



Background Information: National Priorities List, Final Rule

Office of Emergency and Remedial Response
Hazardous Site Evaluation Division (OS-230)

Intermittent Bulletin
Volume 1, Number 2

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is adding White Chemical Corp., Newark, NJ, to the National Priorities List (NPL), bringing the number of final sites to 1,185 (reflecting the 4 deletions noted below). An additional 22 sites are in proposed status for a total of 1,207 -- 1,088 in the EPA section and 119 in the Federal facilities section. Cleanup of sites in the Federal section is funded by the Federal agency responsible. New Jersey has the largest number of final and proposed sites (109), followed by Pennsylvania (96) and California (90).

The site was proposed on the basis of Section 300.425(c)(3) of the National Contingency Plan (NCP), the Federal regulation by which CERCLA is implemented. Under this section, a site can be placed on the NPL if (1) the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) of the U.S. Public Health Service has issued a public health advisory recommending that people be removed from the site, (2) EPA determines that the site poses a significant threat to public health, and (3) EPA anticipates that it will be more cost-effective to use its remedial authority (available only at NPL sites) than its emergency removal authority to respond to the site.

On November 21, 1990, ATSDR issued a health advisory warning that White Chemical poses a significant threat to public health because of the possible release of hazardous substances to the air.

The site was subject to public comment for 30 days following its proposal on May 9, 1991 (56 FR 21460). EPA received one comment that did not affect listing.

The NPL identifies uncontrolled hazardous waste sites that warrant further investigation to determine if long-term remedial action is necessary. The sites on the EPA Section the NPL are eligible for remedial action funded under the

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), enacted on December 11, 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), enacted on October 17, 1986. SARA authorized a "Hazardous Substances Superfund" totalling \$8.5 billion over 5 years to pay costs for overseeing work by those responsible for cleaning up waste sites, and to pay costs not assumed by responsible parties for cleanup at sites in the EPA section of the NPL. In October 1990, SARA was extended to September 30, 1994 to provide an additional \$5.1 billion.

EPA recently activated a new category on the NPL identifying sites where remedial construction activities have been completed but formal deletion is not yet appropriate. To date, 38 sites have been deleted from the NPL, 12 are in the "Construction Completion" category, and 13 are awaiting final documentation prior to being placed in the Construction Completion category. All of these 63 sites are in the EPA section of the NPL.

At the time of the last NPL rulemaking (56 FR 35840, July 29, 1991), 1,188 sites were on the final NPL. The addition of White Chemical and the deletion of four sites (56 FR 46121, September 10, 1991) bring the number to 1,185 -- 1,069 in the EPA section and 116 in the Federal facilities section. The four deleted sites are:

- Jibboom Junkyard, Sacramento, CA (formerly in "Construction Completion" category)
- Wedzeb Enterprises, Inc., Lebanon, IN
- Union Scrap Iron & Metal Co., Minneapolis, MN (formerly in "Construction Completion" category)
- Lansdowne Radiation site, Lansdowne, PA



UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY

NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST NPL

OERR Hazardous Site Evaluation Division Washington, DC 20460

WHITE CHEMICAL CORP. Newark, New Jersey

Conditions at Proposal May 9, 1991

White Chemical Corp. occupies a 4.4-acre site at 660 Frelinghuysen Avenue in a densely populated residential/industrial section of Newark, Essex County, New Jersey. Acid chlorides and flame-retardant chemicals were manufactured on property owned by AZS Corp. from January 1984 to July 1990. Prior to May 1983, Lancaster Chemical Corp., a division of AZS, manufactured chemicals on the property. The site originally consisted of three major buildings, including laboratories, storerooms, and grounds. It is bounded by an industrial center to the north-northeast, a feather company to the west, a sportswear manufacturer to the south-southwest, and a Conrail line to the east-southeast.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) inspected the facility several times in 1989 and found numerous violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. On March 15, 1990, NJDEP served White Chemical and AZS an Administrative Order and Notice of Civil Administrative Penalty Assessment for the noted violations. On May 8, 1990, NJDEP ordered White Chemical to secure the site and to pay for drum stabilization and removal. After the company failed to comply, NJDEP began a removal operation on May 15, 1990. NJDEP's inventory found (among other things) approximately 9,000 drums improperly stored on-site. According to the NJDEP inventory and the site owner, 915 contained scrubbing solution (water with xylene or trichloroethylene), 608 contained waste filter cake, 5,583 contained wastes that may be hazardous, 109 contained substances not classified, 1,673 were claimed to be empty, and 175 were considered to be products by White Chemical. NJDEP observed deteriorating drums leaking into the soil or eroding the pallets on which they were placed. NJDEP also observed spills of phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid, ethylene dichloride, and xylene. Water-reactive materials were stored outside where rain or humidity provided conditions for the materials to be released, and incompatible materials were stored next to each other. There were also 126 above-ground tanks of a variety of sizes. Thousands of unsegregated lab-pack-size materials in various stages of deterioration are stored within the buildings on shelves that are also deteriorating.

By August 1990, NJDEP had removed approximately 1,000 drums. However, cleanup was halted when NJDEP ran out of funds (having expended approximately \$825,000). The State then called EPA for assistance in completing stabilization and removal actions at the site. Subsequently, EPA overpacked fuming drums of phosphorus tribromide for future disposal.

On September 28, 1990, EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order under CERCLA Section 104(e)(3) requiring White Chemical to stop all business activities and vacate the facility. The most serious threats to public health and the environment would result from a release to air of substances in unstable drums and other containers, and by fire and explosion and the associated release of contaminants to air. Approximately 12,000 people live and work within 1/4 mile of the site, 290,000 persons live within 3 miles of the site, and an unknown number of people work within this 3-mile radius. Given prevailing winds, a fire and explosion at White Chemical could seriously impact Newark International Airport, less than 1 mile to the east, the Conrail line at the site's eastern boundary (the major eastern corridor for Amtrak and Conrail), and U.S. Routes 1 and 9 (between the rail line and the airport).

EPA removal staff continues to stabilize and secure the site. The removal action may take up to 18 months. In addition, EPA continues to assess site conditions and the quantities and types of materials present.

On November 21, 1990, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) of the U.S. Public Health Service issued an advisory warning that the site poses a significant threat to public health because of possible releases of hazardous substances to the air. Under Section 300.425 (c)(3) of the National Contingency Plan, the Federal regulation by which CERCLA is implemented, a site can be placed on the NPL if (1) ATSDR has issued a public health advisory recommending that people be removed from the site, (2) EPA determines that the site poses a significant threat to public health, and (3) EPA anticipates that it will be more cost-effective to use its remedial authority (available only at NPL sites) than its emergency removal authority to respond to the site.

Status
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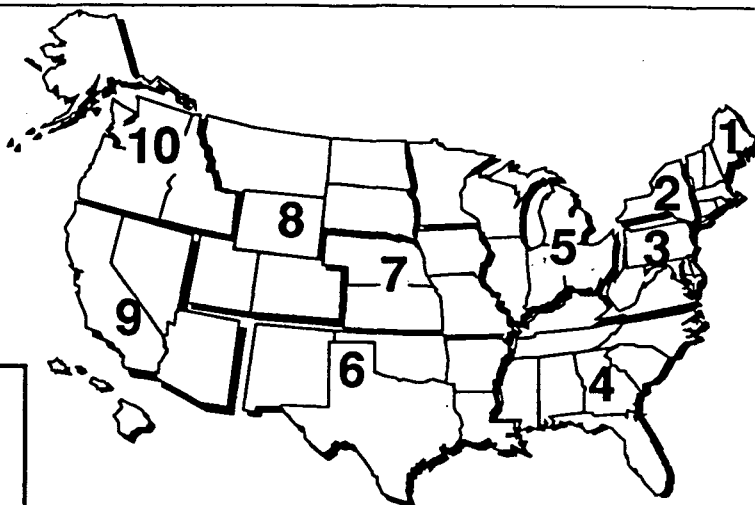
Most of the containers remain on-site, including approximately 12,000 laboratory-type containers, 6,700 drums, 126 tanks, and 10 gas cylinders. To date, EPA has removed 4,200 empty drums from the site. All drums have been staged and segregated. Sampling for disposal purposes is underway.

On July 11, 1991, EPA held a public meeting to present its "Focused Feasibility Study," which describes an early remedial action to deal with the surface contamination at the site. The remedial action is expected to start later in the year.

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

For further information, call the Superfund Hotline, toll-free 1-800-424-9346 or (703) 920-9810 in Washington, DC metropolitan area, or the U.S. EPA Superfund Regional Offices listed below.

For publications, contact
Public Information Center, PM-211B
401 M Street, SW
Washington, DC 20460
FTS-260-2080
CML (202) 260-2080



Office of Emergency & Remedial Response, OS-230
United States Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW
Washington, DC 20460
FTS-260-8103 CML (202) 260-8103

Region 1

Connecticut New Hampshire
Maine Rhode Island
Massachusetts Vermont

Superfund Branch, HSL-CAN 2
John F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203 - 2211
FTS-833-1610 CML (617) 573-9610

Region 2

New Jersey Puerto Rico
New York Virgin Islands

Emergency & Remedial Response Division
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278
FTS-264-8672 CML (212) 264-8672

Region 3

Delaware Pennsylvania
District of Columbia Virginia
Maryland West Virginia

Site Assessment Section, 3HW-13
841 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, PA 19107
FTS-597-3437 CML (215) 597-3437

Region 4

Alabama Mississippi
Florida North Carolina
Georgia South Carolina
Kentucky Tennessee

Waste Management Division
345 Courtland Street, NE
Atlanta, GA 30365
FTS-257-3454 CML (404) 347-3454

Region 5

Illinois Minnesota
Indiana Ohio
Michigan Wisconsin

Remedial Response Branch, 5HS-11
230 South Dearborn Street, 12th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604
FTS-886-5877 CML (312) 886-5877

Region 6

Arkansas Oklahoma
Louisiana Texas
New Mexico

Superfund Management Branch Division, 6H-M
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
FTS-255-6740 CML (214) 655-6740

Region 7

Iowa Missouri
Kansas Nebraska

Superfund Branch
726 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66101
FTS-276-7052 CML (913) 551-7052

Region 8

Colorado South Dakota
Montana Utah
North Dakota Wyoming

Superfund Remedial Branch, 8HWM-SR
999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202-2405
FTS-330-7630 CML (303) 294-7630

Region 9

American Samoa Guam Northern Marianas
Arizona Hawaii Trust Territories
California Nevada

Waste Management Division, H-1
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
FTS-484-1730 CML (415) 744-1730

Region 10

Alaska Oregon
Idaho Washington

Superfund Branch, HW-113
1200 6th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
FTS-399-1987 CML (206) 553-1987