Americans, including 40 million children.

The proposal is currently within a 60-day public comment period to allow EPA to seek broad public comment before any final decision is reached. This hearing aims to reach out to all stakeholders -- including community members, small businesses, industry, state and local government, parents, doctors, and scientists -- to obtain the best information available for determining any appropriate final standards later this year. Any citizen or organization may attend the hearing and publicly comment on the proposals. All comments will be seriously considered in the final review process.

#### **WHERE AND WHEN**

Chicago IL on January 14 at 10:30 AM and January 15 at 9AM, Midland Hotel, 172 W. Adams at LaSalle, (312) 332-1200.

#### **TO PARTICIPATE**

Any citizen or organization may publicly comment on the proposals. Oral presentations will be limited to 5 minutes each. Individuals planning to make oral presentations at the hearing should notify Ms. Linda Metcalf, U.S. EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at (919) 541-2865.

A verbatim transcript of the hearing will be available. Those unable to attend the hearing may also submit oral comments by calling 1-888-TEL-LEPA until February 18.

#### **PRESS AVAILABILITY AT HEARING SITE**

The following EPA officials will be available to news media to respond to questions about the hearing and the proposals:

**Who:**

Mary Nichols, Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation  
Michelle Jordan, Deputy Region 5 Administrator

**What:**

Press Availability

**Where:**

Adler Room, Midland Hotel

**When:**

January 14, 1997, 1:00 p.m.

For more information about the press availability, call Bill Omohundro at (312) 353-8254 or Nancy Sullivan at (312) 886-6687.

More information about the public comment period is available on the World Wide Web at site address: "<http://ttnwww.rtpnc.epa.gov/naagspro>."

The announcement of the public hearing time and location also appeared December 24, 1996 in the Federal Register and is computer-accessible through EPA's electronic bulletin board system, the Technology Transfer Network (TTN) at (919) 541-5742.

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

Last Updated: January 13, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa004.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Jon Peterson  
(312) 353-1264

Media Contact: Cheryl L. Allen  
(312) 353-6196

For Immediate Release: January 14, 1997

No. 97-OPA005

## **EPA TO HOLD MEETING JAN. 21 ON GENEVA CITY DUMP- TRUE TEMPER SPORTS SITES**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold an informal public meeting January 21, at 7 p.m., Geneva City Hall (44 North Forest, Geneva, OH), to discuss formation of a community advisory group that would participate in cleanup decisions concerning the Geneva City Dump-True Temper Sports sites.

Community advisory groups provide a forum where residents can get up-to-date information about cleanup activities and share their views and concerns with EPA, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and other parties involved in the site cleanup. Such groups meet regularly to review and comment on technical documents and plans related to the site.

Membership in a community advisory group is voluntary. Potential members should be willing to serve 2 years.

The True Temper Sports facility was a manufacturing and metal plating plant that

produced golf club shafts, tennis racket frames, and radio antennas. Hazardous metal-bearing sludges from these operations were disposed of in six on-site lagoons from 1902 to 1981.

EPA expects site cleanup to begin in late summer 1997.

For more information, call Cheryl L. Allen, EPA community involvement coordinator, 1-800-621-8431.

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

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Last Updated: January 16, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa005.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Ted Smith  
(312) 353-6571

Media Contact: Ginny Narsete  
(312) 886-4359

For Immediate Release: January 16, 1997

No. 97-OPA006

## **EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON REILLY TAR CLEANUP; MEETING JAN. 22**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is seeking public comments on a proposed cleanup plan for dealing with contamination at the Reilly Tar Superfund site, Dover, OH. A public meeting will be held Wednesday, January 22, at 7 p.m., at the Comfort Inn, 2024 State Rt. 39, NW.

The site, on Third St. on the southwest edge of Dover, has had extensive industrial use since the mid-1800's. Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp. conducted coal tar refining operations from about 1921 to 1956. During that time, coal tar wastes accumulated on-site from spillage and seeped into the groundwater, contaminating drainage ditch sediments and soils.

Environmental concerns at the site include contaminated soil, sediments, and ground water. Storm water from the property flows into a drainage ditch, as well as into nearby Sugar Creek and the Tuscarawas River.

EPA is considering four cleanup alternatives,



ranging from no action to a mix of controls, excavation, and off-site treatment of sediments.

EPA recommends a course of action that includes controls such as deed restrictions on well development, excavation and off-site thermal treatment and disposal of contaminated surface soil and sediments, and control and collection of contaminated ground water and sampling and analysis of sediments in the river. Estimated cost: \$2.8 million.

This option would provide the most protection to human health and the environment, allowing for long-term effectiveness at the lowest overall cost.

Oral and written comments may be submitted at the meeting. Written comments will also be accepted through February 15, 1997. They should be sent to Ginny Narsete, P-19J, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

After the comment period, EPA will sign a final decision document outlining the selected cleanup plan, which will also include responses to public comments.

Copies of the cleanup plan and other site-related documents are available for review at Dover Public Library, 525 North Walnut, and Tuscarawas County Public Library, 121 Fair Ave., NW, New Philadelphia.

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Last Updated: January 16, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa006.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: January 16, 1997

No. 97-OPA007

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: WASTE & PREVENTION  
CONFERENCE FOR HAZ. WASTE GENERATORS FEB. 25-27**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is sponsoring a conference on waste minimization and pollution prevention.

It will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., February 25-27, at The Westin Hotel, 909 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL. (The conference will end at 12:30 p.m., February 27.)

The 3-day conference, aimed at hazardous waste generators and their consultants throughout the Midwest, will highlight management, technical, and regulatory aspects of waste minimization and pollution prevention practices.

This conference is free, but participants must register by February 7: Call 1-800-221-3262. For more information, call Janet Haff, EPA, 312-353-7923.

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Last Updated: January 16, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa007.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Gaylene Vasaturo  
(312) 886-1811

Technical Contact: James Entzminger  
(312) 886-4062

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: January 22, 1997

No. 97-OPA008

## **EPA SETTLES WITH BRACH & BROCK CONFECTIONS FOR \$42,000**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed a consent agreement and consent order with Brach & Brock Confections, Inc., Chicago, IL. The agreement includes fines totaling \$42,000.

The company allegedly failed to provide the State emergency response commission, local emergency planning committee, and local fire department with the required 1994 forms for storing hazardous chemicals, including anhydrous ammonia. At the time of EPA's complaint, the company had also not yet submitted the required forms for calendar years 1992, 1993, and 1995. (The required forms have been submitted recently.)

Anhydrous ammonia is an extremely hazardous substance used in refrigeration systems. Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, owners and operators of facilities must

submit forms for certain hazardous chemicals to proper authorities every March.

Since May 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 85 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 63 settlements and \$3.2 million in total fines. Nationally, EPA has settled 458 cases resulting in \$10 million in total fines.

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Last Updated: January 22, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa008.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Robert Allen  
(312) 353-5871

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: January 24, 1997

No. 97-OPA010

## **EPA SETTLES WITH AGRI-FINE FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$19,139 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled a civil complaint with Agri-Fine Corp. (Chicago, IL) for violations of Federal rules on the reporting of toxic chemicals. The company will pay a \$19,139 fine.

Agri-Fine was cited for failing to report to EPA and State of Illinois the required data on sulfuric acid being processed at the facility from 1987 to 1989. At the time of the violations, sulfuric acid (as processed by Agri-Fine) was classified as toxic under the law. The degree of hazard depends upon the dose, duration, and circumstance of exposure to a particular chemical.

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-chemical release inventory, which is available to the public through various media, including through a national computerized database. Companies make

their reports annually to EPA and 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 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 certified it is now in compliance with Federal reporting requirements.

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Last Updated: January 27, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa010.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Robert Allen  
(312) 353-5871

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: January 24, 1997

No. 97-OPA010

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Last Updated: January 27, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa010.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Leslie Kirby  
(312) 886-7166

Technical Contact: James Entzminger  
(312) 886-4062

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: January 27, 1997

No. 97-OPA011

## **EPA CITES WORLD'S FINEST CHOCOLATE FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$45,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against World's Finest Chocolate, Inc. (Chicago, IL), for failure to report on time the data on storage of hazardous chemicals. EPA has proposed a \$45,000 fine.

During a routine inspection, the complaint alleges, EPA failed to provide the Illinois emergency response commission and the Chicago emergency planning committee, the required 1995 forms for storing hazardous chemicals. These chemicals included anhydrous ammonia, an extremely hazardous substance used in the company's refrigeration systems.

EPA calculated the amount of anhydrous ammonia in the company's refrigeration system to be 12,000 lb. Under EPA's emergency planning regulations, quantities exceeding 500 lb must be reported.

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 each year.

Since May 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 85 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 63 settlements and \$3.2 million in total fines. Nationally, EPA has settled 458 cases resulting in \$10 million in total fines.

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Last Updated: January 27, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa011.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Ryan Bahr  
(312) 353-4366

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: January 28, 1997

No. 97-OPA012

## **EPA TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON PROPOSED SMOG & SOOT REGS JAN. 31**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the Air and Waste Management Association (A&WMA) will cosponsor a public meeting in Chicago on EPA's recent proposal for new, more stringent air pollution standards for smog and soot.

The meeting will be informational, with opportunity for discussion. It is scheduled for Friday, January 31, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Room 331, Metcalfe Federal Building, 77 West Jackson Blvd.

EPA proposed last November to tighten standards for smog and soot, based on scientific evidence of harm to public health and the environment. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public of various aspects of the proposed standards.

During the morning session, EPA air pollution control specialists David McKee, Trish Koman, and Ed Doty, will make presentations on the proposed standards and the proposed interim implementation policy. The presentations will be followed by responses to questions on the proposed standards and implementation.

The afternoon session will show an EPA satellite downlink video that summarizes the proposals and responds to questions asked last December during the original downlink. The video is being reshowed at the request of

interested parties who were unable to view it last December.

To register, contact Robin Pelsis at A&WMA, 847-202-0418.

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Last Updated: January 27, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa012.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Matthew Ohl  
(312) 886-4442

Media Contact: Cheryl Allen  
(312) 353-6196

For Immediate Release: January 28, 1997

No. 97-OPA013

## **EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON AMERICAN METALS CLEANUP, WESTLAKE, OH**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is seeking comments from the public on a proposed cleanup plan for the American Metals Corp. facility, Westlake, OH. Comments will be accepted through March 13, 1997.

The proposed plan includes securing the site, removing and disposing of contaminated soil, containing contaminated sediments, and removing, treating and monitoring contaminated ground water at the Westlake facility. In addition, deed restrictions will be placed on the property.

The proposed cleanup plan is available for review at the Westlake Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd. EPA may hold a public hearing if there is significant public interest on the proposal.

Written comments on the proposal--postmarked by March 13--should be sent to:

Matthew Ohl  
Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division (DRE-8J)  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604

Comments may also be sent by fax to (312) 353-4788, or through e-mail to [ohl.matthew@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:ohl.matthew@epamail.epa.gov).

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) requires owners and operators of facilities that treat, dispose of, or store hazardous waste to undertake environmental cleanups of contamination resulting from present and past practices. RCRA regulates the safe handling, transportation, treatment, and disposal of municipal and industrial solid waste, from the time of production to their final disposal.

RCRA requires the facility owner or operator to design, construct, and implement the remedy. EPA and Ohio EPA would oversee the cleanup.

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Last Updated: January 28, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa013.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: John Tielsch  
(312) 353-7447

Technical Contact: Kevin Adler  
(312) 886-7078

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: February 4, 1997

No. 97-OPA014

## **EPA SETTLES ON ONALASKA LANDFILL; POLLUTERS TO PAY \$1.85 MILLION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently arrived at two settlements with the Town of Onalaska, WI, and Metallics, Inc., that resolves liability for cleanup of the Onalaska Municipal Landfill Superfund site.

Under the first proposed settlement (consent decree), the Town of Onalaska agrees to pay the Government \$500,000 (less \$17,450 credit for demolishing a shed on the site), as well as to operate and maintain the landfill cap and the building housing the ground-water treatment system. The town will also preserve adjacent lands as natural wildlife habitats compatible with the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge next door.

Under the second settlement, Metallics agrees to pay \$1.35 million, to be divided equally between the Federal Government and the State of Wisconsin.

The company is alleged to have disposed of hazardous waste in the landfill.

Total cost for site cleanup is about \$8 million. The State of Wisconsin has paid \$4.2 million to EPA as its share of cleanup and running the ground-water treatment system.

The landfill area was originally mined as a sand gravel quarry in the early 1960's. From 1969 to 1980, the Town of Onalaska used the site as a landfill. Municipal trash and industrial chemical wastes including naphtha, toluene, and paint residues were dumped at the site.

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Last Updated: February 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa014.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: David Werbach  
(312) 886-4242

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

For Immediate Release: February 5, 1997

No. 97-OPA015

## **EPA RECEIVES COPPER RANGE PERMIT APPLICATION; REPOSITORIES SET UP**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently received from Copper Range Co. a permit application for pilot-scale and full-scale operations of solution mining at its White Pine, MI, facility. EPA received the permit application January 16, 1997.

Under a State of Michigan permit, authorized by EPA, Copper Range was doing a pilot operation to determine the economic feasibility of solution mining. (Solution mining uses sulfuric acid to extract copper from rock rubble in the mine.) In October 1996, the company stopped operations at White Pine, citing economic insecurity, until EPA decides on a full-scale permit.

EPA is continuing its environmental analysis of the proposed chemical mining project, focusing on the potential indirect impacts there might be on human health and the environment, such as transportation-related activities. EPA plans to have a draft permit decision by July 1997.

The permit application and documents related to the environmental analysis have been placed in repositories for public review. EPA will accept comments on the documents, but a formal comment period will not be scheduled until this summer. Public hearings will be scheduled and announced at that time. The repositories are:

Madison Public Library  
201 West Mifflin Street  
Madison, WI 53703  
608-266-6359

Library of Michigan  
717 West Allegan Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48909  
517-373-1580

Carp Lake Township Library  
White Pine, MI 49971-0907  
906-885-5888

Michigan Technical University  
1400 Towns End Dr.  
Houghton, MI 49931  
906-487-1885

Vaughn Public Library  
502 West Main St.  
Ashland, WI 54806

Duluth Public Library  
520 West Superior St.  
Duluth, MN 55802-1578  
218-723-3821

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Last Updated: February 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa015.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: William Jones  
(312) 886-6058

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 6, 1997

No. 97-OPA016

## **EPA: NO CHANGE IN OZONE STATUS FOR CINCINNATI**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that the Cincinnati area does not meet the health-based standard for ozone (smog) and intends to deny Ohio's request to upgrade its status from nonattainment to attainment.

The proposed rulemaking was signed today by Deputy Regional Administrator Michelle Jordan. The public will have 30 days to comment on the proposed action after it is published in the *Federal Register*.

In May 1995, EPA proposed to approve a November 1994 Ohio request to upgrade Hamilton, Butler, Warren, and Clermont Counties that make up the Ohio portion of the seven-county Greater Cincinnati ozone nonattainment area.

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In July 1995, before final rulemaking, the area violated the ozone standard. In September 1996, EPA Region 4 in Atlanta disapproved Kentucky's request to redesignate Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties--the Kentucky portion of the Greater Cincinnati nonattainment area--to attainment.

EPA Region 5's proposed action will bring the same ozone status in both the Ohio and the Kentucky portions of Greater Cincinnati. The health-based standard for ozone is 0.12 parts per million.

Deputy Regional Administrator Jordan commended the Cincinnati community for implementation of its very successful smog alert program. As part of the program, citizens, businesses, and industries take voluntary steps to reduce emissions when air quality starts to deteriorate.

"While the Cincinnati area is making continual progress towards cutting ozone levels, more remains to be done," Jordan said. "EPA looks forward to working with the Cincinnati community to address this important public-health problem."

Ground-level ozone can cause breathing problems, asthma attacks, eye irritation, and stuffy nose. It can reduce lung function, resistance to colds and other infections, and may speed aging of lung tissue. It can also damage trees and crops and reduce visibility.

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

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

Last Updated: June 10, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa015.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Kae Lee  
(312) 886-1771

Media Contact: Cheryl Allen  
(312) 353-6196

For Immediate Release: February 7, 1997

No. 97-OPA017

## **EPA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD TO MAR. 17 FOR PCB PROPOSAL**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has extended its public-comment period as it considers allowing Drug & Laboratory Disposal, Inc., to continue storing PCB-contaminated wastes at its Plainwell, MI, facility. Public comments on the proposal will now be accepted through March 17, 1997.

For more than 15 years, the facility has temporarily stored PCB-contaminated materials generated by others. Under the proposal, the company must operate the facility in such a way as to prevent fires, explosions, and PCB releases. All employees would have to be trained to follow these rules.

Copies of the company's application and proposed approval are available for review at Ransom District Library, 180 South Sherwood Ave., Plainwell. EPA held a public hearing last December because of significant public interest on the proposal. Comments on the proposal--postmarked by Mar. 17--may be sent to:



Cheryl Allen  
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604

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

Last Updated: February 12, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa017.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: February 11, 1997

No. 97-OPA018

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: PRESTOLITE BATTERY SITE  
PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 20**

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a press conference to discuss completion of cleanup work and future redevelopment plans for the former Prestolite Battery facility (Vincennes, IN) at 1 p.m., Thursday, February 20th, at the Prestolite Building, 6th Street (Highway 41), between Executive Blvd. and Niblack Blvd.

EPA Deputy Regional Administrator Michelle Jordan, State and local officials, and Vincennes Mayor Howard Hatcher will be present. Real estate developer Rex Alton, who has signed a prospective purchaser's agreement with EPA, will also participate.

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Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
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Last Updated: February 12, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa018.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: James Morris  
(312) 886-6632

Technical Contact: James L. Filippini  
(312) 886-6743

Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: February 12, 1997

No. 97-OPA019

## **EPA CITES ENZYME BIO-SYSTEMS FOR WATER VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently issued an administrative order to Enzyme Bio-Systems, Ltd. (Beloit, WI), requiring the company to comply with Federal pretreatment standards for wastewater.

EPA alleges that the company, which manufactures enzyme products for food industries, is discharging wastewater that contains high levels of oxygen-demanding pollutants and suspended solids into the Beloit treatment plant. Indirect dischargers, such as Enzyme Bio-Systems, are regulated by pretreatment standards that set limits on what can be discharged into publicly owned treatment plants.

Federal pretreatment standards, established under the Clean Water Act, aim to control excessive industrial waste in municipal water treatment systems. Such waste, if not controlled, could interfere with the operation of the Beloit

treatment plant and cause pollutants to be discharged into the Rock River, thereby posing a threat to human health and the environment.

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

Last Updated: February 12, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa019.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Joseph Williams  
(312) 886-6631

Technical Contact: Scott Cooper  
(312) 886-1332

Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: February 12, 1997

No. 97-OPA020

## **EPA SETTLES WITH EASTERN ELECTRIC ON PCB VIOLATIONS FOR \$23,000**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative complaint against Eastern Electric Repair Co., Inc. (Cincinnati, OH), for violating Federal rules on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). The company will pay a \$23,000 fine.

Based on an EPA inspection, Eastern Electric was cited for not properly labeling, storing, and disposing of a PCB item.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once used widely 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 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.

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Last Updated: February 12, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa020.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
(312) 886-1303

For Immediate Release: February 13, 1997

No. 97-OPA021

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: WASTE & PREVENTION  
CONFERENCE FOR HAZ. WASTE GENERATORS FEB. 25-27**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is sponsoring a conference on waste minimization and pollution prevention.

It will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., February 25-27, at The Westin Hotel, 909 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL. (The conference will end at 12:30 p.m., February 27.)

The 3-day conference, aimed at hazardous waste generators and their consultants throughout the Midwest, will highlight management, technical, and regulatory aspects of waste minimization and pollution prevention practices.

For more information, call Janet Haff, EPA, 312-353-7923.

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Last Updated: February 13, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa021.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Jack Barnette  
(312) 886-6175

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 12, 1997

No. 97-OPA022

## **EPA GETS VP'S HAMMER AWARD FOR ENERGY-SAVING PROGRAM**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently received Vice President Al Gore's Hammer Award for its Green Lights program that encourages property owners and managers to install energy-efficient lighting.

Hammer awards also went to the EPA Headquarters Office of Air and Radiation and to the Air and Radiation Divisions of EPA's nine other regions. Each year, the White House presents the award to Federal agencies that develop innovative, cost-effective programs that benefit the Nation.

Since the Green Lights program started in 1991, more than 5,000 companies, 17 States, and numerous cities, school districts, colleges and universities, and other organizations have voluntarily joined EPA as Green Lights Partners.

By December 1996, Green Lights participants had reached a \$247 million per year savings level, with over \$446 million saved since the program began.

The program uses emerging and established technologies to cut energy use nationwide. This, in turn, cuts pollution from fossil-fueled power plants, which contribute to global warming, acid rain, and smog formation.

Chicago area participants are: the City of Chicago, Helene Curtis, Hyatt Hotels and Resorts, First Chicago NBD Corp., Northeastern Illinois University, and East Maine School District #63. These organizations together have saved more than \$8 million in energy costs since they entered the program. The pollution these partners have prevented is the equivalent of taking several thousand cars off the road.

Other Green Lights partners in Region 5 include the States of Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin, Michigan State University, the University of Cincinnati, and the Cincinnati Public Schools.

"The Green Lights program is a great concept," said Michelle Jordan, Deputy Regional Administrator. "It's a voluntary program that can greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save participants money at the same time."

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Last Updated: February 12, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa022.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: February 12, 1997

No. 97-OPA023

## **EPA: CLEANUP BEGINS AT AMERICAN ALLIED SITE**

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that cleanup has begun at the former American Allied Additives building, 1146 East 152d St., Cleveland, OH. The site, a 400,000-square-foot abandoned warehouse in Cleveland's Collinwood neighborhood, holds some 1,100 containers of chemicals, some of which are hazardous and potentially flammable.

Cleanup is being done by a contractor under the direction of a group of responsible parties, including former building owners and tenants, as well as generators of materials found at the site. EPA will oversee all cleanup work. A work plan for site cleanup was approved by EPA last week.

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Hazardous materials found at the site will be disposed of properly. Preliminary testing of containers at the site confirmed the presence of methanol, resins, acids and other caustic materials.

Workers will wear protective clothing, including respirators, lightweight coveralls, rubber gloves, and rubber boots when dealing with chemical hazards.

The cleanup is expected to be completed in March. EPA estimates the cost of cleanup at \$500,000. All costs of cleanup, including security, will be paid by the responsible parties. The site is under 24-hour security protection, which will continue until the cleanup is completed.

EPA's involvement at the site began in November 1996, in response to a request by the City of Cleveland and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Before then, the alleged responsible parties had ignored requests to secure the building or deal with structural problems that could lead to a roof cave-in.

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Last Updated: February 13, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa023.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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(312) 886-1477

Media Contact: Cheryl L. Allen  
(312) 353-6196

For Immediate Release: February 12, 1997

No. 97-OPA024

## **EPA TO HOLD MEETING FEB. 18 ON ARCANUM IRON & METAL SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a public meeting Tuesday, February 18, at 7 p.m. in the Arcanum City Building, 104 West South St., Arcanum, OH, to discuss the recommended action plan for the Arcanum Iron and Metal Site, Twin Township, OH.

The meeting provides an opportunity for the community to learn about EPA's plan for addressing lead contamination at the site, as well as other alternatives that were considered.

EPA will consider public comments before choosing a final course of action. EPA will accept written comments on the proposed plan for the 30-day period, ending February 25, 1997. Copies of the cleanup plan and other site-related documents are available for review at the Arcanum Public Library, 101 West North St.

Arcanum Iron and Metal operated as a lead-battery reprocessing plant from the early 1960's until 1982.

For more information, call Cheryl L. Allen, EPA  
community involvement coordinator, 1-800-621-8431.

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Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
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Last Updated: March 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa024.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: John J. O'Grady  
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Media Contact: Cheryl L. Allen  
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For Immediate Release: February 13, 1997

No. 97-OPA025

## **EPA TO HOLD MEETING FEB. 19 ON UNITED SCRAP LEAD SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a public meeting Wednesday, February 19, at 7 p.m., at Troy High School, 151 West Staunton Rd., Troy, OH, to discuss its recommendation to revise the cleanup plan for the United Scrap Lead Site, Troy, OH.

The meeting provides an opportunity for the community to learn about EPA's plan for addressing lead contamination at the site, as well as other alternatives that were considered. EPA will consider public comments before choosing a final course of action.

EPA will accept written comments on the proposed plan for a 30-day period, ending February 25, 1997. Copies of the cleanup plan and other site-related documents are available for review at the Troy-Miami County Public Library, 419 West Main St., Troy, OH.

A lead-battery recovery facility operated at the site from 1946 until 1983.

For more information, call Cheryl L. Allen, EPA  
community involvement coordinator, 1-800-621-8431.

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Last Updated: February 13, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa025.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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(312) 886-6833

Technical Contact: James Entzminger  
(312) 886-4062

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: February 13, 1997

No. 97-OPA026

## **EPA SETTLES WITH DIVERSEY CORP. FOR \$62,450**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed a consent agreement and consent order with Diversey Corp. (now known as Rathon Corp.), Wyandotte, MI. The agreement includes fines totaling \$62,450.

The facility, which manufactured polishes, detergents, and sanitation goods, was closed in 1995, with all hazardous chemicals removed from the site. Corporate offices for the company, which was renamed Rathon in August 1995, are based in Toronto.

The company allegedly failed to provide the local fire department with the required 1987 - 1992 forms for storing numerous hazardous chemicals, many of which have potentially harmful health effects .

Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, owners and operators of facilities

are required to provide information every March to Federal, State, and local authorities on certain chemicals defined under the law as hazardous and toxic. The regulation is administered under Title III of EPA's Superfund law.

"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 May 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 85 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 63 settlements and \$3.2 million in total fines.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
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For Immediate Release: February 18, 1997

No. 97-OPA027

## **EPA SETTLES WITH GARTLAND FOUNDRY**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled a civil complaint with Gartland Foundry Co., Inc. (Terre Haute, IN), for violation of Federal rules on the reporting of toxic chemicals. The company will pay a \$1,000 fine and undertake an environmental project costing at least \$29,145.

Gartland Foundry was cited for failing to report to EPA and the State of Indiana the required data on xylene being used at the facility during 1990-91. Gartland Foundry uses xylene--classified as toxic under the law--in its painting operations. The degree of hazard depends upon the dose, duration, and circumstance of exposure to a particular chemical.

In addition to the fine, the company has agreed to use paints containing less solvent per gallon, which will significantly reduce its use and release of xylene--by 29,500 lb yearly.

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-chemical release inventory, which is available to the public through various media, including through a national computerized database. Companies make their reports annually to EPA and 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 certified it is now in compliance with Federal reporting requirements.

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Last Updated: March 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa027.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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## **NEWS RELEASE 97-OPA-028**

For Immediate Release: February 15, 1997

### **EPA RESPONDS TO CAHOKIA, IL, TIRE FIRE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) said today that it has brought under control a fire at the IPC tire recycling facility at Cahokia, IL. The fire, which started between 5 and 6 p.m. Thursday, February 13, was determined to be controlled about 5 a.m. Saturday, February 15.

U.S. EPA's contractor, CMC Inc. of Lexington, KY, used heavy duty equipment to smother the flames with dirt. Capping operations, to ensure that flames would not re-erupt, are to continue through mid-day Sunday, February 16. Workers are using dirt from other parts of the site to cap the area.

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Air monitoring indicated that the vapors and smoke did not pose a health risk to nearby residents. The monitoring was performed near businesses and residences east of the lot--the direction in which the wind was blowing smoke from the smoldering tires.

The fire was restricted to a pile of about 33,000 cubic yards of shredded tires covering an area of about 100 yards by 50 yards, 20 feet high.

U.S. EPA was notified of the fire about 1 a.m. Friday. An emergency removal office was set up in the Illinois State Lottery office at Cahokia, about a quarter mile from the fire site. U.S. EPA coordinated emergency activities with Illinois EPA, Illinois State Police, Sauget and Cahokia police and fire departments, and local Emergency Services and Disaster Agencies.

U.S. EPA will continue monitoring the area to ensure that fire is completely under control.

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Last Updated: March 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa028.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: February 19, 1997

No. 97-OPA029

## **EPA ANNOUNCES CLEANUP PLAN FOR CONTAMINATED SOIL AT ORGANIC CHEMICALS SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently approved a cleanup plan for contaminated soil at the Organic Chemicals, Inc., Superfund site, Grandville, MI.

The plan calls for excavating the contaminated soil, then stabilizing and solidifying it with concrete. The treated soil will be buried on-site and covered with vegetation. The existing groundwater extraction and treatment system will operate until the cleanup is finished. Estimated cost of cleanup is \$3.7 million.

The plan also includes deed restrictions, limiting future excavation of the stabilized soils.

"The cleanup plan removes potential health and safety risks, while making use of on-site resources," said Regional Superfund Director William Munro. "Public comment and participation

were instrumental in guiding the development of this plan."

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has also expressed its support for the plan.

A copy of the plan and other site-related documents are available at Grandville Public Library, 3141 Wilson Ave., Grandville.

The site housed a series of petroleum- and chemical-processing facilities from early 1930's until 1991.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa029.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: February 20, 1997

No. 97-OPA030

## **EPA, IDEM: CLEANUP NEAR END AT PRESTOLITE SITE; TO BE REDEVELOPED**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) said today that cleanup is nearly complete at the former Prestolite Battery site, Vincennes, IN, on 6th Street (Highway 41).

The 18-acre Superfund site has been transferred from the former site owner, Allied-Signal, Inc., to Vincennes real estate developers Rex and Rita Alton. They plan to demolish all existing structures on the property and prepare it for commercial development.

"The successful cleanup and transfer of this previously contaminated property to new commercial use is an excellent example of the Brownfields concept," said EPA Deputy Regional Administrator Michelle Jordan. "EPA salutes the Altons, Vincennes Mayor Hatcher, and the State and local officials who have worked together to, once again,

make this property an asset to the community."

The Prestolite site housed a lead-acid battery manufacturing plant from 1945 to 1985. Hazards at the site included lead dust, lead-containing sludge in the facility's sewer system, and soil contaminated by process materials. The site was placed on EPA's Superfund National Priorities List in 1989.

Some work remains to be done outside the facility; it will proceed while new development is under way.

"This cleanup is another example of a cooperative approach among local, State, and Federal agencies and the community under the Brownfield program," said IDEM Commissioner Michael O'Connor. "It proves that environmental protection and economic development can go hand in hand."

Brownfields are abandoned or underused industrial and commercial properties, where redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental liabilities. Typically, the return of such properties to productive use requires comprehensive cleanup, as well as waivers of environmental liability from government agencies.

A prospective purchaser's agreement signed by the Altons and EPA is one of some 50 such agreements to date. Five of these properties are in EPA Region 5. The agreements are key elements of President Clinton's Brownfields initiative, to reclaim urban sites and to maintain economic vitality and job opportunities in urban communities.

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**[Photos from the demolition ceremony](#) are also available online. (Beware the long download, though.)**

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Last Updated: February 13, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa026.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: February 19, 1997

No. 97- OPA031

**EPA SETTLES WITH BP CHEMICALS; INCLUDES \$10,625  
FINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with BP Chemicals, Inc. (Lima, OH), for alleged violations of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals. The company will pay a \$10,625 fine and complete an environmental project costing at least \$42,500.

BP Chemicals was cited for not reporting to proper authorities the accidental release of 2,678 lb of anhydrous ammonia from its facility. Anhydrous ammonia, which is used in the production of urea (an ingredient in fertilizer and animal feeds), is classified as a hazardous substance. The company was also cited for failing to provide to proper authorities a timely follow-up report of the incident.

In addition to the fine, the company has agreed to install and operate three community warning sirens

in Lima residential areas by August 1997.

Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, owners and operators of facilities are required to report to proper authorities all releases of anhydrous ammonia exceeding 100 lb. The regulation is administered under Title III of EPA's Superfund law.

"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 May 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 86 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 66 settlements and \$3.3 million in total fines.

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Last Updated: March 2, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa031.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: Derrick Kimbrough  
(312) 886-9749

For Immediate Release: February 19, 1997

No. 97-OPA032

## **EPA TO HOLD MEETING FEB. 27 ON G & H LANDFILL**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a meeting Thursday, February 27, 6 to 8 p.m., at Shelby Township Hall (52700 Van Dyke, Shelby Township, MI), to update community residents on issues related to the G & H Landfill Superfund site.

Representatives from EPA, the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality, local officials, and the construction-management contractor will be on hand to answer questions and discuss progress during the 1996 construction season.

There is air monitoring at the landfill and it will continue during construction of the water treatment plant and ground-water collection trench. Later this spring, large dirt-moving and wetlands-planting equipment will be operating at the site.

The G & H Landfill was a waste oil recovery facility from 1955 to 1967 and a municipal refuse dump until 1974. EPA has been involved in cleanup at the site since 1982.

For more information, call Derrick Kimbrough, EPA  
community involvement coordinator, 1-800-621-8431.

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Last Updated: March 2, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa032.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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(312) 353-6196

For Immediate Release: February 19, 1997

No. 97-OPA033

## **EPA TO FORM ADVISORY GROUP ON GENEVA CITY DUMP- TRUE TEMPER SPORTS SITES; MEETING FEB. 27**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a membership meeting to organize a community advisory group that would participate in cleanup decisions concerning the Geneva City Dump-True Temper Sports sites. The meeting will be held February 27, at 7 p.m., Geneva City Hall, 44 North Forest, Geneva, OH.

Community advisory groups provide a forum where residents get up-to-date information about cleanup activities and share their views and concerns with EPA, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and other parties involved in the site cleanup.

Membership in a community advisory group is voluntary. Potential members should be willing to serve 2 years. All community advisory group meetings are open to the public.

The True Temper Sports facility was a manufacturing and metal-plating plant that produced golf club shafts, tennis racket frames, and radio antennas. Hazardous metal-bearing



sludges from these operations were disposed of in six on-site lagoons from 1902 to 1981.

EPA expects cleanup to begin late this summer.

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Last Updated: March 2, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa033.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: February 19, 1997

No. 97-OPA034

## **EPA CITES AK STEEL FOR PCB VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$56,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against AK Steel Corp. (Middletown, OH) for violating Federal rules on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). EPA has proposed a \$56,000 fine.

Based on an Ohio EPA inspection on behalf of EPA, the company was cited for not properly labeling, and disposing of PCB items in a timely manner, and for failing to maintain certain required PCB records.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once used widely 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 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.

AK Steel has requested an informal meeting with EPA to discuss the allegations.

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Last Updated: March 2, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa034.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Technical Contact: Anthony Silvasi  
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Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
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For Immediate Release: February 19, 1997

No. 97-OPA035

## **EPA SETTLES WITH KURT MFG ON PCB'S**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative complaint against Kurt Manufacturing Co. (Minneapolis, MN) for violating Federal rules on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). The company will pay a \$20,000 fine.

Based on an EPA inspection at the company's Fridley, MN, facility, the company was cited for not disposing of PCB drums in a timely manner and for failing to maintain certain required PCB records.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once used widely 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 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 that it is now in compliance with Federal rules on PCB's.

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Last Updated: March 2, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa035.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch  
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For Immediate Release: February 21, 1997

No. 97-OPA036

## **EPA SETTLES WITH NIPSCO ON PCB VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative complaint against Northern Indiana Public Service Co. (NIPSCO) for violating Federal rules on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). The company will pay a \$21,399 fine.

Based on an EPA inspection, NIPSCO (Gary, IN) was cited for not properly labeling and storing its PCB's and PCB items and for failing to maintain certain required PCB records.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once used widely 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 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 that it is now in compliance with Federal rules on PCB's.

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Last Updated: March 2, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa036.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 21, 1997

No. 97-OPA037

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS**

U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Assistant Administrator Mary D. Nichols, who heads EPA's Air and Radiation Program, will visit the National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory in Ann Arbor, MI, Tuesday, February 25.

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She will meet with laboratory officials and staff and participate in a groundbreaking ceremony for a new building, which will be next to the existing facility and will house about two-thirds of the laboratory staff. The vacated space will be used by testing staff and for improvement of test facilities.

The groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for 2 p.m at the construction site, 2565 Plymouth Rd. Nichols will be available to meet with the news media at 2:30 p.m. to discuss EPA's proposed air quality standards and other air quality issues.

For further information, call Cheryl Sisson at 313-668-4269.

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs

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Last Updated: June 10, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: February 26, 1997

No. 97-OPA038

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA CLEANUP (CHICAGO)  
MEDIA AVAILABILITY & PHOTO OP FEB. 28**

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a media availability session to discuss cleanup at the former Double A Metals site, 10 - 11 a.m., Friday, February 28. The site is an abandoned metals recycling facility at 3321 South Pulaski Rd., Chicago, IL.

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EPA staff will be available to discuss the removal of hazardous materials, including lead-contaminated by-products of metal processing and open containers of bag-house dust.

The cleanup began in early February and is expected to end in April.

The abandoned facility, as well as heavy equipment activity and workers in protective clothing, will be visible to photographers.

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Last Updated: March 2, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa038.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: Susan Pastor  
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For Immediate Release: February 26, 1997

No. 97-OPA039

## **EPA TO HOLD MEETING MARCH 4 ON CAM-OR SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a public meeting to discuss ongoing investigation of the Cam-Or Superfund site, Westville, IN. The meeting will be held Tuesday, March 4, at 7 p.m. in the Westville Town Hall, 353 Main St.

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This will be an opportunity for the community to learn about EPA activities at the site.

Establishment of a community advisory group--a new type of forum to involve citizens in site cleanup decisions--will also be discussed.

Copies of site-related documents are available for review at Westville Public Library, 153 Main St.

A waste oil recycling facility that operated on the Cam-Or site closed in 1987. Potential site hazards under investigation include contaminated soil, ground-water contamination, and empty above-ground storage tanks.

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Last Updated: March 2, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa039.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: February 26, 1997

No. 97-OPA040

## **EPA SETTLES WITH PATTERSON LABS FOR \$36,000**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with Patterson Laboratories, Inc. (Detroit, MI), for alleged violations of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals. The agreement includes \$36,000 in fines.

The company, which produces household cleaners, failed to provide the State emergency response commission the required 1987 - 1991 forms for storing and identifying hazardous chemicals at the facility. Many of these chemicals -- which include chlorine, methanol, sodium hydroxide, and ammonium hydroxide -- are potentially harmful.

Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, owners and operators of facilities are required to provide information every March to Federal, State, and local authorities on certain chemicals defined under the law as hazardous and toxic.

"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 May 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 86 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 66 settlements and \$3.3 million in total fines.

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Last Updated: March 2, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa040.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: February 26, 1997

No. 97-OPA041

## **EPA CITES RED ARROW FOR AIR POLLUTION; PROPOSES \$80,700 PENALTY**

U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Red Arrow Products Co. for Clean Air Act violations at its Manitowoc, WI, facility. EPA has proposed an \$80,700 civil penalty.

EPA notified Red Arrow last July that, in July 1995, it has exceeded State limits on visible emissions of particulates (smoke, dust, fly ash) from the sawdust dryer at its South Water St. plant. (The company makes flavorings for the food industry at the plant.)

Red Arrow has agreed to install and operate a Venturi scrubber to control particulate emissions from the sawdust dryer by May 31, 1997. The company has 30 days from the date it receives the complaint to file an answer and to request a formal hearing. It has asked for an informal conference, but no date has been set.

"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."

High concentrations of particulates can worsen the condition of people with heart or lung disease. Children, the elderly, and asthmatics are the most susceptible.

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Last Updated: June 10, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa015.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: February 28, 1997

No. 97-OPA042

## **EPA: CLEANUP UNDER WAY AT DOUBLE A METALS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup is proceeding quickly at the Double A Metals site, 3321 South Pulaski Rd., Chicago, IL. EPA began work at the abandoned metals recycling facility in early February and is expected to complete it in April.

Hazardous materials found at the Superfund site include scattered piles and containers of metal processing by-products contaminated by lead, as well as open containers of bag-house dust. Prior to EPA's involvement -- which was requested by Chicago Department of Environment -- the site was poorly secured and a target for fly-dumpers and vandals. The site is now under 24-hour security protection.

When completed, an estimated 60 drums of processing by-products, 20 drums of waste oils and solvents, and 8,000 cubic yards of hazardous material will have been treated, removed, and



transported to an industrial process waste landfill. After the cleanup, the City of Chicago expects to tear down the remaining buildings and evaluate the site for future re-use.

Estimated cost of the cleanup: \$600,000. The 4-acre site is located in Chicago's 22d Ward, bordered to the south by a Commonwealth Edison power plant. The nearest home is located about 300 feet north of the site, on Pulaski Road.

"EPA is pleased with the quick pace of cleanup and cooperation from the City of Chicago," said Regional Superfund Director William Muno. "Any potential hazards to the community have been contained and will soon be removed completely."

Double A Metals, a subsidiary of Dixon, IL-based Jepsco Metals, ceased operations in 1991. Between 1983 and 1990 the site was operated by the Jay Armstrong Metals Co., and from 1965 to 1983 by the H. Winter Metal Co. Activity at the site goes back to about 1917, including a truck garage and other manufacturing operations.

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Last Updated: March 2, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa042.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: February 28, 1997

No. 97-OPA043

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA MEETS WITH CLEVELAND  
MAYOR ON 9300 QUINCY AVE. (FORMER SCHMIDT'S  
BREWERY) SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 Deputy Regional Administrator David Ullrich met with Cleveland Mayor Michael White today to tour the 9300 Quincy Ave. (former Schmidt's Brewery) site and to discuss cleanup actions at the site.

"EPA will work with the City of Cleveland and the Ohio EPA to make sure the property owner meets his cleanup obligations," said Mr. Ullrich. "If there are problems, EPA will use its authority to support State and City efforts to remove the public health and environmental threats."

The 11-acre site, located at East 93rd St. and Quincy Ave., was a brewing company until 1984 and is contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). A cleanup has been ongoing at the site since 1994, with EPA and Ohio EPA oversight. To date, more than 800 tons of PCB-contaminated material has been removed from the site.

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Last Updated: March 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa043.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: February 28, 1997

No. 97-OPA044

## **EPA OK'S FINAL DOCUMENT FOR COPPER RANGE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently issued a final environmental analysis scoping document in response to Copper Range Co.'s proposal for solution mining at White Pine, MI. (The scoping document specifies what issues related to an investigation will be examined and identifies participants, resources, and expertise needed to evaluate and respond to the issues.)

With this final scoping document, EPA has also prepared responses to public comments on the earlier draft document.

This final scoping document will help guide EPA's environmental analysis, which is being used to gather information on environmental, transportation, tribal culture and resources, and economics issues. Other relevant issues arising during the investigation may be considered in the environmental analysis.

The scoping document also sets out a proposed schedule for activities and a timeline of events.

In January 1997, EPA received from Copper Range a permit application for pilot-scale and full-scale solution mining at its White Pine, MI, facility. Under a Michigan permit, authorized by EPA, Copper Range was doing a pilot operation to see if solution mining is economically feasible. (Solution mining uses sulfuric acid to extract copper from rock rubble in the mine.) However, in October 1996, the company suspended operations at White Pine, citing economic insecurity until EPA decides on a full-scale permit.

The final document and other documents related to the environmental analysis are available for public review. The draft environmental analysis report is scheduled to be issued this summer, and a formal comment period will be set this summer. Public hearings will be announced and held at that time. The documents are available at:

Madison Public Library  
201 West Mifflin St.  
Madison, WI 53703  
608-266-6359

Library of Michigan  
717 West Allegan Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48909  
517-373-1580

Carp Lake Township Library  
White Pine, MI 49971-0907  
906-885-5888

Michigan Technological University  
Library Archives Room  
1400 Townsend Dr.  
Houghton, MI 49931  
906-487-2505

Vaughn Public Library  
502 West Main St.

Ashland, WI 54806

Duluth Public Library  
520 West Superior St.  
Duluth, MN 55802-1578  
218-723-3821

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Last Updated: March 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa044.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: March 3, 1997

No. 97-OPA045

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

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently issued a finding of violation to National Steel Corp., Great Lakes Division, for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act at its Ecorse, MI, facility.

EPA said National Steel violated national emission standards for the hazardous air pollutant benzene at its coke by-product recovery plant.

Specifically, the company failed to:

- Clearly mark several valves that contain or contact benzene;
- Monitor each pump and each valve monthly since November 1992;
- Equip at least one open-ended valve and one open-ended flange with a cap, blind flange, plug, or second valve;
- Monitor difficult-to-monitor valves at least once a year, according to a written plan,

since November 1992.

EPA said the violations increase the possibility of accidental discharge of benzene, a known cancer-causing agent. Benzene exposure or inhalation may cause irreversible health effects, including blood and bone marrow disease such as leukemia. Benzene exposure or inhalation may be fatal in some cases.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, the Clean Air Act authorizes EPA to issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. National Steel has 30 days from receipt of the finding of violation to request a meeting to discuss the allegations.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the 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."

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Last Updated: March 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa045.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: March 3, 1997

No. 97-OPA046

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

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited LTV Steel Co. for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act at its Cleveland, OH, steel plant.

EPA said LTV exceeded legal limits for visible emissions of particulates (dust, smoke, ash) from two blast furnaces and a basic oxygen furnace. LTV also exceeded legal limits for sulfur dioxide emissions from stoves of a blast furnace and a utility boiler. The Cleveland area exceeds the Federal health-based standard for both particulates and sulfur dioxide.

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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. LTV has 30 days from receipt of the notice of violation to request a meeting to discuss the allegations.

"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."

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, or those with existing heart or respiratory conditions are the most sensitive to both pollutants.

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Last Updated: March 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa046.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: March 3, 1997

No. 97-OPA047

## **EPA SETTLES WITH CENTRAL SOYA FOR \$23,500**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with Central Soya, Inc. (Indianapolis, IN) for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals. The agreement includes \$23,500 in fines.

The company, which processes soybeans, allegedly failed to immediately report to proper authorities the release of a hazardous substance. EPA's complaint claimed that on June 28, 1994, Central Soya failed to promptly notify the National Response Center, as well as State and local authorities, of a 9,084 lb release of hexane. The company, with headquarters in Ft. Wayne, also failed to submit follow-up reports to proper State and local authorities.

Hexane is an extremely hazardous substance used as a solvent in soybean oil extraction. Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know

Act, certain substance releases must be reported immediately.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 86 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 71 settlements and \$3.5 million in total fines.

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Last Updated: March 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa047.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: March 4, 1997

No. 97-OPA048

## **EPA SETTLES WITH L.G.G. REALTY ON PCB'S**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative complaint against L.G.G. Realty and Investment Co. (Fenton, MO) for violating Federal rules on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). The company will pay a \$25,000 fine.

Based on an EPA inspection, the company was cited for not properly labeling, and disposing of PCB items in a timely manner. In addition, L.G.G. Realty failed to register PCB items with local officials, conduct required inspections and maintain certain PCB records of its PCB items.

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 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 corrected the violations and has certified that it is now in compliance with Federal rules on PCB's at its Springfield, IL, facility.

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Last Updated: March 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa048.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: March 3, 1997

No. 97-OPA049

## **EPA CHANGES POWELL ROAD LANDFILL CLEANUP PLAN; MEETING MARCH 11**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently announced a minor change for site monitoring at the Powell Road Landfill Superfund site, Huber Heights, OH. A meeting to discuss the change will be held Tuesday, March 11, at 7 p.m. at Huber Heights Police Department, 6121 Taylorsville Rd.

Under the change--called an Explanation of Significant Differences--the design and construction of a shallow ground-water treatment system will be postponed until other related cleanup work is finished. At that time, EPA and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will determine if additional changes to the ground-water cleanup plan are necessary.

The change will continue to protect human health and the environment and complies with Federal and State environmental regulations. Site-related

documents are available for review at four locations: Dayton Public Library (215 East Third St.), Dayton Dept. of Water (320 West Monument Rd.), Huber Heights Public Library (6363 Brandt Pike), and Huber Heights City Hall.

The site is a former gravel pit that operated as a landfill from 1959 to 1984. The landfill was capped and seeded in 1985, but an EPA analysis found high levels of PCB's and other contaminants in soil and ground water.

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Last Updated: March 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa049.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: March 5, 1997

No. 97-OPA050

## **EPA PROPOSES TO REDESIGNATE OZONE STATUS OF VANDERBURGH COUNTY**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has proposed today to redesignate Vanderburgh County (Evansville, IN) to attainment for the air pollutant ozone. This action is a proposal only and is subject to public comment.

The redesignation action, which EPA is proposing at request of the State of Indiana, has been complicated by issues related to high ozone concentrations in 1994 in neighboring Warrick County.

As stated in the notice of proposed rulemaking, EPA has proposed to take final action approving the redesignation request if any of the following events occur:

1. Warrick County attains the ozone standard prior to final action by EPA on the redesignation request;
2. EPA determines that Vanderburgh County does not significantly contribute to an ozone nonattainment problem in Warrick County;
3. EPA determines that the information available is not sufficient to determine whether or not Vanderburgh County contributes significantly to a nonattainment problem in Warrick County; or,

4. EPA determines that the Warrick County ozone standard violation data should be excluded from consideration of the Vanderburgh County ozone attainment status.

If the proposed redesignation becomes final, this does not mean that further reductions in ozone-forming emissions would not be pursued. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is working with local governments to put in place additional emission control measures to help Evansville's air quality continue to meet the current ozone health standard.

The proposal, based on improved air quality, represents the significant progress made by IDEM, local governments, local businesses, EPA, and, most of all, the people of Vanderburgh County in achieving air quality goals.

The proposed redesignation will be published in the *Federal Register* within the next several weeks. A 60-day public comment period will begin on the publication date.

If, after review of the comments, EPA decides to approve the redesignation request, new businesses in Vanderburgh County with ozone-causing emissions will become subject to the simpler air pollutants permit requirements applicable in attainment areas. EPA's approval would not, however, relax any of the current requirements on existing emission sources.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management submitted a maintenance plan along with its redesignation request to ensure that ozone levels in Vanderburgh County continue to meet the current ozone health standard. EPA is proposing to approve the maintenance plan, as well.

The maintenance plan requires regular evaluation of ozone levels and emissions to ensure that the area's air quality will not worsen. Additional pollution control measures must be implemented if the ozone standard were to be violated in the future.

As part of the maintenance plan, IDEM has been working with a group of citizens and local businesses called the Action Committee for Ozone Reduction Now (ACORN) on several clean air measures for Vanderburgh County. Local officials have indicated they are committed to

implementing these measures to provide further assurance that future air quality will meet health standards.

Even with economic growth, levels of ozone are predicted to remain below the ozone standard. The maintenance plan provides flexibility to the local community in selecting emissions control measures to assure continued attainment of the ozone standard.

Copies of the State's redesignation request and maintenance plan and EPA's proposed rulemaking will be available for review at EPA's Region 5 offices in Chicago and at the IDEM offices in Indianapolis. Comments should be sent to: J. Elmer Bortzer, Chief, Regulation Development Section, Air Programs Branch (AR-18J), U.S. EPA, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

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Last Updated: June 13, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa015.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: March 7, 1997

No. 97-OPA051

## **FIRST COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING ON GENEVA CITY DUMP-TRUE TEMPER SPORTS SITES TO BE HELD MARCH 13**

The first meeting of a newly-formed community advisory group for the Geneva City Dump-True Temper Sports sites will be held Thursday, March 13, at 7 p.m., Geneva City Hall, 44 North Forest, Geneva, OH.

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. Under the program, EPA staff may help plan some meetings--such as this one--that they will not attend.

At the March 13 meeting, the group will review the removal action workplan recently submitted by the responsible parties. EPA expects cleanup to begin late this summer.

Membership in the group is open to community residents and all meetings are open to the public.

The True Temper Sports facility was a manufacturing and metal-plating plant that

produced golf club shafts, tennis racket frames, and radio antennas. Hazardous-metal-bearing sludges from these operations were disposed of in six on-site lagoons from 1902 to 1981.

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Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
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Last Updated: April 1, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa051.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: March 11, 1997

No. 97-OPA052

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH MOBIL; INCLUDES 125,000 FINE AND 80,000 CLEANUP PROJECT**

U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Mobile Oil Corp. on alleged violations of federally enforceable State emissions standards for particulate matter (smoke, dust, ash), carbon monoxide, and opacity (the amount of light obscured) at the company's Joliet, IL, oil refinery.

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

Mobil returned to compliance with particulate emission limits in January 1995. This has reduced emissions by 21 tons per year. In June 1995, the company returned to compliance with carbon monoxide limits, cutting emissions by 1,566 tons per year.

EPA cited Mobil in October 1995 for the violations that occurred at the refinery's fluid catalytic cracking unit and the carbon monoxide boilers common stack.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the Clean Air Act to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, regional director of the Air and Radiation Division. "We are pleased that Mobile has agreed to perform this supplemental environmental project to cut these emissions sooner than required by law."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung diseases. Volatile organic compounds combine in the air with other chemicals to form ground-level ozone. Hazardous air pollutants may cause cancer or other serious health effects, such as reproductive effects or birth defects.

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Last Updated: June 10, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa015.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
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For Immediate Release: March 12, 1997

No. 97-OPA053

## **MEDIA ADVISORY: FEDERAL WOMEN'S PROGRAM HOSTS DISCUSSION ON WOMEN AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

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To celebrate Women's History Month, the Federal Women's Program will host a panel discussion on community involvement at 11 a.m., Wednesday, March 13, in the lobby of the Metcalfe Federal Building, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago. Panelists will include 3rd Ward Alderwoman Dorothy Tillman and Frances Wilkins, Equal Employment Officer of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

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Last Updated: June 10, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa015.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: March 13, 1997

No. 97-OPA054

## **EPA STOPS SALE OF UNREGISTERED 3M KITCHEN PRODUCTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today ordered Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. (3M), St. Paul, MN, to immediately stop selling and distributing several unregistered kitchen products with pesticide-type claims.

The products, now for sale in stores nationwide, are: O-Cel-O Sponge, O-Cel-O Sponge Scrubber KITCHEN, O-Cel-O Sponge Scrubber COOKWARE, and other 3M products making the following claims on their labels: "Kills Germs! Like Salmonella & E. coli in the Sponge," "Kills germs that cause food-borne illnesses," and "Kills Salmonella, E.coli and Staph Bacteria in the sponge." Salmonella, e.coli, and staph bacteria cause diseases in humans and are considered pests under the law. The sponges are considered pesticides and must be registered with EPA because their labels claim they prevent, destroy, or repel pests.

"Consumers should be aware that these products

have not been proven to kill germs or prevent food-borne illnesses like their labels claim," said Norman Niedergang, regional director of the Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division. "Any company that intends to sell a product with pesticide claims must show EPA that their product works."

Congress authorized EPA to ensure that pesticides do not pose unreasonable risks to the public and the environment. Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), EPA registers all pesticides and pesticide products for use in and around homes. No pesticide may legally be sold or used in the United States unless its label bears an EPA registration number. FIFRA also says that it is unlawful to use any registered pesticide other than in the manner indicated on the product label.

3M must respond to EPA within 24 hours.

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Last Updated: March 13, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa054.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: March 20, 1997

No. 97-OPA055

## **EPA AMENDS ORDER ON UNREGISTERED 3M KITCHEN PRODUCTS**

U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 this week amended an order it issued last week against Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. (3M), St. Paul, MN. The order stopped the company from selling and distributing several unregistered kitchen products with pesticide-type claims.

EPA amended the order to allow 3M to temporarily resume selling and distributing the products in their inventory under limited terms and conditions. Within the next 7 business days, 3M will provide placards to all sales representatives and retail outlets stating that the products do not kill germs on surfaces and advising consumers to use standard precautions to prevent transmission of food-borne illnesses. Also within 7 business days, 3M will withdraw any kind of print or media advertising making the pesticide-type claims. After 90 days, 3M can not distribute the products with pesticide-type claims.

The products, now for sale in stores nationwide, are: O-Cel-O Sponge, O-Cel-O Sponge Scrubber KITCHEN, O-Cel-O Sponge Scrubber COOKWARE, and other 3M products making the following claims on their labels: "Kills Germs! Like Salmonella and E. coli in the Sponge,"

"Kills germs that cause food-borne illnesses," and "Kills Salmonella, E. coli and Staph Bacteria in the sponge."

Salmonella, e.coli, and staph bacteria cause diseases in humans and are considered pests under the law. Because their labels claim they prevent, destroy, or repel pests, the sponges are considered pesticides and must be registered with EPA.

Congress gave EPA the responsibility to ensure that pesticides do not pose unreasonable risks to the public and the environment. Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, EPA registers all pesticides and pesticide products. No pesticide may legally be sold or used in the United States unless its label bears an EPA registration number. The Act also makes it unlawful to use any registered pesticide other than in the manner indicated on the product label.

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Last Updated: June 11, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa015.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: March 24, 1997

No. 97-OPA056

## **EPA PRESENTS NATIONAL ENERGY-SAVING AWARD TO UC**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today EPA's "Green Lights Partner of the Year Award" went to the University of Cincinnati, for installing lighting that has cut air pollution and saved energy in the process. The award was presented today at EPA's Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division's annual forum, now under way (March 24-25) in Washington, DC.

EPA recognizes one institution annually in categories that include universities, health care, government, and corporations. The award is for cutting pollution through reduced energy use. This year, University of Cincinnati tied with the University of Rochester (NY) for the honor.

In 2 years, the university retrofitted 80,000 light fixtures in over 6.5 million square feet of campus buildings. This upgrade removed 68.7 million lb of carbon dioxide, 875,289 lb of sulfur dioxide, and 294,569 lb of nitrogen oxides from the air. This has cut the university's electricity bills by \$1.3 million annually.

"The University of Cincinnati has a proven track record in Green Lights," noted Maria Tikoff, director of EPA's Green Lights program. "As a dedicated Partner," she said, "the university has helped increase the visibility of our programs and the numerous benefits -- such as improved profitability, lighting quality, and building efficiency -- that can be gained through such pollution prevention efforts."

Initiated in 1991, Green Lights currently has more than 2,400 participants nationwide.

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Last Updated: April 1, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa056.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: March 24, 1997

No. 97-OPA057

## **EPA PRESENTS NATIONAL ENERGY-SAVING AWARD TO HONEYWELL**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today EPA's "Energy Star Buildings Partner of the Year Award" went to Honeywell Inc. (Minneapolis, MN) for cutting pollution with energy-efficient technologies that have saved the company more than \$2 million a year.

The award was presented today at EPA's Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Division's annual forum, now under way (March 24-25) in Washington, DC.

Honeywell has been a leading advocate and participant in the Energy Star Buildings Program since it began in 1994. The company helped shape the program by participating as a Showcase Partner. It was the first company to commit all of its U.S.-owned buildings to the program.

Honeywell tied with the University of Missouri-Columbia for the honor. As a Showcase Partner, Honeywell upgraded its buildings in five stages designed to increase savings, prevent oversizing, and cut equipment costs.

"Honeywell has made a superior commitment to implementing and communicating Energy Star Buildings," noted Maria Tikoff, co-director of EPA's Energy Star Buildings Program. "As a dedicated partner," she said, "Honeywell has helped increase the visibility of the program and the numerous benefits -- such as improved profitability and building efficiency -- that can be gained through such pollution prevention efforts."

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Last Updated: April 1, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa057.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: March 26, 1997

No. 97-OPA058

## **EPA CITES 3M FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$22,500 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against the 3M facility in Cordova, IL, for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals. EPA has proposed a \$22,500 fine.

The facility, which produces industrial chemicals, failed to immediately report to proper authorities the release of a hazardous substance. EPA's complaint alleges that on June 2, 1995, 3M failed to promptly notify the National Response Center of a 16,100 lb release of potassium hydroxide. (3M corporate offices are in St. Paul, MN.)

The release occurred when a chemical reactor vessel became overpressurized and released its contents in the form of a fog cloud. Plant personnel sprayed down the fog using fire hoses and stopped the contaminated runoff. It did not

cross the facility's boundaries.

Potassium hydroxide is a hazardous substance used to remove impurities from chemical products. It is a noncombustible solid, but may react with water and other substances to start a fire. Exposure to it may irritate the eyes, skin, and respiratory system.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 86 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 71 settlements and \$3.5 million in total fines.

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Last Updated: April 1, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa058.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: March 26, 1997

No. 97-OPA059

## **EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROTECTING DRINKING- WATER SOURCES**

U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a series of public meetings with each State in the region to hear comments and suggestions on ways to protect sources of drinking water from contamination.

Under the provisions of the recently amended Safe Drinking Water Act, States are required to delineate the sources of all public drinking water supplies and identify potential sources of contamination.

The meetings will be held at these locations:

### **April 1**

State of Michigan Building Complex  
3423 North Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Lansing, MI 48909

### **April 11**

IL Dept. of Agriculture Auditorium  
Administration Building, State Fairgrounds  
801 Sangamon Ave.  
Springfield, IL 62794

## **April 14**

Holiday Inn East  
4560 Hilton Corporate Dr.  
Columbus, OH 43232

## **April 22**

St. Cloud Civic Center  
10 4th Avenue South  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

## **April 28**

Auditorium  
Indiana Government Center South  
402 West Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

## **May 13**

Moraine Park Technical College (main entrance)  
235 North National Ave.  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Seating is limited and reservations are required. To reserve a place and confirm times of meetings, or to request a copy of EPA's draft source water protection guidance, call EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 800-426-4791, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (EST), Monday through Friday. Reservations may also be made by E-mail at <http://hotline-sdwa@epamail.epa.gov>. Information is also available on the internet at <http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/swp.html>

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa015.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: March 27, 1997

No. 97-OPA060

## **EPA CITES SHELL WOOD RIVER REFINERY FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Shell Wood River Refining Co. for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act at its Wood River, IL, oil refinery.

EPA cited Shell for exceeding federally enforceable State limits on sulfur dioxide emissions from various parts of the refinery. The company was also cited for violating Federal rules by failing to equip a component in benzene service with a secondary seal.

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. Shell has 30 days from receipt of the notices to request a meeting to discuss the allegations.

In April 1995 and in June 1996, EPA had cited the

Shell refinery for numerous violations, including excessive emissions of sulfur dioxide.

"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."

Exposure to sulfur dioxide can impair breathing, aggravate existing respiratory diseases like bronchitis, and reduce the ability of the lungs to clear foreign particles. People with chronic lung and heart diseases, the elderly, and children are most sensitive.

Benzene is know to cause cancer in humans. Short-term exposure to benzene can cause drowsiness, dizziness, headaches, and loss of consciousness. Long-term exposure has been linked to various blood and bone marrow diseases, chromosome changes, and leukemia.

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Last Updated: April 1, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa060.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: March 31, 1997

No. 97-OPA061

## **EPA CITES LAFARGE FOR HAZ. WASTE VIOLATIONS; SEEKS \$436,815 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Lafarge Corp. (Alpena, MI) for alleged hazardous waste violations and proposed a \$436,815 penalty.

Based on an inspection, EPA alleged Lafarge failed to meet Federal requirements related to burning hazardous waste in two of its cement kilns. Specifically, the company failed to maintain its established chlorine and chloride feed rate limits and maximum hazardous waste limit, exceeded its stack gas concentration limit for carbon monoxide, exceeded its maximum combustion chamber temperature, and failed to properly monitor its cement kilns.

Lafarge, which manufactures cement, burns hazardous-waste in its cement kilns.

EPA regulates the burning of hazardous waste for

purposes of energy recovery under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, which deals with the safe management and disposal of municipal and industrial solid wastes, from the time of production to their final disposal.

Lafarge may at any time request an informal meeting with EPA to discuss the allegations and to arrive at a settlement.

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Last Updated: April 1, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa061.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Mick Hans  
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For Immediate Release: April 2, 1997

No. 97-OPA062

## **EPA PROPOSES DEPUE, IL, SITE FOR SUPERFUND LIST**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today the DePue-New Jersey Zinc-Mobil Chemical Corp. site, DePue, IL, has been proposed for addition to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) of hazardous waste sites.

The list contains uncontrolled 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 DePue site is one of six nationwide sites proposed for addition to the list. In a related announcement, five sites were added to the final NPL. None is in Region 5.

There are 49 proposed sites and 1,206 final sites on the NPL, for a national total of 1,255.

Total final and proposed hazardous waste sites in Region 5 break down as follows:

Illinois	41
Indiana	31
Michigan	74
Minnesota	30
Ohio	38
Wisconsin	40
	254

The 810-acre DePue site housed a zinc smelting plant from the early

1900's through the late 1980's. Other facilities at the site produced fertilizer chemicals and sulfuric acid. Waste materials were stored in a number of piles and lagoons on the property, resulting in potentially contaminated soils, ground water, and sediments.

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Last Updated: April 15, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa062.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 2, 1997

No. 97-OPA063

## **EPA REMINDS OWNERS OF DEADLINE TO UPGRADE OLD STORAGE TANKS**

Owners and operators of underground storage tanks have less than 2 years to meet the new Federal requirements, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 reminded today.

New rules, passed in 1988, require owners and operators to upgrade, close, or replace their underground storage tank systems by December 22, 1998. Tanks installed on or before December 22, 1988, must be protected against corrosion, spills, and overfill--or must be properly closed. Tanks installed after that date must have those protections in place at installation.

EPA is sending letters to owners and operators of underground storage tanks, reminding them that the deadline is near and that EPA will not grant any extensions. EPA inspectors will also visit facilities over the next several months to help get the word out.

"The longer you wait to upgrade your tanks, the more likely it is that they may leak and contaminate the environment," said Andrew Tschampa, regional director of the Underground Storage Tank Office. "Waiting also increases the risk of delays in getting your system upgraded, which can mean higher costs."

Nationwide, there are between 1 and 2 million underground tanks that store various substances, including fuel products and chemicals. EPA Region 5 has more than 180,500 such tanks. EPA regulates these tanks under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Leaking underground storage tanks can contaminate ground water and surface water and expose workers to contamination while they are cleaning and repairing tanks.

Owners and operators who do not meet the new requirements by the deadline, may have to pay \$25,000 per day of violation.

For more information on the 1998 deadline, call EPA's underground storage tank office, at 312-886-6159, or visit EPA's home page at: <http://www.epa.gov/OUST>.

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Last Updated: April 15, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa063.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 3, 1997

No. 97-OPA064

## **EPA TO HOLD MEETING APRIL 10 ON BYRON SALVAGE YARD SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a public meeting to discuss the proposed plan for the final cleanup at the Byron Salvage Yard Superfund site, Byron, IL. The meeting will be held Thursday, April 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the Byron High School cafeteria commons, Tower Road and Route 2.

EPA has completed a study on how best to clean the remaining contaminated soils at the site, as well as how to clean the ground water. EPA recommends a course of action which includes: a soil cover, plus grading and planting, to remove the risk posed by metals-contaminated soils; removal of VOC(volatile organic compounds)-contaminated soils for landfill disposal; and installation of a collection system to capture and treat contaminated ground water before discharging to Woodland Creek.

This option provides the most protection to human health and the environment, allowing for long-term effectiveness at the lowest overall cost.

Oral and written comments on the plan may be submitted at the meeting. Written or e-mail comments will also be accepted through May 1, 1997. They should be sent to John Perrecone, P-19J, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. E-mail: [perrecone.john@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:perrecone.john@epamail.epa.gov).

After the comment period, EPA will sign a final decision document

outlining the cleanup plan, which will also include responses to public comments.

Copies of the study, cleanup plan, and other site-related documents are available for review at the Ogle County Health Dept., 104 South 5th St., Oregon, and the Byron Public Library, 109 North Franklin.

The Byron Salvage Yard property owner and adjacent landowners accepted a variety of chemical and industrial wastes during the 1960's and early 1970's. These included drums of electroplating wastes, oil sludge, solvents, and scrap metal. The area, 12 miles southwest of Rockford, is primarily rural. The site is bordered by a forest preserve, farmlands, a residence, and a nuclear power plant.

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Last Updated: April 15, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa064.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 8, 1997

No. 97-OPA065

## **EPA CITES DAWSON HEATING FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Dawson Heating Services (Owosso, MI) for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act.

The company services heating and air conditioning systems. On August 6, 1996, the company owner was observed venting refrigerants into the air while working on a commercial central air conditioner.

The Clean Air Act bans the release of ozone-depleting refrigerants during service, maintenance, and disposal of air conditioners and all other equipment that contain these refrigerants.

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. An informal conference has been scheduled for April 16 to discuss the allegations.

"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."

Chlorine from refrigerants used in air conditioning is 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.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa065.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 8, 1997

No. 97-OPA066

## **EPA SETTLES WITH HILTON DAVIS FOR HAZ. WASTE VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$64,500 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative complaint against Hilton Davis Co. (Cincinnati, OH), for failing to meet Federal requirements related to burning hazardous waste in a boiler. The company will pay a \$64,500 penalty and implement an environmental project costing at least \$272,000.

EPA alleged Hilton Davis failed to adequately analyze waste and record the flow-rate of hazardous waste, and exceeded emissions standards for arsenic, chlorine, chromium, lead, and particulate matter.

In addition to the fine, the company has agreed to construct a waste processing facility to increase the company's recycling efforts and reduce its solid-waste stream by 50 percent.

EPA regulates the burning of hazardous waste for purposes of energy recovery under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, which deals with the safe management and disposal of municipal and industrial

solid wastes, from the time of production to their final disposal.

The company has since closed its boiler.

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Last Updated: April 15, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa066.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Carie Jasperse  
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For Immediate Release: April 11, 1997

No. 97-OPA067

## **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR EARTH DAY 1997**

### **:30 PSA**

Celebrate Earth Day and make your world a better place! Even small actions make a big difference. Preserve clean air by walking, riding a bike, carpooling, or taking public transportation. Save hundreds of gallons of water each year by fixing leaky faucets. Reduce waste by participating in your local recycling program. If your community doesn't have one, help start one! Brought to you by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, serving the Midwest.

### **:15 PSA**

Celebrate Earth Day! Even small actions make a big difference. Preserve clean air by carpooling. Save fresh water by fixing leaky faucets. And always: reduce, reuse and recycle. Brought to you by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, serving the Midwest.

### **:15 PSA**

An Earth Day tip from EPA: When spring cleaning, don't dispose of oil by pouring it on the ground or down the nearest drain. Call your local City Hall to find out about the next household hazard collection day. Earth: It's the only home we've got.

Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 9, 1997

No. 97-OPA068

## **EPA, ARMY AGREE ON CLEANUP PLAN FOR PORTIONS OF CRAB ORCHARD SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Army have recently signed a cleanup plan for portions of the explosives-munitions manufacturing area at the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, Marion, IL.

Cleanup at the Crab Orchard Superfund site is divided into seven areas, each of which has a number of subsites.

This cleanup plan addresses 2 of the 15 subsites investigated for human health and ecological hazards at the explosives-munitions manufacturing area. Cleanup will include excavation, off-site treatment and disposal of contaminated soil, placement of soil cover, and ground-water monitoring. Design work for the excavation of the contaminated soil and the soil cover will begin this summer; site work will begin in summer 1998.

No action was necessary at 12 of the 15 subsites because tests concluded there were no significant risks to human health and the environment. One of the subsites -- which may pose a potential ecological risk to bobwhite quail -- is being further investigated.

U.S. Department of the Interior and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency support the cleanup plan.

During World War II, the U.S. Army and several contractors leased portions of the refuge to manufacture explosives. Waste from these facilities was disposed of at several locations within the 43,500-acre property. Potential hazards, including by-products from the manufacture of explosives and contaminated soil, were brought to EPA's attention in 1984.

The property is operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency of Department of the Interior.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa068.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 10, 1997

No. 97-OPA069

## **EPA: CLEANUP UNDER WAY AT IMTHURN DRUMS SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup has begun at the Imthurn Drums site, an auto salvage yard just outside city limits of Ney, OH.

Hazardous materials found in an open field at this Superfund site include more than 1,500 drums, buckets, and small containers of unidentified and potentially flammable industrial process waste solvents, oils, and sludges. Some drums showed signs of decay or leakage.

The site owner, Ellis Imthurn, runs an auto salvage business out of a former school building on the property.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency notified EPA of potentially hazardous conditions at the site in December 1996. EPA later learned that much of the material came from a Campbell Soup facility in Ohio.

Following negotiations, Campbell Soup signed an EPA administrative order to proceed with cleanup at the site. A cleanup plan provides for treatment, removal, and transportation of the hazardous materials and any contaminated soils, as well as testing of surface water and sediments in nearby Ney Creek. Work is expected to continue through June.

The site, which was open when EPA first learned of it, has since been fenced. Hazard warning signs have also been posted.

The 4-acre site is bordered to the west by Bend Road, to the north by Bostater Road, and to east and south by the gradually sloping banks of Ney Creek. The nearest residential areas are across Bend Road from the site.

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Last Updated: April 15, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa069.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 10, 1997

No. 97-OPA070

## **EPA CITES SERVICE WEB OFFSET FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Service Web Offset Corp. for alleged violations of federally enforceable State air pollution regulations at its Chicago printing plant.

EPA said the company, which prints catalogs, brochures, and fliers at 2500 South Dearborn St., has been violating certification requirements and volatile organic material emission limits of the Illinois lithographic printing rule since the rule became effective March 15, 1996.

Volatile organic materials are major contributors to the formation of ground-level ozone. The Chicago area suffers from ground-level ozone, unable to meet national health-based standards.

Ground-level ozone can cause breathing problems, asthma attacks, eye irritation, and stuffy nose. It can reduce lung function, resistance to colds and other infections, and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

This is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve them, the Clean Air Act authorizes EPA to issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. Service Web Offset has 30 days from receipt of the notice of violation to request a meeting to discuss the allegations.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the 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."

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Last Updated: April 15, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa070.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 10, 1997

No. 97-OPA071

## **EPA CITES BAGCRAFT FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Bagcraft Corp. of America for alleged Clean Air Act violations at its Chicago manufacturing plant. EPA has proposed a \$250,000 civil penalty.

Bagcraft operates approximately 47 flexographic printing lines at its plant, 3900 West 43rd St. The facility previously operated four additional printing lines which were equipped with an incinerator. These printing lines are sources of volatile organic materials that contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, or smog, in an area that does not meet health-based standards for ozone.

EPA said Bagcraft has violated Federal and State requirements for ozone control by:

- emitting excess volatile organic materials from its plant;
- failing to properly test inks and calculate emissions;
- failing to properly certify its compliance;
- failing to properly test its incinerator for efficiency; failing to achieve 90 percent destruction efficiency from its incinerator; and
- failing to obtain proper permits.

Bagcraft has recently begun using inks with lower volatile organic material content on its 47 printing lines, reducing emissions by about 115 tons per year. The company has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to

file an answer and to request a formal hearing. An informal conference was held on March 17.

"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."

Ground-level ozone can cause breathing problems, asthma attacks, eye irritation, and stuffy nose. It can reduce lung function and resistance to colds and other infections and may speed up the aging of lung tissue.

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Last Updated: April 15, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa071.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 10, 1997

No. 97-OPA072

## **EPA TO HOLD MEETING APRIL 17 ON B&E LANDFILL SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold an availability meeting to discuss its recommendation for controlling contamination at the B&E Landfill site in Pickaway County, OH. The meeting will be held Thursday, April 17, from 7 to 8:15 p.m., at Circleville City Council Chambers, 133 South Court St., Circleville.

EPA has completed an engineering study of the Superfund site and considered a range of cleanup alternatives. EPA's recommended plan includes site grading, riverbank stabilization, a new landfill cover, and a gas collection and venting system.

This option provides the most protection to human health and the environment, allowing for long-term effectiveness at the lowest overall cost.

Representatives from EPA and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will be on hand to answer questions about the study.

Oral and written comments on the plan may be submitted at the session. Written or e-mail comments will also be accepted through May 3, 1997. They should be sent to Ginny Narsete, P-19J, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. E-mail: [narsete.virginia@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:narsete.virginia@epamail.epa.gov).

Copies of the study and other site-related documents are available for review at the Pickaway County Public Library, 165 East Main St., Circleville.

The B&E Landfill accepted a variety of industrial wastes from the early 1950's to 1979. These included plastic film trimmings, paint and paint thinners, fluorescent bulbs, and chemical process sludge. The Circleville area, some 30 miles south of Columbus, is primarily rural.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa072.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 14, 1997

No. 97-OPA073

## **EPA ANNOUNCES WINNER, REGIONAL FINALISTS OF PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARDS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently announced the regional winners of the President's Environmental Youth Awards for 1996.

The first-place winner is Mayo High School, Rochester, MN, for its Wolf Project and Carnival. The project was selected from among 56 regional entrants. It is one of 10 winners nationwide. A student representative will accept the award at a national ceremony in Washington on May 22.

Under the guidance of their teacher, Elissa Elliott, 31 students in the 9th and 10th grades created and ran a "wolf carnival" to teach other, younger students about the timber wolf, an animal that has been taken off the endangered species list in Minnesota. They involved the children in innovative activities such as painting their faces like wolves, making wolf tracks, howling, and watching a puppet show to present information about the wolves. The carnival booths were constructed of recycled or reusable materials, and the students carpoled or rollerbladed to the event.

"Although there were many outstanding entries, the first-place project was the most creative," said Deputy Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "Educating others about a species which was once endangered in Minnesota will help to ensure that it continues to thrive."

These awards involve a national contest sponsored annually by EPA, to honor creative environmental projects, developed and carried out by

elementary and high school students.

EPA also recognized these finalists:

**First runner-up:** Waters Elementary School (4540 North Campbell Ave., Chicago, IL) carried out an ecological citizenship project that benefited their entire neighborhood. They composted their food wastes and used it to fertilize a community vegetable garden. They built an Illinois prairie and savanna in the school yard and used some of the native plants in a local park and to beautify parts of the Chicago riverbank near the school.

**Second runner-up:** Environment Club, Parkside Junior High (101 West Parkside, Normal, IL) was recognized for carrying out a variety of environmental projects throughout the school year, including raising money for a bird-house project, planting trees and helping with flood cleanups along the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers.

**Third runner-up:** Rollingstone Community School (61 Main Street, Rollingstone, MN) built a nature trail through a small wooded area near the school. Students built habitats, reintroduced native plants to the area, and built a dock over ponds and wetlands near the school to make water quality testing and monitoring easier.

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Last Updated: April 15, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa073.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 14, 1997

No. 97-OPA074

## **EPA, MDEQ GRANT HAZ. WASTE LICENSE AND PERMIT TO WAYNE DISPOSAL, MI, FACILITY; EPA APPROVES APPLICATION TO ACCEPT PCB-WASTE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) today issued an operating license and permit to Wayne Disposal, Inc. (Belleville, MI), for its hazardous-waste landfill. EPA and MDEQ also granted approval for the landfill to accept PCB-waste.

The license and permit, issued under MDEQ Act 451 and the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), allow continued operation of the landfill, located at 49350 North Interstate-94 Service Dr., Belleville. EPA and MDEQ also approved the disposal of PCB-waste in the landfill under the Federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and Act 451. The landfill meets or exceeds all of the Federal and State requirements for a chemical-waste landfill.

EPA and MDEQ gave the public extensive time to comment on the draft applications and considered hundreds of comments before making decisions. One of the biggest concerns from the public was the site's hydrology and the potential for migration across the underlying clay layer.

"After thorough consideration, including a technical peer review, EPA is satisfied that this landfill is well designed and safe for PCB-waste," said Regional Administrator Valdas V. Adamkus. "The peer review supported our finding that the landfill is not hydraulically connected to Belleville Lake."



In response to many of the comments, there were more stringent conditions placed in the TSCA approval to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. Some of the conditions include requiring the company to monitor three additional ground-water wells, to establish an advisory group with community members, and to share quarterly and annual reports with Van Buren and Ypsilanti townships, upon their requests.

"This relicensing and granting of PCB waste disposal authority for Wayne Disposal will expedite the cleanup of many sites throughout Michigan," said MDEQ Director Russell Harding. "These coordinated approvals by MDEQ and EPA demonstrate our ability to work together in the public's best interests."

EPA and MDEQ are postponing decisions for the Michigan Disposal Waste Treatment Plant, also in Belleville, because they are still reviewing comments and concerns from the public. Michigan Disposal has applied for a renewal of its RCRA license and permit so that it could continue operating its hazardous-waste storage and treatment facility. (Both the Wayne Disposal and Michigan Disposal facilities are owned by Environmental Quality Co., Belleville.)

Copies of the decision documents and an executive summary will be available for review April 15 at local repositories, which are listed in the executive summary. A [copy of the executive summary](#) follows.

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Last Updated: April 15, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa074.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 14, 1997

No. 97-OPA075

## **EPA CITES TOTAL PETROLEUM FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Total Petroleum Inc. for alleged Clean Air Act violations at its Alma, MI, oil refinery.

Specifically, Total Petroleum failed to operate its sulfur recovery unit and the associated air pollution control equipment as required by EPA regulations.

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. Total Petroleum has 30 days from receipt of the finding to request a meeting to discuss the allegations.

"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."

Exposure to sulfur dioxide can impair breathing, aggravate existing respiratory diseases like bronchitis, and reduce the ability of the lungs to clear foreign particles. People with chronic lung and heart diseases, the elderly, and children are the most sensitive.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa075.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 14, 1997

No. 97-OPA076

## **EPA SETTLES WITH ILLINOIS ON AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$20,000 PENALTY & \$15,000 CLEANUP PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with the State of Illinois on alleged violations of federally enforceable State air pollution regulations at its Capitol Power Plant in Springfield.

The State has agreed to pay a penalty of \$20,000 and to do a \$15,000 supplemental environmental project to cut particulate emissions from the plant by 1 ton per year.

EPA cited the Capitol Power Plant in November 1994 for violating State regulations on the opacity (the amount of light obscured) of particulate emissions (smoke, dust, ash) from the plant.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the Clean Air Act to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, regional director of the Air and Radiation Division. "We are pleased that Illinois has agreed to undertake this supplemental environmental project to cut these emissions."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung diseases. Children, the elderly, or those with existing heart or lung conditions are the most sensitive.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa076.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 14, 1997

No.97-OPA077

## **EPA CHANGES CITY DISPOSAL CLEANUP PLAN; MEETING APRIL 21**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently proposed a change for ground-water cleanup at the City Disposal Corp. Landfill Superfund site, Town of Dunn, WI. A meeting to discuss the change will be held Monday April 21, at 7 p.m. at Dunn Town Hall, 4156 County Highway B, McFarland.

An informal open house session to discuss the proposed change will be held earlier in the day, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at Dunkirk Town Hall, County Trunk Highway N, near Stoughton.

Under the change--called an Explanation of Significant Differences--EPA will ship collected ground water in tanker trucks to an off-site treatment facility. Sites under consideration include: nearby publicly owned treatment works (such as those operated by Oregon or Madison), a commercially licensed waste-handling facility, and the Hagen Farm Superfund site's ground-water treatment facility in the Town of Dunkirk.

Under EPA's original 1992 plan, ground water was to be cleansed on site and discharged into Badfish Creek. The proposed change will allow ground-water treatment for the City Disposal site to begin as much as one year ahead of the original schedule. It will also be useful in the design of a permanent on-site treatment system.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources supports the change.

Site-related documents are available for review at Dunkirk and Dunn

## Town Halls and Stoughton Public Library.

The site was an unlined municipal and industrial waste landfill from 1966 to 1977. It was closed in 1977 and later capped with a clay cover. The surrounding area, which lies in Dane County, is mainly agricultural.

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Last Updated: April 15, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 15, 1997

No. 97-OPA078

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: PANEL DISCUSSION IN CHICAGO OF WHITE HOUSE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING CONFERENCE**

Federal agencies, in conjunction with local educational and public-health organizations, will host a television viewing and lunch-time discussion of the White House conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning: What New Research on the Brain Tells Us About Our Youngest Children.

The White House conference is Thursday, April 17, and will be broadcast by satellite to sites across the country. In Chicago, a television viewing of the conference and panel discussion will take place from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Illinois Institute of Technology, Stuart Building, Room 104 (near west entrance), 10 West 31st St., Chicago. (Parking is available at the corner of 33rd and State Streets.) A box lunch will be provided to attendees.

The White House conference--hosted by President and Mrs. Clinton--will present and review the latest research on how children develop from their earliest days, and will explore what this means for parents and policy makers. The White House television presentation will be followed by a panel discussion with Chicago-area experts who will review, discuss, and answer questions about how the research can help children locally. Panelists include representatives from Cook County Children's Hospital, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Department of Human Services, and the Ounce of Prevention Fund.



The panel discussion is being sponsored by U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Chicago Department of Human Services, Chicago Public Schools, Illinois Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics, and Ounce of Prevention Fund.

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Last Updated: April 15, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 16, 1997

No. 97-OPA079

## **EPA CITES ELMER'S CRANE & DOZER FOR CLEAN AIR ACT VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Elmer's Crane and Dozer, Inc., Traverse City, MI, for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act at three portable sand and gravel plants: two in Maple City and one in Karlin.

EPA cited the company for:

- not submitting proper notification that it planned to build and operate the three plants;
- not conducting timely performance testing;
- conducting improper performance testing; and
- not obtaining permits to install and operate before building and operating the plants.

EPA said reporting and performance testing is needed so EPA and State agencies can determine if facilities are meeting health-based emissions limits. Failure to report and test could subject the public to unknown health risks.

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. An informal conference to discuss the allegations

has been scheduled for April 24.

"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."

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Last Updated: April 17, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa079.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Regional Environmental Justice Manager: Karla Johnson  
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For Immediate Release: April 17, 1997

No. 97-OPA080

## **NAT'L ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MEETING IN WISCONSIN MAY 12-16**

The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council will meet May 12-16 at Indian Springs Lodge and Conference Center, Wabeno, WI.

The Council was established by U.S Environmental Protection Agency to provide information and comments from affected parties on environmental justice issues. It consists of 25 representatives from community groups; industry; State, local, and tribal governments; and nongovernmental organizations.

The Council will hear presentations and discuss tribal environmental justice issues, the Ward Valley landfill, and council procedural matters. The public is invited to provide comments on May 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. and on May 15 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Oral comments will be limited to 5 minutes.

The public is welcomed to attend the council meeting as well as any of the subcommittee meetings. The subcommittees will discuss: enforcement of environmental laws, health and research, indigenous peoples, international environment, public participation, and waste and facility siting.

To register for the meeting, to present comments, or to receive a meeting agenda, contact Tama Clare (PRC Environmental Management, Inc.) by April 28 at 703-287-8808, or fax at 703-287-8843. To register through the

internet, send a message to <http://www.prcemi.com/nejac>.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 18, 1997

No. 97-OPA081

## **EPA TO HOLD MEETING APR. 29 ON MacGILLIS & GIBBS- BELL LUMBER & POLE SITE**

U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold an informal meeting to discuss upcoming cleanup at the MacGillis & Gibbs Co.-Bell Lumber & Pole Co. site, New Brighton, MN. The meeting will be held Tuesday, April 29, from 6 to 8 p.m., at New Brighton City Council Chambers, 803 Fifth Ave., N.W, New Brighton.

Cleanup at the MacGillis & Gibbs facility will begin in May, including the removal of chemical residues in abandoned underground and above-ground tanks, pumping and treatment of contaminated ground water, and excavation and solidification of metals-contaminated soils. Work is expected to continue through December.

Residents who have questions about the cleanup but cannot attend the meeting are encouraged to call EPA's community involvement coordinator, Cheryl L. Allen, at 1-800-621-8431. All site documents are available for review at Ramsey County Library, Arden Hills Branch, 1941 West County Rd. E-2, New Brighton.

The MacGillis & Gibbs site adjoins the Bell Lumber & Pole site. The two companies are listed as a single 44-acre site on EPA's Superfund National Priorities List. Both companies are wood treatment plants which have been in operation since the early 1920's. Contamination from wood-preserving chemicals has been found in groundwater and soils at the sites,

as well as in a pond which was used for dumping.

Cleanup at Bell Lumber was completed in 1993, with the exception of long-term pumping and treatment of ground-water.

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Last Updated: June 11, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa015.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 21, 1997

No. 97-OPA082

## **EPA: CLEANUP AT AMERICAN ALLIED ADDITIVES SITE COMPLETE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup is now complete at the former American Allied Additives building, 1146 East 152d St., Cleveland, OH.

The site, a 100,000-square-foot abandoned warehouse in the Collinwood neighborhood, held more than 1,100 containers of chemicals, many of which were hazardous and potentially flammable.

EPA was alerted to the potentially hazardous conditions in November 1996 by the City of Cleveland and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Work was done by an environmental cleanup company hired by a group of responsible parties, which included former building owners and tenants and those who generated the hazardous materials found at the site.

The cleanup consisted of materials identification, containerizing waste for shipment, and transportation to a commercial disposal facility in East Chicago, IN.

Altogether, 12 truckloads of materials were removed. Site control has since been returned to the property owner.



EPA's Emergency Response Team cleaned up the site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, commonly known as Superfund. Superfund is currently being reviewed by Congress for reauthorization.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 22, 1997

No. 97-OPA083

## **EPA CITES EXCEL CIRCUITS FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$60,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Excel Circuit, Inc. (Lake Orion, MI), for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals. EPA has proposed a \$60,000 fine.

During a routine compliance inspection in February 1996, at Excel's circuit board manufacturing plant, the company informed EPA that it had never submitted forms for hazardous chemicals to the State emergency response commission, the local emergency planning committee, or the local fire department--as required by law. Two of these chemicals, nitric acid and sulfuric acid, are extremely hazardous and were present in quantities which exceed EPA's minimum reporting requirements.

The current owner took control of the company in May 1993.

Following the inspection, Excel submitted the appropriate forms for 1993, 1994, and 1995. Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, owners and operators of facilities must submit forms for certain hazardous chemicals and extremely hazardous substances to the proper authorities by March 1 every year.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 86 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 71 settlements and \$3.5 million in total fines.

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Last Updated: April 24, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa083.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 22, 1997

No. 97-OPA084

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH UNO-VEN; INCLUDES \$121,000 FINE & \$270,000 POLLUTION PREVENTION PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with The UNO-VEN Co. on alleged Clean Air Act violations at the company's Lemont, IL, oil refinery.

UNO-VEN has agreed to pay a penalty of \$121,000 and to do a \$270,000 environmental project to cut nitrous oxide emissions from the refinery by 34 tons per year.

EPA cited UNO-VEN in September 1996 for exceeding legal limits for particulates (smoke, ash, dust) at its New Ave. facility, after notifying it of the violations in March 1996. (The company has installed new equipment and rebuilt its particulate-control system.)

"EPA is committed to enforcing the Clean Air Act to protect public health and the environment," said David Kee, regional director of the Air and Radiation Division. "We are pleased that UNO-VEN has agreed to do a supplemental environmental project to cut these emissions."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung diseases. Nitrous oxide contributes to formation of ground-level ozone,

which can cause breathing problems, asthma attacks, eye irritation, and stuffy nose. It can reduce lung function, resistance to colds and other infections, and may speed aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly, or those with existing heart or lung problems are the most sensitive to both pollutants.

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Last Updated: April 24, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 24, 1997

No. 97-OPA085

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: HOT-LINE ESTABLISHED FOR METHYL PARATHION QUESTIONS**

A hot-line has been established for Chicago area residents who have questions and concerns about potential methyl parathion contamination in their homes.

The number is 1-888-889-6542. The hot-line will be staffed by U.S. EPA and the Illinois Poison Center.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa085.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: Susan Pastor  
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For Immediate Release: April 25, 1997

No. 97-OPA086

## **EPA PICKS CLEANUP PLAN FOR MADISON METRO SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed a record of decision to clean up PCB-contaminated sludge at Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, Blooming Grove, WI.

The document outlines the cleanup plan selected for this site. It includes construction of new dikes and maintenance of existing dikes to isolate PCB concentrations at or above 50 parts per million. It also includes seeded soil cover for 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.

Estimated cost of the cleanup is \$1.8 million. Work is expected to begin in late 1997.

EPA selected this plan because it provides the most protection to human health and the environment, allowing for long-term effectiveness at the lowest overall cost.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources supports EPA's decision.

A fact sheet on the plan is available from Region 5's World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/sites/>. Copies of the decision document will be available for review at Madison Public Library, 201 West Mifflin St., and Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, 1610 Moorland Rd.

The Madison Metro site was added to EPA's National Priorities List in 1990, which names abandoned or hazardous waste sites across the country. The lagoons at the site were constructed in the 1940's and 1960's to provide storage for sludge generated at the adjacent Madison Metro treatment plant.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once used widely 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 human health hazards.

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Last Updated: April 28, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa086.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 25, 1997

No. 97-OPA087

## **EPA CITES STERN ESTATE FOR PCB VIOLATIONS AT THE OLD SCHMIDT'S BREWERY SITE; SEEKS A \$174,000 PENALTY**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently issued an administrative civil complaint against Richard M. Stern, Regina Stern, Lynda Coslov, and Judy S. Guttman (co-executors of the Ernest Stern Estate), and Michael J. Manuszak (ancillary administrator of the estate), all of Pittsburgh, PA, for violating the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) at the former Schmidt's Brewery property at 9300 Quincy Ave., Cleveland, OH. EPA is seeking a \$174,000 penalty.

EPA alleges that during a PCB cleanup at the site, several Federal PCB laws were violated, including improper disposal, use, marking, storage, and recordkeeping. In addition, EPA was not properly notified of PCB waste activities at the site.

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 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 11-acre site, located at East 93rd St. and Quincy Ave., was a brewing company until 1984 and is contaminated with PCB's. A cleanup has been ongoing since 1994 with EPA and Ohio EPA oversight. In 1989, EPA Region 5 was alerted to the site when local authorities discovered asbestos on the property. EPA issued a legal action against the 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. In November 1993, during the asbestos cleanup, workers found a spill from a vandalized PCB-containing transformer in the basement of a flooded building.

The Stern Estate may at any time request an informal meeting with EPA to discuss the allegations and to arrive at a settlement.

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Last Updated: April 28, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 28, 1997

No. 97-OPA088

## **EPA PICKS CLEANUP PLAN FOR ROTO-FINISH SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed a record of decision for cleaning up contaminated groundwater at the Roto-Finish Superfund site, Portage, MI.

The plan relies on recharge, dilution, dispersion, and natural biodegradation processes--called attenuation--to reduce chemical concentrations in groundwater.

EPA expects contamination to be reduced to safe levels in 15 to 20 years. However, because the actual rate of attenuation is exceedingly slow, it may take as long as 50 to 60 years to achieve cleanup levels. As a result, EPA's remedy also includes a contingency plan (including ground-water pumping and treatment) if site conditions do not produce the desired cleanup levels.

EPA selected this action because it is the best alternative to protect human health and the environment, allowing for long-term effectiveness at the lowest overall cost.

Estimated cost of the cleanup is \$500,000. Work is expected to begin in 1998, following negotiations with the responsible parties.

Although the State of Michigan agrees with the selection of natural attenuation as the best overall approach to cleanup, it does not agree with EPA's plan because it does not require "legally enforceable" ground-water use restrictions, such as deed restrictions and deed covenants. Despite this difference of opinion, EPA and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality have agreed to work together to carry out the plan.

Copies of the plan and other site-related documents are available for review at the Portage Public Library, 300 Library Lane.

The 7-acre site is an abandoned industrial equipment manufacturing facility at 3700 East Milham Rd. The site is on EPA's National Priorities List, which names hazardous-waste sites eligible for cleanup under Superfund.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa088.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 30, 1997

No. 97-OPA089

## **EPA SETTLES WITH A.E. STALEY FOR \$80,000**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with A.E. Staley Manufacturing (Lafayette, IN) for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals. The agreement includes \$80,000 in fines.

Staley, which produces corn syrup and corn products at its Sagamore plant in Lafayette, failed to immediately report to proper authorities the release of a hazardous substance. EPA claimed that on December 26, 1992, the company failed to promptly notify the National Response Center, as well as State and local authorities, of a 200 lb release of gaseous chlorine from a bleach storage tank. The company also failed to submit a follow-up report to the Tippecanoe County Local Emergency Planning Committee. (A.E. Staley corporate offices are in Decatur, IL.)

The release occurred when a process tank valve failed during the production of bleach. Two employees who checked the tank and failed to follow proper safety procedures were hospitalized for chlorine exposure. One worker was treated and released, the other was kept overnight for observation.

Exposure to small quantities of chlorine may cause irritation to the eyes,

nose and throat. Exposure to larger doses may lead to respiratory illnesses or death.

Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, owners and operators of facilities are required to report to proper authorities all releases of chlorine over 10 lb.

Since May 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 86 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 71 settlements and \$3.5 million in total fines.

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Last Updated: April 28, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: April 29, 1997

No. 97-OPA090

## **EPA STOPS SALE OF UNREGISTERED EKCO KITCHEN PRODUCTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 yesterday ordered EKCO Housewares, Inc. (Franklin Park, IL), to immediately stop selling and distributing several unregistered kitchen products with pesticide-type claims.

The EKCO products, currently for sale in Chicago-area stores, are Antibacterial Kitchen Scouring Sponges, Antibacterial Suds & Sponge, Antibacterial Suds & Scrub, Antibacterial Dish & Sink Brush, Antibacterial Husky Scrub, Antibacterial Sponge Cloths, Antibacterial Cellulose Sponge, Cellulose Sponges, Antibacterial Handy Grip Sponge, Antibacterial Kitchen Brush, Antibacterial Cutting Boards, and other EKCO products making pesticide-type claims on their labels. The claims include "Prevents Germs," "Our EPA registered antibacterial agent inhibits the growth of a wide range of germs, bacteria, fungi, mold, and mildew," "Effective within minutes of contact with the contaminated surface," and "GermAway is effective against salmonella, staphylococcus, e-coli and streptococcus as well as fungi and candida (yeast)."

Salmonella and e.coli cause diseases in humans and are considered pests under the law. The products are considered pesticides and must be registered with EPA because their labels claim they prevent, destroy, or repel pests.

"Consumers should be aware that EKCO has not proven to EPA that their products prevent germs or food-borne illnesses like their labels claim," said Phyllis Reed, chief of the regional pesticides office. "Any company that intends to sell a product with pesticide claims must show EPA that their product works."

Congress authorized EPA to ensure that pesticides do not pose unreasonable risks to the public and the environment. Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), EPA registers all pesticides and pesticide products for use in and around homes. No pesticide may be sold legally or used in the United States unless its label bears an EPA registration number. FIFRA also makes it is unlawful to use any registered pesticide in the manner other than that indicated on the product label.

EKCO must respond to EPA within 24 hours.

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS:** This news release is also available on the www at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news97/>

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Last Updated: June 12, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa015.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: William Omohundro  
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For Immediate Release: April 30, 1997

No. 97-OPA091

## NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has scheduled two community briefings in East Liverpool, OH, Thursday, May 8, to present the results of its risk assessment for the Waste Technologies Industries (WTI) commercial hazardous waste incinerator in East Liverpool.

The technical staff who worked on the risk assessment will brief the community from 2 to 4 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. in Council Chambers of City Hall, 126 West 6th St. They will brief the news media at 11 a.m. at the same location. The focus will be on results and scientific methods and techniques. EPA technical staff will not address questions related to risk management.

The final document will consist of 8 volumes and over 3,800 pages. The EPA risk assessment, developed over a 4-year period, consists of three basic parts: a human health risk assessment, a screening ecological risk assessment, and an accident analysis or "hazard assessment."

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Last Updated: May 14, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa091.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: May 6, 1997

No. 97-OPA092

## **EPA CITES PRODUCTION PLATING FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$82,500 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Production Plating, Inc. (Eastpoint, MI), for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals. EPA has proposed a \$82,500 fine.

Production Plating, an electroplating and metal finishing facility that serves the aircraft industry, failed to immediately report to proper authorities the release of a hazardous substance. EPA's complaint alleges that on January 23, 1996, the company failed to promptly notify the National Response Center and state and local authorities of a 100 gallon spill of metal stripping solution containing 63 lb of sodium cyanide. Federal laws require immediate notification upon any release exceeding 10 lb of sodium cyanide. The facility is next to a grade school and a fraternal hall.

The release occurred when a temporary holding tank was being moved, tipped over, and spilled the contents onto a blacktop parking lot. The material flowed over to a business neighbor's blacktop parking lot as well and, finally, to a park. The release did not enter a storm-water or sanitary sewer system, and the facility did the necessary cleanup.

Sodium cyanide is a corrosive, highly toxic chemical. Exposure to it may cause nosebleeds, headaches, nausea, and dizziness.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 86 separate complains for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 71 settlements and \$3.5 million in total fines.

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Last Updated: May 14, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa092.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: May 2, 1997

No. 97-OPA093

## **EPA TO HOLD MEETING MAY 8 ON THERMO-CHEM SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold an informal meeting to discuss the ongoing cleanup at the Thermo-Chem site, Muskegon, MI. The meeting will be held Thursday, May 8, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Egelston Town Hall, 5428 East Apple Ave., Muskegon.

EPA has recently completed work on the former Thermo-Chem facility portion of the Superfund site. Over the next few months, a new phase of work will include excavation of contaminated soil, construction of a ground water treatment system, and construction of a vapor extraction system to control the release of volatile organic compounds.

Residents who have questions about the cleanup but cannot attend the meeting are encouraged to 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 at the site include ground water, soil, and sludges contaminated with industrial chemicals.

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Last Updated: May 14, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa093.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Kae Lee  
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Media Contact: Briana Bill  
(312) 353-6646

For Immediate Release: May 5, 1997

No. 97-OPA094

## **EPA PROPOSES TO ALLOW PCB STORAGE AT ENSR CANTON FACILITY**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is considering whether to allow ENSR Operations Raff Road Facility (Canton, OH) to commercially store PCB-contaminated waste. EPA is accepting public comments on the proposal through May 25, 1997.

ENSR stores PCB-contaminated material that others generate. Under the proposal, the company must operate the facility in such a way as to prevent fires and PCB releases into the environment. All employees would have to be trained to follow these requirements.

A copy of the proposal is available for review at the Stark County District Library, 715 North Market Ave., Canton. EPA may hold a public hearing if there is significant interest from the public on the proposal. Comments on the proposal, and any requests for a public hearing--postmarked by May 25--may be sent to: Kae Lee, Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division (DRT-14J), EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL, 60604.

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Last Updated: May 14, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa094.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Gary Victorine  
(312) 353-0398

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: May 8, 1997

No. 97-OPA095

## **EPA TECH TEAM BRIEFS E. LIVERPOOL ON RESULTS OF WTI RISK ASSESSMENT**

A team of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) scientists and technical specialists who worked on the Waste Technologies Industries (WTI) risk assessment is in East Liverpool, OH, today (Thursday, May 8) to brief the community on the results of the EPA risk assessment.

There are two community briefings -- one from 2 to 4 p.m. and another from 7 to 9 p.m. -- in Council Chambers of City Hall, 126 West 6th St. The news media will be briefed at 11 a.m. at the same location. Mayor Delores Satow and other officials were briefed at 9 a.m.

The briefings will focus on results and scientific methods and techniques. The EPA technical team will not address questions related to risk management, which is the decision-making process regarding what -- if anything -- needs to be done as a result of the risk assessment. These decisions will be made at a later date by top management of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the EPA.

Gary Victorine, EPA Region 5 environmental engineer, will be the principal briefing official, and Dr. Carole Braverman, EPA Region 5 senior toxicologist, will be the technical moderator for the briefings. Other officials from EPA Region 5 and EPA Headquarters will provide support in their areas of specialization.



Other team members from the EPA Region 5 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permitting Branch and the Region 5 Office of Public Affairs are: Dr. Harriet Croke, chief, RCRA Ohio Permitting Section; Dr. Mario Mangino, RCRA toxicologist; Pamela Blakley, RCRA meteorologist; Daniel Mazur, RCRA ecologist; and William Omohundro, public affairs specialist.

Officials from EPA Headquarters are: Dr. Dorothy A. Canter, science advisor to the Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response; and David H. Cleverly, environmental scientist with the National Center for Environmental Assessment, Office of Research and Development.

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Last Updated: May 14, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa095.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
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For Immediate Release: May 8, 1997

No. 97-OPA096

## **EPA AMENDS ORDER ON UNREGISTERED EKCO KITCHEN PRODUCTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 this week amended an order it issued April 28, 1997 to EKCO Housewares, Inc., Franklin Park, IL. The order stopped the company from selling and distributing several unregistered kitchen products making pesticide-type claims.

EPA amended the order to allow the company to temporarily resume selling and distributing the products in their inventory under limited terms and conditions. EKCO must place bright yellow stickers on the remaining products stating that the products do not kill germs on surfaces and advising consumers to use standard precautions to prevent transmission of food-borne illnesses. Starting October 25, 1997, EKCO cannot distribute these products with pesticide-type claims.

In addition, the amended order requires EKCO to settle the case with EPA by May 16, 1997.

The EKCO products, for sale in Chicago-area and other metropolitan-area stores, are: Kitchen Scouring Sponge, Scrubber Sponge, Suds & Sponge, Suds and Sponge Refills, Suds & Scrub, Sponge Cloths 2-Pack, Cellulose

Sponges, Handy Grip Scouring Sponge, Handy Grip Sponge, EZ Wringer Jumbo Sponge, Sponge Wipes 2-Pack, Jumbo Roller Sponge Mop, Dish & Sink Brush, Large Bottle Brush, Bottle Brush, Husky Scrub, Kitchen Brush, Sandwich Cutting Board, Utility Cutting Board, Large Cutting Board, Mega Cutting Board, Cheese Cutting Board, and Round Cutting Board.

The claims on the labels include:

- "Prevents Germs;"
- "Our EPA registered antibacterial agent inhibits the growth of a wide range of germs, bacteria, fungi, mold, and mildew;"
- "Effective within minutes of contact with the contaminated surface;" and
- "GermAway is effective against salmonella, staphylococcus, e-coli and streptococcus as well as fungi and candida (yeast)."

Salmonella and e. coli cause diseases in humans and are considered pests under the law. The products are considered pesticides and must be registered with EPA because their labels claim they prevent, destroy, or repel pests.

Congress authorized EPA to ensure that pesticides do not pose unreasonable risks to the public and the environment. Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), EPA registers all pesticides and pesticide products for use in and around homes. No pesticide may be sold legally or used in the United States unless its label bears an EPA registration number.

FIFRA also makes it is unlawful to use any registered pesticide in the manner other than that indicated on the product label.

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Last Updated: May 14, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa096.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: Mick Hans  
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Immediate Release: May 14, 1997

97-OPA097

## **EPA SIGNS LANDMARK AGREEMENT TO CLEAN UP MANISTIQUE RIVER, HARBOR**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with three potentially responsible parties to pay for dredging of PCB-contaminated sediments at the Manistique River and Harbor Superfund site, Manistique, MI.

A signing ceremony hosted by the Manistique Harbor Public Advisory Council was held April 21. Attendees included U.S. Rep. Bart Stupak, EPA Regional Superfund Director William Muno, Mayor John Stewart, and representatives from Edison Sault Electric Co., Manistique Papers Inc., and The Old Mountain Company, Inc.

A key provision of the agreement allows the three companies to pay EPA the cost equivalent of capping contaminated spots in the harbor--rather than the cost of the dredging--while absolving them of any future liability associated with the site.

Dredging was completed in the North Bay and U.S. Route 2 Bridge areas of the harbor in 1996. This included removal of sediments with PCB concentrations above 10 parts per million, treatment of water collected during the removal process, and off-site disposal. After dredging was

completed, gravel was placed at the bottom of North Bay to improve the river bed as habitat for fish and other aquatic species.

Dredging south of the bridge will begin in early June and is expected to take 2 years. Total project cost: \$16 million. "This is one of the most aggressive removal plans ever seen at a Midwest Superfund site," said EPA's Muno. "A cleanup of this scope and expense normally takes 8 to 10 years. We hope to complete it in 5 to 6 years." EPA's involvement at the site began in 1993.

When the final removal is completed, some 120,000 cubic yards of sediment and other waste materials will have been dredged from the river and harbor and shipped off-site for disposal. The Manistique River and Harbor was contaminated by waste from commercial and industrial operations over decades.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once used widely in industry as coolants and lubricants and as components of carbonless copy paper. EPA banned the manufacture of PCB's in 1979 because of evidence that they accumulate in the environment and present human health hazards.

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Last Updated: May 15, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa097.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: May 12, 1997

No. 97-OPA098

## **EPA TO HOLD MEETINGS MAY 19 & 22 ON SOIL SAMPLING PLAN FOR CENTRAL WAYNE COUNTY SANITATION AUTHORITY**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold two meetings to describe and answer questions about a draft plan for soil sampling near the Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority municipal waste combustor, at the intersection of Inkster Rd. and Van Born Rd., Dearborn Heights, MI.

The meetings will be held Monday, May 19, from 7 to 9:00 p.m., at the Richard Young Center, 5400 McKinley, Dearborn Heights, and Thursday, May 22, from 7 to 9:00 p.m., at the Inkster Recreation Center, 2025 Middlebelt, Inkster.

The purpose of the sampling is to determine whether soils in the community were contaminated with lead and/or mercury as a result of combustor operations. The plan was developed as a joint effort between the community, EPA, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and Wayne County Department of Environment.

Written comments on the plan may be submitted at the session. Written, fax, or e-mail comments will also be accepted through June 5, 1997. They should be sent to Paul Ruesch, DRP-8J, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. Fax: (312) 353-4788. E-mail:

[ruesch.paul@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:ruesch.paul@epamail.epa.gov).

Copies of the draft soil sampling plan and other site-related documents are available for review at public libraries in Dearborn Heights, Inkster, Garden City, Taylor, Wayne, and Westland.

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Last Updated: May 14, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa098.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: May 13, 1997

No. 97-OPA099

## **EPA: LANDFILL CAP CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN AT VAN DALE JUNKYARD**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that construction of a 5-acre landfill containment cap is set to begin at the Van Dale Junkyard, Washington County, OH.

The work is being done by a contractor selected by a group of potentially responsible parties who contributed hazardous wastes to the Superfund site. EPA has approved the work plan. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will oversee the project for EPA.

Construction is expected to be completed in spring 1998. After construction, the responsible parties will maintain and monitor the landfill cap to ensure that cleanup standards for ground water, surface water, and sediments are attained.

During 1994 - 96, the responsible parties, under EPA supervision, collected and disposed of more than 1,200 tons of hazardous soil and drum wastes, and 650 tons of nonhazardous soil and drum wastes. The salvageable material was sent to a scrap recycling facility, and the remaining material was sent to a hazardous waste disposal facility.



The 31-acre Van Dale property includes a 10-acre parcel, used as a junkyard from the 1940's until 1980. During this period, the site received a variety of scrap materials, automobiles, and batteries, as well as several thousand drums of industrial waste.

About 10,000 people live within 2 miles of the site, including the entire city of Marietta, OH.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: May 13, 1997

No. 97-OPA100

## **EPA: BUILDING DEMOLITION TO BEGIN THIS WEEK AT BRUCE PRODUCTS SITE**

*NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: Photo opportunities of initial demolition activity can be scheduled. Please call EPA media contact Denise Gawlinski to coordinate.*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that building demolition activities at the Bruce Products site (Howell, MI) will begin this week.

Nearby residents can expect to see heavy equipment at the Superfund site during daylight hours for the next 6 to 8 weeks. Trucks carrying building material and other debris from the site will also be present.

Following the demolition, EPA will excavate and properly dispose of contaminated soil from around the main building. These areas will then be filled with clean soil and seeded with grass.

The abandoned facility produced specialty oils, coolants, and grinding/buffing compounds from 1927 until Bruce Products Corp. filed for bankruptcy in 1992. From the late 1800's until 1927, the facility was operated by a succession of dairy processing and refining companies.

EPA's involvement at the 8-acre site began in 1993, following reports of chemical exposure accidents involving children playing on the property. After securing the site against further trespass and vandalism, EPA removed approximately 1,400 drums, bottles, and other containers of hazardous chemicals.

The building demolition and soil excavation marks the end of cleanup activities at the Superfund site. The State of Michigan acquired the property in 1992 and is funding the demolition work. EPA is paying the \$180,000 cost of excavation and disposal. The City of Howell plans to redevelop the property for recreational use.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa100.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: May 13, 1997

No. 97-OPA101

## **EPA: CLEANUP UNDER WAY AT JACO PLATING SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup has begun at the JACO Plating site, 502 East Mansion, Jackson, MI.

The site is an abandoned 23,000-square foot building containing a warehouse and processing area. From 1982 to 1991, JACO, Inc., operated a chrome plating business at the site.

A variety of potentially hazardous materials will be removed from the building and properly disposed of. These include 300 55-gallon drums containing cyanide solution, acids, and sludges, plus 200 5-gallon containers. Four plating lines and a small laboratory area will also be removed.

The building was secured by the City of Jackson prior to EPA's involvement. However, the roof of the building is deteriorating and some of the materials are incompatible. If combined, the materials could cause a fire or environmental health hazard.

EPA is paying for the cleanup, which is projected to take 60 days. Neighboring businesses and residents can expect to see trucks and trailers

at the property, as well as workers wearing protective clothing and equipment.

The City of Jackson has assumed ownership of the JACO property and is disposing of the nonhazardous material. EPA became involved at the site at the request of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

The property is surrounded by a mix of commercial, light industrial, and residential properties. The nearest home is approximately two blocks away. A playground is approximately four blocks away.

Following the cleanup, the City plans to promote the site for redevelopment.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa101.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: May 13, 1997

No. 97-OPA102

## **EPA, TRIBES IN MINNESOTA SIGN ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS**

U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that it has signed tribal environmental agreements with 11 Indian tribes in Minnesota. The agreements were signed Monday at the Fond du Lac Band of Chippewa Reservation, Cloquet, MN.

In addition to the Fond du Lac Band, the other tribes signing were: Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Nett Lake; Grand Portage Band of Chippewa, Grand Portage; Leech Lake Band of Chippewa, Cass Lake; Lower Sioux Community, Morton; Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Onamia; Prairie Island Dakota Community, Welch; Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Red Lake; Shakopee Mdewakanton Community, Prior Lake; Upper Sioux Community, Granite Falls; and White Earth Band of Chippewa, White Earth.

This is the second time EPA and tribes in Minnesota have signed environmental agreements. The agreements were developed to:

- Identify primary environmental priorities of each tribe and develop an agreed-upon strategy for the tribe and EPA to resolve problems;
- Increase tribal participation in EPA's national planning and budgeting process;
- Assure that EPA will pursue solutions to the environmental priorities within resources made available annually for tribes; and

- Establish an annual process for reviewing tribal priorities and the agreed-on strategy to reflect new conditions.

Regional Administrator Valdas V. Adamkus said "As with most events, the second time may not be as exciting, but it is just as important. Perhaps even more important. Why more important?

"Because it signals a continuing commitment by the tribes and EPA to reach the goals set out in the first signing. It is our commitment to clean up and protect our water. It is our commitment to clean up and protect our water. It is our commitment to clean up and protect our land. It is our commitment to clean up and protect our air. Most important, we must make it our commitment to work together to achieve these goals."

Norman Deschampe, chairman of the Minnesota Chippewas and of the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa, said much work remains to be done, but the tribes truly have made great progress in protecting land and water.

"Tribal expertise and knowledge of environmental regulations and program implementation has skyrocketed in the past five years," Deschampe said. "Tribes are finally able to play an active role in protection of our environment and our way of life."

Clint Landgren, chairman of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, said the agreements define and affirm a strong tribal and Federal commitment to preserve, protect, and enhance sovereign tribal environmental resources.

Bois Forte is ready to affirm and implement the agreements, Landgren said, but, "We must remember that the hard work of implementing the programs is still ahead of us."

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: May 14, 1997

No. 97-OPA103

## **EPA: WHEELER PIT SITE 5-YEAR REVIEW REPORT AVAILABLE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently completed a 5-year status review of the Wheeler Pit Superfund site, La Prairie Township, WI.

The Superfund law requires regular reviews (no less than every 5 years) of sites where cleanup has been completed. EPA's review affirmed that pollutants and contaminants are decreasing at the site, remain at very low levels, and do not pose hazards to human health and the environment.

Under EPA's oversight, the responsible parties did a series of cleanups in 1991 - 92, including construction of a solid waste landfill cap, placement of a grass cover over the cap, installation of a fence to restrict access, and deed restrictions on future land use at the site.

Ground water at the site has been sampled and monitored by EPA and the responsible parties since 1992. Two private wells near the site have also been monitored since 1992.

The 4-acre site is within a 35-acre area that was originally a railroad sand-and-gravel pit. From late 1950's to the early 1970's, General Motors also leased the pit for waste disposal from its Janesville assembly plant. The next 5-year review of the Wheeler Pit site will be done by April 30, 2002.



A copy of the 5-page report is on file at the Janesville Public Library, 316 South Main St., at the home/office of La Prairie town clerk Michael Scott, 915 Sharon Rd., Janesville, and available from Rosita Clarke (SR-6J), U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604, 1-800-621-8431.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: May 14, 1997

No. 97-OPA104

## **EPA AWARDS BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT GRANT TO ST. PAUL PORT AUTHORITY**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that St. Paul Port Authority (St. Paul, MN) has been awarded a Brownfields redevelopment pilot project grant for \$146,000.

The grant is one of 34 pilot projects announced today by Vice President Al Gore under a new Brownfields National Partnership. Four of these new pilots, including St. Paul Port Authority, are in EPA Region 5. (The others: Chicago, IL; Cook County, IL; and Northwest Regional Planning Commission, WI.) A total of 113 pilot project grants, representing EPA commitments of nearly \$20 million, have been awarded since 1993.

A Brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and potential for development or reuse. There are thousands of these sites across the United States, ranging from store fronts to idle factories to abandoned corner service stations.

The St. Paul pilot project provides seed money for the Port Authority to work with community organizations to identify up to six priority brownfields sites within St. Paul. The city has 4,000 acres of land zoned for industrial use, but nearly 1,000 of these acres are underused or

abandoned.

The Brownfields National Partnership--which includes a \$300 million Federal investment in Brownfields cleanup and redevelopment from more than 15 Federal agencies--is expected to leverage from \$5 billion to \$28 billion in private investment, support up to 196,000 jobs, and protect up to 34,000 acres of undeveloped "greenfield" areas outside of cities.

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For Immediate Release: May 14, 1997

No. 97-OPA105

## **EPA AWARDS BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT GRANTS TO COOK COUNTY, CHICAGO**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that Cook County, IL, and the City of Chicago have been awarded Brownfields redevelopment pilot project grants for \$200,000 and \$41,000, respectively.

The grants are 2 of 34 pilot projects announced today by Vice President Al Gore under a new Brownfields National Partnership. Four of these new pilots are in EPA Region 5. (The others: St. Paul Port Authority, MN, and Northwest Regional Planning Commission, WI.) A total of 113 pilot project grants, representing EPA commitments of nearly \$20 million, have been awarded since 1993.

A Brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and potential for development or reuse. There are thousands of these sites across the United States, ranging from store fronts to idle

factories to abandoned corner service stations.

The Cook County pilot project provides seed money to plan for the redevelopment of the 39-acre Wyman-Gordon facility, a former crankshaft plant in Harvey. Harvey and the county will work in partnership to: do a site assessment, involve the community and other stakeholders in redevelopment planning, and begin efforts to leverage funds for cleanup through partnerships with developers and investors.

The Wyman-Gordon site was selected collectively by Harvey and the South Suburban Enterprise Communities (SSEC), representing the neighboring communities of Dixmoor, Ford Heights, Phoenix, and Robbins. The site was one of 3 targeted by SSEC for redevelopment. The county used U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant funds to assess the other two sites.

The Chicago pilot provides seed money to help solicit community input on three ongoing Brownfields redevelopment efforts on the city's West Side. It builds upon work initiated by Chicago and the Brownfields Forum, a broad-based public-private policy group representing business, community, environmental, and government interests.

The Brownfields National Partnership--which includes a \$300 million Federal investment in Brownfields cleanup and redevelopment from more than 15 Federal agencies--is expected to leverage from \$5 billion to \$28 billion in private investment, support up to 196,000 jobs, and protect up to 34,000 acres of undeveloped "greenfield" areas outside of cities.

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For Immediate Release: May 14, 1997

No. 97-OPA106

## **EPA AWARDS BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT GRANT TO NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NPRC), Spooner, WI, has been awarded a Brownfields redevelopment pilot project grant for \$195,510.

The grant is one of 34 pilot projects announced today by Vice President Al Gore under a new Brownfields National Partnership. Four of these new pilots, including NPRC, are in EPA Region 5. (The others: Chicago, IL; Cook County, IL; and St. Paul Port Authority, MN.) A total of 113 pilot project grants, representing EPA commitments of nearly \$20 million, have been awarded since 1993.

A Brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and potential for development or reuse. There are thousands of these sites across the United States, ranging from store fronts to idle factories to abandoned corner service stations.

The NRPC pilot project provides seed money for site assessment and identification of appropriate future uses for six underused public and private properties in Northwest WI. Six additional sites may also be considered for the pilot. Potential pilot sites include: a former charcoal factory, grain elevators, and a number of vacant industrial properties on a 75-acre waterfront in the City of Superior.

A steering committee made up of five municipalities, two tribes, economic development representatives, and community members will guide the redevelopment process that can be applied throughout Northwest Wisconsin.

The Brownfields National Partnership--which includes a \$300 million Federal investment in Brownfields cleanup and redevelopment from more than 15 Federal agencies--is expected to leverage from \$5 billion to \$28 billion in private investment, support up to 196,000 jobs, and protect up to 34,000 acres of undeveloped "greenfield" areas outside of cities.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: May 20, 1997

No. 97-OPA107

## **EPA SETTLES WITH ARGONNE LAB ON PCB'S**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative complaint against Argonne National Laboratory (Argonne, IL) for violating Federal rules on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). The company will pay a \$26,600 fine.

Based on an EPA inspection, the company was cited for not obtaining the proper exemption required for transportation of PCB oil. In addition, Argonne failed to properly label its PCB containers and failed to appropriately mark the area in which they were stored.

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 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 that it is now in compliance with Federal rules on PCB's.



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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: May 20, 1997

No. 97-OPA108

## **EPA OK's WTI TRIAL BURN RESULTS; SETS METALS LIMITS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has approved the trial burn results of the Waste Technologies Industries (WTI) commercial hazardous waste incinerator in East Liverpool, OH.

The action is under authority of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

EPA said the approval is contingent upon WTI meeting these conditions:

- For wastes received after June 1, 1997, meet annual total feed limits for 12 metals shown to be necessary by EPA's recently completed WTI risk assessment.
- Submit a RCRA class 2 permit modification request to incorporate these metals limits into its RCRA permit, within 30 days of receipt of the approval of the trial burn results.
- Develop and submit a compliance plan to EPA, detailing how and when wastes will be sampled and analyzed for these metals and how annual totals will be tracked. Any needed permit modifications must be pursued.
- Metals feed limits will be considered interim limits pending outcome of the public process required by the class 2 permit

modification.

WTI's RCRA permit requires it to operate under "post trial burn conditions" until EPA approves the results of the facility's trial burn.

WTI conducted trial burn testing in April 1993 and in February 1994. Test results were submitted in May 1993 and in April 1994, respectively. EPA has completed its review of these trial burn reports and a detailed risk assessment based partly on information contained in these reports.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: May 21, 1997

No. 97-OPA109

## **EPA GIVES CINCINNATI & NORTHERN KENTUCKY MORE TIME FOR SMOG CLEANUP**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and EPA's Region 4 are giving the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area more time to clean up its ozone (smog) problem.

The extension recognizes the progress the local community is making in improving the quality of air in the area.

EPA said the extension gives the area until November 15 to meet the health-based air quality standard of 0.12 parts per million for ozone.

The area missed the Clean Air Act deadline of November 15, 1996, for meeting the Federal air quality standard. 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.

The extension of the attainment date also means the area will not be reclassified upwards to a serious ozone category, triggering more stringent control requirements.

EPA said the Regional Ozone Coalition has played an important role in encouraging voluntary measures that people can take to reduce smog. This has helped the area get the extension of its attainment deadline.

Although the area has made significant progress in cleaning up its air through the use of mandatory and voluntary measures, more actions need to be taken to cut smog. A coalition of States, industries, and environmental and other groups is investigating what can be done to reduce the effects of smog transported over long distances. Results of this investigation will be used to help areas meet the ozone air quality standard.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: May 20, 1997

No. 97-OPA110

## **EPA ANNOUNCES TOXIC RELEASE INFORMATION FOR MIDWEST**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced the latest toxic release inventory (TRI) data for calendar year 1995. Three states in the Midwest -- Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana -- ranked in the top 10 for total toxic releases. Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin had lower total toxic releases in 1995 than in 1994.

TRI is a database that provides information on toxic chemicals being legally released from manufacturing facilities into air, water, and land, or injected into underground disposal wells. 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.

In 1995, facilities were required to report releases of 286 additional chemicals that have shown chronic health hazards or environmental effects. One of the newly added pollutants -- nitrate compounds -- alone was responsible for nearly 65 percent of all reported water pollution. Primary sources of nitrate compounds are manufacturers of fertilizers.

Here is a summary of TRI data for the six states in EPA Region 5:

### **Illinois**

In 1995, releases totalled 67,396,357 lb compared with 71,706,953 lb reported in 1994. There has been a reduction of 37 percent in

chemical releases in the State since 1988 when facilities were first required to report this information. The top emitter in the State was Northwestern Steel and Wire Co., Sterling.

### **Indiana**

In 1995, releases totalled 62,656,884 lb compared with 65,018,808 lb reported in 1994. There has been a reduction of 61 percent in chemical releases in the State since 1988. Indiana's top emitter was U.S. Steel, Gary.

### **Michigan**

In 1995, releases totalled 54,148,328 lb compared with 75,923,919 lb reported in 1994. There has been a reduction of 43 percent in chemical releases in the State since 1988. Michigan's top emitter was Lafarge Corp., Alpena.

### **Minnesota**

In 1995, releases totalled 16,770,614 lb compared with 19,588,770 lb reported in 1994. There has been a reduction of 69 percent in chemical releases in the State since 1988. Minnesota's top emitter was 3M Tape Manufacturing, Hutchinson.

### **Ohio**

In 1995, releases totalled 94,077,919 lb compared with 90,805,502 lb reported in 1994. There has been a reduction of 40 percent in chemical releases in the State since 1988. Ohio's top emitter was Elkem Metals Co., Marietta.

### **Wisconsin**

In 1995, releases totalled 24,266,128 lb compared with 29,095,397 lb reported in 1994. There has been a reduction of 50 percent in chemical releases in the State since 1988. Wisconsin's top emitter was CPI, Wisconsin Rapids.

The total quantity of toxic releases reported by States does not necessarily mean that risks from toxic chemicals are highest in these States. Release totals, for example, do not take into account the size or population of a State. The risk from toxic releases depends 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.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: May 21, 1997

No. 97-OPA111

## **EPA TO HOLD MEETING MAY 28 ON JOHNSON IRON INDUSTRIES SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold an informal meeting to answer questions about a proposed contamination cleanup plan at the Johnson Industries Superfund site, Charlotte, MI. The meeting will be held Wednesday, May 28, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Charlotte City Hall, 111 East Lawrence.

EPA has completed a study of six options for cleanup of contaminated foundry sand, foundry slag, soil, surface water, and ground water at the site. EPA recommends a course of action which includes: excavation and off-site disposal of sludge and highly contaminated sediment, grading of less-contaminated slag and foundry sand, and installation of a landfill cap that would cover virtually all of the property south of the Johnson Iron buildings. Also, there will be ground-water monitoring around the border of the property, surface-water monitoring of the pond, and deed restrictions on future land use at the site.

Representatives from EPA, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and Michigan Department of Public Health will be available at the meeting. There will be no formal presentations.

Written comments on the proposed cleanup may be submitted to EPA through June 10. They should be sent to Cheryl L. Allen, Community Involvement Coordinator, P-19J, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. E-mail: [allen.cheryl@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:allen.cheryl@epamail.epa.gov).

After the comment period, EPA will sign a final decision document outlining the cleanup plan selected, which will also include responses to public comments.

Copies of the study and other site-related documents are available for review at the Charlotte Public Library, 226 South Bostwick.

Johnson Iron Industries manufactured gray iron weights and castings from 1947 to 1986. The company deposited contaminated slag and used foundry sand and sludge from its air control systems in a number of areas on the 14-acre property.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: May 22, 1997

No. 97-OPA112

## **EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON CHANGE TO CLEANUP PLAN AT OTT/STORY/CORDOVA SITE; MEETING JUNE 3**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is seeking public comments on a proposed change in the cleanup plan for one portion of the Ott/Story/Cordova Superfund site, Muskegon County, MI.

The 30-day comment period begins May 27. A meeting to explain the proposed change will be held Tuesday, June 3, at 7 p.m., Dalton Township Hall, 1616 East Riley Thompson Rd.

EPA is recommending that contaminated soils from the former production area be excavated and disposed-of in an approved off-site landfill. EPA is also recommending that Little Bear Creek be monitored to see if contamination is continuing to decrease as a result of ground-water pumping and treatment.

EPA's proposed change was developed in response to revisions in the State of Michigan's less-stringent cleanup standards, as well as concerns about the long-term effectiveness of the original remedy, which calls for thermal treatment of the excavated materials. The original plan was selected by EPA in September 1993.

Oral and written comments on the plan will be accepted at the meeting. Written comments must be postmarked by June 25. They should be 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@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:gawlinski.denise@epamail.epa.gov). EPA will respond to all comments received before making a final decision.

Copies of the plan and other site-related documents are available for review at Dalton Township Hall and Walker Memorial Library, 1522 Ruddiman Ave., North Muskegon.

The site, now owned by Cordova Chemical Co., is a former chemical production facility which was under a series of owners from 1957 to 1985. Unlined lagoons at the site were used for disposal of industrial wastewater and waste materials from chemical production, which contaminated an aquifer, on-site soils, and nearby Little Bear Creek. In addition, thousands of drums of waste materials were stockpiled at the site.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa112.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: May 22, 1997

No. 97-OPA113

## **EPA: CLEANUP COMPLETE AT EVANS PRODUCT DITCH**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup is now complete at the Evans Product Ditch site (also known as Newburgh Lake), Plymouth, MI. The site is an 8-acre area which lies between Plymouth Commerce Park and Newburgh Lake, which flows into the Middle Rouge River.

Over the course of the 6-month project, approximately 9,500 tons of contaminated soil and sediment were removed from the site. The contaminated materials have been transported for disposal to a landfill in Michigan and a hazardous waste disposal facility in New York.

Since the 1950's, many releases of industrial wastes into Newburgh Lake have been reported. These materials included oil, machine-cleaning solvents, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's).

PCB's were first reported in Newburgh Lake fish in 1988. Following a study by Michigan Department of Natural Resources (now Michigan Department of Environmental Quality), a major source of the contamination was determined to be the drainage ditch and surrounding soil which comprise the Evans Product Ditch site. MDEQ referred the site to EPA in June 1995, to further assess contamination at the site.

The aggressive pace of cleanup was due, in part, to cooperation between EPA, State, and local agencies. Following characterization and containment of the contaminated soil and sediment by EPA, MDEQ funded the soil and sediment excavation, disposal, and site restoration.

Cleanup of the Evans Product Ditch allows dredging of PCB-contaminated sediments in Newburgh Lake to proceed. The Rouge River Watershed, which includes Newburgh Lake, is currently undergoing a comprehensive restoration project funded by EPA grants. When the larger watershed-wide cleanup is complete, the need for fish consumption advisories should be eliminated, habitat for aquatic life and wildlife will be restored, and recreational opportunities are expected to increase.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once used widely 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 human health hazards.

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Last Updated: May 22, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa113.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: May 21, 1997

No. 97-OPA114

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA RESEARCH SHIP AT NAVY PIER ON MEMORIAL DAY**

U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Research Vessel Lake Guardian will be open to the public on Memorial Day, May 26, from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. at the south dock of Navy Pier in Chicago. Tours are free and last about 30 minutes.

The Lake Guardian is a floating laboratory operated by EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office to gather ecological information about, and monitor the Great Lakes.

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: This news release is also available on the WWW at <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/>  
Page maintained by: Jeff Kelley, Office of Public Affairs  
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Last Updated: June 12, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa015.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Technical Contact: Sheila Sullivan  
(312) 886-5251

Media Contact: Leo Rosales  
(312)353-6198

For Immediate Release: May 28, 1997

No. 97-OPA115

## **EPA: FINAL CLEANUP PHASE UNDER WAY AT COMMERCIAL OIL SERVICES SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that the final phase of cleanup has begun at the Commercial Oil Services site, Oregon, OH. The Superfund site is an abandoned waste oil recycling facility which operated from 1969 to 1985.

Hazardous materials, including waste oils, sludges, and solvents were stored in tanks and containers at the site. More than 1,200 drums of these materials were removed in 1988-89. In 1995, under the first phase of the cleanup, some 30 above- and below-ground storage tanks, a maintenance garage, and 65,000 gallons of waste oil and 23,000 gallons of contaminated water were removed.

Remaining on-site are seven lagoons, four of which contain about 80,000 cubic yards of oily sludge contaminated with PCB's, volatile organic compounds, and heavy metals.

This final phase of work will last through summer 1998 and includes: excavation, stabilization, and solidification of the lagoon contents; construction of a 3-acre landfill where the treated sludge will be placed; installation of a multilayer landfill cap and ground-water monitoring



system; and grass seeding and grading of the cap.

EPA has approved the cleanup plan and will oversee the project. The Cities of Oregon and Toledo also support the plan. Total cost, including both current and earlier phase of cleanup--\$36 million.

Work will include heavy construction and some workers may be outfitted in protective clothing. EPA will update the community on a regular basis regarding site cleanup. Oregon's Harbor View neighborhood, about 1.5 miles to the south, is the nearest residential area.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once used widely 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 human health hazards.

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Last Updated: June 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa115.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Janet Pope  
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Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: May 27, 1997

No. 97-OPA116

## **EPA TO CAR OWNERS: STOP FREON LEAKS, SAVE MONEY**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today advised owners to repair freon leaks in their car air conditioners and save money in the long run.

EPA said Federal law does not require freon leak repairs (some State and local laws do), but the amount of freon available to consumers has steadily dropped since freon production was stopped in December 1995. And this has led to price increases.

In the long run, EPA emphasized, postponing repairs and just topping off leaking refrigerants will be more expensive to car owners. The freon continues to leak, and its price continues to rise.

Federal law requires technicians who work on auto air conditioners to be certified by an EPA-approved training program. They must also be certified in the proper use of freon recovery and recycling.

If a car air conditioner is leaking freon, EPA recommends that technicians notify owners and give them options for service. Technicians should not say freon leak repairs are required by Federal law. Making such a statement to obtain the car owner's consent for repairs is consumer fraud. If this happens, EPA would like to hear about it. It is the owner's decision to have such leaks repaired.

Another option, depending on the car's make and model, is to retrofit the current air conditioning system so it could use a more environmentally friendly refrigerant. Auto dealerships should have information on this option.

Freon depletes the "good," or stratospheric, ozone layer, allowing dangerous amounts of cancer-causing ultraviolet rays from the sun to strike the earth's surface.

For further information on freon, call one of these EPA representatives: Janet Pope (Illinois, Indiana, Ohio)--312-353-8780; Marietta Newell (Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota)--312-353-4543.

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Last Updated: June 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa116.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: May 28, 1997

No. 97-OPA117

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

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited AK Steel Corp. for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act at its Middletown, OH, steel mill.

EPA said the company violated leak detection and repair provisions of the national emissions standards for benzene, a hazardous air pollutant, at its coke byproduct recovery plant. The violations were detected during EPA reviews of company reports.

The notice is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve the violations, the act authorizes EPA to 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 alleged violations and its compliance status.

"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."

Benzene is known to cause cancer. Long-term exposure to benzene may cause blood and bone marrow diseases, leukemia, and chromosome changes. Short-term exposure can cause drowsiness, dizziness, headaches, and loss of consciousness.

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Last Updated: June 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa117.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: May 30, 1997

No. 97-OPA118

## **EPA AMENDS COMPLAINT AGAINST LAFARGE FOR HAZ. WASTE VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 amended a complaint on May 21 against Lafarge Corp. (Alpena, MI) for alleged violations related to burning hazardous waste in two of its cement kilns, reducing the proposed fine from \$436,815 to \$105,425.

Last March EPA alleged that the company:

- failed to maintain its established chlorine and chloride feed rate limits and maximum hazardous waste limit;
- exceeded its maximum combustion chamber temperature;
- and exceeded its stack gas concentration limit for carbon monoxide.

Lafarge provided information showing that on the days that the majority of the violations were alleged, Lafarge had been granted an exemption from its limits for testing purposes. In the amended complaint, these violations were dropped.

In the amended complaint, EPA alleges that there were instances on days where no testing took place, that the company:

- exceeded its stack gas concentration limit for carbon monoxide;
- exceeded its maximum combustion chamber temperature;
- and failed to properly monitor its cement kilns.

EPA regulates the burning of hazardous wastes for energy recovery under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, which deals with the safe management and disposal of municipal and industrial solid wastes, from the time of production to their final disposal.

EPA and Lafarge are currently negotiating the allegations in the amended complaint.

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Last Updated: June 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa118.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 4, 1997

No. 97-OPA119

## **EPA SETTLES WITH BEHRENS FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$2,881 FINE AND 4 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with Behrens, Inc. (Winona, MN), for violations of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals. The company will pay a \$2,881 fine and spend \$8,619 on four supplemental environmental projects.

The company, which produces light-gauge metal products, was cited for failing to submit the proper 1995 forms for storage of hazardous chemicals, including sulfuric acid and molten zinc.

Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, owners and operators of facilities are required to provide information every March to Federal, State, and local authorities on certain chemicals defined under the law as hazardous and toxic.

"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 Munro. "Public health, as well as the environment, is at stake."



The supplemental environmental projects require the company to:

1. Sandblast and reline its sulfuric acid and ammonium chloride tanks with fiberglass;
2. Install liquid level sensors at the bottom of both tanks;
3. Install additional water control valves in both tanks; and
4. Provide 5 days of hazardous materials training for the Winona fire department and other Winona County employees.

Since May 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 86 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 69 settlements and \$3.4 million in total fines.

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Last Updated: June 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa119.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 4, 1997

No. 97-OPA120

## **EPA CITES WINNEBAGO MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Winnebago Mental Health Institute of Oshkosh, WI, for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act at its power plant.

EPA said emissions of particulates (dust, smoke, ash) from its boiler exceeded State limits. Opacity limits (the amount of light obscured) were also exceeded.

The notification is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve the matter, EPA can issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company.

Winnebago has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting with 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 steps necessary to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung diseases. Children, the elderly, or those with existing heart or lung conditions are the most sensitive.

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Last Updated: June 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa120.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: June 3, 1997

No. 97-OPA121

## **EPA CITES WORTHINGTON CUSTOM PLASTICS, PROPOSES \$94,323 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Worthington Custom Plastics, Inc. (Salem, OH) for failing to report or to accurately report its release of hazardous chemicals and has proposed a penalty of \$94,323.

EPA alleges that the company failed to report its 1991-92 emissions of ethoxyethanol and glycol ethers. In addition, it did not accurately report its emissions of methyl ethyl ketone in 1991-92 and its emissions of toluene in 1991.

Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, owners and operators of facilities are required to report to local authorities their use, storage, and releases of certain hazardous chemicals.

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Last Updated: June 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa121.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 4, 1997

No. 97-OPA122

## **EPA CITES CLARK REFINERY FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Clark Refining and Marketing for alleged Clean Air Act violations at its Hartford, IL, oil refinery.

EPA said Clark made changes to its fluid catalytic cracking unit without obtaining a permit, which significantly increased the emissions of particulates (dust, smoke, ash), sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxide. These emissions occurred in an area that has attained national ambient air quality standards for all air pollutants.

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. Clark has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the allegations.

"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."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung

diseases. 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 contributes to formation of ground-level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, asthma attacks, eye irritation, and stuffy nose. Children, the elderly, and people with chronic heart and lung diseases are the most sensitive.

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Last Updated: June 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa122.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: Mick Hans  
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For Immediate Release: June 5, 1997

No. 97-OPA123

## **EPA SETTLES WITH RAHR MALTING FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$6,259 FINE AND FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with Rahr Malting (Shakopee, MN) for violations of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals. The company will pay a \$6,259 fine and spend at least \$18,750 on internal safety and environmental improvements.

The company, which processes barley for the brewing industry, was cited for not reporting the storage of propane, a hazardous chemical, to the State emergency response commission or the local fire department--as required by law. A \$40,000 fine was originally proposed in EPA's administrative complaint.

In addition to the \$6,259 fine, Rahr Malting will conduct an environmental audit of the facility, purchase an inspection device to detect propane leaks, and upgrade its existing propane tanks.

Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, owners and operators of facilities are required to provide information every March to Federal, State, and local authorities on certain chemicals



defined under the law as hazardous and toxic. The regulation is administered under Title III of EPA's Superfund law.

"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 May 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 86 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 69 settlements and \$3.4 million in total fines.

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Last Updated: June 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa123.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 11, 1997

No. 97-OPA124

## **EPA OK'S DOW SOIL DISPOSAL REQUEST**

U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has approved a request by Dow Chemical Co. to dispose of contaminated soils from its Midland, MI, facility at the company's Salzburg hazardous waste landfill near the Midland plant.

The soils will come from excavations to replace part of an aging 13,600 ft tile system that protects the Tittabawassee River by collecting contaminated ground water and routing it to Dow's wastewater plant, where it is treated before being discharged into the river.

Some 100,000 cubic yards of soil contaminated with dioxins and furans will be removed. These chemicals are byproducts or impurities formed during the manufacture of chlorinated phenolic products, such as 2,4,5-trichlorophenol (2,4,5-T) and pentachlorophenol herbicide.

Soils with dioxin concentrations greater than 1 part per billion (ppb) but less than 50 ppb will go to the landfill. But soils with dioxin concentrations greater than 50 ppb will be treated at one of Dow's on-site hazardous waste incinerators.

EPA has approved the Dow request because:

- It will speed-up replacement of the ground water collection tile system that protects the Tittabawassee River.
- It will provide extra environmental protection by allowing more flexibility in construction methods and materials, thus making the collection system more durable and effective.
- It will eliminate the need for long-term storage of contaminated soils at Dow, as well as the need to incinerate large amounts of low-level contaminated soils.
- Disposal at Salzburg Landfill will protect human health and the environment.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa124.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 9, 1997

No. 97-OPA125

## **EPA CITES UNION ELECTRIC FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$20,000 FINE**

U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Union Electric Co. (Venice, IL) for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemical releases. EPA has proposed a \$20,000 fine.

Union Electric, an electric power facility near East St. Louis, failed to immediately report to proper authorities the release of a hazardous substance. EPA's complaint alleges that on March 2, 1995, the company failed to promptly notify the National Response Center of a 73,400 lb release of sulfuric acid exceeding 1,000 lb.

The incident occurred when a stop valve failed and the liquid drained into a wastewater retention pond. Workers added 3,000 lb of soda ash and additional water to neutralize the acid.

Sulfuric acid is a noncombustible liquid, which generates heat when it reacts with water. It is corrosive to metals, and exposure may cause severe irritation to the respiratory system and burns to the eyes, skin, and digestive tract.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 88 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 69 settlements and \$3.4 million in total fines.

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Last Updated: June 12, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa125.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 9, 1997

No. 97-OPA126

## **EPA SETTLES WITH BERKSHIRE FOODS FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$18,000 FINE**

U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with Berkshire Foods, Inc. (Chicago, IL), for violations of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals. The company will pay an \$18,000 fine.

Berkshire Foods, which is in the food warehousing business, was cited for not reporting to proper authorities the release of a hazardous substance. EPA's complaint alleges that on February 26, 1994, the company's facility at 4600 South Packers Ave. failed to promptly notify the National Response Center and State authorities of a 251 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 mechanical seal on a refrigeration pump failed.

Anhydrous ammonia is an extremely hazardous substance under the Emergency Planning and Community-Right-to-Know Act. The regulation is administered under Title III of EPA's Superfund law.

Since May 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 86 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 69 settlements and \$3.4 million in total fines.

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Last Updated: June 13, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa126.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 9, 1997

No. 97-OPA127

## **EPA SETTLES WITH WORLD'S FINEST CHOCOLATE FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$33,250 IN FINES**

U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with World's Finest Chocolate, Inc. (Chicago, IL), for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of storage of hazardous chemicals. Under the settlement, the company agreed to pay \$33,250 in fines.

World's Finest Chocolate, which makes candy, failed to provide the Illinois emergency response commission and the Chicago emergency planning committee the required 1995 forms for anhydrous ammonia, which is an extremely hazardous substance under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. The company uses anhydrous ammonia in its refrigeration systems.

EPA calculated that the company had 12,000 lb of anhydrous ammonia on hand. Under EPA regulations, amounts over 500 lb must be reported. The regulation is administered under Title III of EPA's Superfund law.

"Compliance with the right-to-know law is critical," said Regional Superfund Director William Muno. "In the event of a fire or chemical release, emergency responders cannot protect public health and the



environment if they don't have sufficient information about hazardous materials stored onsite."

Since May 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 88 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 69 settlements and \$3.4 million in total fines.

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Last Updated: June 13, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa127.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
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For Immediate Release: June 9, 1997

No. 97-OPA128

## **EPA MIDWEST CHIEF ADAMKUS RETIRES**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today announced that Regional Administrator Valdas V. Adamkus has retired June 4 after 29 years of Federal service.

He has served as regional administrator for 16 years and as deputy regional administrator for 11 years-- the longest-serving senior executive in EPA. David A. Ullrich, deputy regional administrator, will serve as acting regional administrator until a replacement is named.

Adamkus has been with EPA since its inception in 1970 and was appointed regional administrator by President Reagan in 1981. As administrator of Region 5 he was responsible for all Federal air, water, hazardous waste, and other pollution control programs in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

In 1985, President Reagan presented him the Distinguished Executive Presidential Rank Award -- the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a civil servant. Adamkus also holds EPA's highest award -- the Gold medal for Exceptional Service. Upon his retirement, he received a congratulatory letter from President Clinton and a Distinguished Career Award from EPA Administrator Carol Browner. And Region 5 presented him the newly established "Valdas V. Adamkus Sustained Commitment to the Environment Honor Award".

Among his best-known accomplishments are:

- Protection and restoration of the Great Lakes. He was manager of EPA's

Great Lakes National Program and for many years served as U.S. chairman of the Great Lakes Water Quality Board, an advisory body of the U.S.-Canadian International Joint Commission.

- Promotion of environmentalism in former Soviet Bloc countries, especially in the Baltic States. (In 1988 he received EPA's first Fitzhugh Green Award for outstanding contributions to international environmental protection).
- Promotion of environmental rights for Indian tribes. Under his leadership, Region 5 efforts in working with tribal governments became a model for EPA nationwide.

In the early 1980's, he established a reputation for integrity when he testified before Congress about his refusal to bow to pressure from the EPA Administration, which insisted Adamkus change -- and thus falsify -- a report on dioxin emissions from Dow Chemical in Midland, MI.

In a farewell message to EPA staff, he praised their role in these accomplishments and encouraged them to meet new challenges.

"Together, we have solved many environmental problems and made tremendous progress in improving the quality of life for people everywhere," he said. "At the same time, it is very important to recognize the challenges we still face. We must take them on with the same enthusiasm and idealism that has brought us this far."

Asked about his future plans, Adamkus said: "The most desirable situation would be to enjoy my golf game, but I believe that's not in the cards."

Born in Lithuania in 1926, as a young man Adamkus joined the underground against both the Soviets and the Nazis. In 1948, he won the Gold and Silver Medals in track and field during the 1948 European Olympic Games. He attended the University of Munich before emigrating to the United States in 1949. Fluent in five languages, in the 1950's Adamkus served as senior NCO with the 5th Army Reserve Military Intelligence.

Adamkus graduated as a civil engineer from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1960. He also holds three honorary Ph.D.'s, including a recent one from Northwestern University.

He and his wife, Alma, live in Hinsdale, IL.

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS:** This news release is also available on the WWW at <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/>

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Last Updated: June 13, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa128.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Phillippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: June 9, 1997

No. 97-OPA129

## **ULLRICH ACTING RA AT EPA**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 announced that David A. Ullrich has been appointed acting regional administrator (RA) upon retirement of long-time Regional Administrator Valdas V. Adamkus June 4.

He has served as an air and water enforcement attorney, as deputy regional counsel and as manager of the Region's hazardous and solid waste programs, before being appointed deputy regional administrator in 1992. He has been with EPA since 1973. Ullrich graduated from Dartmouth College in 1970 with a B.A. in English and with a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1973, with emphasis in environmental law.

Born in Wausau, WI, in 1948, Ullrich has lived in Chicago since 1973. He and his wife Polly, and son, Eric, live on Chicago's North Side.

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS:**Ullrich will be available for interviews. Call Phillippa Cannon, 312-353-6218, to schedule.

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Last Updated: June 13, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa129.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 12, 1997

No. 97-OPA130

## **EPA SELECTS CLEANUP PLAN FOR AMERICAN METALS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently selected a plan for cleanup of hazardous wastes at the American Metals Corp. (AMC) steel processing facility, Westlake, OH.

In May 1991, AMC agreed to investigate and determine the extent of contamination and to come up with a cleanup plan for the 24-acre site at 1000 Crocker Rd.

The investigation and a health-effects risk assessment of the site resulted in an EPA cleanup proposal, presented to the public for comment in January.

The cleanup plan requires AMC to:

- Dig up landfill contents, contaminated soil, and weathered shale and dispose of it off site.
- Treat ground water to cut chemical contaminants so they will not exceed the maximum level permitted in public water systems.
- Monitor surface water.
- Contain sediments in the Northern Drainage Ditch.

- Provide and maintain deed or land-use restrictions to ensure that future use of the land is consistent with current use.
- Maintain access controls to prevent human exposure to contaminated soils remaining on the property.

EPA will provide a 90-day period for AMC to negotiate the terms and conditions of a consent order requiring the company to clean up the site. If an agreement is not reached, EPA will undertake an appropriate enforcement response requiring AMC to do the cleanup.

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Last Updated: June 13, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Mick Hans  
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For Immediate Release: June 16, 1997

No. 97-OPA131

## **EPA TO BRIEF REGIONAL CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES ON SUPERFUND STATUS JUNE 16-17**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 meets today and tomorrow in Washington, D.C., with Congressional offices representing the six Region 5 states to discuss status of the Superfund program. Meetings with Illinois, Minnesota, and Ohio are scheduled for Monday, and with Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin on Tuesday.

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, popularly known as Superfund, was passed by Congress in 1980 to identify and clean up hazardous-materials spills and contaminated sites. EPA was given responsibility to implement the program. Reauthorization of the Superfund law is currently under debate in Congress.

At the briefing, Regional Superfund Director William Muno and other top officials will update the Congressional offices on site cleanups in their States, and describe administrative reforms which have helped speed the pace of cleanups over the past few years.

Within Region 5, 277 sites have been placed on the National Priorities List (NPL), with cleanup completed at 117. The others have cleanup work under way, are in a phase of project design, or have remedial investigations/feasibility studies under way.

Beyond work at the NPL sites, Superfund has performed almost 800 emergency and time-critical removals of hazardous materials in Region 5 since 1980. Such actions include responses to truck and train accidents, oil



spills, warehouse fires, and emergency chemical releases from industrial facilities.

The Congressional delegations will also be updated on a series of Superfund administrative reforms under way in Region 5 which are speeding cleanup, promoting settlement of litigation, increasing community participation, and providing tools for redevelopment of abandoned or under used "Brownfields" properties.

Here is a summary of Superfund activity in the six Region 5 states:

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#### Illinois (40 NPL sites)

Completed cleanups: 9 sites. Construction under way: 17 sites. Cleanup now in design: 4 sites. Remedial investigation/feasibility studies under way: 10 sites. Sites proposed for addition to NPL: 1 (DePue/New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical Corp., DePue). Emergency removals since 1980: 154 (4 since October 1996, the start of fiscal 1997).

#### Indiana (35 NPL sites)

Completed cleanups: 16 sites. Construction under way: 14 sites. Cleanup now in design: 4 sites. Remedial investigation/feasibility studies under way: 1 site. Emergency removals since 1980: 128 (1 since October 1996).

#### Michigan (82 NPL sites)

Completed cleanups: 32 sites. Construction under way: 31 sites. Cleanup now in design: 12 sites. Remedial investigation/feasibility studies under way: 7 sites. Emergency removals since 1980: 205 (4 since October 1996).

#### Minnesota (43 NPL sites)

Completed cleanups: 27 sites. Construction under way: 15 sites. Cleanup now in design: 1 site. No remedial investigation/feasibility studies under way. Emergency removals since 1980: 15 (1 since October 1996).

#### Ohio (35 NPL sites)

Completed cleanups: 15 sites. Construction under way: 11 sites. Cleanup now in design: 4 sites. Remedial investigation/feasibility studies under way: 5 sites. Emergency removals since 1980: 229 (3 since October 1996).

## Wisconsin (42 NPL sites)

Completed cleanups: 18 sites. Construction under way: 15 sites. Cleanup now in design: 4 sites. Remedial investigation/feasibility studies under way: 5 sites. Emergency removals since 1980: 68 (3 since October 1996).

Nationally, there are about 1,300 NPL sites. Cleanup has been completed at 434 sites, with construction under way at 492 sites. Since 1980, EPA has performed emergency removals at more than 3,000 hazardous waste sites.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 19, 1997

No. 97-OPA132

## **EPA: STOUGHTON TO PAY \$1.5 MILLION FOR LANDFILL CLEANUP**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently lodged a consent decree resolving the City of Stoughton, WI, liability for cleanup costs at the city landfill.

The decree, lodged in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, is an agreement among the U.S. Government (EPA), State of Wisconsin (Dept. of Natural Resources), and City of Stoughton. Under terms of the agreement, Stoughton must pay the U.S. Government and the State a total of \$1.5 million (\$750,000 each) for past cleanup costs at the site, dating from 1991.

"This action is an important step in the Superfund process, because it enables Federal and State government to recoup some of their costs associated with site cleanup," said William Muno, regional Superfund director. "With the cost of recovery resolved, we can now focus everyone's energy on completing the cleanup."

The final cleanup plan calls for: consolidating wastes located along wetlands on two sides of the site; placing a multilayer cap over the landfill; and applying deed restrictions on ground-water use to limit future

development. Construction is expected to begin next spring.

U.S. Department of Justice will hold a 30-day public comment period as soon as formal notice of the consent decree is published in the Federal Register. EPA will consider all comments received. Then, if EPA still believes the settlement is fair and reasonable, it will ask the court to formally enter the settlement.

Copies of the Federal Register are in the Madison Public Library, 201 West Mifflin St. Also available on Internet: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/su-docs/aces/aces/40.html>.

The 27-acre site was an uncontrolled municipal landfill from 1952 to 1969 and a State-licensed landfill from 1969 to 1982. The property is next to the Yahara River.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 25, 1997

No. 97-OPA133

## **EPA ISSUES REPORT ON SUPERFUND REFORMS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently released a Superfund administrative reforms progress report which highlights important milestones and accomplishments in four areas of hazardous waste cleanup.

Over the past few years, the pace of cleanup at Superfund hazardous waste sites has increased significantly. At the end of 1992, EPA had completed cleanups at 149 of some 1,300 sites on the National Priorities List (NPL). However, between 1993 and 1997, the number of completed cleanups jumped to 434. There are 254 NPL sites--117 completed--in Region 5.

The increase is due, in part, to a series of Superfund administrative reforms carried out by each of the 10 EPA regional offices. The reforms and priorities vary by region because the number and types of sites, and their environmental hazards, also vary by region.

In Region 5, Superfund administrative reforms include:

1. **Brownfields:** "Comfort letters," stating EPA will not pursue further financial obligations, are now issued upon request to urban site developers or prospective purchasers, to release them of any future liability.

2. **Community Involvement:** Community Advisory Groups, a new concept in which EPA provides a forum for local residents to get up-to-date

information about site activities--but in which EPA does not participate--have been established at five sites.

3. Enforcement: Group "de minimis" settlements, providing protection against third-party litigation and ending all Superfund obligations, were signed by EPA at eight sites, representing over 300 small waste contributors.

4. Remedy Selection: At five Michigan sites where new technologies or scientific information were applicable, EPA amended its original cleanup plans to reduce costs by \$52 million.

For a copy of the eight-page report, contact Russ Hart, SR-6J, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604, 312-886-4844, or e-mail: [Hart.Russ@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Hart.Russ@epamail.epa.gov).

Another document, "Synopsis: Superfund Administrative Reforms Annual Report--Fiscal Year 1996," (EPA 540-R-96-047), which provides a national overview of administrative reforms, is available from: National Technical Information Service, U.S. Dept. Of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Rd., Springfield, VA 22161, or via Internet: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund>.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 19, 1997

No. 97-OPA134

## **EPA: PCB RIVER CLEANUP TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK AT FORD OUTFALL SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that dredging of PCB-contaminated sediments will begin next week at the Ford Outfall Superfund site, Monroe, MI.

Under a recently signed agreement, Ford Motor Co. has agreed to do all cleanup, including: dredging 44,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediments from the adjacent River Raisin and disposal of the sediment and about 75 cubic yards of excavated soil from the Ford property. The material will be placed in an on-site cell specifically designed for PCB disposal. Ford will also monitor the air for PCB's, prior to and during the cleanup.

Ford will do the work under EPA supervision. Dredging should be completed by October 1997. Estimated cost to Ford: \$6 to \$8 million.

The Ford automotive plant has operated at the site since 1949. A series of other automotive manufacturers operated the facility beginning in 1929. PCB contamination has been traced to a pair of fluid discharge outfalls, leading from the plant to the River Raisin, which were closed in 1972.

EPA's involvement at the site began in 1992. Cleanup of the in-plant sewers was done by Ford, under EPA supervision, from July to November

1996.

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--including in freshwater fish and in aquatic birds--and present human health hazards.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 13, 1997

No. 97-OPA135

## **EPA, REILLY REACH AGREEMENT; INCLUDES \$400,000 SETTLEMENT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Reilly Industries, Inc., on alleged hazardous waste violations at its Indianapolis, IN, chemical plant. The agreement includes a \$400,000 settlement.

EPA said the company was cited in February and in December 1994 for violation of Federal regulations on the burning of hazardous waste in boilers.

Specifically, EPA alleged that Reilly exceeded maximum hazardous-waste chemical feed rates and carbon monoxide emissions rates for three boilers and violated regulations on certification and waste analysis.

EPA said the Reilly plant, 1500 South Tibbs Ave., is now in compliance.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act to protect public health and the environment," said Joseph M. Boyle, chief of the regional Enforcement Compliance Assurance Branch; Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division.

EPA issued the agreement, or consent order, under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 16, 1997

No. 97-OPA136

## **EPA CITES CELLO-FOIL FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$227,884 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Cello-Foil Products, Inc., for hazardous waste violations at its Battle Creek, MI, printing plant.

The civil administrative complaint proposes a \$227,884 penalty and alleges Cello-Foil violated EPA regulations on burning of hazardous wastes in boilers.

Specifically, EPA said Cello-Foil failed to submit to EPA the required certifications that would establish certain operating limits before the company received an operating permit, or until the plant closed.

Cello-Foil prints trademark and other information on plastic and foil product wrappings at its 155 Brook St. plant. It recovers volatile organic compounds emissions from several printing lines and condenses them into a liquid for use as a fuel supplement in its boiler.

Because the fuel has a flash point of less than 50 degrees Fahrenheit, EPA has determined it meets the ignitability characteristics for hazardous wastes. This means that Cello-Foil must comply with the Resource

Conservation and Recovery Act, which regulates the handling and disposal of hazardous wastes.

Cello-Foil has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file a response and request a formal hearing. It may request an informal settlement conference anytime.

"EPA must ensure full compliance with regulations designed to protect human health and the environment from effects of hazardous wastes," said Joseph M. Boyle, chief of the regional Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch; Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 16, 1997

No. 97-OPA137

## **EPA TO HOST SYMPOSIUM ON ENDOCRINE DISRUPTERS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will host a symposium on endocrine disrupters and science and public policy implications for the Great Lakes Basin, July 14, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Ambassador West Hotel, 1300 North State Parkway, Chicago.

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Endocrine disrupters are chemicals that can interfere with the proper functioning of the endocrine, or hormonal, system of the body.

National experts on the subject are expected to participate; the discussion is open to anyone with an interest in the topic.

To register, or for more information, call Michele Anthony, 312-886-7555.

More information is available on the Worldwide Web at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/>

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 18, 1997

No. 97-OPA138

## **EPA TO ACCELERATE CLEANUP OF FOX RIVER**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that it is taking steps to accelerate cleanup of PCB-contaminated sediments in a 39-mile stretch of the lower Fox River, from Lake Winnebago to Green Bay, in eastern Wisconsin. Fish consumption advisories for the Fox have been in place continuously since 1976.

From 1957 to 1971, several paper mills along the Fox, as part of a de-inking process, released about 250,000 lb of PCB's into the river, where they wound up in sediments. As a result of natural sediment scouring and water flow, 160,000 lb of PCB's have already migrated from the Fox into Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

About 600 lb of PCB's migrate from the Fox into Green Bay and Lake Michigan every year. However, a major storm event could flush much of the remaining contaminated sediments into the bay and lake, with a long-term environmental impact on the people and natural resources of the lower Fox River Valley, EPA emphasized.

Today, in an effort to push the cleanup forward, EPA Acting Regional

Administrator David Ullrich contacted Governor Tommy Thompson, seeking the State's support in adding the lower Fox River to EPA's Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) of hazardous waste sites. An official response is expected within the next few weeks.

"Since 1992, a series of studies, planning discussions, and voluntary cleanup negotiations have been undertaken by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and companies responsible for much of the contamination. However, other than some recent demonstration projects in a very limited area of the river, progress has been slow. To date, there has not been enough actual cleanup of the pollution," said Ullrich.

"The people who enjoy the Fox River and Lake Michigan deserve aggressive action, and we hope to move forward in partnership with the State, tribes, and local communities," he said.

In addition to the listing, EPA seeks participation from the responsible companies. Added Ullrich: "We are prepared to start serious negotiations with the responsible parties immediately, to resolve issues of liability and funding of the cleanup effort."

Adding a site to the NPL requires a series of steps, culminating in a formal listing in 1998. Negotiations with the responsible companies are expected to proceed concurrently with the listing process.

The NPL listing of the Fox River will supplement the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) already being conducted by Fish and Wildlife Service. The NRDA process focuses on damage to natural resources while the NPL listing will focus on actual cleanup of the River.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once widely used in industry as coolants and lubricants and as components of carbonless copy paper. EPA banned the manufacture of PCB's in 1979 because of evidence that they accumulate in the environment--including in freshwater fish and in aquatic birds--and present health hazards for people.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 20, 1997

No. 97-OPA139

## **EPA OBJECTS TO STATE PERMIT FOR MICHIGAN PEAT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has informed the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) that it objects to the activities included in a State wetlands permit issued recently to Michigan Peat Co. In a letter to MDEQ dated June 18, EPA told the State that permit authority for this case is now with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District.

EPA objects to the permit because it authorizes mining activities that will significantly harm the ecosystem of Minden Bog, one of the last raised bogs in North America. The spongelike nature of the bog plays a role in flood control, and its unique soil sustains many rare plants. Also, the mining may damage the adjacent bog and pollute water downstream.

"EPA recognizes that this case presents unique and difficult challenges for the State," said JoLynn Traub, regional Water Division director. "This is why there is Federal oversight of environmental programs. EPA maintains its support for Michigan's wetlands program, but outstanding Federal concerns about the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project must be adequately addressed."

In 1995, the company rejected a permit that would have authorized mining



on about 950 acres. It also recently rejected a proposal that, in addition to the area proposed in the 1995 permit, would consider further expansion of mining, based on environmental information developed during the initial phase of the project.

Activities in wetlands require a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which is jointly administered by EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Michigan is only one of two States that have been authorized to administer the Section 404 (wetlands) program.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 25, 1997

No. 97-OPA140

## **EPA CITES 3 COMPANIES FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$25,000 PENALTY**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited AutoZone, Inc., a retail auto parts chain, and two contractors -- R.E. Crawford Co. and Zocolo Excavating, Ltd. -- for alleged violations of Federal hazardous air pollution regulations for asbestos.

The civil administrative complaint proposes a \$25,000 penalty and alleges the companies failed to notify EPA before beginning demolition of a site owned by AutoZone at 180 West State., Salem, OH.

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Clean Air Act asbestos regulations require owners or operators of a facility to notify Federal and State air pollution control officials of all demolition and certain renovation projects. This allows officials to plan project inspections.

AutoZone has headquarters in Memphis, TN; R.E. Crawford in Springdale, PA; and Zocolo Excavating in Columbiana, OH.

The companies have 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and to request a formal hearing. They may ask for an informal conference with EPA anytime to attempt to reach agreements on the penalty.

Dry, easily crumbled (friable) asbestos is a known cancer-causing agent, which can lead to mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (a lung disease) many years after exposure.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 27, 1997

No. 97-OPA141

## **EPA CASE LEADS TO \$678,000 PENALTY, \$8 MILLION PROJECT FOR SHELL**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has recently reached agreement on EPA's behalf with Shell Wood River Refining Co. for alleged clean-air violations at the Shell Wood River, IL, oil refinery.

Under the proposed agreement, Shell will pay a civil penalty of \$678,000 and install an \$8 million control device to cut benzene emissions from the refinery. The public has 30 days after **Federal Register** publication to comment on the terms before they become final.

EPA referred the case to DOJ in June 1995. DOJ both filed a complaint and lodged a consent decree last week in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, East St. Louis.

Specifically, the complaint alleges that Shell failed to control benzene emissions from certain waste streams at the refinery. Control measures agreed to by Shell will cut these emissions by 100 tons per year.

Benzene is regulated under national emissions standards for hazardous air pollutants. It is known to cause cancer in humans. Short-term exposure to

benzene can cause drowsiness, dizziness, headaches, and loss of consciousness. Long-term exposure has been linked to various blood and bone marrow diseases, chromosome changes, and leukemia.

Ground-level ozone can cause breathing problems, asthma attacks, eye irritation, and stuffy nose. 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 persons with chronic respiratory diseases are the most sensitive.

Shell's Wood River refinery is in Madison County which, along with St. Clair County, is part of the Gateway Initiative -- a geographic area of special attention for EPA because of concerns for environmental justice. EPA is committed to ensuring that area residents do not bear a disproportionate share of environmental pollution.

To inspect the proposed consent decree, contact Assistant U.S. Attorney William Coonan, 9 Executive Dr., Suite 300, Fairview Heights, IL 62208; phone (618) 628-3700. Or send \$6.50 (25 cents per page) to Consent Decree Library, 1120 G St., NW., 4th Fl., Washington, DC 20005; phone (202) 624-0892. Reference Civil Action No. 97-539-WDS and DOJ No. 90-5-21-2037.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 30, 1997

No. 97-OPA142

## **EPA: GROUND-WATER TREATMENT PLANT COMPLETED AT MAUTHE SITE; OPEN HOUSE JULY 9**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently completed a ground-water treatment system at the N.W. Mauthe Superfund site, Appleton, WI. Open house will be held at the new treatment building, 725 South Outagamie St., Wednesday, July 9, from 4 to 8 p.m.

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Representatives from EPA and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will be on hand to answer questions about the facility and ongoing ground-water collection and treatment at the site. Residents are invited to tour the plant and grounds surrounding the building.

The 2-acre site was an electroplating facility from 1960 to 1987. EPA and WDNR are working together to deal with soil and ground-water contamination at the property.

For more information or directions to the site, contact: Jon Peterson, remedial project manager, U.S. EPA, 1-800-621-8431, or e-mail: [Peterson.Jon@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Peterson.Jon@epamail.epa.gov).

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: June 27, 1997

No. 97-OPA143

## **EPA CITES PAULSTRA FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Paulstra CRC (Grand Rapids, MI) for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act at its Cadillac, MI, automotive parts plant.

Paulstra operates rubber molding equipment and three coating systems at the plant.

Inspections conducted in September 1994 and July 1996 found the company had installed rubber molding equipment without getting a permit, exceeded permit limits for volatile organic compounds (VOC's) at its coating processes, and kept inadequate records of coating use and actual VOC emissions rates.

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. Paulstra has 10 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the allegations.

"EPA is committed to enforcing the 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."

Volatile organic compounds combine in the atmosphere with other chemicals to form ground-level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, asthma, eye irritation, stuffy nose, and reduced resistance to colds and other infections. It may also speed up aging of lung tissue.

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Last Updated: June 30, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa143.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 2, 1997

No. 97-OPA144

## **EPA: WORK TO PROCEED AT FORMER TEXACO/INDIAN REFINING SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup design and planning activities are under way in a number of different areas of the former Texaco/Indian Refining facility, Lawrenceville, IL.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), the office of Mayor Henry Kijonka, and three past and current site owners are working cooperatively with EPA.

The 957-acre oil refining facility, which dates to 1907, ceased operation in November 1995. The current owner, American Western Refining, is looking for a buyer to reopen the refinery.

EPA's cleanup efforts are currently focused on an oil spill and a nearby residential area where tar-like refinery waste was found. Work is being supervised by a Chicago-based emergency response team, under joint authority of Superfund and the Oil Pollution Act. Illinois Environmental

Protection Agency (IEPA) is working on other aspects of the site.

The oil discharge area is at the southern-most point of the refinery property. On June 3, 1997, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (an agency of the Department of Interior) discovered the spill and brought the site to EPA's attention. Further investigation revealed oil seeping out of the ground into a wetland on the property. About two acres of the wetland are affected by the release.

EPA currently believes the oil discharge will continue until preventive steps are taken. To date, the source of the spill has not been determined. Due to its remote location, the spill presents a very low risk to the surrounding community. EPA's primary concern is containing the spill and preventing the oil from reaching the nearby Embarras River.

The off-site contamination area is adjacent to the northeast corner of the refinery property, in a residential neighborhood about a mile from the oil spill area. On October 30, 1996, tar-like sludge from oil processing was discovered in at least three spots in the neighborhood. While measures were taken to restrict access to the three spots, the overall extent of the sludge is unknown at this point. Further investigation will be funded by the current and former refinery owners and take 12 to 16 weeks. At that time, EPA will take appropriate action to address any hazards identified. Residents should avoid direct contact with the material, which can cause burns or skin irritation.

IEPA has the lead for other aspects of the Texaco/Indian Refining site. These include: overall site investigation of soil and ground-water, closure of a former land farm designed for sludge bioremediation, and supervision of formal facility closure under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and applicable State laws.

There is no threat to the city's drinking water wells from any of the wastes associated with the Texaco/Indian Refining site.

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Last Updated: July 8, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa144.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 1, 1997

No. 97-OPA145

## **EPA TO BEGIN CLEANUP OF FIRST CHICAGO HOME CONTAMINATED BY DANGEROUS PESTICIDE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 announced that on July 8 it will begin the cleanup of the first Chicago-area home contaminated by the illegal sparying of a restricted chemical pesticide -- methyl parathion -- also known as "cotton poison." The home is on the city's West Side.

EPA recently discovered that the pesticide, which is designed for use outdoors, has been illegally sprayed in hundreds of Chicago-area homes to control cockroaches and other pests. An unlicensed exterminator named Ruben Brown (also operating under the business name of J.D. McKinley) sprayed homes primarily on the South, West, and Northwest Sides of the city and in the western suburbs.

Affected homes have been identified through Brown's ledgers and through calls to a hotline. **People who hired Brown to spray their homes, or suspect that their home was sprayed, are urged to call 888-889-6542 to have their homes tested.**

**In some cases, Brown sold small, unlabelled bottles of the pesticide to his customers directly. Those who have such bottles should immediately put them out of reach of children and call the 888 number to have EPA pick them up.**

**Methyl parathion can cause death if swallowed or splashed on skin. It can also cause headache, nausea, chest tightness, dizziness, and restlessness. People who believe they have been made sick by exposure to methyl parathion should see their doctor or call the Illinois Poison Center at 312-942-5969.**

**"People whose homes were sprayed by Brown should have their homes tested to protect their family's health," said Phyllis Reed, regional Pesticides and Toxics Branch chief. "The test is free and does not take that long. People should not be afraid that by reporting their sprayed home they will get Brown into more trouble. They will not. We are most concerned about protecting the health of people who may have been exposed to a dangerous chemical, particularly young children and the elderly."**

**Methyl parathion should be used only in open fields to control insects, EPA emphasizes. It is commonly used on cotton, soybeans, and vegetables. It is a highly toxic chemical that should never be used indoors. Related to nerve gas, this chemical is a brownish liquid that turns milky white when mixed with water. It has a foul smell similar to rotten eggs, and leaves yellow stains on sprayed areas.**

**Federal, State, city, and county agencies are working to identify affected homes, interview residents, and test the homes to determine the levels of contamination. So far, 287 homes have been tested. The testing and interview take about 30 minutes. If the tests show high levels of contamination, residents will be asked to provide urine samples to help health agencies determine if the pesticide may pose a health risk. The urine will be tested only for methyl parathion.**

**The agencies working on this project are EPA, 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, and Cook County State Attorney's Office.**

**###**

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**Last Updated: July 8, 1997**

**URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa145.htm>**



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 1, 1997

No. 97-OPA146

## **EPA, DUPONT REACH AGREEMENT ON EAST CHICAGO SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today it has reached with DuPont Co. an agreement that requires the company to investigate hazardous chemical pollution at its East Chicago, IN, facility.

DuPont will examine contamination at its 470 -acre chemical manufacturing site, 5215 Kennedy Ave., sediments in the bordering Grand Calumet River, and wetlands on and near the site.

EPA said it is concerned about arsenic, lead, chromium, antimony, zinc, and acid contamination related to past manufacturing operations. Studies have detected hazardous chemicals in ground water at the site and contamination of the Grand Calumet.

When levels and extent of contamination are defined, DuPont must develop alternative cleanup plans that will be open to public comment. If an imminent threat to human health and the environment is discovered, interim steps must be taken to deal with the threat.

EPA said DuPont will submit work plans for the first studies this fall. Actual field work is likely to begin next year.

The facility has scaled back production since about 1980, with manufacturing of inorganic chemicals now limited to some 28 acres in the

southwest corner of the site.

"We are pleased with the cooperation of DuPont and the partnership with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management in negotiating this order," said Norman Niedergang, regional division director for Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics. "Since the site contains substantial remnant dune and swale acreage on its eastern side, it is significant environmentally as well as significant in the manufacturing history of East Chicago."

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Last Updated: July 8, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 1, 1997

No. 97-OPA147

## **EPA PLACES COPPER RANGE DOCUMENTS IN 6 LIBRARIES**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has placed documents on Copper Range Co.'s proposed solution-mining project in six libraries, or repositories.

The documents are the 3-volume environmental analysis and the U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) report on the White Pine fault.

Even though Copper Range announced May 30 that it was withdrawing its application for a solution-mining permit, EPA placed the documents in the repositories as historical materials for public use. The reports contain information that EPA would have used to make a decision. The environmental analysis information is now also available for other uses.

Copper Range had requested a permit for solution mining in its White Pine, MI, mine. Based on environmental regulations, EPA had determined that such mining constituted injection of sulfuric acid and was subject to Federal review, even though the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality had already issued a permit for the mining project.

The EPA environmental analysis looked at four critical factors of concern to other agencies and the public: economic impacts, transportation of hazardous materials (sulfuric acid, in particular), environmental impacts, and tribal cultural impacts.

The USGS report, done for EPA, is a study of whether the White Pine geologic fault could leak fluid from the mine into Lake Superior. The report concludes that there is only a scant possibility of the fault extending as far as the Lake Superior and there is little likelihood of any adverse impacts on the lake.

The environmental analysis and the USGS report are at:

- Madison Public Library  
201 West Mifflin St.  
Madison, WI
- Library of Michigan  
717 West Allegan Ave.  
Lansing, MI
- Carp Lake Township Library  
White Pine, MI
- Michigan Technological University Library Archives  
1400 Townsend Dr.  
Houghton, MI
- Vaughn Public Library  
502 West Main St.  
Ashland, WI
- Duluth Public Library  
520 West Superior St.  
Duluth, MN

The environmental analysis summary is available by writing to Allen Melcer, U.S. EPA, Underground Injection Control Branch (U-17J), Water Division, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 2, 1997

No. 97-OPA148

## **EPA CITES ENVIROSAFE FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$140,350 PENALTY**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Envirosafe Services of Ohio, Inc., for hazardous-waste violations at its Oregon, OH, commercial hazardous waste landfill.

The civil administrative complaint proposes a penalty of \$140,350 and alleges that Envirosafe committed multiple violations of EPA regulations at its treatment, storage, and disposal facility, 836 Otter Creek Road.

The violations include two counts for failure to notify EPA of a landfill-cell liner system failure. EPA said it has no evidence that the failure has caused a liner puncture, or that it has led to movement of hazardous waste from the landfill into the surrounding area.

By contrast, the failure does involve movement of ground or surface water from the adjoining area into a space between the clay and the plastic parts of the secondary liner.

EPA has no evidence that the failures have ever posed a threat to human health or the environment.

Envirosafe has until July 28 to respond to the complaint and request a formal hearing. It may request an informal settlement conference anytime.

"EPA must ensure full compliance with regulations designed to protect human health and the environment from effects of hazardous wastes," said Joseph M. Boyle, chief of the regional Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch; Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division.

The action was taken under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: William Omohundro  
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For Immediate Release: July 7, 1997

No. 97-OPA149

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a meeting Thursday, August 14, in East Liverpool, OH, to take comments and answer questions on the Waste Technologies Industries (WTI) risk assessment.

The meeting will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of City Hall, 126 West 6th St.

The meeting is being held at the request of community members who want an additional opportunity to ask EPA questions and to comment after they have had time to study the WTI risk assessment completed and presented to the community on May 8.

EPA technical staff who worked on the risk assessment will be available to take citizen comments and questions on results of the risk assessment and on scientific methods and techniques used in the assessment.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 8, 1997

No. 97-OPA150

## **EPA SELECTS LEAD CLEANUP PLAN FOR ARCANUM SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed a record of decision amendment for cleanup of lead contamination at the Arcanum Iron & Metal site, Twin Township, OH.

The document outlines the final cleanup plan selected for this site. The \$5.8 million plan calls for: removal of about 4,000 cubic yards of lead-acid battery casing chips; demolition and removal of three buildings and foundations and about 26,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil; removal and disposal of various drums, flat-bed trailers, and aboveground and underground storage tanks; and maintenance of the private road that contractor trucks must use for transportation of materials from the site.

The original cleanup plan was selected by EPA in September 1986. The major changes in the amendment reflect revised standards for lead levels in on-site and off site soils. EPA will remove all of the soils contaminated with lead above the recommended cleanup levels. Also, due to the revised standards, a landfill cap is no longer required.

Work is expected to begin next Spring.

EPA selected this plan because it provides the most protection to human

health and the environment, allowing for long-term effectiveness at the lowest overall cost. The Ohio EPA supports EPA's decision.

The cleanup plan amendment and other site-related documents are available for public review at Arcanum Public Library, 101 North St.

The 4.5-acre site was a lead-battery reprocessing plant from the early 1960's until 1982.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 8, 1997

No. 97-OPA151

## **EPA SETTLES WITH 3M FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$22,500 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with the 3M facility in Cordova, IL, for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals. The company will pay a \$22,500 fine.

The facility, which produces industrial chemicals, failed to immediately report to proper authorities the release of a hazardous substance. EPA'S complaint alleges that on June 2, 1995, 3M failed to promptly notify the National Response Center of a 16,100 lb release of potassium hydroxide.

The release occurred when a chemical reactor vessel became overpressurized and released its contents in the form of a fog cloud. Plant personnel sprayed down the fog using fire hoses and stopped the contaminated runoff. It did not cross the facility's boundaries.

Potassium hydroxide is a hazardous substance used to remove impurities from chemical products. It is a noncombustible solid, but may react with water and other substances to start a fire. Exposure to it may irritate the eyes, skin, and respiratory system.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 88 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 69 settlements and \$3.4 million in total fines.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa151.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 8, 1997

No. 97-OPA152

## **EPA TO HOLD AIR REDESIGNATION WORKSHOPS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold two public workshops on proposed regulations that would affect protection of air quality on lands that have been reclassified by Clean Air Act provisions to give them more protection.

The workshops will be on July 21-22 in Chicago and on July 29 in Phoenix. In Chicago, the workshops will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Lake Michigan Room, 12th floor, Metcalfe Federal Building, 77 West Jackson Blvd. (The second day in Chicago was requested by a potential participant in the workshop.)

These workshops are meant to be informal discussions on permits that govern emission of pollutants by business and industry--pollutants that could affect sensitive non-Federal Class I areas. (There are three types of clean air: Class I, Class II, and Class III. Class I areas are those where the least amount of air-quality degradation is allowed.) State and tribal governments, in areas of the country where the air is clean, have the prerogative to reclassify their air sheds from Class II to Class I or Class III.

In EPA Region 5, the Forest County Potawatomi Band of Chippewa

Indians has requested that its reservation near Carter, WI, be redesignated from a Class II to a Class I area.

The workshops seek public comment on rules that would better define the roles of industry and governments. Class I rules, for example, would apply when a major source of air pollution proposes to build or modify near a Class I area.

In a federal Register notice of May 16, 1997, EPA set out 14 issues for discussion at the workshops:

- scope of the rulemaking;
- analogy to Federal Class I-area issues;
- permit application notification;
- intergovernmental coordination;
- identifying air quality related values (AQRV), such as visibility;
- distributing information about AQRV;
- responsibility to protect AQRV;
- EPA resolution of intergovernmental disputes;
- waiver of Class I increments;
- dispute resolution procedures;
- incentive for amicable intergovernmental dispute resolution;
- additional clarifying regulatory changes;
- the Regulatory Flexibility Act, governing small entities that may be affected; and
- the Paperwork Reduction Act, which seeks to cut red tape for small businesses.

These issues are presented in more detail in the Federal Register notice. Comments on the notice must be received by August 14, 1997. They should be sent to:

U.S. EPA  
Air Docket Sections  
Air Docket A-96-53  
Room M-1500 (MC 6102)  
401 M St. SW.  
Washington, DC 20460

Or e-mail, [laroche.david@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:laroche.david@epamail.epa.gov).

In a related matter, EPA region 5 will hold public hearings on the Forest

County Potawatomi Class I redesignation request August 12 at Carter, WI, and August 13 at Rhinelander, WI. The comment period on the Forest County Potawatomi redesignation request closes September 15, 1997.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 8, 1997

No. 97-OPA153

## **EPA, STATE TO HOLD TIRE CLEANUP DAYS IN ALTON AREA**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency are sponsoring 3 free collection days for the public to recycle old tires in the Alton, Il, area.

The tire amnesty days are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., July 29 through 31. The collection site is at Alton Department of Public Works, #2 Emmie L. Kaus Ln., Alton. The site is off Fosterburg Rd., just north of Route 140.

No large industrial or off-road tires and no tires on rims will be accepted. Participants must sign an agreement that they commit not to accumulate tires on their property in the future. The tires will be shredded on site and used to make alternative fuel.

Assistance will be provided by City of Alton, Alton Department of Public Works, and Scott Air Force Base, 375th CES/CEV.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 10, 1997

No. 97-OPA154

## **EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON CLEANUP PLAN FOR LINCOLN FIELDS SITE; MEETING JULY 15**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking public comments on a recently completed engineering study that evaluated two alternatives for ground-water cleanup at the Lincoln Fields Superfund site, Madison Township, Richland County, OH.

The 30-day comment period begins July 14. A meeting to explain the cleanup alternatives will be held Tuesday, July 15, at 7 p.m., Mansfield Baptist Temple Gymnasium, 725 North Stewart Rd.

EPA is recommending an alternative that includes: installation of five ground-water extraction wells, plus six monitoring wells; ground-water treatment by a technology that forces air into the contaminated water to displace the chemical tetrachloroethylene, which then evaporates; and discharging the treated water to the creek north of Forest Drive. In addition, some contaminated soil would be excavated and transported to a disposal facility.

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@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:pastor.susan@epamail.epa.gov). EPA will respond to all relevant comments received before making a final decision.

Copies of the study and other site-related documents will be available for review at the Mansfield Public Library, Madison Township Branch, 1395 Grace St. An administrative record, which contains the information upon which EPA's decision will be based, has been placed at the Mansfield Public Library, Main Branch, 43 West Third St.

The Lincoln Fields site measures about 1 square mile. It is bordered by Yale Ave. to the north, Steward 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 facility that used hazardous chemicals in its operations.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 10, 1997

No. 97-OPA155

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA TO HOST SYMPOSIUM ON ENDOCRINE DISRUPTERS MONDAY JULY 14**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will host a symposium on endocrine disrupters and science and public policy implications for the Great Lakes Basin, July 14, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Ambassador West Hotel, 1300 North State Parkway, Chicago.

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Endocrine disrupters are chemicals that can interfere with the proper functioning of the endocrine, or hormonal, system of the body.

National experts on the subject will participate in the symposium, and will be available for interviews on-site or via telephone.

For more information or an agenda, please contact Amy Pelka, 886-9858, or Laura Pullen, 886-0138. Background information is available on the Worldwide Web at <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/>

**NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS:** This news release is also available on the WWW at <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/>

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Last Updated: July 10, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa155.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 15, 1997

No. 97-OPA156

## **EPA ASKS WILLOW RUN CREEK LANDFILL TO ADDRESS PCB AIR EMISSIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that it has sent a letter to the operators of the Willow Run Creek Landfill (Ypsilanti, MI) requesting that the facility take immediate measures to prevent releases of PCB-contaminated dust generated by cleanup of three lagoons and ponds that were historically used for waste disposal at the site.

The Willow Run Sludge Lagoon is part of an extensive natural wetland which was used as a dump site for a bomber plant and a wastewater treatment facility from 1942 to 1964. Nearby Tyler Pond and Edison Pond also received wastewater from these facilities.

A \$70 million cleanup effort to address contamination from PCB's and heavy metals within the property is being overseen by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Dredging of the contaminated sludges, sediments, and soils began in June. They are being disposed of in an EPA-approved containment cell southwest of the Willow Run Airport. When complete, about 350,000 cubic yards (17,500 truck loads) of contaminated material will have been removed.

The Willow Run Creek Landfill is located less than one mile from Wayne Disposal, an EPA-approved PCB-disposal facility.

EPA's letter notes that on 5 days between June 25 and July 8, 1997, unexpectedly high levels of airborne PCB's were recorded by air monitoring stations at the landfill. However, due to the short duration of these levels, EPA does not believe human health and the environment were endangered.

In addition, two air-quality monitoring stations at the site were recently moved from EPA-designated locations. In the letter, EPA requested the air monitoring stations be restored, or the reasons for their relocation justified to EPA, within the next 48 hours.

"To ensure community health and safety, EPA's primary concern is continued minimization of PCB dust levels in the area around the Willow Run Creek Landfill," said Acting Regional Administrator David Ullrich. "We are aware that the operators have already taken steps to respond to this situation and we are fully confident that they will be able to address EPA's concerns within the next 48 hours."

There are a number of parties responsible for contamination at the landfill. PCB-disposal approval for the landfill is jointly held by General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co., which have assumed responsibility for cleanup at the site.

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 freshwater fish and aquatic birds--and present human health hazards.

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Last Updated: July 21, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa156.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 17, 1997

No. 97-OPA157

## **EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON AMENDED CLEANUP PLAN FOR ALLIED CHEMICAL SITE; MEETING JULY 24**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is seeking public comments on a proposed amendment to clean up soil contamination at the Allied Chemical-Ironton Coke Superfund site, Ironton, OH.

A 30-day comment period runs through August 15. A meeting to discuss the amended cleanup plan will be held Thursday, July 24, at 7 p.m., Briggs Lawrence County Library, 321 South Fourth St., Ironton.

The amendment is a modification based on soil-sampling data collected during the design phase of the cleanup. EPA has determined that about 40,000 cubic yards of soil at the former tar and coke plants are not as contaminated as previously thought.

Therefore, EPA now proposes to dispose of this soil at an off-site landfill, instead of treating it on site by landfarming. Because this soil is not heavily contaminated, off-site disposal will reduce project costs by \$2.2 million. In addition, off-site disposal can be completed within 12 months, compared to 12 years to complete the original landfarming plan.

EPA's proposed amendment remains protective of human health and the environment.

Oral and written comments on the amendment will be accepted at the

meeting. They may also be sent to Ginny Narsete, P-19J, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. Phone 1-800-621-8431. E-Mail: narsete.ginny@epamail.epa.gov. EPA will respond to all comments received and will seek concurrence from Ohio Environmental Protection Agency before making a final decision.

The Allied Chemical-Ironton Coke site has two cleanup areas: the Goldcamp Disposal Area and the Coke Plant-Lagoon Area. The 4-acre Goldcamp area is a former sand and gravel pit that was used for tar-plant wastes from 1945 to 1977. Cleanup of the Goldcamp area was completed in 1995. The 95-acre Coke Plant area has a dismantled coke plant and a series of lagoons that were used for wastewater treatment.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 21, 1997

No. 97-OPA159

## **EPA CLEANUP COMPLETE AT GREEN INDUSTRIES SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that hazardous materials have now been removed from the former Green Industries electroplating plant, 3603 East Kemper Rd., Sharonville, OH.

The facility ceased operations in 1995. It has operated as far back as the 1930's under a number of different owners. At one time it was one of the largest electroplating plants in the Midwest.

Since the late 1970's, the facility had been cited numerous times by Federal, State, and local agencies for operating without proper environmental permits, for violating hazardous-waste storage and disposal regulations, and for illegally discharging hazardous wastes to the public sewer system. In 1985, one of the former owners was convicted of criminal environmental activity.

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EPA's involvement at the site began in December 1995, at the request of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Hazardous waste removal work began in March 1996. At the time, the 170,000 square-foot facility was in deteriorating condition and contained about 350 full or partially full plating tanks, 2,000 55-gallon drums of hazardous chemicals, and thousands of smaller containers.

The \$2.5 million cleanup was supervised by a Chicago-based EPA Superfund emergency response team. Over the course of the project, 70,000 gallons of acid liquid, 40,000 gallons of chromic acid solution, 35,000 gallons of caustic liquid, 16,000 gallons of cyanide liquid, 2,500 gallons of flammable liquid, 300 drums of cyanide and chromic acid sludge, and 700 tons of metals- contaminated soil and solid wastes were removed from the site.

Additionally, 400,000 gallons of contaminated wastewater were treated on site. Hazardous wastes and contaminated materials have been transported to licensed disposal facilities.

EPA will return to the site in August for addition samples to determine the level of soil contamination that may remain. Several potential buyers have expressed interest in the site as a possible "Brownfields" redevelopment property, pending the resolution of remaining environmental liability issues.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 18, 1997

No. 97-OPA160

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH TOTAL PETROLEUM; INCLUDES \$35,000 FINE & \$300,000 CLEANUP PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Total Petroleum, Inc., on alleged hazardous-waste violations at the company's Alma, MI, oil refinery.

Total Petroleum has agreed to pay a penalty of \$35,000 and to complete a \$300,000 supplemental environmental project, which will reduce or stop release of contaminants to the soil and ground water.

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EPA cited Total Petroleum in December 1993 and in April 1996 for violation of hazardous waste control regulations. These included:

- Exporting hazardous waste to Canada without Canada's consent;
- Discharging hazardous waste to a surface impoundment between March 29 and August 22, 1994; and
- Other alleged violations relating to the company's hazardous waste training program, contingency plan, hazardous-waste determination, and manifested waste.

"EPA is committed to enforcing hazardous waste regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Joseph M. Boyle,

chief of the regional Enforcement Compliance Assurance Branch;  
Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division.

EPA issued the agreement, or consent order, under the Resource  
Conservation and Recovery Act.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 18, 1997

No. 97-OPA161

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH GAGE; INCLUDES \$10,000 FINE & \$65,500 CLEANUP PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Gage Products Co. on alleged hazardous-waste violations at the company's Ferndale, MI, spent solvent recycling plant.

Gage has agreed to pay a penalty of \$10,000 and to complete a \$65,500 supplemental environmental project, which would cut volatile organic emissions from the facility by about 4.8 tons per year.

EPA cited Gage in October 1995 for violating its permit to manage hazardous waste.

Volatile organic compounds are major contributors to the formation of ground-level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, asthma attacks, eye irritation, and congestion. Ground-level ozone can reduce lung function, resistance to colds and other infections, and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

"EPA is committed to protecting human health and the environment from the effects of improperly managed hazardous waste," said Norman Niedergang, director of the regional Waste, Pesticide, and Toxics

Division. "We are pleased that Gage has agreed to perform this supplemental environmental project to cut these emissions."

The action was taken under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 18, 1997

No. 97-OPA162

## **EPA UNDERGROUND-TANK SWEEP NETS COMPLIANCE INFORMATION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said an enforcement sweep of underground-storage-tank facilities in Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan and on Tribal lands has netted valuable information about compliance with the stricter 1998 underground-storage-tank standards, which may require upgrading or closure.

"We found that about two-thirds of the underground storage tank facilities inspected have not yet been upgraded or closed," said Willie Harris, chief of the regional Program Management Branch. He said EPA has no intention to extend the December 1998 deadline, and will enforce tank upgrade requirements.

The regional action was part of an EPA national enforcement effort aimed at measuring early compliance with 1998 standards and at identifying and correcting violations of State and EPA regulations requiring leak detection at underground-storage-tank facilities.

Since early 1995, the underground-storage-tank program has encouraged owners and operators to meet the requirements for spill, overfill, and corrosion protection that must be met no later than December 22, 1998.

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, closed, or replaced.

Of the 219 facilities visited this May, half were petroleum marketers and half were non-marketers. Twenty-nine of the visited facilities had closed. Of the 190 still operating, 36 percent had already met 1998 standards and 64 percent had not. Of the 64 percent not meeting 1998 standards, 72 percent plan to upgrade or replace their systems before the deadline and 28 percent plan to close.

Of the 190 operating facilities, 42 percent were not in compliance with present leak-detection requirements. Over a third of the marketers and half of the non-marketers were not in compliance with leak-detection requirements.

Enforcement actions taken were: 10 warning letters (9 to marketers and 1 to a non-marketer); 47 notices of violation (16 to marketers and 31 to non-marketers); 9 field citations with \$3,900 total penalties (3 to marketers-\$1,350 and 6 to non-marketers-\$2,550).

Inspectors from Illinois, Michigan, and the City of Chicago accompanied EPA inspectors on some of the compliance sweeps.

Of the sites visited, 80 percent were in Illinois (Chicago, DuPage County, Springfield, Rockford, and the southwestern suburbs of Chicago as far south as Kankakee and Morris); 1 percent were in Northwest Indiana; 9 percent were located in Southeast Michigan (Detroit); and the remaining 10 percent were on Tribal lands.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 25, 1997

No. 97-OPA163

## **EPA: CLEANUP COMPLETE AT JOHNSON PRODUCTS SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup is now complete at the Johnson Products site, 7813 West 6 Mile Rd., Salem Township, MI.

The facility is an unfinished and abandoned vinyl hose plant that contained hazardous chemicals. Some of these chemicals were stored carelessly in open containers, or left exposed to the elements in a garage area. The late Fred Johnson owned the business and the property.

The site was referred to EPA by Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in December 1996. EPA secured the site from trespassers and analyzed and removed all hazardous materials and pollutants. The \$80,000 cleanup was supervised by a Superfund emergency response team based in Grosse Ile, MI.

Hazardous materials removed from the site included: 5 drums of flammable liquid, 10 drums of laboratory waste, 24 drums of process waste sludge, and 2 containers of PCB's. Two above-ground storage tanks were cleaned and disabled. A truckload of miscellaneous solid waste and 17 drums of nonhazardous liquids were removed. The materials were sent to disposal facilities in Georgia, Michigan, and Ohio.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 28, 1997

No. 97-OPA164

## **EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON CLEANUP PLAN FOR TEXTILE ROAD SITE; MEETING AUGUST 13**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is seeking public comments on a proposed plan to clean up soil contamination at the Textile Road Superfund site, Ypsilanti, MI.

A formal comment period runs July 30 through August 28. A meeting to explain the plan will be held Wednesday, August 13, at 7 p.m., Ypsilanti Township Civic Center, 7200 South Huron Dr.

EPA is recommending that PCB-contaminated soils be excavated and disposed of in one or more approved off-site landfills. Either a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-permitted landfill and/or a Toxic Substances Control Act-permitted landfill may be appropriate disposal sites.

The plan is based on a recently completed Engineering Evaluation-Cost Analysis for the site. The study evaluated 12 cleanup alternatives, ranging from no action to placement of a cap over the site.

EPA believes that the excavation and off-site disposal alternative is the best cleanup approach. EPA's proposed plan remains protective of human

health and the environment. Estimated cost of the plan: \$1.36 million. The plan should take about 6 months to complete.

Oral and written comments on the plan will be accepted at the August 13 meeting. Written comments must be postmarked by August 28 and should be 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@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:gawlinski.denise@epamail.epa.gov). EPA will respond to all comments received before making a final decision.

Copies of the study and other site documents are available for review at Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan.

The site was a gravel mine from the late 1940's until 1973. In 1986, 40 drums containing PCB's and other chemicals were removed from the site. Additional drums containing PCB's were removed in 1988 and 1991.

PCB's (polychlorinated bipheynls) 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 freshwater fish and aquatic birds--and present human health hazards.

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Last Updated: July 29, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 28, 1997

No. 97-OPA165

## **EPA CITES MILLENNIUM PETROCHEMICALS FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Millennium Petrochemicals (formerly Quantum Chemical Co.) for alleged violations of clean-air regulations at its Tuscola, IL, facility.

Millennium exceeded visible emissions, or opacity limits (the amount of light obscured), on data recorded by its stack smoke monitor at one boiler. During one quarter, the air pollution monitoring equipment was not working 6 percent of the time.

The boilers at the plant were also tested for emissions of particulates (smoke, dust, ash) emissions. Boilers No. 1 exceeded the standard by more than three times the allowable limit, and boilers No. 3 and 4 exceeded the standard by two times the allowable limit. The violations were documented by EPA specialists.

The notification is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve the matter, EPA can issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company.

Millennium has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting

with 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 steps necessary to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung diseases. Children, the elderly, or those with existing heart or lung conditions are the most sensitive.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 28, 1997

No. 97-OPA166

## **EPA, DOE SETTLE DISPUTE ON FERNALD; MEETING AUGUST 26**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that it has agreed with U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to settle a dispute on a time extension for cleanup activities at the Fernald Environmental Management Project, Fernald, OH. Under the agreement, DOE will spend about \$1.1 million on fines and environmental projects to resolve the dispute.

A public meeting to discuss the settlement will be held on Tuesday, August 26, at 6 p.m., Alpha Building (Classroom D), 10967 Hamilton-Cleves Rd., Harrison.

Work at the Fernald site is divided among five operable units. The agreement concerns Unit 4, which is made up of four silos and surrounding structures and soils. Silos 1 and 2 contain radium waste sludge, Silo 3 contains powdery cold metal oxides, and Silo 4 is empty.

In September 1996, DOE requested a time extension for submitting plans to EPA for a waste treatment facility to be built at Unit 4. EPA denied the request and said it would assess penalties for the missed deadlines. To resolve the conflict, the agencies engaged in a formal dispute resolution

process between October 1996 and May 1997.

The settlement includes four components: (1) A revised work schedule for Unit 4; (2) Preparation of a "Lessons Learned" document by DOE, outlining activities to assure proper implementation of future large-scale waste conditions at the Fernald site; and (4) A \$100,000 penalty.

The environmental projects are:

- Establishment of a conservation area to preserve wildlife habitats near the Fernald site.
- Establishment of a wild bird and flower habitat area, plus walking paths.
- DOE-funded research grants for ecological restoration efforts at the site.
- Decontamination and off-site recycling of an estimated 300 to 500 tons of steel railroad tracks from Fernald's now-closed process area.
- Decontamination and off-site recycling of an estimated 300 to 500 tons of structural steel debris and oversized salvage material, such as steel mill barriers, rollers, and storage tanks.

"We are pleased to arrive at this settlement with the Department of Energy," said William Munro, regional Superfund director. "The environmental projects will benefit site conditions in a number of visible ways. The settlement also serves as a reminder that EPA is quite serious about cleanup deadlines--and will take appropriate steps when responsible parties and agencies fail to meet them."

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has been advised of the dispute and concurs with the terms of the settlement.

Oral and written comments on the settlement will be accepted at the August 26 public meeting. A public comment period is scheduled from August 4 through September 3, 1997. All comments will be considered by EPA and DOE, and the agreement may be revised based on the comments.

The settlement document will be available for review next week, along with other site documents, at the Public Environmental Information Center, 108 Hamilton-Cleves Rd., Harrison. A fact sheet on the agreement will be available at the public meeting and

on EPA Region 5's website at <http://www.epa.gov/region5>.

The Fernald Environmental Management Project comprises a series of cleanup activities at the now-closed DOE Feed Materials Production Center. The site operated in support of U.S. defense operations, producing uranium metals from 1951 to 1991.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 24, 1997

No. 97-OPA167

## **EPA PICKS CLEANUP PLAN FOR FLOODPLAIN-WETLANDS UNIT OF FIELDS BROOK SITE; MEETING JULY 31 TO DISCUSS SOURCE CONTROL UNIT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently selected a final plan to deal with contamination in the Floodplain-Wetlands portion of the Fields Brook Superfund site, Ashtabula, OH.

EPA has scheduled a public meeting to discuss cleanup alternatives and receive comments on the Source Control portion of the site. The meeting will be held July 31, from 7 to 9 p.m., Columbus Junior High School, 1326 Columbus Ave., Ashtabula, OH.

Fields Brook's 4 mile-long main channel flows through an industrialized section of Ashtabula. The contamination comes from PCB's, hexachlorobenzene, and other hazardous substances which were discharged in the brook. EPA activity at the site is divided among four separate units: Floodplain-Wetlands, Source Control, Sediment, and Ashtabula River.

EPA considered eight cleanup alternatives and sought public comments before making its decision on the Floodplain-Wetlands portion of the site.



For residential portions of the Floodplain-Wetlands area, the final plan includes excavation of soils containing greater than 30 parts per million (ppm) total PCB's, with the placement of a 6-inch soil cover over remaining low-level contamination.

For the industrial portions of the Floodplain-Wetlands area, the final plan includes excavation of soils containing PCB's greater than 50 ppm. The excavated soils would then be placed in a landfill, to be built on an existing industrial property within the watershed. The plan also includes long-term monitoring and deed restrictions on future development. Cost: \$6.9 million.

At the July 31 meeting, EPA will present its proposed plan to prevent recontamination of Fields Brook and the surrounding floodplain and wetlands by industrial properties and several sewer systems near the site. The plan includes: excavation of soils with PCB concentrations greater than 50 ppm, removal of contaminated sediment from sewers, and closure of sewer sections that cannot be cleaned.

EPA will accept written and oral comments on its Source Control at the July 31 meeting. Written comments will also be accepted through August 22, 1997. They should be sent to Bri Bill, P-19J, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. E-mail: [bill.briana@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:bill.briana@epamail.epa.gov). EPA will consider all comments received before making a final decision.

Copies of the final plan for the Floodplain-Wetlands area, the proposed plan for the Source Control area, and other site documents are available for review at Ashtabula County District Library, 335 West 44th St., Ashtabula.

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--including in freshwater fish and in aquatic birds--and present human health hazards.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 24, 1997

No. 97-OPA168

## **EPA SELECTS CLEANUP PLAN FOR UNITED SCRAP LEAD SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an record of decision amendment for cleaning up lead contamination at the United Scrap Lead site, Concord Township, OH.

The Superfund site, which was a lead-battery reprocessing plant from the early 1940's until 1980, is 1 mile south of Troy, in Miami County. Much of EPA's concern is focused on a former disposal area for lead-acid battery casing chips. It occupies about 8 acres of the 25-acre property. EPA is also addressing lead-contaminated soils at the site.

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The original cleanup plan was selected by EPA in September 1988, and some portions of the plan were carried out in 1992. However, the main component--involving an innovative technology for treatment of contaminated soils and battery casing chips--was not done. Unforseen logistical problems and later research showed the cost would be substantially higher than projected.

EPA's amended cleanup plan deals with the remaining battery casing chips and contaminated soils. The plan includes: excavation and off-site disposal of chips at an approved landfill; excavation and off-site disposal of soils that exceed 1,550 parts per million of lead contamination; and, if necessary, construction of a landfill cap over any remaining contaminated soils to ensure future ground-water safety.

Estimated cleanup cost: \$16.7 million. Work may begin next spring.

The record of decision amendment and other site-related documents are available for review at Troy-Miami County Public Library, 419 West Main St.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 25, 1997

No. 97-OPA169

## **EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON NATIONAL PRESTO SITE STUDY**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is seeking public comments on a recently completed engineering study that evaluated a range of cleanup alternatives for remaining contamination at a former lagoon area and for stockpiled soils within the National Presto Industries Superfund site, Eau Claire, WI.

The former lagoon, known as Lagoon No.1, is one of several cleanup sites within the 320-acre National Presto property. For this site, EPA is recommending an alternative that includes an on-site vapor extraction system to remove volatile organic compound vapors from subsurface soils. Afterward, the lagoon would be backfilled.

In addition, previously removed soils now stockpiled at the site will be consolidated and placed under a landfill cap, which is now being designed for the Melby Road Disposal Site portion of the property.

Requests for a public meeting or written comments on the study, called an Engineering Evaluation-Cost Analysis, will be accepted from July 28 to August 27. They should be sent to Susan Pastor, P-19J, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. E-mail: [pastor.susan@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:pastor.susan@epamail.epa.gov). EPA will

respond to all relevant comments before making a final decision.

Copies of the study and other site documents will be available for review at Chippewa Falls Public Library, 105 West Central St., Chippewa Falls, and Hallie Town Hall, Route 9, 957 Hagen Rd., Chippewa Falls.

Administrative records, which contain information upon which EPA's decision will be based, have also been placed at the library and town hall. A fact sheet about the study is available from EPA's World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/sitefact.htm>.

The National Presto Industries site was purchased from the U.S. War Department in 1947. The company first manufactured household appliances and outboard motors, then added defense-related products in 1951.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 28, 1997

No. 97-OPA170

## **EPA CITES MAGRETECH FOR VIOLATING CLEAN AIR ACT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Magnesium Refining Technologies, Inc. (MagReTech), for alleged violations of clean-air regulations at its Bellevue, OH, plant.

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Specifically, MagReTech did not get a permit before it began building a secondary magnesium smelting operation at 301 Sandusky County Rd. 177, Bellevue.

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. MagReTech has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the allegations.

"The Clean Air Act mandates permitting systems to ensure the review and approval of air pollution sources before they are built," said David Kee, director of the regional Air and Radiation Division. "We will take all necessary steps to ensure that companies comply."

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 28, 1997

No. 97-OPA171

## **EPA CITES GREAT LAKES GAS FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Great Lakes Gas Transmission Co. (Detroit, MI) for alleged clean-air violations caused by its pipeline in China Township, St. Clair County, MI.

Great Lakes Gas owns and operates a natural gas transmission system, running from the Canadian Province of Manitoba through Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan and back into Canada at Sarnia, Ontario, on the St. Claire River, north of Detroit.

During a construction project, a pipe section was purged, venting lubricating oil along with natural gas over 2- to 4-mile area. The oil covered houses, cars, and the Pine River Elementary School.

EPA said Great Lakes Gas emitted an air contaminant that caused injurious effects, or unreasonable interference with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property.

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. Great Lakes Gas has 10 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the allegations.



"EPA is committed to enforcing the 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."

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Last Updated: July 29, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa171.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Roger Field  
(312) 353-8243

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(312) 353-2151

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: July 29, 1997

No. 97-OPA172

## **EPA CITES STRATEGIC MATERIALS FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Strategic Materials, Inc., for alleged clean-air violations at its Milwaukee glass recycling plants, 12305 Silver Spring Rd. It is one of 27 glass recycling plants operated by the company nationwide.

EPA inspectors visited the Milwaukee plant last December. Until two weeks before the EPA inspection, the plant crushed old glass to two sizes: a 5/8 inch size and fine granules. On the day of the inspection, the plant announced it would no longer crush glass into fine granules.

EPA cited the company for violating standards on particulates (smoke, dust, ash), fugitive dust, and volatile organic compound emissions, as well as for building a stationary air pollution source without a State permit.

The notification is a preliminary finding of violations. To resolve the matter, EPA can issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company.

A meeting between EPA and the company has been scheduled for July 31 in Chicago.

"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."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung diseases. Volatile organic compounds combine in the atmosphere with other chemicals to form ground-level ozone, which can cause breathing problems, reduced lung function, eye irritation, stuffy nose, reduced resistance to colds and other infections, and aggravated asthma. It may also speed up aging of lung tissue.

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Last Updated: July 29, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa172.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: July 29, 1997

No. 97-OPA174

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

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Rouge Steel Co. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's Dearborn, MI, plant.

Visible emissions of particulates (smoke, dust, ash) from Rouge's "A" and "B" basic oxygen furnaces exceeded the State limit of 20 percent opacity (the amount of light obscured).

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. Rouge Steel has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the allegations.

"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."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung diseases. Children, the elderly, or those with existing or lung conditions are the most sensitive.

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Last Updated: July 29, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa174.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: July 29, 1997

No. 97-OPA175

## **EPA CITES ALCOA FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA) for alleged clean-air violations at its Warrick Operations, Newburgh, IN.

Three furnaces in ALCOA's ingot casting facility exceeded visible emissions limits for particulates (smoke, dust, ash) during an EPA inspection last April.

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Warrick Operations make aluminum ingots from recycled aluminum scrap and alumina powder, rolls the ingots into sheets, and sends the sheets to plants that make aluminum products.

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. ALCOA has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the allegations.

"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."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung diseases. Children, the elderly, and people with chronic heart and lung diseases are the most sensitive.

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Last Updated: July 29, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa175.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: Ginny Narsete  
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For Immediate Release: July 31, 1997

No. 97-OPA176

## **EPA: CLEANUP TO BEGIN AT FULTZ LANDFILL; MEETING AUGUST 6**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup of the Fultz landfill Superfund site (Byesville, OH) will begin this summer. An informal meeting to discuss the cleanup will be held Wednesday, August 6, 1997, at 7 p.m., Byesville Police Station (Elks Room), 123 Main St.

Residents can expect to see construction crews, trucks, and occasionally workers in protective clothing over the next few months.

Site cleanup will include:

- Installation of a multilayer landfill cap;
- Installation of a ground-water and leachate collection system, followed by sampling and either off-site disposal or discharge to Wills Creek (based on sampling results); and
- Monitoring of groundwater, leachate, and methane gas emissions during and after cleanup.

The existing security fence around the site will be maintained throughout the cleanup. Water from the Byesville water supply is and will continue to



be safe to drink. The landfill cap and other aspects of the cleanup will prevent contamination from migrating from the landfill into the environment.

Some portions of the cleanup plan have been modified since first presented in 1991. The changes are outlined in an "Explanation of Significant Differences" issued by EPA in May 1995 and are available at Byesville Public Library, and Guernsey County Public Library, Cambridge. The changes, which significantly reduced the cost of cleanup, were based on new information generated during the design phase of the project.

The cleanup follows the signing, lodging, and entering of a consent decree between EPA and seven companies which may have contributed hazardous waste to the site. These responsible parties will contribute between \$6 million and \$9 million toward cleanup of the landfill. EPA and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will oversee all cleanup.

The 22-acre site was an open dump from 1958 to 1968 and a municipal landfill from 1969 to 1985. In the 1970's, the landfill was cited for numerous violations. The south half of the landfill lies above an abandoned, flooded coal mine. The aquifer beneath the mine provides drinking water for the city of Byesville.

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Last Updated: August 4, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa176.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: William Omohundro  
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For Immediate Release: July 29, 1997

No. 97-OPA177

## **EPA CITES AMERICAN DISPOSAL FOR FAILURE TO REPORT; INCLUDES \$29,040 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited American Disposal, Inc., a Chicago-based waste transporter, for failure to submit required information on transport of hazardous asbestos waste. A \$29,040 penalty has been proposed.

EPA records show that American Disposal was involved in at least 20 recent asbestos waste transportation jobs in Illinois, yet the company has not supplied the EPA with information on any of these jobs as required by an EPA information request.

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.

American Disposal has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to answer the complaint and request a formal hearing. It may request an informal settlement conference anytime.

Dry, easily crumbled (friable) asbestos is a known cancer-causing agent,

which can lead to mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (a lung disease) many years after exposure.

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Last Updated: July 29, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa177.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: July 30, 1997

No. 97-OPA178

## **EPA CITES STYBERG ENGINEERING FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited E.C. Styberg Engineering Co., Inc., for alleged clean-air violations at its Racine, WI, plant, 1609 Goold St.

Styberg makes transmissions and engine parts, industrial machinery, and metal stampings. EPA said volatile organic compound emissions from the company's rust control process exceeded State standards.

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This is a preliminary notice of violations. To resolve the matter, EPA can issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company.

Styberg has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting with 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 steps necessary to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Volatile organic compounds 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. It can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

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Last Updated: July 30, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa178.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: August 4, 1997

No. 97-OPA179

## **EPA ASKS CHICAGO CLERGY TO HELP SPREAD WORD ABOUT PESTICIDE DANGER**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has asked Chicago-area clergy to help provide information to their congregations on the risks associated with the improper use of the pesticide methyl parathion, also known as cotton poison.

In a July 30 letter to some 2,500 churches, EPA asked the clergy to encourage those whose homes may have been sprayed with the pesticide to call a hotline for free testing. EPA also offered fact sheets and asked churches to include information about the risks of misusing the pesticide in church bulletins and newsletters.

EPA recently discovered that the pesticide, which is designed for use outdoors, has been illegally sprayed in hundreds of Chicago-area homes to control cockroaches and other pests. An unlicensed exterminator named Ruben Brown (also operating under the business name of J.D. McKinley) sprayed homes primarily on the South, West, and Northwest Sides of the city and the western suburbs.

"Many of those who have had this pesticide sprayed in their homes have been reluctant to have their homes tested," said Phyllis Reed, regional Pesticides and Toxics branch chief. "Some have been concerned that they will get Ruben Brown into more trouble. They will not. Brown has already pleaded guilty to illegally spraying homes.

We hope that local churches will help spread the message that cotton poison is dangerous if used indoors, and those who may have had it

sprayed, or used it themselves, should have their homes tested to protect their families' health."

To schedule testing, or for more information on methyl parathion, call 888-889-6542.

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Last Updated: August 4, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa179.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Technical Contact: Matt Mankowski  
(312) 886-1842

Media Contact: Bri Bill  
(312) 353-6646

For Immediate Release: August 7, 1997

No. 97-OPA180

## **EPA: PROPOSED CLEANUP PLANS ISSUED FOR 2 TOMAH LANDFILLS; MEETING AUG. 18**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that it has proposed cleanup plans for two Tomah, WI, landfills. A public meeting to discuss plans for both the Tomah Armory Landfill and the Tomah Municipal Sanitary Landfill will be held Monday, August 18, 6 p.m., Tomah City Hall (Council Chambers), 819 Superior Ave.

Both landfills are on EPA's Superfund National Priorities List of abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. A separate public comment period for each site plan has been scheduled.

For Tomah Armory Landfill, EPA, following further study of site contamination, has determined that no formal cleanup is necessary. Thus, EPA proposes that action be limited to continued ground-water monitoring. Restrictions are already in place to protect against future inappropriate land use. A 30-day comment period for the Tomah Armory site ends August 25.

For Tomah Municipal Sanitary Landfill, EPA considered eight alternatives. EPA recommends a course of action that includes installation of a dual-barrier landfill cap and a gas-extraction system. EPA believes



this alternative is cost-effective and provides protection for human health and the environment. A 30-day comment period for this site runs August 7 through September 5.

EPA will accept written and oral comments on both plans at the August 18 meeting. Written comments may also be sent to Bri Bill, P-19J, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. E-mail: [bill.briana@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:bill.briana@epamail.epa.gov). EPA will consider all comments received before making a final decision. Copies of both plans and other site documents are available at Tomah Public Library, 716 Superior Ave.

Update: Tomah Fairgrounds Landfill

EPA has recently signed a Record of Decision for a third Monroe County Superfund site, Tomah Fairgrounds Landfill. For this site, EPA selected a "No Further Action" plan, with a consent decree signed by the City of Tomah to continue ground-water monitoring. Documents related to this site are also available at Tomah Public Library.

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Last Updated: August 20, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa180.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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

For Immediate Release: August 5, 1997

No. 97-OPA181

## **EPA TO HOLD FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI AIR-REDESIGNATION HEARINGS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold two hearings in Wisconsin on its proposed approval of air-quality redesignation for a portion of the Forest County Potawatomi Reservation, Carter, WI.

The first session will be 4 to 8 p.m., August 12, at Indian Springs Lodge, Highway 32, Carter. The other will be 1 to 5 p.m., August 13, at Holiday Inn Rhinelander, 668 West Kemp St., Rhinelander.

Each session will be preceded by a brief presentation and a question-answer period, followed by a 3-hour formal hearing. EPA will also accept written comments at the sessions.

The Forest County Potawatomi Band of Chippewa Indians has requested that its reservation be redesignated from a Class II to a Class I area. EPA is proposing to approve that request. (For clean-air permitting purposes, areas are designated as Class I, Class II, or Class III. Class I areas are those where the least amount of air-quality degradation is allowed.) State and tribal governments, in areas of the country where the air is clean, have the prerogative to reclassify their air sheds.

Documents related to the proposed approval are available for review at EPA's Regional Air and Radiation Division, Air Programs Branch, 18th

Floor, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL, and Crandon Public Library,  
104 South Lake Ave., Crandon, WI.

For consideration in the final decision, EPA must receive written  
comments by September 15, 1997. They should be sent to:

Carlton Nash, Chief  
Regulation Development Section  
U.S. EPA (AR-18J)  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604

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Last Updated: August 5, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa015.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: August 6, 1997

No. 97-OPA182

## **EPA APPROVES CHANGES TO CLEANUP PLAN AT BUCKEYE LANDFILL; MEETING AUGUST 13**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently approved several changes to the cleanup plan for Bukeye Reclamation Landfill, Belmont County, OH. These changes, outlined in an "Explanation of Significant Differences" document, will speed cleanup of the Superfund site, reduce costs, and maintain protection of human health and the environment.

A meeting to discuss the changes will be held Wednesday, August 13, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., St. Clairsville Recreation Center, 102 Fair Ave. Representatives from Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) will also be on hand.

Significant changes from the original 1991 cleanup plan include:

- Reducing the solid-waste landfill cap from 90 acres to 37 acres. Of the remaining area, 24 acres will be covered by a grass-seeded soil cap, and an existing 29-acre cap will be inspected and repaired.
- Relocating Kings Run, the stream that flows along the east side of the site, by several feet to allow for construction of the landfill cap. The stream will be lined with thick plastic to prevent contamination

from landfill runoff.

- Draining and backfilling of the Northern Impoundment, a shallow pond north of the site that was created when soil was dug up for landfill use.
- Delaying construction of a ground-water and leachate treatment system until the landfill cap is constructed.

For more information, contact Ginny Narsete, Community Involvement Coordinator, 1-800-621-8431. The "Explanation of Significant Differences" and other site documents are available at St. Clairsville Public Library and Martins Ferry Library-Neffs Branch.

The site, about 4 miles southeast of St. Clairsville in the Kings Run Valley, was a municipal landfill from 1971 to 1991. From 1976 to 1979, the landfill also accepted industrial sludge and liquids. Before 1950, coal refuse from area mines was deposited in the valley, resulting in Kings Run becoming partially dammed up and in the creation of several impoundments at the site.

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Last Updated: August 7 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa015.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: August 11, 1997

No. 97-OPA183

## **EPA SETTLES ON MARCY ROAD MIDNIGHT DUMP SITES**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and U.S. Department of Justice have recently arrived at a settlement with Theodore Lichko and MCM Warehouse, Inc., which resolves liability for cleanup of the Marcy Road midnight dump sites, near Pierpont, OH.

Under the settlement (consent decree), Lichko and MCM agree to pay the Government \$100,000 plus interest, to cover EPA's costs associated with a Superfund hazardous materials removal in 1991-92. Lichko is the president and sole shareholder of MCM.

The site includes five areas in close proximity: two in Ashtabula County, OH, and three in Crawford County, PA, at which illegal dumping of hazardous substances took place. Marcy Road is the largest of these--1 mile east of Penn Line Road, at the dead end of Marcy Road, next to the Ohio-Pennsylvania border.

The hazardous substances--including acetone, formaldehyde, hydrochloric acid, and perchloroethane--found at Marcy Road and the other sites were

traced to the MCM Warehouse at 1115 East 152d St., Cleveland, OH. The materials were illegally dumped by workers hired to clean the warehouse.

The first of the dump sites was discovered by an Ohio Department of Natural Resources wildlife officer. Upon closer inspection, the officer was overcome by fumes and had to be hospitalized.

An EPA emergency response team supervised removal and disposal of the hazardous materials. Once gathered for shipment off-site, the materials included about 4,950 lb of corrosive solids, 480 lb of corrosive liquids, and 55 gallons of flammable liquids.

The settlement resolves the civil liability of MCM and Lichko associated with the case. Previously, in August 1993, MCM pleaded guilty to Federal criminal charges of aiding and abetting in the mishandling of hazardous waste, resulting in an \$80,000 restitution order and a 5-year probation. MCM has made no payment on the restitution order.

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Last Updated: August 19, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa183.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: Mick Hans  
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City of Kenosha Contact: Sharon Krewson  
(414) 653-4028

For Immediate Release: August 11, 1997

No. 97-OPA184

## **EPA: CLEANUP COMPLETE AT FROST MANUFACTURING SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup is now complete at the former Frost Manufacturing site, 6523 14th Ave., Kenosha, WI. EPA analyzed and removed all potentially hazardous materials and pollutants that posed an immediate threat to human health and the environment.

The facility is an abandoned 5-acre swimming pool and plumbing equipment manufacturer, which operated from 1902 to 1995. Trespassing, vandalism, and illegal dumping had been reported at the site. The two buildings on the property contained a variety of hazardous chemicals, contaminated materials, and potentially dangerous process areas.

The site was referred to EPA by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The \$850,000 cleanup was supervised by a Chicago-based Superfund emergency response team.

Hazardous materials removed from the site included: 4,300 gallons of



flammable liquids; 1,300 gallons of acid liquids; 1,495 cubic yards of hazardous debris and contaminated soil; 19 drums of chemical waste; 10 drums of PCB waste; and 25 cubic yards of asbestos-containing materials. The materials were transported to disposal facilities in Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. A mercury spill in a laboratory area was also cleaned up.

While the immediate hazards have been removed, some additional work--such as removals of a lead-contaminated smoke stack, underground storage tanks, or soils buried more than 2 feet below former process areas--may be required for certain reuses of the property. The city of Kenosha is working in cooperation with WDNR's Land Recycling program to evaluate options for further cleanup and potential redevelopment.

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Last Updated: August 11, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Technical Contact: David Schulz  
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Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 12, 1997

No. 97-OPA185

## **EPA CITES CINERGY FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Cinergy Corp. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's Beckjord Station, New Richmond, OH.

Cinergy operates six coal-fired boilers at the Beckjord electric generating station. Company stack tests show that Cinergy has been operating boilers No. 1 and 4 in violation of State standards for particulate (smoke, dust, ash) emissions.

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. A conference to discuss the allegations has been scheduled for August 13 in Chicago.

"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."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung diseases. Children, the elderly, or those with existing heart or lung

conditions are the most sensitive.

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Last Updated: August 19, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa185.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: William Omohundro  
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For Immediate Release: August 12, 1997

No. 97-OPA186

## **EPA CITES ST. PAUL METRO WASTEWATER PLANT FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited the Metropolitan Council of St. Paul, MN, for alleged clean-air violations at its Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant, 2400 Childs Rd.

At least one of the six on-site sewage sludge incinerators at the plant has exceeded EPA emissions limits for particulates (smoke, dust, ash) in an area that exceeds national health-based standards for particulates.

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Particulate emissions leaked from emergency vents, violating the requirement that facilities properly maintain and operate their air pollution control equipment. Reporting violations were also noted.

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 council. A conference to discuss the allegations has been scheduled for September 11 in Chicago.

"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."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung diseases. Children, the elderly, or those with existing heart or lung conditions are the most sensitive.

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Last Updated: August 19, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: August 14, 1997

No. 97-OPA187

## **EPA TO HOLD AVAILABILITY SESSION ON WTI RISK ASSESSMENT RESULTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) scientists and technical specialists who worked on the Waste Technologies Industries (WTI) risk assessment will hold an availability session tonight (Thursday, August 14) to take comments and answer questions on the results of the EPA risk assessment.

The meeting will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of the East Liverpool, OH, City Hall, 126 West 6th St.

The meeting is being held at the request of community members who wanted an additional opportunity to comment and ask questions after having time to study the risk assessment which was completed and presented to the community on May 8.

EPA Region 5 staff taking part in the meeting are Margaret McCue, associate director, Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division; Dr. Harriet Croke, chief of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permitting Section for Ohio, Minnesota and Wisconsin; Gary Victorine, environmental engineer, RCRA Permitting Branch.

Dr. Carole Braverman, senior toxicologist, Office of Strategic Environmental Analysis; Dr. Mario Mangino, toxicologist, RCRA Permitting Branch; Pamela Blakely, meteorologist, RCRA Permitting

Section for Ohio, Minnesota and Wisconsin; Daniel Mazur, ecologist,  
RCRA Permitting Section for Ohio, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

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Last Updated: August 19, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa187.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Janice Bartlett  
(312) 886-5438

Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: August 13, 1997

No. 97-OPA188

## **EPA ENDORSES ILL GROUND-WATER PROTECTION PLAN**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently endorsed the State of Illinois Core Comprehensive State Ground-Water Protection Program and awarded the State \$20,000 to expand its ground-water data system.

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"Half of the residents of Illinois depend on ground water for their drinking water," said Jo-Lynn Traub, regional Water Division director. "Illinois has demonstrated a commitment to protecting its ground water and has established an outstanding plan to prevent drinking-water contamination before it occurs."

The State's program includes research and education, establishing minimum setback zones for drinking water wells, doing hazard reviews for small communities, and compiling inventories of contaminant sources for all public water-supply wells.

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Last Updated: August 19, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Susan Prout  
(312) 353-1029

Technical Contact: Pablo Valentin  
(312) 353-5592

Media Contact: Susan Pastor  
(312) 353-1325

For Immediate Release: August 18, 1997

No. 97-OPA189

## **EPA SEEKS COMMENTS ON SCRAP PROCESSING STUDY; PUBLIC MEETING SEP. 16**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is seeking public comments on proposed alternatives for cleaning up contaminated soils and ground water at the Scrap Processing Superfund site, Medford, WI.

EPA's recommendation is to:

- excavate lead-contaminated soil and take it to a licensed off-site solid waste landfill for disposal;
- sample the waste to verify that it meets landfill requirements;
- fill excavated areas with clean soil;
- plant vegetation over the excavated areas;
- install a security fence;
- set up deed restrictions; and
- do long-term ground-water monitoring and assessment.

Written comments on the Scrap Processing feasibility study and proposed cleanup plan will be accepted from August 25 to September 24. They should be sent to Susan Pastor, P-19J, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

Oral and written comments may also be submitted at a 7 p.m. public meeting September 16, Taylor County Multi-Purpose Building, County Fairgrounds, Medford.

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 feasibility study, proposed plan, and other site-related documents will be available for review at the Medford Public Library, 104 East Perkins St. An administrative record, which contains information upon which the cleanup plan will be based, has also been placed at the library.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: August 18, 1997

No. 97-OPA190

## **EPA CITES 2 NE OHIO REGIONAL SEWER PLANTS FOR EXCELLENCE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has named two Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District wastewater treatment plants among the best operated municipal plants in 1997.

The district's Southerly plant in Cuyahoga Heights was named the best in the large advanced category for its excellent compliance record for the last 3 years and for making changes that increased the efficiency of its process, reduced labor costs by 75 percent, and cut the impacts of high flows on equipment and the environment. The plant was also cited for removing phosphorus from sewage by natural processes and without the addition of chemicals. The plant serves almost 560,000 people in southern Cleveland and nearby suburbs. It discharges into the Cuyahoga River, a tributary of Lake Erie.

The district's Easterly plant in Cleveland was named best in the large secondary category for its excellent compliance record for the last 5 years. It was cited for saving \$800,000 a year in energy costs through its competitive purchasing of natural gas and electric power, and for saving another \$30,000 a year by reusing effluent water at the plant. The plant has also improved the efficiency of biological treatment and operates the only fluidized-bed grease incinerator in the U.S. The plant serves almost 370,000 people in northeast Cleveland and nearby suburbs. It discharges into Lake Erie.

"By its efficient operation and maintenance of these two sewage treatment plants, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District has demonstrated that it is possible to reduce costs and protect the environment," said Jo-Lynn Traub, director of the regional Water Division. "Both plants protect the water quality of Lake Erie by consistently doing an excellent job of removing pollutants from their discharge water."

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Jeff Cahn  
(312) 886-6670

Technical Contact: Brad Stimple  
(312) 886-0406

Media Contact: Derrick Kimbrough  
(312) 886-9749

For Immediate Release: August 19, 1997

No. 97-OPA191

## **EPA, WESTINGHOUSE AGREE ON CLEANUP OF WEST SIDE, CLEAR CREEK**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today it has reached agreement with Westinghouse Electric Corp. on the cleanup of west side of Clear Creek, Bloomington, IN. The property, which is owned by the City of Bloomington, contains soil and sediment contaminated by PCB's.

The agreement, known as an administrative order by consent, requires the company:

- to remove contaminated soil where PCB levels exceed 25 parts per million (ppm);
- remove 6 inches of soil from surrounding areas, some of which will be used to fill in the excavated area;
- fill in the entire excavated area with clean soil;
- create a 30-foot buffer between the excavated area and Clear Creek, to prevent disturbance of the stream bank;
- either cap any contaminated soil with PCB concentrations less than 25 ppm or dispose of it in a landfill permitted to accept such waste;
- dispose of soil with PCB concentrations greater than 25 ppm in a landfill permitted to accept PCB-contaminated waste; and

- restore the entire excavated area.

"I am pleased that cleanup and restoration of this site will proceed now," said EPA Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "We are confident that it will protect both public health and the environment."

A copy of the agreement and additional information on the site are available at Monroe County public libraries, 303 East Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington, and 600 West Temperance, Ellettsville.

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Last Updated: August 20, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Tim Chapman  
(312) 886-6829

Technical Contact: Dave Anderson  
(313) 692-7683

Media Contact: Cheryl L. Allen  
(312) 353-6196

For Immediate Release: August 20, 1997

No. 97-OPA192

## **EPA: CLEANUP AT JACO PLATING SITE COMPLETED**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup of hazardous wastes has now been completed at the JACO Plating site, 502 East Mansion, Jackson, MI.

The cleanup was done on time and under budget: of the earmarked \$1 million, only \$455,000 was spent. Efficiency of the work crews and the lack of soil contamination were deciding factors in this fast and economical cleanup.

Some 85 tanks and 300 drums of various hazardous wastes were removed, including caustics, acids, cyanides, waste oil, hazardous debris, and solid wastes. In addition, 13 rolloff boxes (about 16 cubic yards each) of nonhazardous wastes were removed and taken by the city to a local landfill.

EPA and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality have also completed an integrated assessment of the site; a report is pending.

The site, today owned and controlled by the city, was used by JACO from 1982 to 1991 as an electro-plating facility. It consisted of a 23,000-square-foot warehouse and a processing area.

The city intends to redevelop the site under EPA's Brownfields program for formerly contaminated or abandoned urban properties.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Technical Contact: P.C. Lall  
(313) 692-7685

Media Contact: Denise Gawlinski  
(312) 886-9859

For Immediate Release: August 19, 1997

No. 97-OPA193

## **EPA: COMMENT PERIOD FOR TEXTILE ROAD SITE EXTENDED THROUGH SEPT. 27**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that the period for public comments on a proposed plan to clean up soil contamination at the Textile Road Superfund site, Ypsilanti, MI, has been extended through September 27.

The comment period originally was to run through August 28. EPA extended the period in response to a number of requests at an August 13 public meeting in Ypsilanti.

EPA's proposed plan recommends that PCB-contaminated soils be excavated and disposed of in one or more approved off-site landfills. Either a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-permitted landfill or a Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)-permitted landfill may be an appropriate disposal site.

The plan is based on a recently completed Engineering Evaluation-Cost Analysis for the site. The study evaluated 12 cleanup alternatives, ranging from no action to placement of a cap over the site. EPA believes that the excavation and off-site disposal alternative is the best cleanup approach. EPA's proposed plan remains protective of human health and the

environment. Estimated cost of the plan: \$1.36 million. The plan should take about 6 months to complete.

Written comments must be postmarked by September 27 and should be 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@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:gawlinski.denise@epamail.epa.gov). EPA will respond to all comments received before making a final decision. Copies of the study and other site documents are available for review at Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan.

The site was a gravel mine from the late 1940's until 1973. In 1986, 40 drums containing PCB's and other chemicals were removed from the site. Additional drums containing PCB's were removed in 1988 and 1991.

PCB's (polychlorinated bipheynls) 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 freshwater fish and aquatic birds--and present human health hazards.

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Last Updated: August 20, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Tom Nash  
(312) 886-0552

Technical Contact: Dion Novak  
(312) 886-4737

Media Contact: Noemi Emeric  
(312) 886-0995

For Immediate Release: August 21, 1997

No. 97-OPA194

## **EPA SELECTS CLEANUP PLAN FOR UNIT 5 OF REILLY TAR & CHEMICAL SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed a record of decision for cleanup of a ground-water plume near the Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp. site, Indianapolis, IN.

Work at this Superfund site is divided among 5 operable units. The document outlines the final cleanup plan selected for Unit 5, which comprises ground-water--contaminated by the site--that has migrated to nearby off-site areas. Cleanup at Unit 1 was completed in 1994; cleanup at Unit 2 was completed in 1996. Work to deal with soil contamination at Units 3 and 4 is expected to begin in late 1998.

EPA's plan for Unit 5 calls for natural attenuation--allowing for the natural breakdown of contaminants in the plume--with long-term ground-water monitoring. Previously, a perimeter pump and treat system was installed to isolate ground water beneath the property.

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Estimated annual cost for the plan over a 15-year period: \$50,000. Depending on the rate of natural attenuation, cleanup levels may be reached much sooner. Because hazardous substances will remain in place at Unit 5, EPA will review the plan every 5 years to determine its

effectiveness.

EPA considered four different cleanup alternatives for Unit 5. The plan was selected by EPA, in conjunction with Indiana Department of Environmental Management, because it provides the most protection to human health and the environment, allowing for long-term effectiveness at the lowest overall cost.

The off-site ground-water plume was the only remaining ground-water problem still to be solved at the site.

The cleanup plan and other site-related documents are available for review at Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library, 40 East St. Clair St.

The 120-acre Reilly Tar & Chemical site has been used for the production of specialty chemicals and related products since the early 1950's. Until 1972, a coal-tar refining and wood-treatment facility also operated at the site. Historically, a number of areas within the site have been used to dispose of wastes, including a landfill, a trench, and several pits. Environmental concerns at the site include contaminated ground water, surface water, and soil.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Linda Nachowicz  
(312) 886-6337

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

For Immediate Release: August 21, 1997

No. 97-OPA195

## **EPA TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON J & L LANDFILL AUGUST 26**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a public meeting on a proposed cleanup plan for the Jones and Laughlin Landfill (J & L), Rochester Hills, MI. The proposed plan presents clean-up options for contaminated ground water at the site.

The meeting will be 7 p.m. August 26, 1997, in City Hall, 100 Rochester Hills Dr., Rochester Hills, MI.

Four Options have been considered: no action, limited action, containment and dewatering, and extraction and treatment. EPA is recommending limited action, which includes controls, installation of additional wells for long-term monitoring, and deed restrictions on the property.

All four options will be discussed at the meeting. Information about the options, the J & L site, and the Superfund process are available for review at Rochester Hills Public Library, 210 West University Dr., Rochester Hills.

Comments, postmarked no later than September 17, 1997, should be sent to:

Don de Blasio  
U.S. EPA Region 5

Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604

Comments may also be sent by fax, (312)353-1155, or e-mail, [deblasiodon@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:deblasiodon@epamail.epa.gov)

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Last Updated: August 27, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa195.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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(312) 886-6670

Technical Contact: Dan Hopkins  
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Media Contact: Derrick Kimbrough  
(312) 886-9749

For Immediate Release: August 25, 1997

No. 97-OPA196

## **EPA: WORK TO BEGIN AUG. 25 AT WINSTON-THOMAS SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that work will begin August 25 at the abandoned and tertiary lagoons portion of the Winston-Thomas Wastewater Treatment Facility, Bloomington, IN.

Cleanup beginning Monday will focus on four sludge digesters and three sludge drying beds at the site. Work includes:

- Removal and off-site landfill disposal of 3,500 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sludge from the digesters and 4,500 cubic yards of contaminated sludge from the drying beds;
- Removal and off-site disposal of 2 to 4 inches of sand beneath the drying bed sludge;
- Placement of 18 inches of clean fill material over the drying beds; and
- Treatment of all water remaining in the sludge digester.

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Existing contaminated piping and related sludge transfer equipment will be removed and disposed of off-site, or decontaminated with high-pressure cleaning solution and sealed in place. Work is expected to continue through late 1997.

Wastewater sludges from the Winston-Thomas site, a sewage treatment facility operated by the City of Bloomington, were contaminated by PCB's from Westinghouse Electric Corp.'s capacitor factory, from 1958 to 1977. The 26-acre property is one of eight Superfund sites in Monroe and Owen Counties contaminated by PCB's and other wastes from the Westinghouse plant.

In a related matter, on August 19 EPA announced it had reached agreement with Westinghouse on a cleanup plan for an adjacent parcel, the west side of Clear Creek. (A news release, #97-OPA191, is available from EPA at 312-353-2072.) A copy of the agreement and other site documents are available at Monroe County public libraries, 303 East Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington, and 600 West Temperance, Ellettsville.

PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) 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 freshwater fish and aquatic birds--and present human health hazards.

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Last Updated: August 27, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa196.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Tom Williams  
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(312) 886-0995

Leo Rosales  
353-6198

For Immediate Release: August 26, 1997

No. 97-OPA173

## **EPA: NEW DRAINAGE SYSTEM COMPLETED AT CELOTEX SITE; WILL HELP PREVENT FLOODING**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that a new storm-water drainage system has been completed at the Celotex Superfund site, 2800 South Sacramento Ave., Chicago. The drainage system was installed by Celotex Corp. (the current site owner) and should help reduce recurring flooding problems in the community.

The vacant 24-acre site, previously owned by AlliedSignal Corp., was the home of an asphalt roofing products manufacturer from 1910 to 1982. During this period, the property was contaminated with liquid coal tar from process operations. Though the buildings were demolished in the early 1990's, EPA believes some coal tar is still underground.

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In 1994, Celotex covered the site with a light-colored soil--thus removing any potential for exposure to the coal tar. However, because of the way the property was graded during this process, residents have reported neighborhood flooding from the site during periods of heavy rain.

In response to neighborhood concerns, EPA, working with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the City of Chicago Department of Environment, requested that Celotex regrade the property and install a

new drainage system to ensure that rain washing off the site would flow into the city's storm-water sewer system. This project has been completed.

AlliedSignal has also signed an agreement with EPA to complete an engineering and cost evaluation for additional cleanup at the site. The sampling for the study has already been done, with results expected soon.

In addition, EPA has recently proposed that a Citizens Advisory Group be established for the site. These groups--which are led by local residents, not EPA--provide a forum to share views and to get up-to-date information about site activities. To learn more, or participate in the advisory group process, call Leo Rosales, Community Involvement Coordinator, 312-353-6198.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa173.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Philippa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: August 26, 1997

No. 97-OPA197

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA HOSTS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will host a regional conference on global warming -- "Global Climate Change: What Does It Mean for the Midwest and the Great Lakes?" -- on September 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Clarion-Executive Plaza Hotel, 71 East Wacker Dr., Chicago.

National and regional experts will provide the latest scientific information on global climate change, potential impacts on the Midwest and Great Lakes, and public policy options.

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Last Updated: August 29, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa197.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: August 27, 1997

No. 97-OPA198

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA HOSTS OPEN HOUSE AT RESTORED HOME**

U.S. EPA has completed the first cleanup and restoration of a Chicago apartment contaminated by the illegal spraying of a restricted agricultural pesticide -- methyl parathion. Media is invited to tour the apartment to see the results of the cleanup and restoration.

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When: Thursday, August 28 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Where: 1049 North Drake (3500 West), Chicago

What: Open house of a cleaned and restored apartment that had been contaminated by methyl parathion

Who: EPA staff will be available to answer questions. The tenants do not wish to participate in media interviews.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa198.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Rett Nelson  
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Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 28, 1997

No. 97-OPA199

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH GARY DEVELOPMENT; INCLUDES \$86,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today the U.S. Department of Justice has recently reached agreement on EPA's behalf with Gary Development Co., Inc., on alleged hazardous waste violations at the company's Gary, IN, landfill.

The agreement includes an \$86,000 fine and the creation of a \$40,000 cleanup trust fund for use in closing and cleaning up the landfill. Indiana Department of Environmental Management is the beneficiary of the fund.

The fund must be used only for closure and post-closure care activities, a ground-water quality assessment program, cleanup of contamination, and prevention of hazardous-substance releases.

The terms of the settlement have been limited because of the company's financial inability to do closure and post-closure work at the site, as required by a 1986 complaint and compliance order.

"EPA is committed to enforcing hazardous waste regulations to protect human health and the environment," said Joseph M. Boyle, chief of the regional Enforcement Compliance Assurance Branch; Waste, Pesticides,

and Toxics Division.

The agreement, or consent decree, was issued under authority of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act at the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Indiana, Hammond.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: William Omohundro  
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For Immediate Release: August 28, 1997

No. 97-OPA200

## **EPA CITES 3 PRAIRIE DU CHIEN COMPANIES FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited three Prairie Du Chien, WI, companies for alleged clean-air violations at their grain transfer facilities located at the Municipal Dock in Prairie Du Chien. The companies are: Prairie Sand & Gravel, Inc.; Didion, Inc.; and Terra International, Inc.

Prairie Sand & Gravel built a temporary facility without getting a permit and exceeded limits on visible emissions of particulates (dust) from the facility. At its permanent facility, the company violated conditions of its State construction permit for particulate emissions.

Didion formerly owned a permanent facility and had built a temporary facility without getting a State construction permit. It exceeded visible particulate emissions limits at both facilities.

In April 1997, Terra International bought Didion's permanent facility and subsequently violated visible particulate emissions limits.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve the violations, EPA may issue compliance orders, assess administrative penalties, or

bring suits against the companies. The companies have 30 days from receipt of the notices to request meetings to discuss the allegations.

"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."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung diseases. Children, the elderly, and people with chronic heart and lung diseases are the most sensitive.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Thomas Martin  
(312) 886-4273

Technical Contact: Charles G. Hall  
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Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 28, 1997

No. 97-OPA201

## **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 at its animal rendering plant, 3275 West 65th St.

During the past 5 years, citizens in the neighborhood have registered over 500 odor complaints with the Cleveland Division of Air Pollution Control, mostly 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. A meeting to discuss the allegations has been scheduled for September 10 in Chicago.

"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."

Citizens may call Charles Hall at 312-353-3443 to report complaints or to provide information about the Darling facility.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Legal Contact: Rodger Field  
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Technical Contact: Katherine Keith  
(312) 353-6956

Media Contact: William Omohundro  
(312) 353-8254

For Immediate Release: August 28, 1997

No. 97-OPA202

## **EPA CITES CLARK FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Clark Refining and Marketing Co. for alleged clean-air violations at its Blue Island, IL, oil refinery.

Specifically, Clark failed to do emissions testing and install and operate continuous emissions monitoring for sulfur compounds at its sulfur recovery plant, as required by EPA regulations.

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. Clark has 30 days from receipt of notification to request a meeting with 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 steps necessary to ensure that companies comply with the Clean Air Act."

Inhaling sulfur dioxide can irritate lungs and trigger coughing and narrowing of breathing passages. Children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases are the most sensitive.

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Last Updated: August 29, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 2, 1997

No. 97-OPA203

## **EPA SETTLES WITH ALLEN COUNTY CO-OP FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$7,500 FINE AND 2 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with Allen County Cooperative Association, Inc. (Arcola, IN), for violations of Federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release.

The company will pay a \$7,500 fine and spend at least \$52,981 on two supplemental projects which will improve facility safety and benefit the local agricultural community and the environment.

EPA's complaint alleges that on May 27, 1993, the company failed to promptly notify the National Response Center and State authorities of a 1,000 lb release of anhydrous ammonia. Federal laws require immediate notification upon any release of anhydrous ammonia exceeding 100 lb. The facility also failed to provide a timely follow-up report to State and local authorities.

Allen County Cooperative supplies anhydrous ammonia to the agricultural community for use as fertilizer. The release occurred when a dispensing valve that had been closed for the evening malfunctioned and released the

ammonia into the air. The smell of ammonia was detected by area residents.

"Compliance with these reporting requirements 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."

The supplemental environmental projects require the company to:

- Purchase and install 20 hose-end valves with self-locking handles to its anhydrous ammonia dispensing stations. The valves are to be operated continuously during the March 1-July 31 planting season for 3 years, beginning in 1997. (The company initiated this project in April.) Cost: at least \$18,981.
- Develop and mail 5,000 copies of a pamphlet on safe handling of anhydrous ammonia to the Indiana agricultural community. Within 1 year, the company will also hold 20 training seminars throughout Indiana on anhydrous ammonia and Federal chemical reporting requirements, under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. Cost: at least \$34,000.

Since May 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 104 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 87 settlements and \$3.45 million in total fines.

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Last Updated: September 4, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa203.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 2, 1997

No. 97-OPA204

## **EPA CITES INDIANAPOLIS POWER & LIGHT FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Indianapolis Power and Light Co. (IPL) for alleged clean-air violations at its Perry K Station, Indianapolis.

IPL exceeded Indiana particulate (smoke, dust, ash) emissions limits at four of its six coal-fired boilers (units 11, 12, 15, and 16). Company stack tests show emissions at more than 40 percent above the allowable level, resulting in excess emissions of over 80 tons per year.

Based on coal analysis data, IPL also violated State sulfur dioxide emissions limits at all six coal-fired boilers (units 11 through 16). The data show emission levels 10 percent above the 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. IPL has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the allegations.

"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."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung diseases. Inhaling sulfur dioxide can irritate lungs and trigger coughing and narrowing of breathing passages. Children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases are the most sensitive to both pollutants.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 2, 1997

No. 97-OPA205

## **EPA CITES 5 COMPANIES FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS AT OHIO DEMOLITION SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited five companies for alleged violations of Federal asbestos regulations at a demolition site owned by Cytec Industries, Inc., Marietta, OH.

In addition to citing the owner, EPA cited a demolition contractor -- R. Baker & Son, All Industrial Services, Inc., Staten Island, NY -- and three companies doing asbestos abatement work at the demolition site: Mar-Par, Inc., Marietta; Farley Environmental Co., Inc., Trenton, NJ; and Mountain States Central, Inc., Chicago.

EPA asbestos regulations were violated in the spring and summer of 1996 during preparation of the site for demolition. The violations are failure to:

- thoroughly and timely inspect buildings for asbestos before start of demolition;
- provide critical information to government agencies before start of the project; and
- properly handle asbestos being removed from the facility.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve the violations,

EPA may issue compliance orders, assess administrative penalties, or bring suit against the companies. The companies have 30 days from receipt of these findings to request meetings to discuss the allegations.

"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. "We are committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment."

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.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 2, 1997

No. 97-OPA206

## **EPA CITES DEMOLITION OPERATOR FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Peter O'Dovero and Associated Constructors, Inc., Marquette, MI, for alleged violation of Federal asbestos regulations at a demolition site in Assinins, MI.

Associated Constructors, a company owned and operated by Peter O'Dovero, demolished a tribal center owned by the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community in February 1997 without notifying the proper authorities as required by regulations.

This is a preliminary finding of violation. To resolve this violation, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. Associated Constructors has 10 days from receipt of the finding to request a meeting to discuss the allegation.

"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.

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Last Updated: September 4, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa206.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 3, 1997

No. 97-OPA207

## **CINCINNATI COMPANY TO REDEVELOP FORMER TOXIC WASTE SITE UNDER AGREEMENT WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

Cincinnati-based Metal Treating, Inc. will purchase and redevelop an adjacent piece of land that is a former Superfund toxic waste site, returning what was once a contaminated property to productive commercial use. Under today's agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Justice Department, Metal Treating will pay a portion of the \$750,000 purchase price to reimburse the Superfund environmental cleanup program. In exchange, the company will not be held liable for any portion of what was known as the City Bumper Superfund site.

From the 1920's through the 1960's, a plant on the City Bumper site produced industrial gases. Later it became an electroplating business. In 1990, the operator abandoned the facility, leaving behind several thousand gallons of hazardous waste. The Federal government and the State of Ohio prosecuted the operator and the site was cleaned up under the Federal Superfund program for \$2 million. "I am delighted that this agreement smoothed the way for a productive reuse of a former Superfund site and helped to keep jobs in the area," said EPA Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich.

"This agreement shows how well Superfund works to get toxic waste out of communities, and help local economies grow," said Lois Schiffer, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division.

The agreement complements a larger cooperative effort between Cincinnati, Hamilton County, EPA, and the Department of Justice. EPA has provided Cincinnati and Hamilton County with \$200,000 to redevelop contaminated industrial sites known as "brownfields".

Metal Treating is next door to the former Superfund site in the Lower Price Hill area of Cincinnati and is a major employer in the area. Today's agreement will allow the company to expand its current Cincinnati location and workforce rather than have to relocate. Metal Treating currently employs 80 workers.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 5, 1997

No. 97-OPA209

## **EPA PROPOSES TO DELETE LaGRANDE LANDFILL FROM SUPERFUND LIST; PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ENDS OCT. 4.**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that the LaGrande Sanitary Landfill (Douglas County, MN) has been proposed for deletion from EPA's Superfund National Priorities List.

Cleanup at the site was completed in August 1994. Oversight responsibility will be transferred to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. A 30-day public comment period, announced Sept. 5 in the Federal Register, ends Oct. 4.

The deletion follows a 1994 EPA-Minnesota landfill agreement, under which the State can clean up landfills with minimal Federal involvement.

The 6-acre landfill, between Alexandria and Garland, received municipal and industrial wastes from 1974 to 1984 and was frequently in violation of solid waste regulations. The landfill was closed in 1985 and added to EPA's list in 1987.

After cleanup, the landfill was capped with clay and topsoil and seeded with grass. Long-term monitoring of ground water and combustible gas ventilation continues.

Oral and written comments on deletion of the LaGrande site from EPA's list may be sent to Gladys Beard, Superfund Division (HSRW-6J), U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604; 800-621-8431. Written comments must be postmarked no later than October 4. EPA will respond to all comments received.

Local residents seeking more information may consult the EPA Information Repository at Alexandria Public Library, 7th and Fillmore Sts.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 10, 1997

No. 97-OPA210

## **EPA: DEMOLITION TO BEGIN AT ROCK ISLAND PLATING; CITY ACQUIRES PROPERTY FOR PARK**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) today announced the start of building demolition at the Rock Island Plating Superfund site, 358 16th Ave., Rock Island, IL. The building is a former electroplating facility that was operated by Rock Island Plating, Inc., from 1965 to 1996.

On Monday, September 8, the City of Rock Island entered into a prospective purchaser agreement with EPA. Under the agreement, the City will acquire the property from the site owner and turn it into a parking lot for Rauch Park (formerly Apollo Park). In exchange for the City's work and a payment of \$3990, EPA will not hold the City liable for the contamination caused by the site owner. The site is adjacent to the Century Woods apartments.

Significant problems at the site were first detected by EPA and DOJ in September 1993, when two of the former owners were convicted and sentenced under Federal environmental laws for improperly disposing and

storing hazardous wastes at the site. The company ceased operations and abandoned the site in February 1996, following a public hearing and the city's subsequent nullification of its sanitary discharge permit.

In September 1996, a Chicago-based EPA Superfund response team initiated removal of materials from the site, including: 18 tons of metals, 15,300 gallons of hazardous waste liquids, 5,300 gallons of plating chemicals, and 5 rolloff boxes of nonhazardous debris. A small amount of soils will also be excavated.

When complete, EPA's removal work, including the building demolition, will cost an estimated \$900,000.

"The project is a model example of brownfields redevelopment, an ongoing EPA priority," said Acting Regional Administrator David Ullrich. "It has been a pleasure working with Mayor Schweibert and the City Council to reach a solution that addresses a public hazard and also enhances a public park."

EPA's work at the site is expected to be complete by the end of the month.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 8, 1997

No. 97-OPA211

## **EPA CITES ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE CONTROL FOR HAZ. WASTE VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$39,800 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Environmental Waste Control, Inc., for alleged hazardous waste violations at the company's Inkster, MI, plant, 27140 Princeton Ave. EPA has proposed a \$39,800 penalty.

Environmental Waste Control takes used oil that is a byproduct of manufacturing processes, treats it at its plant, and then sells it to public utility companies that burn the oil to generate electricity.

The company accepted used oil that was contaminated with hazardous waste and mixed it with other used oil before selling it to the public utilities, in violation of its State permit.

The complaint was issued under authority of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

"EPA is committed to enforcing hazardous waste regulations to protect human health and the environment," said Norman R. Niedergang, director of the regional Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division.

Environmental Waste Control has filed an answer to the complaint and has requested an informal settlement conference. No date has been set for the conference.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Julie Moriarty  
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For Immediate Release: September 8, 1997

No. 97-OPA212

## **EPA AWARDS \$58,684 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN ILLINOIS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded \$58,684 to educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and State agencies to support innovative environmental education in Illinois.

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these Illinois organizations for environmental education programs," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "Environmental education is essential to ensure that the next generation will protect the environment in the years ahead."

This year in Illinois, EPA funds will support schoolwide environmental programs, workshops for formal and nonformal educators, and a museum exhibit designed to enlighten the public about the urban environment. (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 6 years.

Altogether, EPA is awarding \$190,000 to 25 recipients in the Midwest. As required by law, most of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

## 1997 EPA Environmental Education Grants in Illinois

- \$24,000 to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Springfield), to enhance the local air pollution component of a new environmental science exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.
- \$5,000 to The Conservation Foundation of DuPage County (703 Warrenville Rd., Wheaton), to coordinate and sponsor a countywide "Envirothon," a competition designed to test students' knowledge of State resource issues and promote interest in environmental careers.
- \$5,000 to Heartland Community College (1226 Towanda, Bloomington), to hold classes on environmental assessment of the local river and to sponsor a summer workshop for teachers, who will learn to use the river as a natural laboratory.
- \$5,000 to Metropolitan Chicago Council of Campfire, Inc. (203 North Wabash, Chicago), to run a field trip to a local organic farm, where students and adult volunteers will learn to evaluate environmental issues as they relate to hunger, land-use, agricultural techniques, and earth awareness.
- \$5,000 to Public School District #29 - Sunset Ridge Elementary School (525 Sunset Ridge Rd., Northfield), to study local wetlands and share data with others throughout the world using the GLOBE software program. Students will visit various outdoor habitats and a water reclamation plant and will then create multimedia presentations based on their experiences.
- \$4,953 to American Lung Association of Illinois (6100 Center Grove Rd., Edwardsville), to train Southern Illinois University nursing students and school nurses in East St. Louis and Granite City to use "Open Airways", a curriculum that teaches students how to better control and manage their asthma. Through participation in the program, children will be better able to manage their asthma by identifying asthma triggers, including those environmental factors that place the children at risk.
- \$4,958 to Benedictine University (5700 College Rd., Lisle), to develop "discovery boxes" on local biodiversity and ecosystems. It

will also hold workshops to teach educators to use these boxes and other environmental curricula.

- \$4,783 to Chicago Park District (425 East McFetridge Dr., Chicago), to integrate environmental education into its program through a series of intensive workshops and lectures for staff. Managers, park supervisors, and park instructors will be trained to use environmental education curricula in park district programs.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Julie Moriarty  
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For Immediate Release: September 8, 1997

No. 97-OPA213

## **EPA AWARDS \$3,990 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN INDIANA**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 recently awarded \$3,990 to Vigo County School Corporation (Terre Haute) to support an innovative environmental education program.

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to this organization for its environmental education program," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "Environmental education is essential to ensure that the next generation will protect the environment in the years ahead."

This year in Indiana, EPA funds will be used to train 20 substitute teachers within the school district to be water-education specialists and use scientifically sound, hands-on methods to teach students about water quality and

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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 6 years.

This year, over 160 applicants competed for funds. Altogether, EPA is awarding \$190,000 to 25 recipients in the Midwest. As required by law, most of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.



## 1997 EPA Environmental Education Grants in Indiana

- \$3,990 to Vigo County School Corporation (961 Lafayette Ave., Terre Haute), to train 20 substitute teachers in the Vigo County school district to be water- education specialists. In the training workshop, the teachers will learn to use a curriculum entitled "The Comprehensive Water Education Book" and will be exposed to a variety of water issues. While in the classroom, they will expose the children to issues of water quality, wise water usage, and nonpoint source pollution --- through a series of scientifically sound, hands-on activities.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Julie Moriarty  
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For Immediate Release: September 8, 1997

No. 97-OPA214

## **EPA AWARDS \$65,345 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN MICHIGAN**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded \$65,345 to nonprofit organizations, universities, and city governments to support innovative environmental education in Michigan.

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these Michigan organizations for environmental education programs," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "Environmental education is essential to ensure that the next generation will protect the environment in the years ahead."

This year in Michigan, EPA funds will support teacher education workshops, community education programs, student action projects, and interactive software and website development. (see attached fact sheet)

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 6 years.

This year, over 160 applicants competed for funds. Altogether, EPA is awarding \$190,000 to 25 recipients in the Midwest. As required by law, most of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

### **1997 EPA Environmental Education Grants in Michigan**

- \$20,460 to Michigan State University (East Lansing), to develop lesson plans for primary and secondary students on the practice of biological control and on the impact of exotic species on local ecosystems. Educators will be trained to use activities in their classrooms. Students will be able to share and compare the results of their experiments through an internet site.
- \$20,060 to Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (2651 Saulino Ct., Dearborn), to create environmental awareness in an Arab American community and encourage community action on local environmental justice issues. Experts will give monthly presentations on environmental issues at local schools, and students will have the opportunity to participate in programs at the University of Michigan. The center will also organize and coordinate a 2-month environmental education summer program.
- \$5,000 to Lake Superior State University (Sault Ste. Marie), to teach students and homeowners about radon, an environmental health hazard. By using environmental chemistry exercises, students will learn to think critically and use problem-solving techniques. Students and their families will then be invited to participate in a home radon survey.
- \$5,000 to Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (660 Plaza Dr., Detroit), to design and sponsor two workshops for Southeast Michigan teachers on using the Spatially Plotted Ozone Tracking System (SPOTS) software. The SPOTS curriculum teaches users about the formation and transport of ground-level ozone and allows teachers to incorporate its activities into their lesson plans.
- \$4,975 to Inland Seas Education Association (101 Dame St., Suttons Bay), to design and develop an interactive website that will expand and enhance its "Schoolship" educational program about the Great Lakes. The "virtual schoolship" on the worldwide web will allow students to download and manipulate data, do virtual water testing and sampling, view pictures, and record observations while on-line. It will also encourage students to apply their
- \$4,962 to Cranbrook Educational Community (1221 N. Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills), to expand and improve its honey bee education program in Detroit schools. The program teaches the

value of and risks to, the bee population. Volunteers will be trained to teach visitors at a nature center.

- \$4,888 to City of Ann Arbor - Leslie Science Center (1831 Traver Rd., Ann Arbor), to sponsor full day field trips for students to the Leslie Science Center and the Solid Waste Department's Material Recovery Facility. Students will be introduced to the concepts of ecosystems and interdependency and will learn about the recycling process. After the field trip, students and teachers will be given recycling boxes and encouraged to establish recycling programs in their schools.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Julie Moriarty  
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For Immediate Release: September 8, 1997

No. 97-OPA215

## **EPA AWARDS \$17,753 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN WISCONSIN**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded \$17,753 to three nonprofit groups and a tribal organization to support innovative environmental education in Wisconsin.

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these Wisconsin organizations for environmental education programs," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "Environmental education is essential to ensure that the next generation will protect the environment in the years ahead."

This year in Wisconsin, EPA funds will support teacher education workshops, volunteer training sessions, and a tribal environmental education program. The Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa education program will deal with environmental issues that relate specifically to reservation policies and conditions. (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 6 years.

This year, over 160 applicants competed for funds. Altogether, EPA is

awarding \$190,000 to 25 recipients in the Midwest. As required by law, most of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

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## 1997 EPA Environmental Education Grants in Wisconsin

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- \$5,000 to Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful (1313 W. Mount Vernon Ave., Milwaukee), to hold workshops for teachers, who will learn how to incorporate environmental education into lesson plans. The workshops will increase teachers' knowledge of pollution prevention, waste management, and water quality and will make them feel comfortable in conducting environmental activities in their classrooms.
- \$4,970 to Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (Route #2, Hayward), to establish an environmental education and awareness program for its community. The project includes developing, collecting, centralizing, and distributing educational materials related to pertinent environmental issues; holding workshops on composting, recycling, and ground-water contamination; and publishing an environmental newsletter.
- \$4,883 to Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters (1922 University Ave., Madison), to hold a week-long summer institute for formal and non-formal educators on the wide variety of environmental education resources available. Participants will be immersed in children's literature, television, and activities and will increase their teaching skills on about environmental issues.
- \$2,900 to Blackhawk Council of Girl Scouts (2710 Ski Ln., Madison), to enhance and expand their environmental education program through a series of workshops and training sessions. Training courses will provide troop leaders with teaching skills, seasonal information, and supplementary environmental education activities designed to promote environmental awareness, appreciation, and stewardship. Training will also be provided to volunteers who will lead nature hikes, organize day camps, and create environmental service projects.

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Last Updated: September 15, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa215.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Julie Moriarty  
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For Immediate Release: September 8, 1997

No. 97-OPA216

## **EPA AWARDS \$9,240 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN MINNESOTA**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded \$9,240 to two Minnesota universities to support innovative environmental education.

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these universities for environmental education programs," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "Environmental education is essential to ensure that the next generation will protect the environment in the years ahead."

This year in Minnesota, EPA funds will support the development of environmental education programs in local schools and will help to expand an existing curriculum, including the study guide, "Frogs as Bioindicators". (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.

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EPA Region 5 has awarded more than \$1million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, and tribes in the Midwest during the past 6 years.

This year, over 160 applicants competed for funds. Altogether, EPA is awarding \$190,000 to 25 recipients in the Midwest. As required by law, most of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.



## 1997 EPA Environmental Education Grants in Minnesota

- \$5,000 to Hamline University (1536 Hewitt Ave., St. Paul), to expand its current bioindicator education program to surrounding states. The Center for Global Environmental Education will distribute the "Frogs as Bioindicators" curriculum to formal and nonformal educators and will start an on-line education program that will reach 10,000 people. A summer workshop will be offered to help teachers incorporate the curriculum, study guide, and relevant activities into their classrooms.
- \$4,240 to Southwest State University (1501 State St., Marshall), to develop environmental education programs in its local wildlife area. It will survey local wildlife populations, develop a guidebook for educators, and design classroom activities.

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Last Updated: September 15, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa215.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Julie Moriarty  
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For Immediate Release: September 8, 1997

No. 97-OPA217

## **EPA AWARDS \$34,988 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN OHIO**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded \$34,988 to a university and two nonprofit organizations to support innovative environmental education in Ohio.

"It is with great pleasure that I extend EPA's support to these Ohio organizations for environmental education programs," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "Environmental education is essential to ensure that the next generation will protect the environment in the years ahead."

This year in Ohio, EPA funds will support student education projects in under-served communities and the development of a statewide environmental education strategy. The strategy will be developed by a broad-based planning group. (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 \$1million in educational grants to academic institutions, nonprofit groups, and tribes in the Midwest during the past 6 years.

This year, over 160 applicants competed for funds. Altogether, EPA is awarding \$190,000 to 25 recipients in the Midwest. As required by law, most of the awards are for grass-roots programs costing \$5,000 or less.

## 1997 EPA Environmental Education Grants in Ohio

- \$25,000 to Environmental Education Council of Ohio (397 W. Myrtle Ave., Newark), to develop and carry out a statewide environmental education strategy. A broad-based planning group comprising policy makers, educators, business and industry representatives, citizen groups, and State agencies will develop and carry out the strategy. The plan will incorporate current research on education and comparative risk.
- \$5,000 to Environmental Mobile Unit (5431 Tallawanda Ln., Oxford), to teach students and teachers environmental problem-solving skills through observation and evaluation of their local environments. A naturalist will work with teachers to develop lesson plans to enable students to investigate a wide variety of environmental issues. Student will gather data and practice problem-solving skills while learning about water quality, air quality, wildlife habitat, and soil use.
- \$4,988 to Case Western Reserve University (10900 Euclid Ave., Cleveland), to educate students in a local under-served school district. The university will recruit, train, and deploy a corps of volunteers to serve as liaisons between the schools and environmental education organizations. Student leaders will educate others about watersheds, water quality, and water pollution. The university will also integrate watershed education activities into its pre-college summer programs.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 8, 1997

No. 97-OPA218

**NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS: PHOTO OPPORTUNITY AT  
ROCK ISLAND PLATING WORKS BUILDING DEMOLITION,  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 11:00 A.M.**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the City of Rock Island will host a media availability and photo opportunity, Wednesday, September 10, as demolition of the former Rock Island Plating Works begins.

The building is located at 358 16th Ave., Rock Island, adjacent to the Century Woods public housing complex. Demolition is scheduled to start promptly at 11:00 a.m.

Beginning at 10:30 a.m., representatives from EPA, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the City of Rock Island will be on hand to discuss the demolition and subsequent re-paving of the property, after which it will become part of an existing city park.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 9, 1997

No. 97-OPA219

## **EPA, ILLINOIS SIGN 'BROWNFIELDS' AGREEMENT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the Illinois EPA have signed an innovative agreement to help redevelop hundreds of Brownfields -- industrial and commercial urban sites in Illinois that are abandoned, or under used because of real or perceived environmental contamination.

It is the first such agreement in the Nation to cover Federal and State requirements for hazardous wastes, toxic wastes, and underground storage tank cleanup. It also acknowledges the Illinois voluntary cleanup program.

The agreement recognizes that, if a site is cleaned up under State standards that are equal to Federal standards, property owners would be protected against double jeopardy. This reduces the uncertainties for lenders, property owners, developers, and the regulated community.

"This provides an incentive for cleaning up and redeveloping these contaminated sites, which benefits the economy and assures the protection of human health and the environment," said EPA Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich.

The agreement is based on EPA's economic redevelopment initiative for Brownfields established in 1995 to show how to return unproductive, abandoned urban sites to productive use and to ensure that future development is done in a sustainable, environmentally sound manner.

Last May, EPA announced that Cook County and the City of Chicago had been awarded Brownfields pilot-project grants for \$200,000 and \$41,000, respectively. These grants provided Federal seed money for work on several redevelopment projects.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa219.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 11, 1997

No. 97-OPA220

## **EPA CELEBRATES POLLUTION PREVENTION WEEK SEP. 15 - 21; FREE LESSON PLANS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency--along with many states, local governments, and organizations--has declared September 15-21, 1997, National Pollution Prevention ("P2") Week.

Since 1992, government agencies, business groups, and community organizations have used this annual event to call attention to activities that help eliminate or reduce pollution at its source.

In support of P2 Week 1997, EPA Region 5 has produced a Pollution Prevention Toolbox kit for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade teachers. The kit contains a series of 4-page lesson plans on P2 concepts, plus lesson plans on energy conservation, household hazardous waste, pesticides, and water pollution. In August, EPA sponsored two workshops on the P2 Toolbox kits for Chicago Public School teachers.

P2 Toolbox kits are available free to educators. For more information, contact Megan Gavin (DRP-8J), EPA P2 Toolbox, EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604 312-353-5282.

EPA Region 5 also has an ongoing Pollution Prevention outreach program, which provides technical assistance on pollution reduction strategies to businesses, communities, and other organizations in the six-state Region. For more information, call Phil Kaplan, 312-353-4669.

For more information on P2 Week activities in Chicago, call Chris Hayes,  
Illinois Waste Management Research Center, 312-751-5757.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 11, 1997

No. 97-OPA221

## **EPA PROPOSES NO FURTHER ACTION AT BELDING SITE; PUBLIC MEETING SEP. 16**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that a 30-day comment period on a proposed plan for the Belding Warehouse Superfund site (Belding, MI) is now under way.

A 7 p.m. public meeting to explain the plan and accept oral and written comments will be held Tuesday, Sep. 16, at Pere Marquette Depot, 100 Depot St., Belding.

EPA's plan recommends that no additional Federal action be done at the site once the current cleanup is completed.

In February 1996, an EPA engineering study showed that the site posed an immediate threat to human health and the environment. Since then, more than 34,000 radium-painted aircraft parts have been taken off-site 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.

Total cost of cleanup will be \$6-\$7 million, reduced from the original \$12.2 million estimate, EPA said. EPA will leave the site once the final radiation survey is done.

EPA and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality are now doing a survey to see that all radiologically contaminated aircraft parts and other materials have been removed from the site. Once this is confirmed, the increased radiation risks posed by this site will have been removed.

Written comments must be postmarked no later than October 10, 1997, 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@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:gawlinski.denise@epamail.epa.gov).

The proposed plan, engineering study, and other site documents are available for review at Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 East Main St., Belding.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 12, 1997

No. 97-OPA222

## **EPA COMPLETES 5-YEAR REVIEW OF ALSCO-ANACONDA SITE; MONITORING TO CONTINUE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently completed a 5-year status review of the AlSCO-Anaconda Superfund site, Gnadenhutten, OH.

Superfund requires reviews (at least every 5 years) of sites where cleanup has been completed, but where pollutants have not yet been reduced to prescribed levels. EPA's review of the site confirmed that, as expected, ground-water contaminant levels do not yet meet the required standards. Thus, under EPA oversight, the responsible parties will continue to monitor ground water until the cleanup standards are reached.

The 4.8-acre site is next to a closed aluminum manufacturing plant. From at least 1965 to 1978, wastewater and process sludge from the plant were dumped in a pit and two unlined lagoons. From there, contaminants seeped into ground water and soil. These contaminants include cyanide, PCB's, arsenic, and heavy metals. A wooded area along the nearby Tuscarawas River was also partially contaminated.

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Beginning in 1992, a series of cleanups were done by ARCO Chemical, which owns and is responsible for the site. (In 1986, it sold its aluminum

plant to another operator, which has since closed.)

The cleanup included:

- Excavation and off-site disposal of PCB-contaminated sludges, with backfilling and revegetation of excavated areas;
- Installation and sampling of ground-water monitoring wells;
- Sampling of sediments and bottom-dwelling organisms in the Tuscarawas River;
- Installation of a security fence; and
- Deed restrictions on future use of the site.

EPA expects that natural flushing of ground water at the site will allow it to meet the ground-water standards.

The next 5-year review will be in 2002.

A copy of the report is available at the Gnadenhutten Public Library, 160 North Walnut St., or from Ross del Rosario (SR-6J), U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604; 800-621-8431.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 16, 1997

No. 97-OPA223

## **EPA: RESIDENTIAL CLEANUP ALMOST HALF-WAY DONE AT NL INDUSTRIES-TARACORP SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup in residential areas near the NL Industries-Taracorp Superfund site (Granite City, IL) is nearly half-way done.

EPA has by now cleaned up more than 500 residential yards, where lead contamination from smelter stack emissions was found at unsafe levels. EPA estimates that between 1,100 and 1,200 yards will ultimately have to be cleaned up.

Residents can expect to see construction equipment, including small tractors and backhoes in a 5-square-mile area: roughly between 8th Street on the south, 23rd Street on the north, Meredocia and Spruce on the west, and Lee and McCambridge on the east.

Residents who are not sure if their yards qualify for cleanup can call EPA: Sheri Bianchin or Brad Bradley at 800-621-8431.

Cleanup will continue through late November and start again next spring.

At the current pace, EPA says that all yards will be cleaned by late 1999.

The work will be done by OHM Corp., an environmental cleanup contractor selected and overseen by the Army Corps of Engineers, under direction of EPA. One of the construction subcontractors for this project has trained and hired 14 Granite City residents for its construction crews. (No additional hires are anticipated.)

In related NL Industries-Taracorp site news, EPA has recently issued an official letter of commendation to OHM for maintaining an excellent safety record during the cleanup. Over the past 4 years, OHM has worked about 215,000 man hours without a lost-time accident.

The 16-acre NL Industries-Taracorp site, 2 miles east of St. Louis, across the Mississippi River, was a metal refining and fabricating plant from 1903 until 1982. Lead contamination from the site has been identified in a number of residential areas in Granite City, as well as in neighboring Eagle Park Acres, Madison, and Venice.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 12, 1997

No. 97-OPA224

## **EPA-IDEM OK DECONTAMINATION PLAN AT SAFETY KLEEN FACILITY**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) today approved Safety Kleen Corp.'s plan to decontaminate equipment exposed to PCB's at its oil recycling facility in East Chicago, IN.

On September 8, Safety Kleen told the two environmental agencies that it had inadvertently received and processed PCB-contaminated oil. This had been discovered the previous day, when an oil sample tested positive for PCB's. Contaminated processing equipment was shut down and will remain so until decontamination is complete.

The contaminated equipment consists of distillation process vessels, storage tanks, and their related piping systems. Some of the contaminated oil was sent to industrial customers. The company has determined that the source of the PCB contamination was a truck shipment received on

August 27 from another Safety Kleen facility.

EPA and IDEM are evaluating the company's request to temporarily store wastes generated by the incident.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 16, 1997

No. 97-OPA225

## **EPA: MEETING ON ALBION-SHERIDAN TOWNSHIP LANDFILL SEP. 24**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold an informal meeting to discuss upcoming cleanup at the Albion-Sheridan Township Landfill Superfund site (Albion, MI), Wednesday, Sep. 24, 6 to 8 p.m., Albion Days Inn, 27644 C Drive (I-94 exit 121).

Representatives from EPA, Michigan Dept. of Environment Quality, and Michigan Dept. of Community Health will be available to meet one-on-one with residents and answer any questions about the site.

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EPA's cleanup plan includes drum removal, deed restrictions, and the installation of a flexible membrane-lined landfill cap and gas collection system. The plan also includes an alternate ground-water remedy, if ground-water contaminant levels rise even after installation of the cap.

Drum removal work is scheduled to begin in October. Installation of the landfill cap will begin next spring.

A fact sheet describing the cleanup will be available at the meeting. Or

you can request one from Cheryl L. Allen or Stuart Hill (P-19J), Community Involvement Section, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604; 800-621-8431.

The cleanup plan and other site documents are available for review at Albion Public Library, 501 South Superior St.

From 1966 to 1981, the 21-acre landfill accepted municipal refuse and industrial waste. Contaminants found in ground water and soils at the site include heavy metals and various oil and grease wastes. The north branch of the Kalamazoo River is 300 feet from the site.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 15, 1997

No. 97-OPA226

## **EPA TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE AT LEMBERGER SITES SEP. 25**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Lemberger Sites Remediation Group, is sponsoring an open house Thursday, Sep. 25, from 2 to 5 p.m., at the Lemberger Landfill and Lemberger Transport and Recycling Superfund sites, Hempton Lake and Sunny Slope Roads, Town of Franklin, WI.

Representatives from all three organizations will be available to guide visitors through the new ground-water treatment building at the Lemberger Landfill site, and the capped landfills at both sites. Casual clothing is recommended.

For more information, call Susan Pastor, EPA community involvement coordinator, 312-353-1325 or 800-621-8431.

The Lemberger Landfill was operated as an open dump from about 1954 to 1983. The adjacent 16-acre Lemberger Transport and Recycling site operated from 1970 to 1976 under the same State license.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 16, 1997

No. 97-OPA227

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH US ECOLOGY; INCLUDES \$25,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with US Ecology, Inc., on alleged hazardous waste violations at its Sheffield, IL, facility.

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The agreement includes a \$25,000 civil penalty and requires the company to meet all necessary State standards for closing the facility and for post-closure activities, including financial assurance.

EPA filed an administrative complaint against US Ecology in September 1992 for violations of EPA financial regulations. The complaint was based on an April 1991 referral from Illinois EPA.

The action was taken under authority of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

"EPA is committed to enforcing hazardous waste regulations to protect public health and the environment," said Norman R. Niedergang, director of the regional Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 16, 1997

No. 97-OPA228

## **EPA ORDERS HOOSIER CALCIUM TO INSTALL CLEAN-AIR EQUIPMENT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently ordered Hoosier Calcium Corp. to install air pollution control equipment at the company's Stinesville, IN, limestone crushing plant. (The company crushes limestone used by glass manufacturers.)

In September 1996, EPA cited Hoosier Calcium for allegedly violating State air pollution regulations: specifically, for emitting excess particulates (dust) from several of its process operations on Stinesville Rd. EPA and the company then met in December 1996 to discuss the violations.

"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."

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 to both pollutants.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 16, 1997

No. 97-OPA229

## **EPA TESTS SHOW CUTS IN HAZARDOUS AND NONHAZARDOUS WASTE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said this week that results of a voluntary waste minimization assessment at AbsorbTech LLC®, showed an aggressive plan in place to minimize hazardous waste at its South Bend, IN, industrial laundering facility.

According to Janet Haff, EPA Waste Minimization Coordinator, "AbsorbTech LLC's® strong commitment to waste reduction, combined with competitive pressure to continually improve efficiency and decrease costs, has yielded many innovative waste reduction methods."

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984, form the legislative basis for the Federal Waste Minimization Program. EPA Region 5's waste minimization program provides companies with voluntary technical assistance to reduce or eliminate the volume of waste produced by industrial processes in two ways:

### Source reduction

- Improving a facility's practices;
- Substituting toxic substances (such as solvents and other cleaning agents) used in production processes with less toxic alternatives;
- Modifying production processes to improve efficiency.

## Recycling

- Reusing waste materials within a plant;
- Finding other facilities that may be able to use waste materials;
- Sending waste materials to recyclers who process them for reuse.

AbsorbTech LLC® developed long-range corporate environmental policies that will improve worker safety, reduce waste disposal costs and liability, and benefit the environment.

For example, the company continually updates processing technology to purify laundry water to maximize its reuse. AbsorbTech LLC® also helps its customers practice waste minimization by using textiles which are laundered for reuse. One of these textile products, developed by parent company Industrial Towel and Uniform (ITU) is called Sorbits. Sorbits are the first launderable and reuseable oil absorbent products. Since June 1996, the facility has enabled its clients to reduce absorbent material being disposed of at local landfills by 75,000 pounds a month. In the future, the company estimates reduction of 400,000 to 500,000 pounds of soiled products not being landfilled.

AbsorbTech LLC® is owned by Industrial Towel and Uniform, Inc. (ITU), New Berlin, WI. ITU also has plants in Neenah, WI and Buffalo Grove, IL and service centers in Lombard, IL, and Madison, Green Bay and Wausau, WI.

EPA Region 5 has invited 45 companies, in the Indiana area, to participate in the Waste Minimization Assessment Program. For further information or to participate in this program, call 312/353-7923.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 16, 1997

No. 97-OPA230

## **EPA TESTS SHOW CUTS IN HAZARDOUS AND NONHAZARDOUS WASTE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said this week that results of a voluntary waste minimization assessment at Industrial Towel and Uniform, Inc. (ITU), showed an aggressive plan in place to minimize hazardous and nonhazardous waste. The industrial laundering facility is located in New Berlin, WI.

According to Janet Haff, EPA Waste Minimization Coordinator, "ITU's strong commitment to waste reduction, combined with competitive pressure to continually improve efficiency and decrease overhead costs, has yielded many innovative waste reduction methods." The company is now successfully educating its customers about waste minimization and pollution prevention.

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984, form the legislative basis for the Federal Hazardous Waste Minimization Program. EPA Region 5's waste minimization program provides companies with voluntary technical assistance to reduce or eliminate the volume of waste produced by industrial processes in two ways:

### Source reduction

- Improving a facility's practices;

- Substituting toxic substances (such as solvents and other cleaning agents) used in production processes with less toxic alternatives;
- Modifying production processes to improve efficiency.

## Recycling

- Reusing waste materials within a plant;
- Finding other facilities that may be able to use waste materials;
- Sending waste materials to recyclers who process them for reuse.

ITU has developed long-range corporate environmental policies that will improve worker safety, reduce waste disposal costs and liability, and benefit the environment.

For example, the company is very active in purchasing and using new equipment for waste minimization. By installing extra solvent recovery equipment, ITU has reduced one of its hazardous waste streams by 15,600 gallons a year and is saving about \$22,000 a year in disposal costs and raw material purchases.

ITU has service centers located in Lombard, IL, and Madison, Green Bay and Wausau, WI. Other plants are located in South Bend, IN, Neenah, WI, and Buffalo Grove, IL.

EPA Region 5 has invited 45 companies, in the Wisconsin area, to participate in the Waste Minimization Assessment Program. For further information or to participate in this program, call 312/353-7923.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 17, 1997

No. 97-OPA231

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

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Shelco Steel Works, Inc., for 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 topcoat.)

Violations include the use of coatings containing excess volatile organic compounds (VOC's), failure to use the proper method for testing VOC content of the coatings, inadequate recordkeeping, and failure to certify compliance with Federal and State regulations.

The Shelco plant is in Metropolitan Chicago, which does not meet health-based standards for ground-level ozone, a byproduct of VOC's.

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. A meeting to discuss the allegations has been scheduled for October 2.

"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. It can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa231.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 17, 1997

No. 97-OPA232

## **EPA CITES CLOROX FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Clorox Co. for alleged clean-air violations at the company's Bedford Park (IL) plant, 7123 West 65th St.

Specifically, Clorox failed to cut its volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions by 81 percent, or get an equivalent alternative control plan, as required by federally enforceable State regulations. The plant is in an area that does not meet health-based standards for ozone, a byproduct of VOC emissions.

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. Clorox has 30 days from receipt of the notice to request a meeting to discuss the allegations.

"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."

Volatile organic compounds 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. It can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 18, 1997

No. 97-OPA233

## **EPA: MEETING ON MEMORIAL DRIVE DUMP SITE SEP. 22**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management will hold a public meeting to discuss plans for the Memorial Drive Dump site, Muncie, IN. The meeting is set for Monday, Sep. 22, at 7 p.m., Mansfield Park Lodge, 2801 South Eaton Ave., Muncie.

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This Superfund site contains numerous lead-battery casings scattered throughout a 4-acre wooded area. The White River runs along the eastern boundary of the property, but tests indicate that the lead has not contaminated the river. However, EPA does have concerns about access to the site and possible impacts in case of a major flood.

At the meeting, representatives from EPA, the State of Indiana, and local agencies will discuss future plans for the site, which may include a seeded landfill-style cap plus enhanced canoe access and bank fishing. EPA and its partner agencies want the community to voice its opinion on these important matters.

For more information, call Derrick Kimbrough, EPA community involvement coordinator; 312-886-9749, or 800-621-8431.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 17, 1997

No. 97-OPA234

## **EPA BEGINS CLEANUP AT AABCO WASTE OIL SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said today that cleanup is under way at the AABCO Waste Oil Superfund site, 17400 St. Louis, St., Detroit, MI. Residents of the area west of Mt. Elliott Rd. and south of the Davison Freeway can expect to see heavy equipment, trucks, and workers in protective clothing at the site.

Between 1962 and 1996, the site was used by AABCO for waste-oil reclamation and storage. AABCO abandoned the site in 1996 and left behind tanks and drums with hazardous waste oil, hazardous chemicals, and sludges. The site consists of two separate properties. One is a 6,000 square-foot former oil storage facility, which contains 19 above-ground storage tanks and numerous drums and smaller containers of hazardous waste. The other is a vacant lot one block east on Brimson Ave., which contains six tanker trucks and an above-ground oil storage tank.

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Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality referred the site to EPA this past March. This summer, an EPA Superfund emergency response team from Grosse Ile, MI, has been working at the site analyzing the tanks and drums and taking measures to contain any threats posed by these hazardous materials. The site is now fenced and under 24-hour supervision.

To date, about 116,000 gallons of hazardous waste oils and contaminated water have been removed and disposed of properly. EPA has also overseen analysis of about 350 drums and small containers of flammable and corrosive chemicals and pesticides.

Beginning this week, EPA will decontaminate, take apart, and remove the above-ground storage tanks. A number of tank containment structures, a sump system, drums and small containers, and any visibly contaminated surface soils will also be removed and sent to EPA-approved disposal facilities.

Any remaining contamination far below ground level that may require cleanup will be referred to Michigan or to EPA's Superfund remediation program.

EPA expects to wrap up this phase of cleanup in October. Projected cost: \$300,000.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 17, 1997

No. 97-OPA235

## **EPA CITES 3 COMPANIES FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited three companies for alleged asbestos violations at a plant owned by U.S. Paper Mills Corp. in Menasha, WI.

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

U.S. Paper Mills hired Asbestos Removal to renovate the Menasha plant. However, Asbestos Removal failed to adequately wet the material before stripping and ensure that it remained wet until collected and contained, as required by EPA regulations.

According to information provided to EPA, at the time of renovation, Sugar Industry Equipment had purchased one of the boilers being renovated from U.S. Paper Mills and had also hired Asbestos Removal to remove asbestos from the boiler.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve the violations, EPA may issue compliance orders, assess administrative penalties, or bring suits against the companies. The companies have 30 days from receipt of the findings to request meetings to discuss the allegations.

"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. "We are committed to enforcing clean-air regulations to protect public health and the environment."

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.

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For Immediate Release: September 17, 1997

No. 97-OPA236

## **EPA CITES 5 FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited five Wisconsin parties for alleged violations of Federal asbestos regulations at demolition sites in Monroe and Evansville, WI.

Cited were Abner Enterprises, Madison; R&K Construction, Evansville; City of Monroe; City of Monroe Fire and Rescue Association; and John Morning, Evansville.

The parties were cited for asbestos violations at the Old Farmhouse in Monroe and the Old Schoolhouse in Evansville. The Old Farmhouse is owned by the City of Monroe and the Old Schoolhouse is owned by John Morning.

Abner Enterprises was hired to remove asbestos from the Old Farmhouse and to clean up demolition material at the Old Schoolhouse. R&K Construction was hired by John Morning to conduct demolition operations at the Old Schoolhouse, and Abner Enterprises was hired by the City of Monroe Fire and Rescue Association to remove asbestos from the Old Farmhouse site.

These are preliminary findings of violations. To resolve the violations,

EPA may issue compliance orders, assess administrative penalties, or bring suits against the parties. The parties have 30 days from receipt of the findings to request meetings to discuss the allegations.

"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.

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For Immediate Release: September 18, 1997

No. 97-OPA237

## **EPA CITES WISMARQ FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Wismarq Corp. for alleged clean-air violations at its metal-coil coating plant in Oconomowoc, WI.

Specifically, volatile organic compound emissions from Wismarq's coil coating line No. 1 exceeded Federal and State emissions limits.

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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 Wismarq on September 5 in Chicago to discuss the alleged violations and is now reviewing information received from the company during the meeting.

"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."

Volatile organic compounds 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. It can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 18, 1997

No. 97-OPA238

## **EPA CITES APOGEE'S LINETEC DIVISION FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Apogee Enterprises, Inc., Linetec Division, for alleged clean-air violations at its Wausau, WI, plant.

The company operates at 725 South 75th Ave. two spray-coating lines -- a flat line and a finishing line -- that were in violation of State air pollution regulations.

The flat line typically spray-coats wood pieces used in making venetian blinds for windows, and the finishing line spray-coats architectural metal and non-metal substrates for buildings.

Linetec failed to control 85 percent of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from its flat-line process and failed to properly record correct data on its finishing-line process.

EPA found the VOC emissions violation when the company submitted results of an October 1996 stack test. The recording violations were discovered during an EPA inspection. Linetec did not properly record correct data on four days -- September 24, October 5, and November 6 in

1996, and April 8, 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. A meeting has been scheduled for September 22 in Chicago to discuss the allegations.

"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."

Volatile organic compounds 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. It can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 18, 1997

No. 97-OPA239

## **EPA: MEETING ON WINSTON-THOMAS SITE SEP. 23**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the Bloomington Citizen Information Committee will hold an informal public meeting to seek opinions on a possible cleanup plan for the remaining part of the Winston-Thomas Waste Water Treatment Plant, Bloomington, IN.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, Sep. 23, 7 p.m., Batchelor Middle School Auditorium, 900 West Gordon Pike, Bloomington.

EPA recently began an engineering study to identify and evaluate a range of cleanup options for PCB contamination at the remaining part of this Superfund site. It includes: a 17-acre tertiary lagoon, an adjacent abandoned lagoon area (now dry and weed-covered), a crushed limestone trickling filter, and an interim storage facility. The interim storage facility contains waste material and soils previously excavated from the Anderson Road Landfill, as well as sediments from several stream beds and the spring water treatment plant at Neal's Landfill.

EPA wants residents to share their views on the cleanup options and to contribute other alternatives for consideration.

Winston-Thomas is one of nine Superfund sites--including Anderson Road

Landfill and Neal's Landfill--in Monroe and Owen Counties contaminated by PCB's and other wastes from a Westinghouse electric capacitor factory that operated from 1958 to 1977.

Site documents are available at Monroe County public libraries: 303 East Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington, and 600 West Temperance, Ellettsville.

PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) are a group of banned chemicals once widely used in industry as coolants and lubricants.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 18, 1997

No. 97-OPA240

## **EPA CITES DYNACHEM FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited DynaChem, Inc., for alleged clean-air violations at its Georgetown, IL, chemical manufacturing plant.

DynaChem failed to provide EPA adequate and timely information and to keep appropriate handling records for benzene waste. EPA discovered the violations during a July 8, 1997, inspection.

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. DynaChem has 30 days from receipt of the finding to request a meeting to discuss the allegations.

"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 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 up the aging of lung tissue. Children, the elderly, and persons with chronic respiratory disease are the most sensitive.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 19, 1997

No. 97-OPA241

## **LAND USE STRESSING THE GREAT LAKES**

Canadian Environment Minister Christine Stewart and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Carol M. Browner today released the 1997 State of the Lakes Report.

The report focuses on the near shore ecosystem which encompasses the relatively warm and shallow waters near the shore, costal wetlands, and the land areas directly affected by the lakes.

The findings result from the 1996 State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) held last November in Windsor, Ontario. Conference participants agreed that habitat for rare plants and animals is rapidly disappearing as land near the lakes is stressed by new home construction, marinas, and other human uses.

Some of the report's findings give the two countries reason for optimism. The overall state of human health and the health risks due to persistent toxic chemicals in the Great Lakes are rated as "mixed/improving." This reflects the decline, achieved over the last 25 years, of persistent toxic contaminants in the Great Lakes ecosystem. Concerns remain, however, about the subtle but serious hazard posed by some of these chemicals through hormonal and other effects and about the effects of air pollutants,

especially to certain high-risk population groups.

Canadian Environment Minister Christine Stewart said, "With respect to the health of the Great Lakes, this report tells us two things: we're on the right track and have made much progress in achieving environmental results and that much work remains to be done. Together, Canada and the United States are taking action to protect the Great Lakes and the results of these efforts are apparent."

EPA Administrator Carol Browner said, "This report reflects the critical challenges our two countries must address if we are to make further progress in our joint effort to protect the health of Americans and Canadians living in the Great Lakes region. It is an important step in the process of meeting our long-term goal - the restoration and the future protection of these magnificent lakes we share."

Biennial SOLEC conferences address the status of the Great Lakes ecosystem, current issues and future challenges. The conferences are sponsored by the governments of Canada and the United States as part of their shared responsibility with respect to the Great Lakes.

Environmental experts meet to discuss issues important to the Great Lakes ecosystem. The first conference in 1994 dealt with the overall condition of the lakes.

"Through a process such as the State of the Great Lakes Ecosystem Conference, the best minds from Canada and the United States are brought together, not only in a search for answers, but also to ask the right questions and to determine to what extent the ecosystem needs our assistance," said Minister Stewart.

Copies of the report are available from Environment Canada by calling (416) 739-4826 or from EPA by calling (312) 886-7474.

SOLEC '98 will be held in Buffalo, NY, in October 1998. The goal of this conference will be to develop a set of environmental and socio-economic indicators for the Great Lakes basin as well as to review progress on the investment in the preservation of environmentally important near shore areas.

For further information, please contact SOLEC Co-Chairs -- Harvey Shear (Environment Canada) at (416) 739-4704, or Paul Horvatin (EPA) at (312)

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 22, 1997

No. 97-OPA242

## **EPA: CLEANUP BEGINS AT DOVER TAR SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup will begin this week at the Dover Tar Superfund site, Dover, OH.

The recently discovered site lies within a field owned by the City of Dover. It comprises two separate areas contaminated by weathered petroleum products. The two spots--a one-third acre area and a two-thirds acre area --are about 150 yards apart. The field is south of the municipal wastewater treatment plant and leads southeast to the banks of the Tuscarawas River, about 300 feet away.

The source of the weathered petroleum is not yet known. Initial sampling by Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and EPA suggests that the material is 6 inches to 2 feet deep.

Under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, EPA may take actions to contain environmental and human health threats resulting from inland spills into all U.S. navigable waters. Although no hazardous wastes have been identified, the surface material may pose a threat to the Tuscarawas River ecosystem.

There are no homes in the immediate area, but the field is used by people

to walk their dogs and to get to fishing points along the river. To keep residents, pets, and wildlife from entering the contaminated area, both spots have been temporarily enclosed with orange snow fencing.

Work beginning this week includes excavation of soil to remove the surface-level contamination and to assess the depth of the weathered petroleum. An EPA Superfund emergency response team, based in Grosse Ile, MI, will supervise the cleanup.

Excavation, transportation, and disposal of the material is expected to take 3 to 4 weeks. Estimated cost: \$150,000.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 23, 1997

No. 97-OPA243

## **EPA SETTLES WITH DIXIE DISTRIBUTING FOR PCB VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$35,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with Dixie Distributing Co., Inc. (Springfield, OH), for violating Federal rules on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). The company will pay a \$35,000 fine.

Dixie Distributing, a motorcycle parts wholesaler, 1205 West Columbia Rd., was cited for not properly labeling and storing low-voltage PCB capacitors. The company also failed to notify EPA of its PCB wastehandling activities.

The company has certified that it has corrected the violations and is now in compliance with Federal rules.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once widely used in industry as coolants and lubricants. 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.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 30, 1997

No. 97-OPA244

## **EPA PROPOSES CAM-OR SITE FOR SUPERFUND LIST**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today the Cam-Or, Inc., site (Westville, IN) has been proposed for addition to EPA's list of hazardous waste sites.

EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) contains uncontrolled 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 removal 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 the present, 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 southwest of, the site. This study will gather sufficient data to support a comprehensive cleanup plan for the site.

Cam-Or is one of nine new proposed NPL sites and the only one in Region 5. EPA also announced six new final sites, none of which is in Region 5.

There are 1,204 final sites on the NPL and 52 proposed sites, for a national total of 1,256. Work (excluding long-term monitoring) has been completed at 447 sites.

Final and proposed NPL sites in Region 5 are:

Illinois	41
Indiana	30
Michigan	74
Minnesota	29
Ohio	38
Wisconsin	40
	252

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: September 29, 1997

No. 97-OPA245

## **EPA SIGNS AMENDED CLEANUP PLAN FOR ALLIED CHEMICAL SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed a record of decision to amend the cleanup plan for soil contamination at the Allied Chemical-Ironton Coke Superfund site, Ironton, OH.

The amendment is a modification based on soil-sampling data collected during the design phase of the cleanup. EPA has determined that about 40,000 cubic yards of soil at the former tar and coke plants are not as contaminated as previously thought.

EPA's amended plan calls for disposal of this soil at an off-site landfill, instead of treating it on site by landfarming. Because this soil is not heavily contaminated, off-site disposal will reduce project costs by \$2.2 million. In addition, off-site disposal can be completed within 12 months, compared to 12 years to complete the original landfarming plan.

Work to remove and dispose of the soils is now under way. In addition, an on-site pump and treatment system for contaminated ground-water at and near the site began operation in June 1997. Cleanup of an on-site lagoon remains to be done.

EPA's amended plan continues to protect human health and the environment.

A 30-day comment period on the amended cleanup plan ended August 15. EPA received no comments. A public meeting to explain the amended plan was held July 24.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency also supports the amended cleanup plan.

The Allied Chemical-Ironton Coke site has two cleanup areas: the Goldcamp Disposal Area and the Coke Plant-Lagoon Area. The 4-acre Goldcamp area is a former sand and gravel pit that was used for tar-plant wastes from 1945 to 1977. Cleanup of the Goldcamp area was completed in 1995. The 95-acre Coke Plant area has a dismantled coke plant and a series of lagoons that were used for wastewater treatment.

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Last Updated: September 30, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 2, 1997

No. 97-OPA246

## **EPA TO HOLD HEARING ON PROPOSED HAZ. WASTE DISPOSAL WELLS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a public hearing on its proposal to permit two commercial hazardous-waste disposal wells near Inkster Road, Romulus, MI.

The hearing will be 7 p.m. Thursday, October 9, 1997, in the Romulus High School Auditorium, 9650 South Wayne Rd., Romulus. EPA will be accepting oral and written comments at the hearing.

Environmental Disposal Systems, Inc. (Birmingham, MI), has requested permits to operate the wells on its property on Citrin Drive. The permit would allow injection of hazardous and nonhazardous waste fluids from a variety of sources into the wells 3,900 feet below ground.

Written comments, which are given as much consideration as oral comments, must be received by October 24, 1997. Send comments to:

David Werbach (WU-16J)  
Direct Implementation Section  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Fax 312-886-4235. E-mail [werbach.david@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:werbach.david@epamail.epa.gov).

Permit applications and draft permits are available for public review from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday at Romulus Public Library, 11121 Wayne Rd., Romulus.

Information is also available on the Internet at <http://water.r05.epa.gov/uic.htm>.

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Last Updated: October 6, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa246.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 2, 1997

No. 97-OPA247

## **EPA CITES GEORGIE BOY MFG. FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Georgie Boy Manufacturing, Inc., for alleged clean-air violations at the company's Edwardsburg, MI, mobile home assembly plant.

The company installed and operated two process lines without getting State permits. Georgie Boy was also required in 1989 to comply with regulations for major sources in areas that did not meet health-based standards for ozone. So far, it has not complied.

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. A meeting to discuss the allegations is scheduled for October 6 in Chicago.

"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."

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 2, 1997

No. 97-OPA248

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA TO HOST SATELLITE BROADCASTS & PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will host satellite broadcasts from the White House Conference on Global Climate Change in Chicago, Ann Arbor, and Cleveland on October 6 starting at 9:30 a.m. (EST). The broadcasts will be followed by panel discussions by local experts on climate change at each site.

### Chicago

University of Illinois-Chicago, Chicago Illini Union - Chicago Room C, 828 S. Wolcott Ave. Satellite broadcast from the White House 8:45 - 11:45 a.m. (CST)

Panel Discussion 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (CST). Moderator - David A. Ullrich, Acting Regional Administrator.

Panelists - Dr. Donald Wuebbles, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Dr. Harvey Drucker, Argonne National Laboratory; Mary O'Toole, Environmental Service Manager, ComEd; and Dr. Susan Hedman, Environmental Law & Policy Center.

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### Ann Arbor

University of Michigan Union, 530 S. State St., Pendleton Rm., 2nd Fl. Introductory remarks - Michelle D. Jordan, Deputy Regional Administrator, and Russell Harding, Director, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.



Satellite broadcast from White House 10:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. (EST).  
Panel discussion 1:30 - 3:15 p.m. Moderator - Dr. James Teeri, Global Change Project Director, University of Michigan.  
Panelists - Russell Harding; Sarah Lile, Director of Environmental Affairs, City of Detroit; Dr. Henry Pollack, Professor of Geophysics, University of Michigan; and Martin Zimmerman, Chief Economist, Ford Motor Co.

#### Cleveland

Great Lakes Science Center, 601 Erieside Ave.  
Satellite broadcast from White House 9:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. (EST)  
Panel discussion 1:15 - 3:15 p.m. Moderator - David Kee, Regional Air Division Director.  
Panelists - Dr. Philip Taylor, Case Western Reserve University; Kevin Snape, Director, Clean Air Conservancy; Bruce McCrodden, Senior Vice President of External Affairs, British Petroleum; and Robert Staib, Director, Cleveland Health Department.

The satellite coordinates for the broadcast are Galaxy 7, Transponder 16, Audio 6.2 and 6.8, 12020 megahertz vertical, KU band, analog feed.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 3, 1997

No. 97-OPA249

## **EPA/DOJ CITE CITY OF CHICAGO'S NORTHWEST INCINERATOR FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) yesterday filed a civil complaint against the City of Chicago for alleged Clean Air Act violations at the City's now idle Northwest Waste-to-Energy Incinerator, 700 North Kilbourn Ave.

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The complaint seeks a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 for each day of violation. It cites violations of federally enforceable State standards for particulates (smoke, dust, ash) and opacity (the amount of light obscured by visible emissions) that occurred before the incinerator was decommissioned in June 1996.

The complaint also seeks assurance from the City that the incinerator will not be restarted unless the City can show that the facility will comply with the Clean Air Act.

EPA notified the City of Chicago of the violations in 1993. The case was referred to the DOJ in 1994. EPA and DOJ have been negotiating with the City on the matter since 1995.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa249.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 3, 1997

No. 97-OPA250

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH 2 CHICAGO-AREA CO'S ON ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today the U.S. Department of Justice has recently reached agreement on EPA's behalf with two Chicago-area companies -- Luse Asbestos Removal Co., Inc., and Carnow Connibear & Assoc., Ltd. -- on alleged violations of Federal asbestos regulations. The agreement includes a \$70,000 penalty.

The companies were cited in a March 1996 complaint for improper handling of dry asbestos at Bowen High School, 2710 East 89th St., Chicago, in summer 1991.

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EPA ordered a third Chicago-area company involved in the removal, M & O Environmental Co., 17217 South Ashland Ave., East Hazel Crest, to clean up the asbestos after EPA inspectors found the violations. M & O Environmental was also cited in the complaint, but the case against it is still pending.

Luse is at 2050 North 15th Ave., Melrose Park; Carnow Connibear is at 333 West Wacker Dr., Chicago.

"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 entered with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 3, 1997

No. 97-OPA251

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR TO VISIT ASHTABULA AND CLEVELAND**

On October 8, 1997 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Deputy Administrator Fred Hansen will be in Ashtabula and Cleveland, OH to meet and discuss environmental issues with local interest groups.

At 10:30 a.m. he will tour the river and harbor by boat. From 11:30 a.m. to Noon, he will meet with members of the Ashtabula Partnership, local government officials, and media at the Ashtabula Yacht Club, 970 W. 5th St., Ashtabula.

From 2:00 to 2:45 p.m. he will meet with the Northeast Ohio Regional Alliance at St. Michael's Hospital, 5163 Broadway, Cleveland.

The media is invited to attend both meetings.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa251.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 6, 1997

No. 97-OPA253

## **EPA APPROVES TWO WTI PERMIT MODIFICATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has approved two modifications to Waste Technologies Industries (WTI) permit to burn hazardous waste at its East Liverpool, OH, commercial hazardous waste incinerator.

Both modifications relate to metals emissions. The first, requested last March, allows WTI to begin evaluating a continuous emissions monitor as a means of demonstrating compliance with the applicable metals stack emission limits.

The second, requested in June, incorporates new emission rate limits and feed rate limits for regulated metals. The new limits were shown to be appropriate in EPA's May 1997 risk assessment.

EPA told WTI to request some of these new limits as a condition of EPA's May 19 approval of WTI's trial burn results. All of the new emission limits -- limits on how much of each metal is allowed to exit the smokestack -- are based on either emission rates used in the risk assessment, or on lower values shown to be necessary in the risk assessment.

The new feed limits -- limits on how much of these metals can be in the waste being burned -- are based either on values which EPA believes will ensure the emission limits will not be exceeded, or on even lower values agreed to by WTI.

Approval is subject to the provisions of a new 7-page section of WTI's hazardous waste permit. EPA will not allow the continuous emissions monitor to be used to show compliance until enough information on the precision and reliability of the instrument is provided to EPA, and EPA gives approval.

The modifications may be appealed by those who submitted written comments during the comment period on the specific issues of metals limits or continuous metals emissions monitoring.

The action is under authority of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

(NOTE: A chart showing metals emission and feed limits is available on request.)

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 6, 1997

No. 97-OPA254

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH BELLEN CONTAINER; INCLUDES \$182,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice have recently reached agreement with Bellen Container Corp. on alleged Clean Air Act violations at the company's plant, 7161 Milwaukee Ave., Niles, IL. The agreement includes a \$182,000 penalty.

Bellen Container, which coats and laminates flexible packaging materials, was cited in a complaint last July for violating emission limits for volatile organic chemicals (VOC's) and testing, certification, and permit requirements for their printing and coating operations.

Bellen Container is in Metropolitan Chicago, which does not meet health-based standards for ground-level ozone, a byproduct of VOC's.

The company has corrected all alleged violations by switching to water-based inks and coatings, doing the required testing, and getting the necessary permits.

"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. It can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

The agreement, or consent decree, was entered with U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 6, 1997

No. 97-OPA255

## **EPA CITES U.S. STEEL GARY WORKS FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited U.S. Steel, Gary Works, for alleged Clean Air Act violations at its Gary, IN, coke byproduct recovery plant.

EPA inspections in May 1995 and in March and April 1997 found that U.S. Steel:

- failed to install required benzene control equipment and treatment devices; and
- failed to comply with various reporting requirements.

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. U.S. Steel has 30 days from receipt of the finding to request a meeting to discuss the allegations.

"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 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, and 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.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 6, 1997

No. 97-OPA256

## **EPA CITES BANTA FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Banta Direct Marketing Group for alleged Clean Air Act violations at its printing and paper-coating plant, 2075 Busse Rd, Elk Grove Village, IL.

The plant does lithographic printing and paper coating on eight lines that emit volatile organic compounds (VOC's). They must be controlled by using coatings and inks with low VOC content, or by using control devices that cut emissions to meet State standards.

Banta has been using a coating that does not meet State standards, has failed to submit required documentation, and has been operating a new line without an operating permit.

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.

The plant is in Metropolitan Chicago, which does not meet health-based standards for ground-level ozone, a byproduct of VOC's.

"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. It can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 7, 1997

No. 97-OPA257

## **EPA CITES GM FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$75,250 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against General Motors Corp. (GM) for alleged clean-air violations at the company's plant, 1629 North Washington Ave., Saginaw, MI. The complaint includes a \$75,250 penalty.

At the plant, GM makes engine blocks and engine heads for automobiles and light trucks.

EPA notified the company in August that it had violated State limits for visible emissions of particulates 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.

GM's opacity (the amount of light obscured) limit is 20 percent, except for one 6-minute period every hour, when it is allowed to go as high as, but not to exceed, 27 percent.

A joint inspection last June 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.

"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 lead to heart and lung diseases. Children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases are the most sensitive.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 7, 1997

No. 97-OPA258

## **EPA CITES TIODIZE FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Tiodize Michigan, Inc., for alleged clean-air violations at the company's Wixom, MI, metal coating plant.

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.

The company violated Michigan regulations by using VOC coatings that exceeded the State limit and by allowing VOC emissions that exceeded permit limits.

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.

"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.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa258.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 9, 1997

No. 97-OPA259

## **EPA COMPLETES REVIEW OF EAU CLAIRE WELL FIELD; GROUND WATER IMPROVES, MONITORING TO CONTINUE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently completed a status review of the Eau Claire Municipal Well Field Superfund site, Eau Claire, WI.

The Superfund law requires regular reviews (at least every 5 years) of sites where cleanup has been completed. EPA's review confirmed that ground-water quality continues to improve. Thus, EPA recommends that the city continue to operate an air stripper system, installed in 1987, to remove volatile organic compounds from contaminated ground water at the site. When safe ground-water levels are reached, the air stripper will be removed.

The 500-acre well field consists of 14 municipal ground-water wells. The air stripper treats 6 to 7 million gallons of water per day for a municipal drinking-water system that serves about 60,000 residential and commercial users in Eau Claire County.

The wells were contaminated by chemicals traced to a 2.5 mile ground-water plume from the nearby National Presto Industries Superfund site. EPA reached a settlement with National Presto in 1993 to pay for 95 percent of costs associated with the well field.

The next review of the Eau Claire site will be done by October 1999.

A copy of the report is available at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Library, 400 Eau Claire St., and from Michael Bellot (SR-6J), Remedial Project Manager, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604; 800-621-8431.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa259.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 9, 1997

No. 97-OPA260

## **EPA SELECTS CLEANUP PLAN FOR SCRAP PROCESSING SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed a record of decision for the cleanup of lead-contaminated soils and ground-water monitoring at the Scrap Processing Superfund site, Medford, WI.

The plan includes:

- excavation of contaminated soils, with off-site landfill disposal;
- backfill of excavated areas with clean soil, and revegetation;
- installation of a security fence;
- deed restrictions on future re-use of the site;
- abandonment of an on-site drinking water well; and
- long-term ground-water monitoring to determine if ground-water cleanup is needed.

A 30-day comment period on EPA's cleanup plan ended September 24. A public meeting to discuss the plan was held Sep. 16 at the Taylor County Multi-Purpose Building.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources supports the cleanup plan.

Copies of the plan and other site-related documents are available for review at Medford Public Library, 104 East Perkins St. An administrative record, which contains information upon which the cleanup plan is based, has also been placed at the library.

The 2-acre site is an operating salvage yard. From 1959 to the early 1980's, automotive batteries were recycled on the property, resulting in extensive lead- and acid-waste contamination of soils, a ditch, and an unlined lagoon. Earlier activities conducted by EPA took care of some of this contamination. This cleanup plan will address the remaining contamination at the site.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 7, 1997

No. 97-OPA261

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH ALLISON TRANSMISSION; INCLUDES \$27,500 FINE & \$140,000 CLEANUP PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Allison Transmission Div., General Motors Corp., on alleged violations of Federal chromium regulations at the company's plant, 4700 West 10th St., Indianapolis, IN.

The agreement includes a \$27,500 penalty and a \$140,000 supplemental environmental project. The company cooperated with EPA in reaching the agreement before the filing of an EPA administrative complaint.

A January 1997 stack test showed the company was exceeding its total chromium emission limit from its three hard-chrome electroplating tanks. The national emissions standards for chromium -- a hazardous air pollutant -- went into effect for hard chrome plating tanks and anodizing tanks January 25, 1997.

The agreement requires Allison to install chromium emissions control equipment by October 6. In addition, as the supplemental environmental project, the company voluntarily agreed to install ammonia control devices that would cut ammonia emissions from the plant by 90 tons a year.

"EPA is committed to enforcing hazardous air pollutant 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."

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, and ulcerations and perforations of the nasal septum.

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Last Updated: October 8, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa261.htm>





# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 14, 1997

No. 97-OPA262

## **EPA SETTLES WITH PEPSI-COLA FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$22,356 FINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently signed an agreement with Pepsi-Cola General Bottlers, Inc. (Rolling Meadows, IL), for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals stored at a warehouse and distribution facility in Milwaukee, WI. Under the settlement, the company agreed to pay a \$22,356 fine and do an environmental project that reduces air pollution.

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The Pepsi facility, 5500 North Lovers Lane Rd., Milwaukee, failed to provide the Wisconsin State Emergency Response Board, Milwaukee County Emergency Planning Committee, and the Milwaukee Fire Department the required 1993 and 1994 forms for three hazardous chemicals stored at the facility: carbon dioxide, diesel fuel, and unleaded gasoline.

Under EPA regulations, each hazardous chemical over 10,000 lb must be reported. The regulation is administered under Title III of EPA's Superfund law.

The environmental project requires the company to replace 46 existing

400-watt and 250-watt fluorescent lighting fixtures in the fleet department with a mix of more efficient fluorescent fixtures and metal halide fixtures. This will reduce electrical demand and thus reduce air emissions. Estimated cost of the project: \$19,251.

Since May 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 146 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 132 settlements and \$3.68 million in total fines and \$1.38 million in environmental projects.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 9, 1997

No. 97-OPA263

## **EPA TO HOLD MEETING ON UNDERGROUND STORAGE-TANK REGULATIONS OCTOBER 22**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, the City of Chicago, and the State of Illinois will cosponsor a free information session for Chicago underground storage tank (UST) owners and operators. The meeting will be from 1 to 5 p.m., Wednesday, October 22, at Malcolm X College, 1900 West Van Buren.

As the 1998 deadline for UST upgrade or closure approaches, officials warn, "the Federal government will not extend the deadline and the State of Illinois does not have the authority to extend it." Speaking at the meeting will be representatives from EPA, Illinois fire Marshal, Chicago Fire Department, and Chicago Department of Environment. Current regulatory requirements and permitting and enforcement issues specific to UST's in Chicago will be discussed. A question and answer session will follow, and brochures will be available.

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Early upgrading or replacing of UST's is a major issue, EPA says, because:

- Avoiding leaks is good for the environment and business. Costly mandatory cleanups and lawsuits can be avoided.
- As December 1998 approaches, increased customer demand may result in higher costs for upgrade and removal services.
- It could take several months to complete the process due to

weather, contractor delays, and permits.

- If the December 22, 1998, deadline is not met, owners will have to close their tanks. Retailers will not be able to sell their product. Nonretailers will not be able to use their gasoline.
- After the deadline, Federal, State, and City of Chicago inspectors will all be out to enforce the new regulations against those who have not complied.
- If a leak, requiring State reimbursement funds, is found, the State system may be bottle necked with many last-minute claims.

There is no charge for the meeting. Free parking is available at Malcolm X College. All facilities are accessible to the disabled. To register by phone, call Eleanor Sukackas, 888-829-2074 or 312-856-8770. For further information call 312-886-6159.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 9, 1997

No. 97-OPA264

## **EPA OK'S CLEANUP PLAN FOR NATIONAL PRESTO SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today it has endorsed a plan to deal with remaining contamination at a former lagoon area and with stockpiled soils at the National Presto Industries Superfund site, Eau Claire, WI.

A decision document outlining the cleanup plan was signed on September 30. The signing followed a 30-day public comment period on a new engineering study which evaluated a range of cleanup alternatives. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources supports EPA's plan.

A former lagoon, known as Lagoon No. 1, is one of several cleanup sites within the 320-acre property. EPA approved the use of a vapor extraction system to remove volatile organic compound vapors from subsurface soils. Afterward, the lagoon will be backfilled.

In addition, 11,000 cubic yards of previously removed soils now stockpiled at the site will be consolidated and placed under a landfill cap, which is now being designed for the Melby Road Disposal Site portion of the property. Work at Melby Road is expected to start next spring and run through the summer.

Copies of the study and other site-related documents are available for review at Chippewa Falls Public Library, 105 West Central St., Chippewa Falls, and Hallie Town Hall, Route 9, Hagen Rd., Chippewa Falls. A fact sheet on the study is available from EPA's World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/sitefact.htm>.

National Presto purchased the site from the U.S. War Department in 1947. The company first manufactured household appliances and outboard motors, then added defense-related products in 1951. The manufacturing processes which contributed to the contamination are no longer in operation.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 10, 1997

No. 97-OPA266

## **EPA CITES HARTZ CONSTRUCTION FOR WETLANDS VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Hartz Construction Co., Inc. (Palos Hills, IL), and proposed a \$125,000 fine for illegally filling-in wetlands while preparing home sites in Country Club Hills and Alsip, IL.

EPA alleges that Hartz filled and regraded wetlands in Country Club Hills - - wetlands that it had agreed to preserve under terms of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit.

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EPA also alleges that the company began to clear land in wetlands at the Alsip site without a permit.

"Hartz Construction is an established home builder in the Chicago area," said JoLynn Traub, regional Water Division director. "The company has received numerous wetlands permits in the past and should be well aware of Federal regulations protecting wetlands. In addition, the company had been advised that the Alsip site contained wetlands."

Wetlands are among the most biologically productive ecosystems in the world, in the number and diversity of species they support. In addition,

they provide flood protection, shoreline erosion control, water quality improvement, and opportunities for recreation, education, and research.

Under the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must issue a permit before any waters of the United States, including wetlands, are filled. EPA is authorized to order restoration of illegally filled wetlands and to assess administrative penalties of up to \$125,000 for each violation. It may also seek judicially imposed penalties of \$25,000 per day of violation, or imprisonment, or both.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 14, 1997

No. 97-OPA267

## **EPA CITES NATIONAL STEEL; PROPOSES \$270,423 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited National Steel (Detroit, MI) for environmental violations at its Great Lakes Steel Division plant, at Ecorse and River Rouge, in Wayne County.

EPA alleges 31 separate counts in its complaint, based on a comprehensive multimedia inspection of April 22-May 3, 1996.

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The allegations represent an unusually wide variety of environmental violations, including: 13 PCB-related violations of the Toxic Substances Control Act, 9 hazardous-waste related violations and 3 underground storage tank violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 4 benzene-related violations of the Clean Air Act, and 2 violations of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

It is the largest administrative case ever filed by EPA Region 5 that involves violations of more than one Federal environmental law.

For the 31 counts, EPA proposes a civil penalty of \$270,423.

The complaint was filed September 24. National Steel may request a formal hearing within 20 days of receiving the complaint for some

charges, and 30 days for certain other charges. The company may also request an informal settlement conference with EPA at any time to discuss the charges.

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For Immediate Release: October 14, 1997

No. 97-OPA268

## **EPA SETTLES WITH AK STEEL FOR PCB VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$11,900 FINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with AK Steel Corp. (Middletown, OH) for violating Federal rules on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). The company will pay an \$11,900 fine and complete a supplementary environmental project.

Based on a July 1994 Ohio EPA inspection on behalf of EPA, AK Steel was cited for not properly labeling and disposing of PCB items--including transformers and contaminated soil--in a timely manner, and for failing to maintain quarterly PCB transformer records.

In addition to the fine, AK Steel will spend at least \$45,995 to remove, reclassify, and properly dispose of its PCB transformers, contaminated fluids, and related PCB articles. In settling the case, EPA reduced certain portions of the penalty in acknowledgment of the company's prompt and comprehensive response to the citation. 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--including in fresh-water fish and aquatic birds--and present human health hazards.

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.

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For Immediate Release: October 14, 1997

No. 97-OPA269

## **EPA CITES DEMOLITION OPERATOR FOR ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$17,500 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Peter O'Dovero and Associated Constructors, Inc. (Marquette, MI), for alleged violation of Federal asbestos regulations at a demolition site in Assinins, MI.

The complaint, which includes a \$17,500 penalty, cites Associated Constructors, owned and operated by O'Dovero, for demolishing a tribal center of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community in February 1997 without notifying the proper authorities, as required by regulations.

EPA notified the company of the violations last June. Associated Constructors has 30 days to file an answer to the complaint and request a hearing. The company may request an informal conference to discuss the allegations anytime.

"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.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 14, 1997

No. 97-OPA270

## **EPA CITES STYBERG FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$170,865 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against E.C. Styberg Engineering Co., Inc., for alleged clean-air violations at the company's Racine, WI, plant, 1600 Goold St. The complaint includes a \$170,865 penalty.

Styberg makes transmission and engine parts, industrial machinery, and metal stampings. EPA said volatile organic compound emissions from the company's rust-control process exceeded State standards, which are enforceable by both the State and EPA.

EPA notified the company of the violations last June. Styberg has 30 days to file an answer to the complaint and request a hearing. The company 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 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."

Volatile organic compounds 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. It can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 14, 1997

No. 97-OPA271

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH 3 PARTIES ON ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$17,678 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with two Wisconsin parties and one Connecticut party on alleged asbestos violations at the Shawano County Jail, Shawano, WI. The agreement includes a \$17,678 penalty.

They are: Shawano County; National Service Cleaning Corp., South Windsor, CT (formerly with a place of business in West Allis); and Grow Construction Managers, Appleton. Shawano County has agreed to pay \$2,000, and National Service Cleaning has agreed to pay \$15,678.

EPA filed an administrative complaint against the parties in August 1995 for violations during an asbestos removal at the jail in September 1994. A State inspector spotted visible emissions and found the material not wet enough. On a follow-up inspection the next day, the same inspector again found dry, friable (easily crumbled) asbestos insulation.

"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.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 15, 1997

No. 97-OPA272A

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

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice have recently filed a civil complaint against National Steel Corp. for alleged Clean Air Act violations at the company's Granite City, IL, steel mill.

The complaint seeks a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 for each day of violation. It cites violation of various particulate (smoke, dust, ash) emission limits at the coke plant and the steelmaking shop. Also, it cites violation of Federal air pollution rules for coke-oven gas and benzene at the coke plant and the coke by-product recovery plant.

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EPA first notified National Steel of the violations in February 1995. Negotiations with the company have been ongoing since May 1997.

"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."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung diseases. Children, the elderly, and persons with chronic respiratory

disease are the most sensitive.

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.

The complaint was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, East St. Louis.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
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For Immediate Release: October 14, 1997

No. 97-OPA272B

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA, LOCAL AGENCIES TO CELEBRATE CLEANER LAKE MICHIGAN AND CHICAGO RIVER**

In the early 1970's, Lake Erie was "dead", and some predicted the same fate for Lake Michigan. Beach closings, fish kills, and algae blooms were common events. On October 18, 1972, Congress passed the Clean Water Act and water quality began to improve.

On October 16, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Illinois EPA, the City of Chicago, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, and Friends of the Chicago River will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Clean Water Act and one of its greatest successes -- the revitalization of Lake Michigan and the Chicago River.

**When:** Thursday, October 16, at 10 a.m.

**Where:** The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District fountain at McClurg Court and the Chicago River.

**Who:** David A. Ullrich, acting regional administrator, U.S. EPA; James Park, Illinois EPA; Terence O'Brien, president, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District; William Abolt, City of Chicago Department of the Environment; Susan Headman, president, Friends of the Chicago River; and Lee Botts, Lake Michigan Federation.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 16, 1997

No. 97-OPA274

## **EPA SETTLES WITH PRODUCTION PLATING FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$20,625 FINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with Production Plating, Inc. (Eastpointe, MI), for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. The company will pay a \$20,625 fine and complete a supplemental environmental project that will minimize risks from future spills.

EPA's complaint alleges that on January 23, 1996, Production Plating failed to promptly notify the National Response Center, Michigan State Emergency Response Commission, and local authorities of a 100-gallon spill of a metal stripping solution, containing 63 lb of sodium cyanide. Federal laws require immediate notification upon any release exceeding 10 lb of sodium cyanide. The facility, an electroplating and metal finishing shop that serves the aircraft industry, is next to a grade school and a fraternal hall.

The release occurred when a temporary holding tank was being moved, tipped over, and spilled the contents onto a blacktop parking lot. The material flowed over to a business neighbor's blacktop parking lot and, finally, to a park. The release did not enter a storm-water or sanitary sewer

system, and Production Plating did the necessary cleanup. The local fire department arrived at the scene after it was notified by a neighbor.

Sodium cyanide is a corrosive, highly toxic chemical. Exposure to it may cause nosebleeds, headaches, nausea, and dizziness.

The environmental project requires the company to replace the existing parking areas outside the building with new concrete paving that extends to a containment wall at the border of the property. The new concrete will be 8 inches thick, steel reinforced, and coated with a vapor barrier to prevent seepage into soil beneath the pavement. The new paved areas will also be sloped to direct any future spills to a catch basin.

Estimated cost of the project: \$99,710.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 146 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 132 settlements and \$3.68 million in total fines and \$1.38 million in environmental projects.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 16, 1997

No. 97-OPA275

## **EPA: CLEANUP BEGINS AT DURAKO PAINT SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that a projected \$1.8 million cleanup of the Durako Paint site (Detroit, MI) will begin this week. Residents of this mixed industrial and residential area can expect to see workers in protective clothing, trucks, and construction equipment at the site for the next few months.

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The cleanup site, a paint factory that closed in 1989 at 6315 East 7 Mile Rd., comprises facilities on both 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. Potentially hazardous materials include 2,400 55-gallon drums of paint-related materials and paint production equipment. The east-side property is an 8,000-square-foot fenced yard containing 500 55-gallon drums and a number of mixing tanks.

Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality referred the site to EPA last August. Work will be supervised by an EPA Superfund emergency response team based in Grosse Ile, MI. As the cleanup proceeds, EPA will look for reuse and recycling opportunities for the materials, such as fuel-blending of certain materials.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 20, 1997

No. 97-OPA276

## **EPA: FOX RIVER GROUP SUBBITS CLEANUP STUDY PROPOSAL**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have recently received an offer from a group of seven paper mills (the "Fox River Group") which contributed PCB contaminants to Wisconsin's Lower Fox River to further investigate cleanup options for the river.

The offer was made in response to a Special Notice Letter issued by EPA, in consultation with its intergovernmental and tribal partners, in July. The letter requested formal submission of a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) proposal. EPA's Fox River cleanup partners are: Wisconsin DNR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Menominee and Oneida Tribes.

The Fox River Group's proposal includes a preliminary draft work plan which outlines steps for the investigation, discussion of oversight costs, and project management details. The group proposes to complete the RI/FS work by December 1999.

Much of the sediment contamination is due to paper de-inking operations practiced by the mills from 1957 to 1971. Fish consumption advisories for the Fox have been in place continuously since 1976. There is evidence PCB's have also migrated from the Lower Fox into Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 20, 1997

No. 97-OPA277

## **NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA TO HOLD MEDIA SESSIONS ON BOARD OCT. 23**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold 4 information sessions, allowing news media aboard an EPA research vessel on the Detroit River, Thursday, October 23.

The sessions will be 10 to 11 a.m.; 11 a.m. to noon; 1 to 2 p.m.; and 2 to 3 p.m. Only three news-media representatives at a time will be allowed on board - only two from the same organization. Reservations must be made through Don de Blasio, 312-886-4360, through October 20; Cross Country Inn, 313-287-8340 on October 21 and 22.

EPA will sample sediments and do underwater video surveys on the Detroit and Rouge Rivers to determine if coal tar and other contaminants have been released from the Detroit Coke facility. The study will help EPA to determine what Detroit Coke must do to clean up pollution. Detroit Coke has applied for permits to operate two hazardous-waste injection wells.

These studies are also in support of the Detroit-Rouge Rivers Remedial Action Plans, which were developed under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the United States and Canada.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 17, 1997

No. 97-OPA278

## **EPA: NO FURTHER ACTION FOR MARION (BRAGG) DUMP SITE; MONITORING TO CONTINUE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed a Record of Decision selecting a "no action" remedy for the two remaining portions (Operable Units 2 and 3) of the Marion (Bragg) Dump Superfund site, Grant County, IN.

As a result of this decision, Marion (Bragg) now qualifies for inclusion on EPA's Construction Completion list of Superfund sites. Nationally, 498 of about 1,300 National Priorities List sites have attained Completion status.

EPA has addressed environmental issues at the former dump site in three distinct operable units (OU's). Field work for OU 1, dealing with contaminated surface soils and on-site wastes, was completed in 1991. OU 2 covers all ground-water issues at the site. OU 3 is a 15-acre on-site pond.

Following the 1987 Record of Decision for OU 1, a group of potentially responsible parties signed a consent decree with EPA which included the construction of a cap on the former waste disposal area, plus deed restrictions on future uses of the site and of ground water from the shallow aquifer beneath it. The consent decree also called for monitoring of the ground water, the on-site pond, and the Mississinewa River.

Data from monitoring during 1990-96 indicate that contaminants in the ground water have not materially affected the contaminant concentrations in the river. Also, the waters in the on-site pond, as well as a large off-site pond, have recently been meeting the required water quality standards. Though EPA does not believe additional cleanup action is required, monitoring of the ground water, on-site pond, and river will continue in order to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

A public meeting with representatives from EPA and Indiana Department of Environmental Management was held in July. Oral and written comments received have been addressed in a responsiveness summary included in the Record of Decision. The Decision and other site documents are available for review at Marion Public Library, 600 South Washington St.

The 72-acre Marion (Bragg) site is southeast of the Marion city limits, along the banks of the Mississinewa River. It was used as a sand and gravel quarry from 1935 until the early 1960's. Concurrently, from 1949 to 1970 some portions of the site were used for industrial waste disposal, and from 1957 to 1975 for municipal waste. In 1975, the dump was covered with sandy material, then seeded.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
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For Immediate Release: October 20, 1997

No. 97-OPA279

## **EPA PREPARES TO WRAP UP PESTICIDE TESTING**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 is wrapping up its testing of homes that may have been sprayed with methyl parathion, commonly called "cotton poison." EPA urges all those who think that their homes may have been sprayed with methyl parathion to schedule free testing by calling 888-889-6542.

Sampling has been based primarily on contact with people listed in ledgers confiscated from Ruben Brown, who illegally sprayed hundreds of homes in Chicago and in more than 20 surrounding communities. Some testing of homes was also scheduled from calls received at EPA or through neighborhood referrals at sampling sites.

EPA discovered earlier this year that the pesticide, designed for use outdoors, had been illegally sprayed indoors to control cockroaches and other pests. Brown, an unlicensed exterminator (also operating under the business name of J.D. McKinley), pleaded guilty in July to two misdemeanor charges for misusing the pesticide. He is scheduled for sentencing in November.

As of October 14 - working with State, city, and other Federal agencies - EPA has done environmental testing in 808 homes. This resulted in 505 homes that qualified for biological sampling, and 86 residences that were referred for decontamination.

A home qualifies for biological sampling if the environmental tests show that pesticide residue remains in the building at potentially hazardous levels. The potential hazard is based on age and medical condition of the

residents. The presence and amount of pesticide in biological tests (urine samples) will then show if the residents should be temporarily moved while the living area is being decontaminated.

Of the homes sampled, 7 have been decontaminated and restored. Residents of 24 other homes are in temporary relocation housing.

Methyl parathion can cause death if swallowed or splashed on skin. It can also cause headache, nausea, chest tightness, dizziness, and restlessness. People who believe they have been made sick by exposure to methyl parathion should see their doctors, or call Illinois Poison Control Center, 312-942-5969.

Methyl parathion can be used legally only to control insects on agricultural crops. It is commonly used in cotton, soybeans, and vegetables. It is a highly toxic chemical that should never be used indoors. Related to nerve gas, the pesticide is a brownish liquid that turns milky white when mixed with water. It has a foul smell, similar to rotten eggs, and leaves yellow stains on sprayed areas.

The agencies working on the project are EPA, 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, and Cook County State Attorney's Office.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa279.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 21, 1997

No. 97-OPA280

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH 3M; INCLUDES \$238,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. (3M), St. Paul, MN. Under the agreement, 3M will pay a \$238,000 penalty for illegally selling and distributing several unregistered kitchen products with pesticide-type claims.

EPA ordered 3M to stop selling or distributing, after June, 1997, O-Cel-O Products with labels that said: "Kills Germs! Like Salmonella & E. Coli in the Sponge," "Kills germs that cause food-borne illnesses" or "Kills Salmonella, E. Coli, and Staph bacteria in the sponge." Products with such claims must first be registered as pesticides with EPA.

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The company will consult EPA on future labels for O-Cel-O Sponge, O-Cel-O Sponge Scrubber KITCHEN, O-Cel-O Sponge Scrubber COOKWARE, or any other product similarly labeled.

In addition to the fine, 3M voluntarily spent \$300,000 on newspaper ads to tell customers that the O-Cel-O Sponge "Inhibits Odor-Causing Germs in the Sponge," and "Does not disinfect or kill germs on surfaces" and that consumers should "Use standard precautions to prevent transmission of

food-borne illnesses like Salmonella, E. Coli, and Staph."

According to Norman Niedergang, director of the regional Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division: "Buyers should make sure that any product with germ-killing claims is registered with EPA. Only then can they be certain that the product really works."

EPA registers all pesticides and pesticide products under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. Except for certain limited exemptions, no pesticide may legally be sold or used in the United States unless its label has an EPA registration number. It is also unlawful to use any registered pesticide in a manner other than that indicated on the product label.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 20, 1997

No. 97-OPA281

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH AUTOZONE, CRAWFORD ON ASBESTOS VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$21,250 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with AutoZone, Inc., a retail auto parts chain, and R.E. Crawford Co., a general contractor, on alleged violations of Federal asbestos regulations at a Salem, OH, demolition site owned by AutoZone.

The agreement includes a \$21,250 penalty. Each company has agreed to pay half. They were cited in an administrative complaint last May for failing to notify EPA before beginning demolition of the 180 West State St. site.

Asbestos regulations of the Clean Air Act require owners or operators of a facility to notify Federal and State air pollution control officials of all demolition and certain renovation projects. This allows officials to plan project inspections.

Autozone headquarters are in Memphis, TN, and R.E. Crawford in Springdale, PA.

"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.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 21, 1997

No. 97-OPA282

## **EPA: DRUM CLEANUP COMPLETE AT IMTHURN SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that surface cleanup is now complete at the Imthurn Drums site in Ney, OH. The site, an open 4-acre field on the property of an auto salvage yard, contained more than 1,600 drums of hazardous chemical wastes. Many of the drums came from a Campbell Soup Co. plant in Napoleon, OH, during 1977 to 1979.

The EPA-supervised cleanup was requested by Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), which learned of the hazardous site conditions in late 1996.

The site, when first inspected by OEPA, held scattered piles of drums and other containers with potentially flammable solvents, oils, and sludges. Some of these showed signs of decay and leakage. The east and south edges of the property lie along Lick Creek, which flows into the Tiffin River. In case of a major flood, the hazardous materials could have washed into the river.

The drums were sent to EPA-approved treatment and disposal facilities in Detroit and Avon, OH. About 600 cubic yards of contaminated soil were also removed and sent to a facility in Williams County, OH. Follow-up

tests of ground water and subsurface soils by both OEPA and Campbell Soup indicate that there may be more contamination. However, because the ground-water aquifer is not used locally for drinking water and because the site is not likely to be developed, further ground-water treatment may not be required. Lab test results to determine the need for additional soil removal, if any, are due in early November.

Campbell Soup is reimbursing EPA for all emergency response costs and is paying for the removal and disposal of all contaminated material. The estimated final cost: \$1 million.

The cleanup, which ran from April to September, was completed ahead of schedule. Work was overseen by an EPA Superfund emergency response team based in Grosse Ile, MI.

"The Imthurn cleanup is a terrific example of cooperation between EPA, OEPA, and the company responsible for the contamination," said Regional Superfund Director William Muno. "Campbell Soup deserves credit for stepping forward and addressing the situation quickly and responsibly."

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For Immediate Release: October 21, 1997

No. 97-OPA283

## **EPA SETTLES WITH CENEX FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$13,500 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with Cenex, Inc. (Inver Grove Heights, MN), for violations of Federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. The company will pay a \$13,500 fine.

EPA's complaint alleges that on June 15, 1994, Cenex was late in reporting a release of 3,160 lb of anhydrous ammonia that occurred during unloading of a Cenex truck at an agricultural co-op in Reedsburg, WI. Federal laws require immediate notification of the National Response Center upon any release of anhydrous ammonia exceeding 100 lb. The co-op sells anhydrous ammonia, which is classified as an extremely hazardous substance, as a fertilizer.

The incident occurred when a transfer hose burst during unloading of the colorless gas to a storage tank. A cloud then drifted over a neighboring farm and eventually dissipated. Some residents at the farm reported difficulty breathing, and some alfalfa and corn crops were damaged.

Information about the release was eventually reported to Federal authorities, nearly 2 days later. Cenex did, however, notify the fire

department at the time of the release, which was able to respond in time.

Since May 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 139 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 123 settlements and \$3.68 million in total fines.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 22, 1997

No. 97-OPA284

## **EPA CITES AMERICAN WASTE TECHNOLOGIES; PROPOSES \$49,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against American Waste Technologies Inc. (Belleville, MI), for hazardous-waste violations and proposed a \$49,000 fine.

Following inspections by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, EPA cited permit violations and failure to carry out a State-approved closure plan. The facility, 44141 Yost Rd., allegedly mixed used oil with hazardous wastes without a permit.

EPA regulates the storing and treatment of hazardous waste under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, which deals with the safe management and disposal of municipal and industrial solid wastes, from the time of production to their final disposal.

American Waste Technologies has the right to request a settlement conference or a hearing regarding the charges and the proposed penalty. The request must be made within 30 days of the filing date.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 22, 1997

No. 97-OPA285

## **EPA CITES CONSOLIDATED RECYCLING CO; PROPOSES \$125,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Consolidated Recycling Co. (Troy, IN) and proposed a \$125,000 fine for wastewater violations.

EPA alleges that from November 1994 through April 1995, the company discharged wastewater with excessive amounts of oxygen-depleting pollutants to the Tell City sewage treatment plant that may have interfered with operations at the plant.

"Federal regulations require industrial dischargers to treat wastewater before sending it to municipal sewage plants," said Jo-Lynn Traub, director of the regional Water Division. "Improperly treated wastewater can foul up sewage plants and may pass untreated into waterways, posing a threat to health and the environment.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 23, 1997

No. 97-OPA286

## **EPA: MICHIGAN METAL FINISHERS GO 'BEYOND COMPLIANCE'; SIGNING CEREMONY OCTOBER 23 IN DETROIT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), six Michigan metal finishers, Michigan Association of Metal Finishers, and local government agencies will kick off a new, year-long "beyond compliance" pilot program with a signing ceremony Thursday, October 23, 3 p.m., at the Water Board Building, 735 Randolph, Detroit. EPA Deputy Regional Administrator Michelle D. Jordan will attend the ceremony.

The pilot program, called Metal Finishing 2000, aims to change traditional relationships between regulators and companies. It encourages facilities to achieve superior environmental performance and for agencies to provide for greater operational flexibility. Metal Finishing 2000 comes under EPA's Common Sense Initiative, a national effort by EPA to promote "cleaner, cheaper, smarter" performance for selected industries.

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The six participating companies were selected by their peers and the Michigan Association of Metal Finishers: Ajax Metal Processing, Inc. (Detroit), Curtis Metal Finishing (Sterling Heights), J.D. Plating Co. (Madison Heights), K.C. Jones Plating Co. (Hazel Park), Marsh Plating Corp. (Ypsilanti), and Reilly Plating Co. (Melvindale).

Each metal finisher will work with regulators on a specific project. Nationally, there are about 3,000 independent metal finishing job shops, most of which are small businesses averaging 25 employees.

When complete, EPA hopes the program will provide important lessons about what administrative and regulatory obstacles interfere with pollution prevention efforts, what benefits and incentives are most meaningful to participating firms, how to create an infrastructure for improving the way regulators and companies work together, and what sort of environmental and economic benefits can realistically be achieved under voluntary efforts such as Metal Finishing 2000.

To learn more about Metal Finishing 2000 and other Common Sense Initiative programs, contact EPA's Mindy Gampel (Washington, DC), at 202-260-2748.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 23, 1997

No. 97-OPA287

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH WORLD COLOR PRESS; INCLUDES \$250,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice have recently reached agreement with World Color Press, Inc., on alleged Clean Air Act violations at the company's Alden Press Division printing plant, 2000 Arthur Ave., Elk Grove Village, IL. The agreement includes a \$250,000 penalty.

The Justice Department filed a civil complaint against the company in March 1996 on EPA's behalf, alleging violations relating to volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from offset lithographic printing lines. Specifically, the complaint alleged violations of operating restrictions, VOC emission limitations, and testing and permitting requirements.

World Color Press is in Metropolitan Chicago, which does not meet health-based standards for ozone, a byproduct of VOC's.

The violations alleged in this complaint began in 1991 when the facility was owned and operated by Alden Press, Inc. In 1993, World Color Press bought the plant and took action to correct all violations, including the replacement of existing VOC control devices with an afterburner.

"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. It can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

The proposed agreement was lodged with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, on October 3.

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For Immediate Release: October 23, 1997

No. 97-OPA288

## **EPA SETTLES WITH HUF COR; INCLUDES \$17,500 FINE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative complaint against Hufcor, Inc. (Janesville, WI), for violation of Federal rules on the reporting of toxic chemicals. The company will pay a \$17,500 fine and undertake an environmental project costing at least \$37,800.

Hufcor was cited for failing to report to EPA and the State of Wisconsin the required data on 1,1,1-trichloroethane being used at the facility from 1991 to 1993. The company, 2101 Kennedy Rd., uses chemical--classified as toxic under the law--in its gluing operations. The degree of hazard depends on the dose, duration, and circumstances of exposure to a particular chemical.

In addition to the fine, the company has agreed to reengineer its plant and eliminate methylene chloride from its gluing process.

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act requires certain manufacturers to provide information on specific toxic chemicals being manufactured or used at their facilities. EPA uses this and other information to update its national toxic chemical inventory, which is

available to the public through various media, including through a national computerized database. Companies make their reports annually to EPA and the 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 until July 2000 to complete its environmental project and must make quarterly progress reports.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 27, 1997

No. 97-OPA289

## **EPA ALTERS REILLY TAR & CHEMICAL CLEANUP PLAN**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently announced a change in its cleanup plan for contaminated soils at Operable Unit 2 of the Reilly Tar & Chemical Superfund site, Indianapolis, IN.

Work at Reilly Tar, 1500 South Tibbs Ave., is divided among five operable units. The change modifies the disposal portion of the original cleanup plan approved by EPA in September 1993.

Under the original plan, about 8,100 tons of contaminated soil from four on-site "hot spots" were to be excavated, heat-treated, and relandfilled. Since April 1996, about 3,600 tons of the material has been processed. However, because the heat-treatment process has not been as efficient as expected, under the modified plan the remaining 8,500 tons (which includes 4,000 tons not covered by the original plan) will now be heat-treated off site at an approved industrial boiler or cement kiln.

Because it relies on using existing facilities, the modified plan may save up to \$1.25 million in cleanup costs.

The work, under both the original and modified plans, will be done by an environmental cleanup firm selected by Reilly Tar. EPA has, and will

continue to, supervise the work.

The change will continue to protect human health and the environment and complies with Federal and State environmental regulations. Indiana Department of Environmental Management supports the change.

An 11-page document--called an Explanation of Significant Differences--outlining the change and other site-related documents are available for review at Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library, 48 East St. Clair St.

The 120-acre Reilly Tar & Chemical site has been used for the production of specialty chemicals and related products since the early 1950's. Until 1972, a coal-tar refining and wood-treatment facility also operated at the site. Historically, a number of areas within the site have been used to dispose of wastes, including a landfill, a trench, and several pits. Environmental concerns at the site include contaminated ground water, surface water, and soil.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 24, 1997

No. 97-OPA290

## **EPA CITES LTV STEEL FOR PCB VIOLATIONS; PROPOSES \$74,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against LTV Steel Co. (Cleveland, OH) for violating Federal rules on PCB's. EPA has proposed a \$74,000 fine on nine separate counts.

Based on an Ohio EPA inspection, 1200-acre LTV steel mill, 3100 East 45th St., was cited for violating the use, marking, and notification requirements of the Toxic Substances Control Act.

At the time of the inspection, combustible materials were stored too close to PCB transformers. In addition, a transformer was not labeled properly, and the company failed to notify EPA of its PCB waste-handling activities.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once used widely 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.

EPA regulates the proper cleanup, disposal, marking, record keeping,

storage, and limited use of PCB's to protect the public from these potentially dangerous chemicals.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 24, 1997

No. 97-OPA291

## **EPA SETTLES WITH STANDARD FORGINGS ON PCB'S; INCLUDES \$51,500 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative complaint with Standard Forgings Corp. (East Chicago, IN) and parent company Trinity Industries, Inc., for violation of Federal rules on PCB's. The companies will pay a fine of \$51,500.

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Standard Forging failed to: dispose of PCB's in accordance with regulations; develop and maintain annual records on the disposition of PCB equipment in 1990; conduct inspections and maintain inspection records in 1989 and 1990; properly mark the accessway to a PCB transformer; and register their PCB transformers with fire-response personnel.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once used widely 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 Control Act, EPA regulates the proper cleanup, disposal, marking, record keeping, storage, and limited use of PCB's to protect the public from these potentially dangerous chemicals.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 29, 1997

No. 97-OPA292

## **EPA CITES GREAT LAKES GAS FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$17,452 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Great Lakes Gas Transmission Co. (Detroit, MI) for alleged clean-air violations caused by its pipeline in China Township, St. Clair County, MI. EPA has proposed a \$17,452 penalty.

Great Lakes Gas owns and operates a natural-gas transmission system, which runs from the Canadian Province of Manitoba, through Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, then back into Canada at Sarnia, Ontario, on the St. Clair river, north of Detroit.

During a construction project in October 1996, a pipe section was purged of natural gas. During the purging, lubricating oil was released to the atmosphere. The oil covered an area 2 to 4 miles from the source, affecting houses, cars, and the Pine River Elementary School.

EPA said the incident violated a federally enforceable State regulation by causing injurious effects to human health or safety, animal life, plant life of significant value, or property, or by causing unreasonable interference with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property.

EPA notified Great Lakes Gas of the violations last June. The company has 30 days to file an answer to the complaint 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 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."

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 29, 1997

No. 97-OPA293

## **EPA SETTLES WITH MURPHY OIL FOR TOXIC CHEMICAL VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$48,450 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled an administrative complaint against Murphy Oil USA, Inc. (Superior, WI), for multiple violations of Federal rules on reporting toxic substances. The company will pay a \$48,450 fine.

The Murphy refinery was cited for filing late reports with EPA for 1989, on the manufacture of various petroleum-based products at its facility, 2400 Stinson Ave. The company was also charged with failing to provide U.S. Customs with reports on petroleum imports from 1990 to 1993.

Under the Toxic Substances Control Act, EPA tests, regulates, and screens most chemicals produced or imported into the United States. Those that pose health and environmental hazards are tracked, reported, or corrected.

Murphy Oil has rectified the violations and has certified that it is now in compliance with Federal rules.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 30, 1997

No. 97-OPA294

**NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS: PHOTO OP & MEDIA  
AVAILABILITY AT WASTE INC. SITE (MICHIGAN CITY, IN),  
NOV. 4**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a community open house and media availability to mark the recent final inspection of cleanup at the Waste Inc. Superfund site, Tuesday, Nov. 4, 1 to 3:30 p.m. The grass-covered former landfill is at 1701 East Highway 12, Michigan City, IN.

From about 2 to 3 p.m., EPA Region 5 Superfund Director William Muno will be on-site to meet with the media and members of the community. Mayor Sheila Bergerson-Brill, plus representatives from Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Michigan City Sanitary District and the LaPorte County Health Department, is also expected. The open house will continue until 6 p.m.

From about 2:45 to 3:30 p.m., a group of students from Michigan City's Park Elementary School, Bethel A.M.E.'s Boys to Men Group, Michigan City Neighborhood Center, and Partners in Environmental Education Projects will tour the site. The students are working on environmental projects coordinated by the Minority Health Coalition of LaPorte County.

A news release and fact sheet will be available Tuesday at the site, or via fax from Mick Hans or Phillippa Cannon at EPA: 312-353-2072.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: William Omohundro  
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For Immediate Release: October 30, 1997

No. 97-OPA295

## **EPA AWARDS GO TO 2 OHIO BIKE & WALK PROJECTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today two Ohio community projects have won EPA transportation partners "Way to Go!" awards for providing pollution-free transportation alternatives to their communities.

Licking County Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Corridor (Newark) and Xenia Station, Hub of it All (Xenia), won in the community design category.

EPA Deputy Administrator Fred Hansen made the awards at the Rail-Volution '97 conference Wednesday, October 29, in St. Louis.

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The Licking County bicycle and pedestrian corridor was developed to provide a pollution-free transportation alternative, create a safe and child-friendly transportation system, and give a chance for friends and family to exercise, socialize, and foster a sense of community.

Xenia and Green County have converted 60 miles of former railways and a former railroad depot into a bicycle and pedestrian path that cuts vehicle travel between home, work, and activity centers.

EPA's transportation partners program supports local projects with practical technical help, national network of transportation innovators, and recognition of successful local programs.

Rail-Volution '97 brought together transportation professionals, community activists, and government officials from across the Nation.

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Last Updated: October 30, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa295.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Derrick Kimbrough  
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For Immediate Release: October 31, 1997

No. 97-OPA296

## **EPA TO TO DISCUSS SOIL-SAMPLING PROJECT AT NOV. 13 MEETING**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a public meeting to discuss results of a recent community soil-sampling project, Thursday, Nov. 13, from 7 to 9 p.m., at Inkster Recreation Center, 2025 Middlebelt, Inkster, MI.

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Sampling was done in late July at various public and private properties in Inkster, Dearborn Heights, Taylor, Westland, and Wayne. The aim was to assess possible lead or mercury soil contamination from the Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority municipal waste combustor.

A team of health and environmental professionals from EPA Region 5, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the Wayne County Department of Environment will present sampling results and answer questions. Copies of the report are available at local libraries.

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Last Updated: November 5, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 31, 1997

No. 97-OPA297

## **EPA: WORK HALTED AT RESIDENTIAL CLEANUP NEAR TEXACO-INDIAN REFINING SITE; EXPECTED TO RESUME SOON**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said today that removal of waste material from a residential neighborhood adjacent to the Indian Acres portion of the Texaco/Indian Refining Superfund site (Lawrenceville, IL) has been halted to allow for processing and updating of a new waste-disposal permit.

EPA is optimistic that the cleanup project will resume soon--possibly within a few weeks--and is confident that the work stoppage does not pose a safety or health risk to area residents.

Earlier this week, full capacity was reached for Texaco's permit to dispose of contaminated soil at a Danville, IN, landfill. Despite an extensive survey and analysis, the volume of contaminated soil has proven to be greater than expected. In order to dispose of additional materials, Texaco must apply for a revised permit with the Indiana Department of

Environmental Management (which governs state landfill use). This process is expected to take several weeks.

An asphalt-like material was deposited in the soil and has been found as deep as four feet below the surface. There is no indication that this area was a waste storage area; rather, it appears to have been used as fill material.

EPA's primary concern is removing the material to prevent it from migrating to the surface and coming in contact with people.

Work to determine the extent of possible soil contamination to the east, north, and south of the neighborhood is incomplete. However, a number of large blocks of the asphalt-like material have already been removed.

Work to date has been performed by a contractor hired by Texaco and supervised by a Chicago-based EPA Superfund emergency response team in partnership with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: October 31, 1997

No. 97-OPA298

## **EPA TO HOLD ENVIRONMENTAL ACADEMY SESSIONS NOV. 5 & 6 IN DETROIT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision will present overviews of environmental topics Wednesday and Thursday, November 5 and 6, at 7 p.m. and Thursday, November 6, at 9 a.m., in the South Rademacher Recreation Center, 6501 South St., Detroit, MI.

Representatives from Federal, State, county, and local agencies will present sessions on environmental programs, liability issues, and environmental audits.

The evening "Citizen's Academy" is aimed at environmental and community-based organizations and the general public. A "Developer's Academy" will be held in the morning and is geared toward business leaders, developers, and insurance companies.

For further information call Derrick Kimbrough (312/886-9749) or Richard Clarizio (312/886-0559).

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Last Updated: November 5, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: November 3, 1997

No. 97-OPA299

## **NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS: EPA CANCELS NOV.4 PHOTO-OP & MEDIA AVAILABILITY AT WASTE INC. SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that the Tuesday, November 4 open house and media availability at the Waste Inc. Superfund site (Michigan City, IN) has been cancelled.

EPA hopes to reschedule the event in the next few weeks.

EPA recently completed a final inspection of cleanup at the grass-covered former landfill.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: November 5, 1997

No. 97-OPA300

## **EPA SETTLES WITH ARLINGTON PLATING; INCLUDES \$12,500 FINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with Arlington Plating Company (Palatine, IL) for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemicals. Under the agreement, the company will pay a \$12,500 fine and complete a supplemental environmental project that reduces air pollution from the plant.

Arlington Plating, an electroplater and metal finisher, 600 South Vermont St., failed to provide the Illinois State Emergency Response Commission, Cook County Local Emergency Response Commission, and Palatine Fire Department the required 1992, 1993, and 1994 forms for nine hazardous chemicals stored on the premises. Four of the chemicals are classified as extremely hazardous: nitric acid, potassium cyanide, sodium cyanide, and sulfuric acid. The other five are: hydrochloric acid, nickel chloride, nickel sulfate, sodium hydroxide, and trichloroethylene.

Under EPA regulations, certain stored hazardous chemicals must be reported. The reporting quantity for the cyanides is 10 lb; for nitric acid and sulfuric acid, 500 lb; and 10,000 lb for the others.

When informed of these violations, Arlington Plating responded promptly and came into full compliance.

The environmental project requires the company to install and run two new vapor degreasers and submit a report in February 1999 on the environmental and public-health benefits obtained. The degreasers help to remove oils from metal parts prior to the metal-plating process. EPA expects the new degreasers to reduce solvent air pollution from the plant by 25 percent. Estimated cost of the project: \$68,666.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 146 separate complaints for hazardous-chemical reporting violations, resulting in 132 settlements, \$3.76 million in total fines, and \$1.38 million in environmental projects.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa300.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: November 4, 1997

No. 97-OPA301

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH FORD; INCLUDES \$135,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice have recently reached agreement with Ford Motor Co. on alleged Clean Air Act violations at the company's auto assembly plant, 12600 South Torrence Ave., Chicago. The agreement includes a \$135,000 penalty.

The Ford plant uses large amounts of cleanup solvents, which release volatile organic compounds (VOC's) into the air. Ford was cited in a simultaneous complaint for exceeding Federal VOC emissions limits continuously from July 1, 1991, through November 20, 1996.

Ford agreed to a compliance program that will limit VOC emissions from cleanup solvents to 390 tons a year. The company must also submit quarterly reports to EPA on VOC emissions from cleanup solvents.

The Ford plant is in Metropolitan Chicago, which does not meet health-based standards for ground-level ozone, a byproduct of VOC's.

"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. It can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

The agreement, or consent decree, was lodged with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: November 6, 1997

No. 97-OPA303

## **EPA PICKS CLEANUP PLAN FOR SOURCE CONTROL UNIT, FIELDS BROOK SITE**

U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently selected a cleanup plan for the Source Control Operable Unit of the Fields Brook Superfund site, Ashtabula, OH.

Fields Brook's 4-mile main channel flows through an industrialized section of Ashtabula. The contamination comes from PCB's, hexachlorobenzene, and other hazardous substances discharged directly or indirectly into the brook. EPA's work at the site is divided among four separate units: Ashtabula River, Floodplain-Wetlands, Sediments, and Source Control.

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EPA's plan for the Source Control unit is designed to be a final remedy, which will prevent re-contamination of the brook, surrounding floodplain, and wetlands. It contains six separate cleanup projects, dealing with properties near Fields Brook: Acme Scrap Iron & Metal Co., Millenium Inorganic Chemicals, RMI Metals Reduction, Conrail, Detrex, and the sewers north and south of the brook.

A public meeting explaining EPA's recommended cleanup plan was held last July, followed by a 30-day comment period and a 30-day extension.

The State of Ohio does not concur with the plan. A letter from the State explaining its position is included in EPA's cleanup plan.

The plan and other site materials are available for public review at Ashtabula County District Library, 335 West 44th St., Ashtabula. An administrative record, which contains the information upon which EPA based its cleanup and other site decisions, is also at the library.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once widely used 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 freshwater fish and in aquatic birds--and present health hazards to people.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: November 6, 1997

No. 97-OPA304

## **EPA: CLEANUP AT PIONEER LAKE SITE NEARLY COMPLETE; MEETING NOV. 12**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup of sediment contaminated by coal tar at the Pioneer Lake Superfund site (Pioneer, OH) is nearly complete. An informal meeting to update the community will be held Wednesday, Nov. 12, 6 to 8 p.m., Pioneer Community Center, 100 North Elm St.

Representatives from EPA, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Department of Health, and Williams County Health Department will be available at the meeting to answer questions and discuss the \$2.5 million project, which began in March 1996.

Ohio EPA has established an information repository for the site, containing a variety of site-related documents, at Pioneer Public Library, 106 Baubice St.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: November 7, 1997

No. 97-OPA305

## **EPA CITES ROCHESTER FOR WATER POLLUTION; PROPOSES \$100,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently issued an administrative complaint against the City of Rochester, MI, for violations of the Clean Water Act at its publicly owned wastewater treatment plant. EPA has proposed a \$100,000 penalty.

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EPA alleges that in July 1993, the facility, 800 East Second St., failed to meet the terms of its wastewater permit--also known as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System--by discharging cadmium and oxygen-depleting pollutants into the Clinton River.

From October 1992 to June 1994, the city failed to fully carry out portions of its Industrial Pretreatment Program. Violations include inadequate inspections, analysis, and permitting, as well as failure to provide information on the facility's industrial users and their practices.

Jo Lynn Traub, director of the regional Water Division, said: "Although the city has stopped 'direct' discharges from its wastewater treatment facility--after connecting to the Oakland County waste control system in July 1994--the nature and extent of the violations prior to that require a substantial penalty."

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: November 7, 1997

No. 97-OPA306

## **EPA GIVES ILLINOIS \$38.5 MILLION FOR DRINKING-WATER FUND; REGIONAL FIRST**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently granted the State of Illinois \$38,502,400 to establish a revolving fund for the construction and rehabilitation of drinking-water treatment facilities in communities throughout the State. This is the first grant of this kind in the region.

The fund will make below-market-rate loans to water suppliers to improve their systems. Money from repayments and interest on those loans will in turn be loaned to other water suppliers. Priority will be given to communities that need to build facilities in compliance with Federal regulations and eliminate potential threats to health. Ten percent of the fund will be used to establish programs to protect sources of drinking water from contaminations.

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"Providing clean and safe drinking water to everyone is a very high priority for EPA," said David A. Ullrich, Acting Regional Administrator. "Federal financing will help get this program started, but then State and local funding will take over in the future."

Over the next year Illinois EPA plans to make loans to 22 communities for a variety of projects to provide safe drinking water. These include constructing new water treatment plants, replacing water mains, building new storage facilities, and drilling new wells.

The communities are Blue Mound, Campus, Casey, Clayton, Clinton, Dallas Rural Water District, Freeburg, Georgetown, Freeburg-Smithton-Hecker Water Commission, Homer, Hull, Island Lake, Lewiston, Liberty-Ledford Water District, Matoon, Nakomis, Plumfield Water District, Princeville, Prospect Heights, Rushville, Sawyerville, and Westfield.

The program is authorized by the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 and will run for 5 years. Each State will receive five of these grants, although grants in subsequent years will be smaller than the initial grant.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: November 10, 1997

No. 97-OPA307

## **EPA PICKS CLEANUP PLANS FOR 2 TOMAH LANDFILLS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently selected cleanup plans for two Tomah, WI, landfills. Both the Tomah Armory Landfill and the Tomah Municipal Sanitary Landfill are on EPA's Superfund National Priorities List of abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.

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For the Tomah Armory, following extensive study of site contamination, EPA has determined that no further action beyond continued ground-water monitoring is necessary. Restrictions are already in place to protect against future inappropriate land use.

For the Tomah Municipal Sanitary Landfill, EPA selected a plan that includes a dual-barrier landfill cap and a gas extraction system. EPA picked this plan from a list of eight options because it combines cost effectiveness and protection of human health and the environment.

Selection of the plans was preceded by a public meeting last August and 30-day comment periods for each site. Copies of the cleanup plans, as well as other site documents for the two landfills, plus documents for a third Monroe County Superfund site, Tomah Fairgrounds Landfill, are available at Tomah Public Library, 716 Superior Ave.

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For Immediate Release: November 13, 1997

No. 97-OPA308

## **EPA: FUEL RECOVERY SYSTEM TO BE FULLY OPERATIONAL AT SYLVAN SLOUGH SITE; OPEN HOUSE NOV. 17**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that the fuel recovery system at the Sylvan Slough Superfund site (Rock Island, IL) will soon be fully operational. A pilot version of the system was installed in 1996, found to be effective, and recently upgraded.

An open house with site tours will be held Monday, Nov. 17, 1 to 3 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. (media are encouraged to attend between 2 and 3 p.m.), Quad City Conservation Alliance office, 2621 4th Ave. Representatives from EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Coast Guard, Illinois EPA, local government, and the responsible parties (Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad and Navistar) will be available to answer questions and discuss the project.

The 80-acre site is next to the Sylvan Slough, a tributary of the Mississippi River, between the Iowa interstate railroad bridge and the former International Harvester Farmall tractor assembly plant. (The plant closed in 1986 and today is owned by the Quad Cities Industrial Center.)

Through the years, a number of oil seepages of unknown origin have been reported in the slough. Since the 1970's, Illinois EPA has devoted significant time and resources investigating these discharges.

The most recent incident--a case of seeping diesel fuel--was traced by the Coast Guard in early 1993 to a series of old storm sewers on property now owned by the responsible parties. At first, this seepage was controlled by an oil spill containment boom, then by permanent closure of the sewer outfall leak.

Work at the site has been paid for by the responsible parties and supervised by EPA.

The upgraded fuel recovery system should be fully operational by end of the year. EPA has not yet determined how long the system will operate, or whether extra steps will be needed to reduce potential threats to the area's aquatic ecosystem.

Site-related documents and the administrative record are available for review at Rock Island Public Library, 401 19th St.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: November 19, 1997

No. 97-OPA309

## **EPA: \$5.5 MILLION CLEANUP COMPLETED AT BELDING WAREHOUSE SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that the \$5.5 million cleanup of the Belding Warehouse Superfund site (Belding, MI) is now complete. All radiologically-contaminated materials at the site have been removed and disposed of properly.

EPA has signed an approval document--called a Record of Decision--which clarifies that all environmental health concerns have been addressed at the site, and that no further remedial action is necessary. EPA and its contractor work crews left the site on October 17. All non-contaminated materials that were at the site have been released back to H&K Sales, Inc., for unrestricted use. EPA also decontaminated and then released the warehouse building back to the property owner for unrestricted use.

In September 1994, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) learned that more than 34,000 World War II-era aircraft parts coated with paint containing radium-226 had been moved to the Belding site from a warehouse in Benton Harbor, MI. The high radiation levels were discovered when scrap materials from Benton Harbor were sold to a company in Arkansas. (A separate EPA-supervised cleanup is currently underway at the Benton Harbor warehouse.)

The contaminated materials--filling 170 metal drums--have since been disposed of at an EPA-approved facility in Washington State. Another 1,000 cubic feet of lesser contaminated materials tainted with radium dust were sent to a facility in Utah. Nearly 250 tons of other materials that did not require special disposal were sent to a local landfill.

EPA expects to receive a concurrence letter from MDEQ endorsing the cleanup and no-further-action status in the next few weeks.

The final \$5.5 million cleanup cost is significantly reduced from the original \$12.2 million projection. Factors in the reduced cost: fewer materials were contaminated than originally estimated; some materials were released back to H&K Sales rather than disposed of; and the overall level of contamination in the warehouse required less extensive environmental cleanup work than estimated.

EPA has also begun the process of proposing the Belding Warehouse site for de-listing from the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). Upon concurrence from the State, the site could be removed within the following 3-month period.

Overall, the Belding Warehouse site has been one of the quickest NPL cleanups ever. From site discovery through NPL listing to final cleanup completion, the entire process took just over 3 years. Historically, the typical NPL cleanup takes 8 to 11 years.

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For Immediate Release: November 14, 1997

No. 97-OPA310

## **EPA: PUBLIC MEETING ON CELOTEX SITE NOV. 20**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a public meeting to update community residents on cleanup progress and health-related concerns at the Celotex site (Chicago, IL), Thursday, November 20, 7 p.m., Black Hole Family Center, 3057 West 26th St.

The vacant 24-acre property, previously owned by AlliedSignal Corp., was the home of an asphalt roofing products manufacturer from 1910 to 1982. During this period, the property was contaminated with liquid coal tar from process operations. Though the buildings were demolished in the early 1990's, EPA has data that some coal tar is still underground and, to a lesser extent, in the surrounding neighborhood.

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In 1994, Celotex (the current property owner) covered the site with soil-- thus minimizing any potential for exposure to the coal tar. However, storm runoff from the site periodically flooded area basements. In response to the flooding problem, EPA, working with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the City of Chicago Department of Environment, requested that Celotex regrade the property and install a new drainage system. This work was completed in August.

On a parallel track, an engineering study for additional cleanup at the site

is now underway. EPA will discuss this study and the likely timeline for new site work at the meeting. Recent environmental health surveys of the community by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (an agency of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) will also be discussed, as will the possible formation of a Community Advisory Group.

Residents are invited to attend the meeting and share their comments on EPA activity at the site to date. Those who have comments or interest in the Community Advisory Group, but cannot attend the meeting, may call Leo Rosales, Community Involvement Coordinator, at (312) 353-6198 or write to him at U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd. (P-19J), Chicago, IL, 60604.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa310.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: November 20, 1997

No. 97-OPA312

## **MERCURY CLEANUP COMPLETE IN SPRINGFIELD, OH**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that it has successfully completed the cleanup of mercury in Springfield, OH. The cleanup was a joint effort carried out by local, State, and Federal courts.

Thirteen families have been returned to their homes. Three other homes have been cleaned, but the families remain temporarily relocated. Those three homes must be reconditioned (carpet and floor replacement) because of extensive decontamination required to make them safe for the families to return. Those three families should be back home by Monday, according to Steve Renninger, a U.S. EPA on-scene coordinator.

In many homes, carpeting and other household belongings had to be removed because they were mercury contaminated. All materials that were removed are being shipped to a hazardous-waste landfill in Michigan, said Ralph Dollhopf, another U.S. EPA on-scene coordinator.

In addition to the homes, the abandoned Tower Metal Alloy site (where the mercury was found by neighborhood youths) has been cleaned up by U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA. The building has been boarded up and new fencing is being installed around the site by the City of Springfield. Also, restoration of sidewalks and yards on Park Avenue should be completed this week.

In addition to U.S. EPA, agencies involved in the cleanup were Ohio EPA, Ohio Department of Health, Clark County Combined Health District, City of Springfield, Springfield Fire Department, Springfield Police Department, and Clark county Emergency Management Agency. The Springfield Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Springfield Salvation Army also provided major services to the affected families.

"EPA was happy to lend its emergency-cleanup expertise to protect the community from this highly toxic substance," said Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich. "I am pleased that because of cooperation among Federal, State, and local agencies the cleanup has been completed quickly and families will be able to celebrate Thanksgiving in their own homes."

The mercury problem was discovered on October 26, 1997, when a concerned parent took a vial of the liquid to the Springfield Fire Department. Fire department officials activated emergency procedures, including notification of Ohio EPA.

Interviews with neighborhood youths revealed that a considerable amount of mercury was spread throughout the community on the southeast side of Springfield. The mercury came from the abandoned Tower Metal Alloy site.

Because of the extent of the problem, Ohio EPA requested U.S. EPA assistance on October 28. U.S. EPA also collected about 200 pounds of mercury, which has been removed for recycling.

Mercury, sometimes called quicksilver, is a highly toxic heavy metal. It can enter the body when somebody either breathes its vapors, ingests it, or handles it, allowing it to enter through the pores of the skin. Symptoms of mercury poisoning include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, tremors, rashes, coughing, shortness of breath, chest pain, vision problems, erratic behavior, kidney problems, loose teeth, hearing problems, sleeplessness, impaired judgement, memory loss, increased blood pressure, and increased heart rate. Long-term exposure to mercury can cause permanent damage to the brain and kidneys, and to development of unborn babies.

It can take months for mercury to leave the body naturally, mostly through the urinary and digestive tracts.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa312.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: November 19, 1997

No. 97-OPA314

## **EPA CRACKS DOWN ON WI CRANBERRY GROWERS FOR WETLANDS VIOLATIONS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited cranberry grower Miles Schroeder (Warrens, WI) for illegally filling-in almost 5 acres of sedge meadow wetlands in Linclon Township, Monroe County, WI. The alleged violations occurred between 1989 and August 1994. EPA has proposed a \$30,000 fine.

In September, EPA settled with Heuer Bros. Construction for discharging some 4,000 cubic yards of debris, sand, and muck into about 3.5 acres of wetlands--also in Lincoln Township--on behalf of Schwemmer Bros. Cranberry Marsh. Neither the cranberry grower nor the construction company had the required permits. EPA settled with Schwemmer Bros. last May.

"Growers must have a permit before they can fill-in wetlands for cranberry cultivation," said JoLynn Traub, regional Water Division director. "This can have serious impacts on wetlands. Fill-ins convert what was originally a habitat for many species into a system that supports only one plant--



cranberries. Also, withdrawals of water for cranberries may reduce the flow of water to natural streams."

Wetlands are among the most biologically productive ecosystems in the world, in the number and diversity of species they support. In addition, they provide flood protection, shoreline erosion control, water quality improvement, and opportunities for recreation, education, and research.

Under the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must issue a permit before any waters of the United States, including wetlands, are filled. EPA is authorized to order restoration of illegally filled wetlands and to assess administrative penalties of up to \$125,000 for each violation. It may also seek judicially imposed penalties of \$25,000 per day of violation, or imprisonment, or both.

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For Immediate Release: November 20, 1997

No. 97-OPA315

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH ESSROC; INCLUDES \$300,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) have recently reached agreement with Essroc Cement Corp. on alleged Clean Air Act violations at the company's Speed, IN, portland cement plant. The agreement includes a \$300,000 penalty.

DOJ filed a civil complaint against Essroc in August on EPA's behalf, citing the company for violations of Federal particulate-emission regulations.

EPA said Essroc was able to achieve compliance after installing pollution-control equipment and improving its operating and maintenance practices.

"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."

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.

The agreement, or consent decree, was lodged with the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, New Albany Division.

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For Immediate Release: November 20, 1997

No. 97-OPA316

## **EPA SETTLES WITH MAGIC FINISHING; INCLUDES \$2,690 FINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled a civil complaint with Magic Finishing Co. (Grand Rapids, MI) for alleged violations of Federal rules on the reporting of toxic chemicals. The company will pay a \$2,690 fine and complete an environmental project costing at least \$43,395.

Magic Finishing was cited for failing to report to EPA the required data on xylene, toluene and n-butyl alcohol, used at its facility, 2947 Buchanan Ave., in 1990. The company uses these chemicals--classified as toxic under the law--in its painting operations. The degree of hazard depends on the dose, duration, and circumstances of exposure to a particular chemical.

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In addition to the fine, Magic Finishing has agreed to purchase equipment that makes it possible to increase the use of water-based paint products, from 30 percent to 70 percent, by Dec. 31, 1997.

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 media, including a national computerized database. Companies make their reports annually to EPA and their State.

"The public has the right to know what chemicals are released in or near their communities," said Norm 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 certified it is now in compliance with Federal reporting requirements.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: November 21, 1997

No. 97-OPA317

## **EPA GRANTS \$265,000 FOR NE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently awarded \$265,000 in grants for eight environmental projects in Northeastern Ohio.

Portage County Regional Planning Commission, EcoCity Cleveland, and Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. will receive close to \$100,000 in grants to:

- Track urban sprawl via computer simulation programs to gauge its impact on natural areas and educate the community about land use controls and patterns (Portage County Regional Planning Commission);
- Develop a Web site which the public can access for information on bioregional planning (EcoCity Cleveland); and
- Produce model ordinances, on the financial and ecosystem effects of unrestrained development, to be used in local government workshops (Chagrin River Watershed Partners).

Programs to combat illegal dumping in the northeast Ohio area will receive \$65,000 from EPA for 1998. Four different community-

based projects will focus on local involvement, education, and outreach to create awareness of waste disposal issues and to clean up and secure dumping sites. Communities receiving grants to deal with dumping problems are City of Cleveland, Summit County, East Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. An "Illegal Dumping Prevention Guidebook" is being developed to serve as a toolkit for local government, industry, utilities, and community groups faced with illegal dumping.

The Cleveland Enterprise Group received \$100,000 to create a plastics recycling network. It will establish strategic business alliances between plastics sources, processors, and end-users to stimulate economic opportunity and make use of local recyclable plastics.

This year, EPA has awarded \$700 million in environmental grants nationwide to community organizations, academic institutions, and tribal, State, and local governments. These grants are designed to encourage community-based projects that deal with pollution prevention, sustainable development, and environmental protection.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: November 21, 1997

No. 97-OPA318

## **EPA ISSUES FINAL RECOMMENDATION ON ABANDONED OHIO GAS PIPELINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently notified East Ohio Gas Co. (Cleveland, OH) that it recommends cleanup or removal of abandoned natural-gas pipelines running under the Meander Reservoir near Youngstown.

While recent analytical samples showed no PCB's in the out-of-service lines, EPA is recommending that Ohio Gas remove or clean and seal the lines so they don't pose a future threat to water quality.

"We are concerned that PCB-contaminated condensation may have, at one time, traveled through or collected at the low points of the lines," said Phyllis Reed, chief of the regional Pesticides and Toxics Branch.

"Although these lines are not regulated under the Federal law, and the action is a suggestion rather than an order, we strongly recommend that these actions be taken to protect human health and the environment at Meander Reservoir," she said.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once widely used 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 fish and aquatic birds--and present health hazards for people.

Under the Toxic Substances Control Act, EPA regulates the proper cleanup, disposal, marking, record-keeping, storage, and limited use of PCB's to protect the public from these potentially dangerous chemicals.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: November 24, 1997

No. 97-OPA319

## **FEDERAL COURT OK'S SHERWIN WILLIAMS ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP SETTLEMENT**

A Federal court in Chicago has recently approved a settlement -- valued at more than \$6 million -- between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Justice, and Sherwin Williams Co.

Under the settlement, the paint manufacturer will pay nearly \$5 million in civil penalties, spend millions cleaning up contamination at its southeast Chicago plant, and complete in southeast Chicago two supplemental environmental projects that have been approved by the court.

The first project is a \$950,000 cleanup of contamination at the Victory Heights-Maple Park site -- a group of old, abandoned industrial facilities about 1 mile from the Sherwin Williams plant. The second project is a \$150,000 restoration of wetlands near Indian Creek and Lake Calumet.

The Pullman Civic Organization, a group representing the Pullman neighborhood, objected to the settlement, arguing that a contaminated area within the neighborhood -- the former Liquid Dynamics site -- should have been included as an extra environmental cleanup project instead of the two projects selected by Sherwin Williams. But, EPA determined it would be inappropriate for Sherwin Williams to pay for the cleanup of this site because other companies are legally responsible for its cleanup. EPA has already planned a study of the site.

"These projects, with the improvements Sherwin Williams has already made, will go a long way to improve the environment on Chicago's South Side," said Gail Ginsberg, EPA Senior Enforcement Manager. "EPA will make every effort to ensure that the Liquid Dynamics site is cleaned up, too. EPA's Superfund program will shortly begin a study of the site, which is the first step in a potential cleanup."

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For Immediate Release: November 25, 1997

No. 97-OPA320

## **EPA SETTLES WITH UNION ELECTRIC FOR CHEMICAL VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$5,000 FINE AND 2 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently signed an agreement with Union Electric Co. (Venice, IL) for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. The company will pay a \$5,000 fine and spend \$24,033 on a pair of supplementary environmental projects that enhance local emergency responses and improve plant safety.

Union Electric, a power plant near East St. Louis, was cited for failure on March 2, 1995, to immediately report to the National Response Center the release of 73,400 lb of sulfuric acid. Federal laws require immediate notification upon any release of sulfuric acid exceeding 1,000 lb.

The incident occurred when a stop valve was left open and the liquid drained into a wastewater retention pond. Workers added 3,000 lb of soda ash and additional water to neutralize the acid.

In addition to the \$5,000 fine, Union Electric will spend at least \$24,033 on two environmental projects: 1. Purchase of three self-contained breathing apparatus units for the Madison County Local Emergency

Planning Committee. Cost: \$7,500. The units will be used by local fire departments during hazardous materials incidents. 2. Purchase and installation of new isolation valves on the plant's two acid storage tanks. Cost: \$16,553.

Sulfuric acid is a noncombustible liquid, which generates heat when it reacts with water. It is corrosive to metals, and exposure may cause severe irritation to the respiratory system and burns to the eyes, skin, and digestive tract.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 149 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 135 settlements and \$3.79 million in total fines and \$1.39 million in environmental projects.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa320.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: November 26, 1997

No. 97-OPA321

## **EPA: 2 DETROIT CLEANUPS COMPLETED, WORK CONTINUES AT 2 OTHERS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that hazardous waste cleanups have recently been completed at two Detroit sites: AABCO Waste Oil and Metro Plating. Cleanup is continuing at two other sites, Durako Paint and Bostwick Drum.

EPA's Grosse Ile, MI, Superfund emergency response team supervised work at all four sites, in coordination with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and Detroit Department of Environmental Affairs.

AABCO, 17400 St. Louis St., was a waste oil reclamation and storage facility from 1962 until it was abandoned in 1996. The property includes a 6,000-square-foot facility and a vacant lot one block east on Brimson Ave. Between August and November, EPA supervised the removal and disposal of 113,400 gallons of waste oils, 18,600 gallons of waste sludge, 300 55-gallon drums containing hazardous chemicals, an underground sump, and six tanker trucks. Visibly contaminated soils were also excavated, removed, and backfilled with clean soil. Cost: \$300,000.

Metro Plating, 220 East Milwaukee St., is an abandoned electroplating plant in the New Center area that had 14 vats with contaminated materials, including corrosive liquids and heavy metals, plus a number of drums and smaller containers of hazardous materials. Between September and early November, some 6,000 gallons of hazardous liquids and 80 cubic yards of hazardous debris were removed and disposed of at EPA-approved facilities. In addition, 50 cubic yards of scrap steel was sent to local recycling facilities. Cost: \$132,000. The property has reverted to the State

of Michigan due to nonpayment of taxes by the former owner.

A projected \$1.8 million cleanup began in October at the abandoned Durako Paint factory, 6315 East 7 Mile Rd. The plant, which closed in 1989, comprises facilities on both the east and west sides of Filer St. The two properties contained 2,900 drums of potentially hazardous paint-related materials, plus mixing tanks and paint production equipment.

The drums are being assessed and then shipped off-site to EPA-approved disposal facilities. The removal and disposal work is expected to be complete in February. Some of the paint-related materials are suitable for recycling as a cement kiln fuel.

Work is also continuing at the Bostwick Drum site, a vacant lot at 6761 Bostwick Ave., in Southwest Detroit, which held 2,500 metal and plastic drums--200 of which contained chemicals or flammable materials. The cleanup began in March. In early November, with a few hundred drums still to be removed, the responsible parties signed an agreement with EPA to finish the cleanup by mid-December. Projected final cost: \$75,000.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: November 25, 1997

No. 97-OPA322

## **EPA CITES 5 WISC. COMPANIES FOR PCB VIOLATIONS; SEEKS \$350,000 IN FINES**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed complaints against Raytheon Appliances (Omro, WI), Halco Terminal, Tank Removal Specialists, Soil Remediation Services, and Bio.Re. Tech (all four operating in Green Bay, WI), for violating Federal rules on PCB's. EPA assessed each company a \$70,000 fine.

Raytheon, formerly Speed Queen, 431 Washington St., was cited for improper PCB distribution in commerce and for improper transporting of PCB-contaminated soil. In addition, the company failed to notify EPA of its waste handling activities. The four other companies were cited for improper PCB storage and failure to notify EPA.

Raytheon arranged for transport, storage, and disposal of 1,500 tons of soil contaminated with diesel fuel, which later proved to also contain PCB's.

Neither Halco Terminal, where the PCB-contaminated soil was taken, nor the three other companies involved in processing the soil at that site are authorized by EPA to handle PCB wastes.

PCB's are a group of toxic chemicals, once widely used 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 fish and aquatic birds--and present a health hazard to people.

Under the Toxic Substances Control Act, EPA regulates the proper disposal, marking, record-keeping, storage, and limited use of PCB's to protect the public from these potentially dangerous chemicals.

The companies must respond to these allegations or pay the fines.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: November 26, 1997

No. 97-OPA323

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH RED ARROW; INCLUDES \$6,000 FINE AND \$227,000 CLEANUP PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Red Arrow Products Co. on alleged Clean Air Act violations at its Manitowoc, WI, plant. A \$6,000 penalty and a \$227,000 supplemental environmental project are included.

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EPA filed an administrative complaint against Red Arrow last January for exceeding State limits on visible emissions of particulates (smoke, dust, fly ash) from the sawdust dryer at its South Water St. plant. (The company makes flavorings for the food industry at the plant.)

As its supplemental environmental project, Red Arrow has installed and is now operating a wet Venturi scrubber to cut particulate emissions from the dryer by up to 31 tons per year.

"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 are pleased that Red Arrow has already taken steps to cut its particulate emissions."

High concentrations of particulates can worsen the condition of people

with heart or lung disease. Children, the elderly, and asthmatics are the most susceptible.

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URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa323.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: December 2, 1997

No. 97-OPA313

## **EPA: CLEANUP COMPLETE AT LAKESIDE REFINING SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that its cleanup of the abandoned Lakeside Refinery site (Kalamazoo, MI) is now complete. The \$6.7 million effort--paid for entirely by EPA--took nearly 2 years.

The 50-acre site was an oil refinery and bulk fuel storage facility from 1939 to 1984. After the refining operations ceased, the site was used, on a very limited basis, as a storage facility until 1996--when EPA's cleanup began.

Since 1972, at least five documented oil spills have occurred, resulting in the release of oil and other contaminants into soils surrounding the property, ground water, and Davis Creek, which runs through the site and flows into the Kalamazoo River, about 1.5 miles to the north. The Kalamazoo River then empties into Lake Michigan.

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Prior to cleanup, the site posed numerous environmental and human health concerns. These included: asbestos exposure from piping and petroleum

distillation towers covered with asbestos insulation; exposure to lead, mercury, flammable liquids, and caustic liquids and solids by children and trespassers; and health threats to wildlife tempted to drink from water-filled areas contaminated by oil.

Over the course of the cleanup, EPA removed about 270,000 gallons of oil, 3,200 tons of scrap metal, 1,400 cubic yards of asbestos, 33,000 gallons of flammable liquids, 15,000 gallons of caustic liquids, 25,000 tons of contaminated soil, and 18 tons of miscellaneous hazardous waste materials from the site. Much of the scrap metal was sent to local recycling facilities.

In addition, 4.5 million gallons of oily water from the site was treated by EPA's mobile water treatment unit; contaminated sludge from a lagoon was excavated and removed; and portions of the site were regraded to direct surface water runoff toward Davis Creek.

The cleanup was supervised by a Chicago-based Superfund emergency response team, and coordinated with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the City of Kalamazoo.

With EPA's work completed, MDEQ plans to clean up several additional portions of the site that contain petroleum-contaminated soil. The City of Kalamazoo and MDEQ are also working together to redevelop the property under Michigan's Brownfields program.

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For Immediate Release: December 1, 1997

No. 97-OPA324

## **EPA: FINAL CLEANUP BEGINS AT MIDWEST PLATING SITE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that the final phase of cleanup at the Midwest Plating site (Kokomo, IN) begins this week. The 1-acre site is an abandoned electroplating facility at 1509 North Washington St. Residents of this mixed industrial and residential area can expect to see workers in protective clothing, trucks, and construction equipment at the site over the next few weeks.

Midwest Plating Co. abandoned the property in August 1984, leaving behind drums, vats, and plating equipment containing hazardous and flammable chemicals, including trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene, chromium, and cyanide. Between 1984 and 1986, EPA spent \$470,000 on the removal and disposal of hazardous wastes which posed an immediate threat to human health and the environment.

Following the initial cleanup, the property sat idle for 10 years, the building and adjacent yard deteriorated, leaks in the roof developed, and the building became structurally unsound.

In 1996, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and EPA collected soil, concrete, and gravel samples at the site, finding elevated levels of heavy metals, along with exposed asbestos insulation. At about this time, private-sector interest in this brownfield site also materialized, and IDEM, Howard County Solid Waste Department, and EPA joined forces to prepare the property for redevelopment.

This past August and September, IDEM removed the asbestos from the building. In November, Howard County took down the roof and walls. Beginning this week, an EPA-supervised crew will remove and dispose of the remaining concrete floor and soil down to two feet below grade, and then backfill the area using clean soil. The work should take about three weeks.

EPA's projected cost for removal and disposal of the concrete and contaminated soil: \$375,000.

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For Immediate Release: December 1, 1997

No. 97-OPA325

## **EPA SETTLES WITH DOW CHEMICAL; INCLUDES \$24,760 FINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region has recently signed an agreement with Dow Chemical Co. (Midland, MI) for violation of Federal laws on the reporting of a hazardous chemical release. The company will pay a \$24,760 fine and complete a supplemental environmental project that enhances the county government's emergency response capabilities.

EPA's complaint alleges that on August 24, 1994, plant management at Dow's 1261 Building failed to promptly notify the National Response Center, Michigan State Emergency Response Commission, and Midland County Emergency Planning Committee of a 232 lb release of 1,3-butadiene. Federal laws require immediate notification upon any release exceeding 10 lb of 1,3-butadiene.

The release occurred when a process-line flange developed a leak after maintenance operations. Once the leak point was identified, Dow's in-house maintenance team immediately repaired the flange.

1,3-butadiene is a colorless gas, with a mild gasoline-like odor, used in the production of rubber and plastics. Exposure to it may cause irritation to



the eyes, nose, and throat. Exposure to very high levels in a short period can cause central nervous system damage, blurred vision, nausea, fatigue, headache, decreased blood pressure, and unconsciousness. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has said that 1,3-butadiene is a potential carcinogen.

The environmental project requires the company to purchase and donate new telecommunications equipment for Midland County's emergency command vehicle. The vehicle is used by the Department of Emergency Services for communications and coordination for all types of incidents within the County. Cost of the project: at least \$10,240.

Since 1989, EPA Region 5 has filed 149 separate complaints for hazardous chemical reporting violations, resulting in 135 settlements and \$3.79 million in total fines and \$1.39 million in environmental projects.

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For Immediate Release: December 1, 1997

No. 97-OPA326

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH WINNEBAGO MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE ON AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with Winnebago Mental Health Institute of Oshkosh, WI, to resolve alleged violations of the Clean Air Act at its power plant.

Winnebago has agreed to install equipment to control emissions of particulates (dust, smoke, ash) from its boiler to meet federally enforceable State standards. This equipment is also intended to reduce emissions' opacity (the amount of light obscured by particulates). The facility has agreed to complete construction by September 1999.

EPA cited Winnebago last May for exceeding the applicable emission limits on particulates and opacity.

"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 are pleased Winnebago has agreed to install equipment to control air pollution from its boiler."

Inhaling high concentrations of particulates can lead to heart and lung diseases. Children, the elderly, or those with heart or lung conditions are

the most sensitive.

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Last Updated: December 1, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa326.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: December 2, 1997

No. 97-OPA327

## **EPA: VANDERBURGH COUNTY NOW MEETS HEALTH-BASED OZONE STANDARD**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that Vanderburgh County (Evansville, IN) now meets the health-based standard for the air pollutant ozone, or smog.

This redesignation will become effective upon publication in the Federal Register, which should occur within the next several weeks.

EPA has also approved a State plan designed to ensure that Vanderburgh County continues to meet the ozone standard.

The redesignation is based on monitored attainment of the ozone standard in the Evansville area, including Posey, Warrick, and Vanderburgh Counties, from 1995 to 1997.

Last July, EPA adopted a new health-based ozone standard. Simply put, the old standard was .12 parts per million (ppm) over a 1-hour period, and the new standard is .08 ppm over an 8-hour period. This redesignation is

based on the old standard, which remains in effect until it is attained.

The State clean-air plan calls for regular evaluation of ozone levels and emissions. As part of the plan, IDEM has been working on several clean-air measures for Vanderburgh County with a group called the Action Committee for Ozone Reduction Now. It is made up of private citizens and local businesses. Local officials have said they will pursue these measures to maintain their air quality.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: December 4, 1997

No. 97-OPA328

## **EPA SETTLES WITH AAKASH ON TOXIC CHEMICAL VIOLATIONS; INCLUDES \$30,000 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently settled a civil administrative complaint against Aakash Chemicals and Dyestuffs (Glendale Heights, IL) for violations of Federal rules on reporting toxic chemicals. The company will pay a \$30,000 fine.

Aakash was cited for failure to report to EPA the required data on eight chemicals imported by its former facility in Addison, IL, in 1990 and 1994. The company was also cited for failing to provide U.S. Customs with reports on the import of six additional chemicals in 1994.

Aakash, an importer and distributor of chemicals for use as textile dyes, has certified to EPA that it is now in compliance with Federal regulations.

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.

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Last Updated: December 4, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: Mick Hans  
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For Immediate Release: December 9, 1997

No. 97-OPA329

## **EPA TO HOST INT'L HAZ. MATERIALS SPILLS CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO, APRIL 5 - 9, 1998**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will host the 14th International Hazardous Materials Spills Conference at Chicago's Palmer House Hilton Hotel, April 5-9, 1998. The biannual conference includes technical and skills-training sessions, current case-study presentations, plus an exhibition area and unique special events.

The 1998 conference marks the first time in a decade that EPA Region 5 has hosted the event. Emergency response professionals from North America and around the world are expected to attend.

The conference, whose theme is "Risk Management: Closing the Loop," offers extensive skills-training and career development opportunities for people in all facets of the public safety, contingency planning, and emergency response professions.

More than 30 sessions will be offered during the 5-day event. Topics include: risk management planning for State and local emergency response commissions, OSHA 8-hour awareness training, managing abandoned vessels and barges, coordinating operations during a terrorist event, responses in harsh weather conditions, and hands-on training on current software applications.

A number of case studies will also be presented, ranging from flood



responses in southwestern Idaho and a panel discussion on a train derailment in Ohio to an inside look at EPA's response to methyl parathion ("cotton poison") misuse in Chicago and Lorain, OH.

Special events include: Spanish-language CAMEO emergency planning software training, a tour of the Chicago Fire Department Academy, and an outdoor exhibition of emergency response vehicles and equipment in downtown Chicago's Federal Plaza.

For registration details via internet, [http:// www.nrt.org/nrt/hazmat98.nsf](http://www.nrt.org/nrt/hazmat98.nsf), or contact: Tom Crane, Great Lakes Commission, Argus II Building, 400 4th Street, Ann Arbor, MI, 418103-4816; fax 313-665-4370. Early registration rates expire March 5, 1998. When making reservations at the Palmer House Hilton (800-HILTONS), ask for the special "Hazmat Spills Conference" rates.

Exhibition details are also available via internet, or contact: Joanne Dobrick, 2300 North Clybourn, Suite 15, Chicago, IL 60614; 773-348-3960, fax 773-348-6632.

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Last Updated: December 9, 1997

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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(312) 886-4359

For Immediate Release: December 8, 1997

No. 97-OPA330

## **EPA: FASTER, CHEAPER CLEANUP PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSED FOR ALLIED CHEMICAL SITE; PUBLIC MEETING DEC. 16**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently proposed two changes to the cleanup plan for soil contamination at the Coke Plant-Lagoon Area of the Allied Chemical-Ironton Coke Superfund site, Ironton, OH. The changes will accelerate cleanup and reduce costs to site owner, AlliedSignal Inc., by about \$50 million.

A public meeting to discuss these changes will be held Tuesday, Dec. 16, 6 p.m., Briggs Lawrence County Public Library, 321 South Fourth St., Ironton. A 30-day comment period on the proposed changes runs through January 2, 1998. A fact sheet on the changes will be available at the public meeting.

The first change deals with 457,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil in Lagoons 1 through 4, which were to be cleaned by bioremediation--a process that uses naturally occurring organisms in the soil to break down contaminants. Because contaminant levels have been generally lower than expected, EPA proposes excavation of the contaminated soil, followed by redevelopment of the excavated area as a wetland.

The second change deals with waste at Lagoon 5 and the material to be excavated from Lagoons 1 through 4--a total of 122,000 cubic yards of soft and hard tar, coal, coke, and soil that was originally to be incinerated

onsite. Under the change, the soft tar will be recycled offsite and the remaining material will be removed from the site for use as boiler fuel. Completion date for the proposed changes: Fall 1999.

The proposed changes protect human health and the environment. Ohio EPA supports the changes.

For more information, call Ginny Narsete, Community Involvement Coordinator, 1-800-621-8431. The proposed changes and other site documents are available for review at Briggs Lawrence County Public Library.

The Allied Chemical-Ironton Coke site has two cleanup areas: the Goldcamp Disposal Area and the Coke Plant-Lagoon Area. The 4-acre Goldcamp Area is a former sand and gravel pit that was used for tar-plant wastes from 1945 to 1977. Cleanup of the Goldcamp area was completed in 1990. The 95-acre Coke Plant area included a coke plant--which has been removed, enabling potential redevelopment--and a series of lagoons that were used for wastewater treatment.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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(312) 353-6646

WDNR Contact: Bruce Baker  
(608) 266-1902

For Immediate Release: December 11, 1997

No. 97-OPA331

## **EPA AND WDNR TO CONDUCT STUDY FOR FOX RIVER CLEANUP**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) said today that, beginning immediately, they will conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to develop options for PCB-contaminated sediment cleanup of the Lower Fox River.

EPA and WDNR, in coordination with their intergovernmental partners, are proceeding with the RI/FS after four months of negotiations with the Fox River Group to develop the RI/FS did not result in a timely settlement. Both sides remain far apart on a number of important issues. EPA and WDNR do not believe an RI/FS settlement is likely in the near future and are determined to keep the overall cleanup process moving forward.

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The Fox River Group comprises seven paper mills that are potentially responsible for contaminating the river and bay.

Today's announcement concerning the RI/FS work plan does not directly impact the ongoing negotiations with the Fox River Group for a global settlement on cleanup and restoration of the Lower Fox and Green Bay. These negotiations are continuing on a parallel track, with a deadline of January 31, 1998.

"Though we regret that a settlement on the RI/FS could not be reached in a timely manner, the intergovernmental partners look forward to working cooperatively with the Fox River Group on the RI/FS, a global settlement, and ultimately, restoration of these critical natural resources," said EPA Acting Regional Administrator David Ullrich. "During the RI/FS, the Fox River Group, as well as the general public, will be given regular progress reports and have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making process."

This past July, EPA, WDNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Menominee and Oneida Nations agreed to coordinate efforts to cleanup and restore the Lower Fox River and Green Bay.

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**ADDITIONAL MEDIA CONTACTS:**

FWS: Joan Guilfoyle, (612) 725-3582

NOAA: John Lindsay, (206) 526-4560

Menominee Nation: Doug Cox, (715) 799-4937

Oneida Nation: Jeff House, (920) 490-2452

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Phillipa Cannon  
(312) 353-6218

For Immediate Release: December 10, 1997

No. 97-OPA332

## **EPA TO HOLD PRESS BRIEFING IN ST. LOUIS ON WATER QUALITY & MISSISSIPPI RIVER**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Assistant Administrator for Water Robert Perciasepe will hold a press briefing on the Vice President's Clean Water Action Plan and how it relates to the Mississippi River watershed. He will be joined by EPA Regional Administrators who will highlight efforts to improve water quality in the Mississippi watershed in their regions.

The event will take place on Thursday, December 11, at 12:45 p.m. at St. Louis Metropolitan Sanitary District's Bissell Point Sewage Treatment Plant, 10 East Grand Ave., St. Louis.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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(312) 353-6425

Media Contact: Noemi Emeric  
(312) 886-0995

For Immediate Release: December 15, 1997

No. 97-OPA333

## **EPA COMPLETES 5-YEAR REVIEW OF OUTBOARD MARINE SITE; CONTAMINANTS REMAIN CONTAINED, MONITORING TO CONTINUE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently completed a 5-year status review of the Outboard Marine Corp. (OMC) Superfund site, Waukegan, IL. The Superfund law requires reviews (at least every 5 years) of sites where cleanup has been completed, but where pollutants are contained and will be managed on-site.

The 37-acre site was contaminated by discharges of PCB hydraulic fluids from OMC manufacturing operations between 1961 and 1972. It is about 40 miles north of Chicago and 10 miles south of the Wisconsin State line.

EPA, in partnership with Illinois EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, supervised extensive cleanup at the site from 1989 to 1994. Work included removal of PCB-contaminated soils and sediments on both the property and in Waukegan Harbor. OMC built, maintained, and capped three containment cells at the site to permanently store the contaminated soils and sediments. It also constructed a new boat slip to replace the one displaced by the project.

EPA monitoring of the site shows that the containment cells have been

effective, and pumping, treating, and discharging of treated ground water is continuing. EPA expects that the monitoring--done by OMC--will last for decades to come.

The next 5-year review is scheduled for 2001.

A copy of the report is available at Waukegan Public Library, 128 North County St., or from Michael Bellot (SR-6J), U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL; 312-353-2000, or (outside Illinois) 800-621-8431.

PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) are a group of chemicals once widely used 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.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: December 11, 1997

No. 97-OPA334

**NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS: PHOTO OP & MEDIA  
AVAILABILITY FOR WASTE INC. SITE (MICHIGAN CITY, IN)  
DEC. 15**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 will hold a community open house and media availability to mark the recent final inspection of cleanup at the Waste, Inc., Superfund site, Monday, Dec. 15, Noon to 5 p.m., at the Michigan City Council Chambers, City Hall, 100 East Michigan Blvd.

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EPA staff will lead media tours of the grass-covered former landfill from about 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. The site is located 10 minutes away at 1701 East Highway 12, Michigan City, IN. (Tours will originate from the open house.)

From about 12:15 p.m. to 1 p.m., a group of 5th graders from Michigan City's Park Elementary School will hear a presentation on the cleanup by EPA staff and then take a school bus to the site for a short walking tour. Mayor Sheila Brillson and other officials are expected to join the tour. The students are working on environmental projects coordinated by the Minority Health Coalition of LaPorte County.

A news release and fact sheet will be available Monday at the open house, or via fax from Mick Hans or Phillippa Cannon at EPA: 312-353-2072.

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Last Updated: December 11, 1997

URL: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/97opa334.htm>



# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



Technical Contact: Dion Novak  
(312) 886-4737

Media Contact: Mick Hans  
(312) 353-5050

For Immediate Release: December 15, 1997

No. 97-OPA335

## **EPA COMPLETES FINAL INSPECTION AT WASTE INC. SITE; OPEN HOUSE DEC. 15**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently completed final inspection of cleanup at the Waste Inc. Superfund site, Michigan City, IN. The public and the media are invited to an open house to mark the milestone, Monday, Dec. 15, noon to 5 p.m., at the Michigan City Council Chambers, City Hall, 100 East Michigan Blvd.

Weather-permitting, EPA staff will lead short tours of the site, originating from the open house. A group of 5th graders will hear a presentation on the cleanup and tour the site from about 12:15 to 1:00 p.m. Mayor Sheila Brillson and other officials are expected to join the tour.

The 30-acre site was a privately operated landfill from about 1965 to 1982. In 1987, it was placed on the EPA's Superfund National Priorities List of uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Environmental concerns at the site included exposed hazardous materials, acceptance of unauthorized materials, and leachate runoff into nearby Trail Creek.

Today, the site contains a sloped 40-foot hill topped with a grassy 24-inch landfill cover, and a ground-water collection system that carries leachate to the Michigan City Sanitary District. In addition, three detention ponds collect from the landfill cover stormwater runoff, which is then diverted to Trail Creek at two locations. Scattered across the property are 15 extraction wells to vent landfill gases.

Redevelopment of the property is prohibited. The site is enclosed by a new security fence, with signs warning against trespassing and consumption of fish from Trail Creek.

The \$22 million cleanup was funded by group of potentially responsible parties under a unilateral order by EPA. The sum includes extensive cleanup done between September 1996 and September 1997, along with projected operations and maintenance costs. This includes quarterly ground-water sampling and analysis, site security, and maintenance of the leachate and gas collection system though at least 2027--and longer if EPA determines the need for it.

EPA will supervise ongoing maintenance at the site, in partnership with IDEM and the LaPorte County Health Department.

"A decade ago, Waste Inc. was a classic example of a blighted landfill in need of major remediation. Today, it's a quiet green hill instead of an eyesore and a potential safety hazard," said EPA Regional Superfund Director William Munro.

"EPA salutes the many State and local government agencies and groups such as the Minority Health Coalition of LaPorte County, Mothers Opposed to Pollution, and the Save the Dunes Council for contributing to--and keeping faith in--this effort," he said. Still to come is EPA's approval of a formal construction completion report submitted by the responsible parties. When the report is approved, the long-term operations and maintenance period officially begins, and Waste Inc. will be recognized as an EPA Superfund "Construction Completion" site where cleanup activities are complete.

Nationally, EPA has finished cleanup at 498 of about 1,300 listed sites.

A detailed fact sheet on the cleanup is available from Noemi Emeric, community involvement coordinator, 1-800-621-8431. The fact sheet will also be posted on the Worldwide Web at <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/>

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: William Omohundro  
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For Immediate Release: December 12, 1997

No. 97-OPA336

## **EPA CITES BORDEN FOR AIR POLLUTION**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently cited Borden, Inc., for an alleged Clean Air Act violation at its Aurora, IL, foundry sand manufacturing plant, 1019 Jericho Rd.

Specifically, Borden exceeded the federally enforceable State volatile organic compound (VOC) limit by failing to control emissions from its foundry sand manufacturing process. The plant is in Metropolitan Chicago, which does not meet health-based standards for ozone, a byproduct of VOC's.

This is a preliminary finding of violation. To resolve this violation, EPA may issue a compliance order, assess an administrative penalty, or bring suit against the company. EPA met with Borden on November 5 to discuss the allegation. Borden agreed to submit additional information, which EPA will review before deciding how to proceed.

"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. It can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: December 16, 1997

No. 97-OPA337

## **EPA REACHES AGREEMENT WITH RUHLIN AND OHIO DOT; INCLUDES \$12,480 FINE AND 3 PROJECTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently reached agreement with The Ruhlin Co. (Sharon Center, OH) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (DOT) to resolve alleged violations of Federal asbestos regulations at an interstate highway bridge repair site in Akron, OH.

Ruhlin and Ohio DOT have agreed to pay a \$12,480 penalty. Ohio DOT has agreed to do three supplemental environmental projects totaling \$91,924.

Ohio DOT will install energy-saving lights at its central maintenance garage in Columbus and do two studies to evaluate the use of alternative-fuel vehicles in its general car fleet and its medium and heavy-duty truck fleet.

EPA cited Ruhlin, a highway and bridge contractor, and Ohio DOT in June 1996 for violating Federal asbestos standards at an I-76 bridge renovation project, Market and General Streets, Akron. They were also cited for failing to give proper notification before starting work on the project.

"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 are pleased that Ohio Department of Transportation has agreed to these supplemental environmental projects."

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

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: December 16, 1997

No. 97-OPA338

## **EPA CITES APOGEE'S LINETEC DIV. FOR AIR POLLUTION; INCLUDES \$32,925 FINE**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently filed an administrative complaint against Apogee Wausau Group, Inc., Linetec Division, for alleged clean-air violations at its Wausau, WI, plant. EPA has proposed a \$32,925 penalty.

EPA notified Linetec in August that the two spray-coating lines it operates at 725 South 75th Ave. were in violation of State air pollution regulations.

Specifically, Linetec failed to control 85 percent of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from its flat-line process. It also failed to properly record correct data on its finishing-line process.

EPA and Linetec met in September to discuss the violations and the steps Linetec had taken to comply with the State VOC standard. The company has installed a total permanent enclosure to capture all VOC emissions.

Linetec has filed an answer to the complaint and requested 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 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. It also can aggravate asthma and may speed up aging of lung tissue.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release: December 18, 1997

No. 97-OPA339

## **EPA RECOGNIZES MILWAUKEE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL ENERGY- SAVINGS PROGRAM**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today recognized the commitment of Milwaukee Public Schools to EPA's energy-saving Green Lights program at an awards ceremony at Milwaukee's Golda Meir Elementary School.

By joining the Green Lights program, the Milwaukee system will cut its lighting consumption in half, save nearly \$650,000 annually in lighting costs, and significantly improve the quality of lighting and the learning environment for 107,000 Milwaukee children.

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Acting Regional Administrator David A. Ullrich presented the Green Lights award to Milwaukee Public Schools Superintendent Alan S. Brown at a 1:30 p.m. classroom ceremony.

Milwaukee Public Schools has completed energy-efficient lighting upgrades at all of its 155 schools and district buildings, as part of its commitment to Green Lights -- EPA's program designed to help businesses and other organizations save money and cut air pollution by upgrading their lighting systems.

In September, Milwaukee Public Schools committed 8.5 million square feet to the Green Lights program. This effort will prevent the annual release of 27 million lb. of carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas

responsible for global warming. The pollution thus prevented has the same positive effect on the environment as removing 2,350 polluting cars from the roads, or planting nearly 3,220 acres of oxygen-giving trees each year.

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# Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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Media Contact: Karen Thompson  
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For Immediate Release: December 23, 1997

No. 97-OPA341

## **EPA COUNTDOWN IS ON FOR UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 announces the final deadline for upgrading or closing of underground storage tanks is one year away. Ten years ago, EPA set regulations that tanks not protected against corrosion, spills, and overfills must be upgraded, replaced, or properly closed.

Other regulatory requirements for tanks--including release detection, financial responsibility, and reporting and cleanup of leaks--remain in effect. EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner announced last May that she does not intend to extend the deadline. Costs for remedial procedures range from \$5,000 to \$100,000 per site, not including site assessment or cost of cleanup.

Underground tanks are used to hold gasoline, diesel fuel, and other petroleum products at service stations and vehicle fleet refueling facilities. Some industrial plants also store hazardous chemicals in tanks.

The greatest possible hazard from leaking tanks is contamination of ground water--the source of drinking water for nearly half of all Americans. The potential for fire and explosion also creates health and environmental dangers.

Starting Dec. 22, 1998, EPA and the six Region 5 States will identify

violations, ensure they are corrected, and impose appropriate penalties. Some States have established grants and low-interest loans to help owners upgrade or replace these tanks.

For a free booklet "Don't Wait Until 1998," call EPA's Hotline at 1-800-424-9346. For State-specific information call:

City of Chicago Dept. of the 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

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