

# NPL Site Narrative for O'Connor

## O'CONNOR

### Augusta, Maine

**Conditions at listing (December 1982):** The F. O'Connor Co., a dealer in scrap iron and metals, occupies about 5 acres in Augusta, Maine. One of the major operations at the site was the salvaging of used transformers containing PCBs. The State first inspected the site in 1973, when uncontained oil from the transformer operation overflowed a holding pond and drained into Riggs Brook. At this time, the owner agreed to install a 20,000-gallon tank to recover lost transformer oil. On a visit in 1976, the State found no 20,000-gallon tank, but two lagoons covering 2,000 square feet and equipped with an overflow pipe to prevent loss of floating oil. The first lagoon drained to the second, which drained to Riggs Brook. Oil from the first lagoon contains 10,000 to 20,000 parts per million PCBs. Sediments in Riggs Brook contain low levels of PCBs, indicating run-off from the site is entering surface water. The State recommended that dikes be installed to prevent run-off from entering either of the lagoons. In March 1977, the State recommended (1) pumping the oil in the lagoons to holding tanks and (2) excavating the lagoons to bedrock, covering them with 2 feet of marine clay, fertilizing, and seeding. In June and September 1978, the owner was reminded of the previous recommendations. In 1979, the State found the material in the lagoons had been pumped into several tanks, one of which was leaking. The lagoon had not yet been filled, but the State determined it could be used as a catch basin for oil leaking from a ruptured tank.

**Status (July 1983):** EPA is preparing a Remedial Action Master Plan outlining the investigations needed to determine the full extent of cleanup required at the site. It will guide further actions at the site.

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/toxfaq/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.