

NPL Site Narrative for Nyanza Chemical Waste Dump

NYANZA CHEMICAL WASTE DUMP Ashland, Massachusetts

Conditions at listing (October 1981): The Nyanza Chemical Waste Dump is adjacent to an active industrial complex in Ashland, Massachusetts. The 35-acre site is within 1,000 feet of Sudbury Reservoir, which is used for recreational purposes and is considered a possible supplemental source of drinking water for the metropolitan Boston area. From 1917 to 1978, the site was occupied by numerous producers of textile dyes and intermediates. Nyanza Chemical, the last of these companies, operated from 1965 to 1978, when it went out of business due to financial problems. Over 45,000 tons of chemical sludges were generated by Nyanza's waste water treatment processes. Soil, ground water, and surface water are contaminated with heavy metals and chlorinated organics. Mercury-laden particulates may also have been blown into the air from exposed sludges.

The current owner leases the old plant to various businesses. When Nyanza sold the land, the court required that about \$250,000 be placed in escrow, most of which the owner has spent on site studies.

Status (July 1983): In January 1983, EPA signed a \$500,000 Superfund State Contract with Massachusetts for a remedial investigation to determine the type and extent of contamination at the site and a feasibility study to identify alternatives for remedial action. The work is scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 1984.

EPA has identified parties potentially responsible for wastes associated with the site and is seeking their cooperation in the cleanup.

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at [ATSDR - ToxFAQs](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.