

and EPA in reference to the CCA is filed in Category II-I.

EPA maintains the following public information dockets: (1) Docket No. A-93-02, located in room 1500 (first floor in Waterside Mall near the Washington Information Center), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20460 (open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on weekdays); (2) EPA's docket in the Government Publications Department of the Zimmerman Library of the University of New Mexico located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, (open from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday); (3) EPA's docket in the Fogelson Library of the College of Santa Fe in Santa Fe, New Mexico, located at 1600 St. Michaels Drive (open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight on Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday); and (4) EPA's docket in the Municipal Library of Carlsbad, New Mexico, located at 101 S. Halegueno (open from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday). As provided in 40 CFR part 2, a reasonable fee may be charged for photocopying docket materials.

Dated: May 16, 1997.

**Carol M. Browner,**

*Administrator.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### 40 CFR Part 300

[FRL-5827-9]

#### National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to delete the Tri-State Plating Superfund Site from the National Priorities List; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region V announces its intent to delete the Tri-State Plating Site from the National Priorities List (NPL) and requests public comment on this action. The NPL constitutes Appendix B of 40 CFR part 300 which is the National Oil

and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), which U.S. EPA promulgated pursuant to Section 105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) as amended. This action is being taken by U.S. EPA, because it has been determined that all Fund-financed responses under CERCLA have been implemented and U.S. EPA, in consultation with the State of Indiana, has determined that no further response is appropriate. Moreover, U.S. EPA and the State have determined that remedial activities conducted at the Site to date have been protective of public health, welfare, and the environment.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the proposed deletion of the Site from the NPL may be submitted on or before June 23, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be mailed to Gladys Beard, Associate Remedial Project Manager, Superfund Division, U.S. EPA, Region V, 77 W. Jackson Blvd. (SR-6J), Chicago, IL 60604.

Comprehensive information on the site is available at U.S. EPA's Region V office and at the local information repository located at: Bartholomew County Health Department, 440 3rd St., Suite 303, Columbus, IN 47201-6798. Requests for comprehensive copies of documents should be directed formally to the Region V Docket Office. The address and phone number for the Regional Docket Officer is Jan Pfundheller (H-7J), U.S. EPA, Region V, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604, (312) 353-5821.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gladys Beard (SR-6J), Associate Remedial Project Manager, Superfund Division, U.S. EPA, Region V, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604, (312) 886-7253 or Dave Novak (P-19J), Office of Public Affairs, U.S. EPA, Region V, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604, (312) 886-9840.

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#### I. Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region V announces its intent to delete the Tri-State Plating Site from the National Priorities List (NPL), which constitutes Appendix B of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), and requests comments on the proposed deletion. The EPA identifies sites that

appear to present a significant risk to public health, welfare or the environment, and maintains the NPL as the list of those sites. Sites on the NPL may be the subject of remedial actions financed by the Hazardous Substance Superfund Response Trust Fund (Fund). Pursuant to § 300.425(e)(3) of the NCP, any site deleted from the NPL remains eligible for Fund-financed remedial actions if the conditions at the site warrant such action.

The U.S. EPA will accept comments on this proposal for thirty (30) days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Section II of this notice explains the criteria for deleting sites from the NPL. Section III discusses procedures that EPA is using for this action. Section IV discusses the history of this site and explains how the site meets the deletion criteria.

Deletion of sites from the NPL does not itself create, alter, or revoke any individual's rights or obligations. Furthermore, deletion from the NPL does not in any way alter U.S. EPA's right to take enforcement actions, as appropriate. The NPL is designed primarily for informational purposes and to assist in Agency management.

#### II. NPL Deletion Criteria

The NCP establishes the criteria the Agency uses to delete sites from the NPL. In accordance with 40 CFR 300.425(e), sites may be deleted from the NPL where no further response is appropriate. In making this determination, U.S. EPA will consider, in consultation with the State, whether any of the following criteria have been met:

(i) Responsible parties or other persons have implemented all appropriate response actions required; or

(ii) All appropriate Fund-financed responses under CERCLA have been implemented, and no further response action by responsible parties is appropriate; or

(iii) The Remedial Investigation has shown that the release poses no significant threat to public health or the environment and, therefore, remedial measures are not appropriate.

#### III. Deletion Procedures

Upon determination that at least one of the criteria described in 300.425(e) has been met, U.S. EPA may formally begin deletion procedures once the State has concurred. This **Federal Register** notice, and a concurrent notice in the local newspaper in the vicinity of the site, announce the initiation of a 30-day comment period. The public is asked to

comment on U.S. EPA's intention to delete the Site from the NPL. All critical documents needed to evaluate U.S. EPA's decision are included in the information repository and the deletion docket.

Upon completion of the public comment period, if necessary, the U.S. EPA Regional Office will prepare a Responsiveness Summary to evaluate and address comments that were received. The public is welcome to contact the U.S. EPA Region V Office to obtain a copy of this responsiveness summary, if one is prepared. If U.S. EPA then determines the deletion from the NPL is appropriate, final notice of deletion will be published in the **Federal Register**.

#### **IV. Basis for Intended Site Deletion**

The Tri-State Plating site is located at 1716 Keller Avenue in a residential and small business neighborhood in Columbus, Indiana. Residences lie to the north, east, and the west of the site, and a small industrial business lies to the south. Prior to the decontamination and demolition of all on-site structures in 1989, an electroplating process building and a storage building were located on the site. The Tri-State Plating Property encompasses an area of approximately 130 feet by 120 feet. The site is located 800 feet southwest of the City of Columbus secondary municipal well field and 800 feet west of Haw Creek. The area surrounding the site is relatively flat, with steeper slopes to the east of the site along Haw Creek.

Metal-plating operations occurred at the site for 40 years prior to Tri-State Plating under Hull Industries and Quality Plating Service Company, Inc. The facility was purchased by Tri-State Plating, Inc. on April 13, 1981. Plating operations were performed by this company from December 1981 until the facility closed in May 1984.

Environmental problems at the site were brought to the attention of authorities, on January 25, 1983, when the Bartholomew County Health Department (BCHD) was summoned to the site following the death of six birds that reportedly drank from a pool of solutions dumped on site. A sample of the liquid was collected and elevated concentrations of cadmium, cyanide, chromium, manganese and lead were detected. Subsequent investigations by BCHD and the Indiana State Board of Health (ISBH) conducted in February, March and April 1983 revealed that on-site surface soils contained extremely high levels of cadmium, chromium, lead, nickel and cyanide when compared to off-site samples from surrounding properties. These

investigations also discovered elevated levels of chromium in water from the Arvin Industries well located 200 feet south of the site, although cyanide and other sites contaminants were not detected. Also during this period, sampling and analysis of effluent leaving the Tri-State Plating facility, conducted by Columbus Utilities, verified that plant wastes were being discharged to city sewers.

In May 1984, following several discharges that exceeded the specified limits, illegal dumping of wastes on the ground surface at the site, failure to install a waste treatment system, and one severe spill that interrupted the biological system at the city of Columbus Waste Water Treatment Facility, sewers from Tri-State Plating were blocked and the water supply was cut off. The Tri-State Plating site has been abandoned since this time.

On September 18, 1985, the Site was proposed for the National Priorities List (NPL), (50 FR 3764). The Site was finalized June 10, 1986, (40 FR 21054).

On September 23, 1986, the current owner, Mr. James Padgett, was notified of EPA's intentions to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS). He did not offer to perform any studies or remedial action at the site and informed EPA that he had filed for bankruptcy.

EPA on-site activities started early in 1987 when the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) conducted a site assessment. Approximately 60 soil samples, 27 barrels of waste, and four ground-water samples were submitted for cyanide and metal analysis. These samples included background samples from local residences. The EPA samples detected metals and cyanide contamination to a depth of 4 feet on-site, which was the maximum sampling depth. The well water samples collected did not detect cyanide contamination; however, low levels of metals were discovered in Arvin Industries East Well No. 2.

On June 5, 1987, a fence was constructed by EPA to prevent site access. On August 26 and 27, 20 drums containing inorganic materials were removed and disposed at a Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) compliant facility. During the week of August 29, 1987, TAT obtained subsurface soil samples to determine the vertical extent of contamination. Samples were also collected from a residence north of the site. Additional background soil samples were also collected. A total of 19 soil samples were collected on and near the site and submitted for analyses. On September 24, 1987, EPA removed and disposed of

seven remaining drums and took seven samples of building materials, including ceiling brick and floor materials. Samples were analyzed for inorganic parameters.

In the Fall of 1987, the EPA performed a site building decontamination and limited soil removal action. Approximately one foot of top soil was removed from the open yard areas at the site. Several areas of visible contamination were noted adjacent to the building foundation during the top soil removal and a trench approximately four feet deep was excavated along the northern and southern foundation of the main process building to remove the discolored materials. All excavated areas were backfilled and regraded with clean soil. Contaminated subsurface soils identified during past EPA sampling activities were left on-site. The EPA also washed the interior surface of the main process building using caustic-sodium hypochlorite solution. This was performed in an attempt to remove surface contamination identified through past EPA sampling efforts.

EPA initiated a two-phased Remedial Investigation at the Tri-State site beginning in 1987 to determine the nature and extent of any remaining contamination following EPA's initial removal action activities. During the first phase of the study, EPA collected samples from 10 locations on the surface of walls, ceilings, and floors in the on-site buildings to determine whether the 1987 building decontamination activities had been successful. In addition, 25 surface and subsurface soil samples were collected to determine the depth of soil contamination at the site. EPA also installed four monitoring wells at the site and collected eight ground-water samples for laboratory analysis. These Phase I activities, completed in January 1988, revealed elevated levels of cyanide, chromium, copper, and cadmium on building surfaces and/or in subsurface soils and groundwater at the site.

Phase II activities involved installing eight new monitoring wells, collecting two rounds of 19 groundwater samples from on-site monitoring wells and industrial wells at Arvin Industries, and collecting 46 subsurface soil samples.

Based on the results of the Remedial Investigation, there was concern that contamination in on-site soil may continue to migrate into groundwater and that people or animals may come into direct contact with contaminated on-site buildings. Because of these concerns, the EPA conducted a second removal action at the site from February

to March 1989. This removal action, called an Expedited Response Action (ERA), involved excavating soil, decontaminating and demolishing all structures on the site, and transporting the soil, building debris, and asbestos found during the course of the cleanup to state and federally-regulated landfills. The excavated area was filled with clean soil, the site fence was removed, and the site was graded and revegetated.

During the ERA, EPA collected 357 subsurface soil samples on the site to determine the limits of excavation. EPA also collected 21 soil samples from the base of the excavated areas to determine the effectiveness of the removal activities. EPA also conducted a groundwater pump test to determine whether the migration of contaminated groundwater from the site could be prevented by the continuous withdrawal of groundwater and to calculate the pumping rate necessary to

accomplish this objective. Groundwater sampling was conducted to determine the level of contamination in the groundwater following the groundwater pump test and site cleanup. Contaminated groundwater collected during the pump test was discharged to and treated at the Columbus wastewater treatment plant.

Based on the results of the RI/FS, and as described in the Proposed Plan, EPA recommended a Remedial Action involving the long-term operation of a groundwater extraction and treatment system which utilized the existing on-site extraction well. A groundwater extraction and treatment system would provide for the long-term protection of public health and the environment.

On March 30, 1990, a Record of Decision (ROD) was signed which selected this remedy. The extraction and treatment of contaminated groundwater continued until the maximum

groundwater remediation goals were met in 1995. The site groundwater was then sampled for a two year period to assure that the groundwater remediation goals were achieved permanently and that no further remediation would be required. This activity was completed in Spring of 1996.

EPA, with concurrence from the State of Indiana, has determined that all appropriate Fund-financed responses under CERCLA at the Tri-State Plating Superfund Site have been completed, and no further CERCLA response is appropriate in order to provide protection of human health and the environment. Therefore, EPA proposes to delete the site from the NPL.

Dated: May 9, 1997.

**Valdas V. Adamkus,**

*Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA, Region V.*  
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