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Descriptions of 12 Sites Proposed to the National Priorities List in September 1995

Office of Emergency and Remedial Response
Hazardous Site Evaluation Division (5204G)

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This document consists of descriptions of the 12 sites proposed to the National Priorities List (NPL) in September 1995. The size of the site is generally indicated, based on information available at the time the site was scored using the Hazard Ranking System, nominated using ATSDR health advisory criteria, or designated as a State top priority. The size may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. Sites are arranged alphabetically by site name.

CLEANING UP UNDER SUPERFUND

The Superfund program is managed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is authorized by 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. In October 1990, SARA was extended to September 30, 1994. An appropriation by Congress for Fiscal Year 1995 authorized Superfund to continue to operate. The Hazardous Substance Response Trust Fund set up by CERCLA as amended pays the costs not assumed by responsible parties for cleaning up hazardous waste sites or emergencies that threaten public health, welfare, or the environment; Superfund also pays for overseeing responsible parties conducting cleanup.

Two types of responses may be taken when a hazardous substance is released (or threatens to be released) into the environment:

- **Removal actions** – emergency-type responses to imminent threats. SARA limits these actions to 1 year and/or \$2 million, with a waiver possible if the actions are consistent with remedial

responses. Removal actions can be undertaken by the private parties responsible for the releases or by the Federal government using the Superfund.

- **Remedial responses** – actions intended to provide permanent solutions at uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Remedial responses are generally longer-term and more expensive than removals. A Superfund-financed remedial response can be taken only if a site is on the NPL. EPA published the first NPL in September 1983. The list must be updated at least annually.

EPA's goals for the Superfund program are to:

- Ensure that polluters pay to clean up the problems they created; and
- Work first on the worst problems at the worst sites, by making sites safe, making sites clean, and bringing new technology to bear on the problem.

REMEDIAL RESPONSES

The money for conducting a remedial response at a hazardous waste site (and a removal action, as well) can come from several sources:

- The individuals or companies responsible for the problems can clean up voluntarily with EPA or State supervision, or they can be forced to clean up by Federal or State legal action.
- A State or local government can choose to assume the responsibility to clean up without Federal dollars.
- Superfund can pay for the cleanup, then seek to recover the costs from the responsible party or parties.

A remedial response, as defined by the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (the Federal regulation by which Superfund is implemented), is an orderly process that generally involves the following steps:

- Take any measures needed to stabilize conditions, which might involve, for example, fencing the site or removing above-ground drums or bulk tanks.
- Undertake initial planning activities to scope out a strategy for collecting information and analyzing alternative cleanup approaches.
- Conduct a remedial investigation to characterize the type and extent of contamination at the site and to assess the risks posed by that contamination.
- Conduct a feasibility study to analyze various cleanup alternatives. The feasibility study is often conducted concurrently with the remedial investigation as one project. Typically, the two together take from 18 to 24 months to complete and cost approximately \$1.3 million.
- Select the cleanup alternative that:
 - Protects human health and the environment;
 - Complies with Federal and State requirements that are applicable or relevant and appropriate;

- Uses permanent solutions and alternative treatment technologies or resource recovery technology to the maximum extent practicable;
 - Considers views of the State and public; and
 - Is "cost effective" -- that is, affords results proportional to the costs of the remedy.
- Design the remedy. Typically, the design phase takes 6 to 12 months to complete and costs approximately \$1.5 million.
 - Implement the remedy, which might involve, for example, constructing facilities to treat ground water or removing contaminants to a safe disposal area away from the site.

EPA expects the implementation (remedial action) phase to average out at about \$25 million (plus any costs to operate and maintain the action) per site, and some remedial actions may take several years to complete.

The State government can participate in a remedial response under Superfund in one of two ways:

- The State can take the lead role under a cooperative agreement, which is much like a grant in that Federal dollars are transferred to the State. The State then develops a workplan, schedule, and budget, contracts for any services it needs, and is responsible for making sure that all the conditions in the cooperative agreement are met. In contrast to a grant, EPA continues to be substantially involved and monitors the State's progress throughout the project.
- EPA can take the lead under a Superfund State Contract, with the State's role outlined. EPA, generally using contractor support, manages work early in the planning process. In the later design and implementation phases, contractors do the work under the supervision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Under both arrangements, the State must share in the cost of the implementation phase of cleanup.

CERCLA requires that EPA select the remedy.

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AIRCRAFT COMPONENTS INC. (D&L SALES)
Benton Harbor, Michigan

The Aircraft Components Inc. site consists of 17 acres of land in Benton Harbor, Michigan, bounded by the Paw Paw River, North Shore Drive, and residential property. The main building on the site consists of a combination warehouse/office building connected to a warehouse. Outbuildings include a large metal-walled Quonset hut and a small Quonset hut. The buildings have been used for the past 40 to 50 years for the storage of radioluminous aircraft gauges containing radium as part of a mail-order distribution service known as Aircraft Components, Inc.

After World War II, the U.S. Army sold aircraft components parts, including radioactive radioluminescent aircraft dials, to Aircraft Components of Benton Harbor. Aircraft Components operated a mail order catalogue business selling Army surplus. The estate of the owners of Aircraft Components sold the property in the early 1990s to D&L Sales, which was interested in the warehouse building but not the Army surplus. D&L sold the aircraft parts to H&K Sales of Belding, Michigan, an aircraft parts dealer. H&K Sales removed the bulk of the radioactive parts to Belding, Michigan. However, numerous aircraft cockpit gauges with dials, pointers, and scales labeled with radioluminescent paint were found throughout the site, including some gauges partially buried outside of the onsite buildings. In addition to the remaining inventory of aircraft gauges (roughly estimated at several thousand), the warehouse currently contains paper products and Christmas items in storage for shipment as part of the business managed by D&L Sales. The Michigan Department of Public Health (MDPH) staff are working with the owners to control movement of merchandise on or off the site to ensure that the items are not contaminated. No individuals routinely work at this site.

The MDPH Division of Radiological Health conducted a preliminary radiation survey on September 26, 1994. Division staff, with the assistance of EPA Region 5, conducted a second supplemental radiation survey on October 20, 1994. Gamma radiation levels measured in the office building, warehouse, and Quonset huts ranged from background levels to 5 milliroentgens per hour. Elevated radiation readings of 50 microroentgens per hour were measured outside of the basement windows of the warehouse section. Both fixed and removable contamination exceeded applicable State regulatory limits. Beta/gamma contamination levels ranged from about 100 counts per minute to about 170,000 counts per minute. Ground contamination, after the aircraft gauges were relocated, was measured to be 4,000 to 13,000 counts per minute beta/gamma. Investigations show that radioactive contamination has migrated from the Benton Harbor warehouse to the land around the warehouse, including the Paw Paw River, and possibly to surrounding wetlands.

A preliminary health physics analysis of currently available data relating to the radioluminous gauges indicates that the likely exposure to individuals includes external exposure to gamma rays, internal exposure due to inhalation of radon gas, and potential internal exposure due to inhalation and/or ingestion of contaminated material in the form of dust or other fine particles. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) of the U.S. Public Health Service issued a public health advisory on June 29, 1995. Because some radiological contaminants are easily removed from surfaces, ATSDR believes that this site poses a health hazard to onsite employees, future remediation workers, nearby residents, and any intruders that may enter the onsite structures. Evidence of burning, vandalism, and trespassing suggest that past exposure to radium and radon could have occurred.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. See 56 FR 5600, February 11, 1991, or subsequent FR notices.]



BRESLUBE-PENN, INCORPORATED
Coraopolis, Pennsylvania

The Breslube-Penn, Incorporated site is located on Montour Road in Coraopolis, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. The property is approximately 5 acres in size and has been inactive since late 1991 - early 1992. Five sources were identified at the site: the storage tanks, the staged contaminated waste, the filter cake disposal area, the waste pile, and the backfilled lagoon.

In the mid-1970s, American Tallow and Wiseman Oil Company both conducted operations at the site. American Tallow operated as a meat-rendering business and discontinued operations at the facility around 1977. Wiseman Oil Company operated as a waste oil processing and reclamation facility at the site. Used oils were re-refined into fuel oils and sold to residual fuel users. Wiseman Oil also manufactured lubricating oil from the used oils for a short period of time during its operation of the facility. A filtering agent clay was generated as a residue from the filter during this process. The filter cake was stockpiled in the southwestern portion of the property. In February 1981, sampling of accumulated sludge material within the diked areas surrounding the onsite oil storage tanks indicated notable levels of polychlorinated (PCBs).

Wiseman Oil and American Tallow had operated a lagoon in the southwestern end of the property. Oily plating waste from a Westinghouse plant in New Jersey was allegedly disposed of in this lagoon. Runoff from the lagoon and spillage onto the ground throughout the property caused ground water contamination. The lagoon was backfilled in 1979, but the waste was not removed from the lagoon.

Breslube-Penn, Incorporated acquired the property and facility in 1982 after Wiseman Oil declared bankruptcy. Breslube-Penn continued waste oil reprocessing operations. The company built tanks on the former location of Wiseman's lagoon and also constructed a lubricating oil re-refining plant. The filter cake from this operation was generally collected in a roll-off box and disposed of both onsite and offsite.

Breslube-Penn discontinued fuel oil reprocessing at the subject site in 1986. The facility was utilized as a waste oil transfer station from 1986 through late 1991 or early 1992 when operations at the facility ceased. Three tanks were installed for use in oil transferring operations.

A sampling site inspection was conducted at the facility in October 1988. Samples collected from the staged contaminated soil area, the filter cake area, and other areas onsite revealed elevated concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), PCBs, and several inorganic compounds, including cyanide. Downgradient ground water samples contained volatile and semi-volatile contaminants and PCBs. Samples collected from the two onsite home wells indicated notable levels of VOCs. The site is also threatening municipal drinking water wells.

Prior to July 1990, Breslube-Penn excavated and collected the formerly staged contaminated wastes into a large pile located in the western section of the property. Material from a 12-foot by 50-foot portion of the filter cake area was removed and also staged in the large waste pile. The waste pile reportedly had no liner or cover. An expanded site inspection was conducted in April 1991. Samples collected from the waste pile and from the former staged contaminated waste area revealed elevated levels of VOCs, SVOCs, PCBs, metals, and cyanide. Samples from the former filter cake area contained concentrations of several hazardous substances. Several inorganic contaminants were detected in sediment collected from a drainage pipe from the site into Montour Run.

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EASTERN SURPLUS COMPANY Meddybemps, Maine

The Eastern Surplus Company property covers approximately 3 acres near the center of Meddybemps, Washington County, Maine. Eastern Surplus Company is bordered by Meddybemps Lake to the north, the Dennys River to the east, Route 191 to the south, and Stone Road to the west. Beginning in 1946 until the early 1980s this property was the location of the Eastern Surplus Company, a retailer of army surplus and salvage items owned by Harry Smith Senior and Harry Smith Junior. The property use before 1946 is unknown.

This property was originally inspected in October 1985 by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP). During this inspection, MEDEP personnel noted chemical odors, leaking electrical transformers, hundreds of deteriorating drums and containers, compressed gas cylinders, 16,000 pounds of calcium carbide, and numerous areas of stained soil. The MEDEP immediately initiated emergency cleanup and removal measures and erected a fence to secure the property.

Source sampling, arranged by the MEDEP and EPA between November 1985 and August 1990, has identified over 50 different hazardous materials on the property, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), chlorinated organic compounds (solvents), heavy metals, acids, paints, oils, asbestos, and pesticides. Soil, ground water, and sediment samples collected by the EPA between 1987 and 1988 have shown that many of these contaminants were released into the environment.

Two other hazardous waste sites are located in Meddybemps. The Smith Junkyard site is approximately 2 miles from the Eastern Surplus site on Rt. 191. The Smith Junkyard site's surface water migration pathway, however, flows into the Dennys River over 3 miles downstream from the Eastern Surplus site and the sample locations showing contaminants. The Green Hill Quarry site has only PCBs and chlorinated solvents as contaminants.

Contamination from the site threatens the adjacent Meddybemps Lake and the Dennys River. Both of these surface water bodies maintain active fisheries and spawning areas, a National Wildlife Refuge, and habitat for the federally designated threatened bald eagle. Additionally, drinking water supplies for an estimated 200 people who use private drinking water wells located within a 4-mile radius of the property are threatened by contamination from the site.

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FRANKLIN BURN Franklin Township, New Jersey

The Franklin Burn Site (FBS) is comprised of six separate parcels of land, located in Franklin Township, Gloucester County, New Jersey. Federal and state investigations indicate that unpermitted copper reclamation activities occurred at the site locations, beginning in or before the early 1960s. Piles of scrap copper wire, capacitors, and transformers were deposited on the ground surface and then ignited to remove paint and insulation before metal recovery. The burn operations resulted in the generation of hard packed black ash piles containing numerous hazardous substances. Four of the six ash piles (Burn Sites [BS] 1, 3, 4, and 5) are located north of Marshall Mill Road in Franklin Township. BS 2 is located approximately 2.5 miles to the north, east of Lincoln Avenue in Franklin Township. BS 7 is located approximately 1 mile to the northeast of the clustered Burn Sites, 2,000 feet northwest of Marshall Mill Road. The six ash pile locations are geographically related, were created through similar activities, contain similar hazardous substances, and impact the same population, aquifer, and surface waters. All the areas that form the FBS are located within rural-residential neighborhoods, with one ash pile (BS 5) located in the yard of a private residence. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and Criminal Justice Department (NJCJD) initially investigated the burn operations in the late 1970s. Subsequent actions included recording complaints from nearby residents, recording violations, conducting investigations, issuing criminal indictments, and issuing a directive requiring site remediation. Burn operations, however, did not cease until 1988. The Gloucester County Department of Health (GCDH), the NJDEP, and the Franklinville Police Department then initiated frequent monitoring of the Burn Site locations in order to ensure that burn operations were halted.

In May 1989, NJDEP requested that EPA assume the lead role in the assessment and remediation of the FBS, since the potentially responsible parties were financially unable to comply. In May 1989, EPA conducted a removal assessment of two black ash pile locations (BSs 1 and 2). Chemical analysis of the ash material indicated the presence of chlorinated dioxins, furans, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides, and heavy metals. EPA initiated the erection of a chain-link fence surrounding the two assessed areas and the application of a soil binding polymer (semi-pave) to the ash.

In April 1991, EPA initiated a site investigation (SI) at the FBS to determine whether contaminants were migrating offsite and to assess the potential threat to the environment. During initial reconnaissance activities, EPA discovered through conversations with nearby residents that three additional ash piles existed (BSs 3, 4, and 5). The newly discovered ash piles showed signs of public use. Chemical analysis of ash, soil, and sediment samples collected indicated the presence of hazardous substances attributable to the FBS.

In April 1992, EPA initiated an extent of contamination study at the newly discovered Burn Sites (i.e., 3, 4, and 5). Chemical analysis results indicated the presence of chlorinated dioxin, furans, and heavy metals in ash and soil samples collected in and surrounding the ash piles.

In September 1992, EPA continued their extent of contamination study to characterize contamination at another discovered Burn Site (BS 7), located approximately 1 mile to the northeast of the cluster of Burn Sites (BSs 1, 3, 4, and 5). The investigation further defined the extent of contamination at BSs 4, 5, and 6 and investigated the potential contamination of ground water.

Subsequent to all investigation activities, the ash and contaminated soil at BSs 4, 5, and 7 were removed. The soils surrounding BSs 1, 2, and 3 were excavated and placed into consolidated ash and soil piles, which were covered by temporary caps. EPA completed all removal activities in May 1993.

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H&K SALES Belding, Michigan

H&K Sales is an aircraft parts dealer located in Belding, Michigan. The H&K Sales site consists of several acres of land bounded by the Flat River, Bridge Street, and adjacent industrial buildings. The site includes a warehouse building constructed with a mainly concrete floor and foundation, brick and block walls, and a metal roof. Storage space is estimated at about 30,000 square feet with about 20,000 square feet occupied exclusively by aircraft gauges and materials originating from the former Aircraft Components, Inc. facility.

After World War II, the US Army sold aircraft components parts, including radioactive radioluminescent aircraft dials, to Aircraft Components, Inc. of Benton Harbor, Michigan. Aircraft Components operated a mail order catalogue business selling Army surplus. The estate of the owners of Aircraft Components sold the property in the early 1990s to D&L Sales, who were interested in the warehouse building but not the Army surplus. D&L sold the aircraft parts to H&K Sales. H&K Sales transferred approximately 150 truck shipments of the radioactive parts to their Belding, Michigan warehouse from November 1993 to April 1994. In addition, wooden cases with labels indicating that they might contain unexploded ordnance were observed at the warehouse during an Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) investigation; however, the contents of the cases have not been verified.

On October 3, 1994, the Michigan Department of Public Health (MDPH) Division of Radiological Health conducted a preliminary radiation survey. Division staff, with the assistance of US EPA Region 5, conducted a second supplemental radiation survey on October 21, 1994. Gamma radiation levels measured in the warehouse ranged from background levels to 7 milliroentgens per hour. An estimated 3,000 to 6,000 radioluminous aircraft gauges are in storage at this site. A relatively extensive area of the warehouse presented gamma radiation levels in excess of 1 milliroentgen per hour. Surface contamination was measured as ranging from about 200 counts per minute to about 5,000 counts per minute at several locations. Radon levels measured in the building ranged from about 30 to 50 picocuries per liter, well above expected background levels. No individuals routinely work at this site.

A preliminary health physics analysis of currently available data relating to the radioluminous gauges indicates that the likely exposure to individuals includes external exposure to gamma rays, internal exposure due to inhalation of radon gas, and potential internal exposure due to inhalation and/or ingestion of contaminated material in the form of dust or other fine particles. ATSDR issued a public health advisory on June 29, 1995. Because some radiological contaminants are easily removed from surfaces, ATSDR believes that this site poses a health hazard to onsite employees, future remediation workers, nearby residents, and any intruders that may enter the onsite structures.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. See 56 FR 5600, February 11, 1991, or subsequent FR notices.]



HANLIN-ALLIED-OLIN Moundsville, West Virginia

The Hanlin-Allied-Olin site is an inactive chemical manufacturing plant located 2.5 miles south of Moundsville, Marshall County, West Virginia. The site is currently owned by three parties: Hanlin/LCP Chemicals, Allied Chemical Corporation, and Olin Corporation. The site includes a 135-acre North Plant owned by Allied and Olin, and a 225-acre South Plant owned by Hanlin.

The site is bordered by the Ohio River to the north and west, West Virginia Route 2 to the east, and a golf course to the south. Access is restricted by the river and by a chain link fence and security guard. The site is directly underlain by a continuous unconsolidated alluvial aquifer. The majority of the population near the site relies on ground water as a source of drinking water. The Marshall County Public Service District #2 utilizes two wells approximately 0.6 miles south of the site to supply 3,000 people, and the Moundsville Water Department uses seven wells approximately 2.9 miles from the site to supply 15,000 people. All of these wells are located in the alluvial aquifer.

The entire site was owned and operated by Allied from 1953 to 1980. Allied's operation included the manufacture of toluene diisocyanate (TDI), methylene dianiline, and hydrochloric acid, and included waste disposal areas on both the North and South plants. Allied sold a portion of the North Plant to Olin in 1980 and sold the entire South Plant to LCP Chemicals (Hanlin) in 1981. Allied still owns the west side of the North Plant, known as "Allied Park." After purchasing the east side of the North Plant from Allied, Olin continued manufacturing the previously mentioned chemicals and continued using an equalization pond. Olin also introduced new sources such as the new TDI pile. After purchasing the South Plant, Hanlin continued using the South Plant for waste disposal operations, including several waste lagoons. Hanlin also produced chlorine and sodium hydroxide by electrolytic mercury decomposition in mercury cells in saltbrine and produced chloromethane by reacting methanol with anhydrous hydrochloric acid. Production of chemicals on the South Plant ended by July 1991.

The sources owned by the three companies are aggregated into a single site because: 1) one party (Allied) originally owned and operated the entire site for various operations; 2) after Olin and Hanlin purchased portions of the site, they presumably continued to produce similar wastestreams with similar disposal methods; and 3) contamination from each of the three properties threatens the same ground water resource.

Potential source areas on the North Plant include the lime pond, NAD pond black water, formaldehyde pond, equalization pond, settling pond, old TDI pile, new TDI pile, storage tank area, and drum storage area. None of these are used in scoring the site. Sources of contamination on the South Plant evaluated in the HRS Package include the chloromethane production area, the mercury settling ponds/surface impoundments, and five wastewater lagoons, which include three former spent lime ponds, a former storage pond, and a former clarification pond. Other sources at the South Plant, which were not used in scoring the site, include a former trash dump, a former acid neutralization pit/area, a brine well pond, another clarification pond, a former stabilized sludge burial area, a former drum storage unit, and a tank storage area.

Hazardous substances contained in the three evaluated waste sources include mercury, methylene chloride, chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, tetrachloroethene, trichloroethylene, and 1,1,2-trichloroethane. All of these substances, as well as other related substances, have been detected in the ground water in the alluvial aquifer. A 1981 State Consent Decree ordered Allied to pump onsite wells on the northern (now Allied and Olin) and southern (now Hanlin) properties for 20 and 14 years, respectively, or to otherwise prevent the offsite migration of contaminants in the ground water. The site is not eligible for RCRA Corrective Action for various reasons relating to ownership, permit dates, and financial solvency.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was scored. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. See 56 FR 5600, February 11, 1991, or subsequent FR notices.]



JENNISON-WRIGHT CORPORATION Granite City, Illinois

The Jennison-Wright Corporation site is located on a 20-acre parcel property at 900 West 22nd Street in Granite City, Madison County, Illinois. The area surrounding the site consists primarily of residential and industrial properties. Operations began at the facility in 1910 and continued until 1989. The facility treated wood block flooring and railroad ties. Compounds used in the operations included creosote, pentachlorophenol, and zinc naphthenate. Jennite, an asphalt sealer product composed of coal tar, pitch, clay, and water was also manufactured at the site.

Midland Creosoting Company acquired portions of the property in 1921 and 1926. Midland Creosoting Company conveyed and warranted their holdings to the Jennison-Wright Corporation on January 29, 1940. The Jennison-Wright Corporation operated at the site until 1981, when the property was acquired by 2-B-J.W. After acquiring the property, 2-B-J.W. changed its name to Jennison-Wright Corporation. Neyra Industries purchased the Jennite equipment and continued the Jennite process onsite. Operations at the site continued until the Jennison-Wright Corporation filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy in November 1989. An auction was held in 1990 to sell process equipment and other items.

Wastes generated during treating operations include waste and wastewaters contaminated with creosote, pentachlorophenol, and related compounds. These wastes were disposed of in two lagoons. After operations ceased, wastes were left at the site in a railroad tank car, a buried railroad tank car, two above-ground storage tanks, and two lagoons. Samples collected by the Illinois EPA during 1988 and 1991 CERCLA inspections revealed that soils at the site and nearby residential soils contain similar compounds.

In 1992, Illinois EPA stabilized waste hazards at the site, which included removing and containing asbestos, removing and containing contaminated material from the lagoon area, and securing drums in an onsite building. Currently, the Illinois EPA is conducting a non-time critical removal action at the site. This will address the two above-ground storage tanks, the buried railroad tank car, the above-ground railroad tank car, the lagoons, and the drums secured onsite.

The site is being proposed for the National Priorities List (NPL) because it satisfies a component of the NPL/RCRA policy: the owner has demonstrated an inability to finance appropriate remedial action by invoking bankruptcy laws.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was scored. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. See 56 FR 5600, February 11, 1991, or subsequent FR notices.]



LCP CHEMICALS Brunswick, Georgia

LCP Chemicals is located on Ross Road in Brunswick, Glynn County, Georgia. The site is bordered by the Turtle River marshes to the west and south and the urban populations of Brunswick to the north and east. The site is comprised of approximately 500 to 600 acres, the majority of which is not used due to the predominance of tidal marshlands. The remaining land portion of the property is occupied with process buildings, administration offices, railroad spurs, treatment, storage and disposal units, and tank storage facilities.

The site was originally owned and operated by the Atlantic Refining Company, which operated a petroleum refinery from 1919 until 1930. Portions of the site were also owned by Georgia Power Company and the Dixie O'Brien Paint Company. In 1955, the entire property was purchased by Allied Chemical, Inc., which manufactured caustic soda, chlorine, and hydrochloric acid by the electrolysis of sodium chloride using mercury cells. In 1979, LCP Chemicals purchased the property and continued the process practiced by Allied Chemical. From 1955 until 1968, waste sludges containing mercury produced by Allied Chemical were sold to an offsite reclaimer. From 1968 until the facility was sold to LCP Chemicals, several hundred to several thousand tons of contaminated sludge were disposed in surface impoundments that were constructed onsite along the tidal marsh.

In 1989, U.S. EPA Region 4 performed a field investigation consisting of 86 samples. Mercury was detected in all seven onsite sources; lead was detected in six sources, and PCBs were found in the majority of sources. Mercury and lead were also detected in ground water in temporary wells near the site and in Purvis Creek. In 1991, a Georgia Environmental Protection Division/Department of Natural Resources (GAEPD/DNR) investigation revealed elevated levels of mercury and lead in sediment and surface water samples near the site. Mercury was also found at elevated levels in crab tissue and oyster samples in the surrounding waters. The same study revealed extremely high levels of PCBs in sediment and crab tissue. Portions of Purvis Creek have been closed to commercial fishing.

The drinking water supply for the area consists of private wells and the Brunswick municipal wells. The municipal wells draw water from the Upper Floridan Aquifer while the private wells are drilled at a wide range of depths. The municipal system serves 28,844 residents and private wells serve approximately 5,000 residents within a 4-mile radius of the site. The nearest drinking water well is located slightly beyond 0.25 miles from the site.

Runoff from the site flows off the western edge of the facility into a canal, which flows approximately 0.35 miles through an area of wetlands and enters Purvis Creek. Purvis Creek merges with the Turtle River 0.9 miles downstream and then with the Brunswick River an additional 7.5 miles downstream. The river flows approximately 5 miles before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean. Wetlands bound the majority of the surface waters, which are inhabited by numerous endangered species.

The State of Georgia has designated LCP Chemicals as its highest priority site.

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LITTLE VALLEY
Little Valley, New York

The Little Valley site is located in a primarily rural and agricultural area between the Village of Little Valley and the City of Salamanca, New York. Approximately 13 years ago, the Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) identified trichloroethene (TCE) in nearby private wells. A plume of TCE has been documented to extend approximately 6 miles toward the City of Salamanca.

Possible sources of ground water contamination include a former Envirotech drum storage area, a private disposal site next to the former drum storage area, the 9th Street Landfill (an inactive municipal landfill), and facilities operated by King Windows and Bush Industries. NYSDEC has installed a number of monitoring wells in the area to investigate possible sources for the contamination.

NYSDEC and CCHD first discovered TCE in private wells among residences along Route 353 in 1982. TCE was again detected in private drinking water wells between Little Valley and Salamanca at levels above the New York State drinking water standards for public water supplies. Some of the highest concentrations were found just south of the Village of Little Valley. The sampling results show a plume of TCE that extends about 6 miles from the southern end of Little Valley to the northern edge of Salamanca, which is part of the Allegheny Indian Reservation.

On September 1, 1995, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) recommended dissociation of individuals from the release. CCHD, the New York State Department of Health, and EPA Region 2 believe that the release poses a significant threat to public health. EPA Region 2 anticipates that it will be more cost-effective to use remedial authority rather than removal authority to respond to the release.

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PENTA WOOD PRODUCTS Burnett County, Wisconsin

The Penta Wood Product (PWP) facility covers 88.5 acres of a 122.5 acre property located on Highway 70 in the Town of Daniels, two miles west of the Village of Siren in a rural area of Burnett County in northwest Wisconsin. PWP was a wood treating facility that operated from 1953 to May 1992. The operations onsite included pressure treating timbers and posts with pentachlorophenol (PCP) in a fuel oil carrier, and Chemonite, which contains ammoniacal copper zinc arsenate and ammoniacal copper arsenate (ACA). Hazardous wastewater from the site operations was discharged to two lagoons and a woodchip pile. Numerous isolated spills and poor work practices released wood treating chemicals into the soils and ground water at the site with little or no response action taken. Onsite soils are contaminated with PCP, arsenic, copper, and zinc. The highly contaminated areas are located in and around the former treatment buildings. Due to the high permeability of surficial soils, precipitation onsite flows rapidly through the soil to the aquifer allowing contaminants in the surface soils to be carried rapidly to the ground water.

High levels of PCP and arsenic were detected in ground water and soils onsite in 1988. Dioxins, associated with PCP, are a minor concern at the site and are still under investigation. High levels of PCP in the ground water forced closure of the onsite wells for drinking water purposes in 1988. The contaminated aquifer is currently used for a private water supply for 1,661 people and a municipal well supply for 1,682 people within a 4-mile radius of the site. The Wisconsin Department of Health & Social Services and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry expressed concerns about the PCP and arsenic in onsite soil and ground water.

Ecological risk evaluations prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and U.S. EPA Region 5 indicate the arsenic and PCP levels in the site soils and woodchip pile pose a potential threat to the mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles, and invertebrates on and adjacent to the site.

WDNR became involved at PWP in 1986 due to the unreported spills associated with the treatment process. The PWP facility was closed in May 1992 because of the owner's financial inability to comply with Wisconsin Department of Justice requirements.

WDNR placed priority on the site for inclusion in the Superfund Accelerated Cleanup Model (SACM) Regional Decision Team Pilot in fiscal year 1993. In March 1993, EPA issued general notice letters and 104(e) letters, and a unilateral administrative order (UAO) in August 1993. PWP's response to the UAO confirmed their inability to pay for cleanup actions at the site. PWP is currently liquidating its assets, and EPA is seeking a "cash out" administrative settlement.

EPA initiated a time-critical removal because of the imminent and substantial threat to public health and welfare and the environment posed by the large volumes and high concentrations of PCP, arsenic, and trace dioxin contamination. EPA has completed Phase I of the time-critical removal action (April to October 1994), which included disposal of process wastes from tanks and removal of highly contaminated soil. Phase II will address the remaining ACA and PCP contaminated soils and sludge, and complete the decontamination of tanks for disposal.

This site is part of an EPA nation-wide study on presumptive remedies for wood treating sites. EPA has begun a two phased study to determine the extent of contamination of the ground water and soils onsite, and will conduct treatability studies investigating the potential for bioremediation technologies to treat the soils onsite. These activities are occurring concurrently as a result of SACM.

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WELSBACH AND GENERAL GAS MANTLE CONTAMINATION Camden and Gloucester City, New Jersey

The Welsbach and General Gas Mantle Contamination sites are comprised of two former incandescent gas mantle manufacturing facilities and numerous residential properties located in the urban areas of Camden and Gloucester City, New Jersey. The site was initially identified in 1980 during an archive search conducted as part of the investigation of a contaminated radiological site located in northern New Jersey. As a result, an aerial radiological survey of Gloucester, New Jersey and surrounding areas was conducted in May of 1981. The survey encompassed a 20-square kilometer area surrounding the former General Gas Mantle and Welsbach companies, located in Camden and Gloucester City. The survey identified eight separate areas with elevated radiation levels. These included locations of the former Welsbach plant and General Gas Mantle Corporation and three residential areas. The remaining areas exhibiting elevated radiation levels were attributed to sites permitted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to use and store radioactive materials.

After several preliminary screening surveys, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), conducted a comprehensive investigation in 1991 of five non-NRC permitted areas (termed for this report as Camden Radiation Sites Areas 1 through 5, or the Welsbach and General Gas Mantle Contamination sites Areas 1 through 5) in the Camden and Gloucester City vicinity to determine the extent of radiological contamination present. Numerous residential properties were found to have gamma radiation levels exceeding twice the background level for gamma radiation. Of the 93 properties investigated by NJDEP, 32 properties were selected for evaluation due to their being inhabited by individuals or workers. The 32 properties are located throughout Camden and Gloucester City. The most probable route of radiation exposure is direct contact with gamma emitting materials. Although potential contamination of ground water, surface water, and air is suspected, releases to these routes have not been documented. To date, certain contaminated areas have been covered with asphalt or cement and one residence was acquired by NJDEP due to magnitude of the risk posed by the radioactive materials present at that property.

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WRIGHT GROUND WATER CONTAMINATION Wright, Kansas

The Wright Ground Water Contamination site is in the City of Wright, an unincorporated town in north-central Ford County, Kansas. The site was identified in 1988, following collection and analysis of a ground water sample from a private Wright well being tested for real estate purposes. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in the ground water sample and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) was notified.

KDHE collected ground water samples from several wells throughout Wright in 1989 and confirmed the ground water contamination. VOCs were detected in 16 private wells; pesticides and heavy metals were also detected in a few wells. Wright does not have a municipal water system; all water is provided by privately owned wells. Approximately 208 people in Wright are currently using water from private wells. The wells supplying 83 of these people have been shown to contain hazardous substances at concentrations above health based benchmarks. The VOCs that have been detected in private wells are benzene, bromodichloromethane, carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, 1,2-dibromoethane, 1,2-dichloroethane, ethyl benzene, styrene, tetrachloroethylene, toluene, and trichloroethylene. In 1991, the Right Coop began offering bottled water to the residents of Wright and also provided several residences with whole-house filter systems. However, recent investigations have found that some of the residential wells in Wright are used without treatment systems.

Investigations at the site, including a 1990 KDHE Screening Site Inspection and a 1994 EPA Expanded Site Inspection, identified several potential sources of the VOCs. Several of the potential sources have been subject to more detailed investigation; however, based on currently available data, the contamination detected in the private wells cannot be definitely attributed to any of these sources.

The site is believed to pose the greatest threat to ground water. There are no perennial surface water bodies within two miles of the site and it is unlikely that the hazardous substances in the ground water would be released to the air migration or the soil exposure pathways.

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