

NPL Site Narrative for Consolidated Iron and Metal

CONSOLIDATED IRON AND METAL Newburgh, New York

Conditions at Proposal (December 1, 2000): The Consolidated Iron and Metal (Consolidated Iron) site is an inactive car and scrap metal junk yard and dealer located at the foot of Washington Street, Newburgh, Orange County, New York. The facility operated from approximately 1960 to 1999. The facility occupies approximately 7 acres of land bordering the Hudson River in a mixed industrial, commercial, and residential area. The site is bounded by a boat marina to the north, Conrail railroad tracks/South Water Street to the west, a wastewater treatment plant to the south, and the Hudson River to the east. The Consolidated Iron facility consists of a pile of tires adjacent to the southern boundary; a staging area and smelter in the southwest corner of the facility; a compactor and metal shear on the eastern boundary; and an office, scale and garage located adjacent to the northern boundary. Scrap metal piles are found throughout the southeast portion of the property. The property is currently owned by the Consolidated Iron and Metal Company.

From World War I until the early 1940s, Eureka Shipyard operated at the facility. Scrap metal recycling and storage operations have occurred for approximately the past 40 years. According to the current owner, the smelter operated from 1975 through 1995. The smelter was used primarily to melt aluminum transmissions to produce a reusable aluminum product. Other metallic materials were also smelted, resulting in a lead-contaminated ash/slag by-product. Other operations included sorting ferrous and non-ferrous metal scrap for recycling.

From 1997 to 1999, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) conducted several inspections at the facility. NYSDEC observed oil and other waste liquids on the facility soils in February 1997. In July 1998, NYSDEC observed storm water being discharged into the Hudson River from the northeast corner of the property without appropriate testing or permits. A subsequent site inspection was conducted, and a berm was noted to be located at the water's edge and constructed of untested and fairly porous waste material from the site. Stained soils were observed near the metal shearing machine and throughout the facility. NYSDEC notified the facility on August 20, 1998 that an individual State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit was required. In March 1999, it was noted that the storm water discharge had a visible oily sheen, as did the Hudson River. Oil sheens were also observed on puddles throughout the facility. The New York State Attorney General prosecuted Consolidated Iron for various violations including illegal discharge to surface water without an SPDES permit in the spring of 2000.

On August 11, 1998, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sampled an ash/slag pile that was generated by the aluminum smelting operation. Analytical results identified the presence of lead at a maximum concentration of 6,350 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg). Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were detected at maximum concentrations of 27,000 micrograms per kilogram (µg/kg). Starting on June 28, 1999, the ash/slag pile was processed to segregate the scrap metal into ferrous, non-ferrous, and fine piles. The resulting fine pile was removed, concurrently with the segregation process, to a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-approved treatment, storage and disposal facility (TSDF) for

stabilization and landfilling. The removal of this pile, approximately 6,600 tons, was completed on August 13, 1999.

From approximately late July 1998 to September 1998, a soil pile, not related to the former smelting operation, was generated by the recycling operation. On July 7, 1999, 12 soil samples were collected from the processed soil pile by EPA. Analytical results indicated that the maximum concentration of lead in the soil pile was 4,000 mg/kg. PCBs were detected at a maximum concentration of 39,000 µg/kg. Subsequently, from September 14 to October 4, 1999, EPA removed this processed soil pile from the facility. The processed soil was taken to a RCRA-approved TSDF for stabilization and landfilling.

On August 10, 1999, EPA collected 19 soil samples, including surface and subsurface samples, from the soils upon which the ash/slag pile was located. The samples were analyzed for lead, and concentrations ranged from 1,750 to 8,100 mg/kg in the surface soil samples.

From September 20 - 23, 1999, EPA conducted an Integrated Assessment (IA) at the site to determine the horizontal and vertical extent of contamination. Surface and subsurface soil and ground water samples were collected. Analytical results indicated the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), pesticides, PCBs, and metals at concentrations significantly greater than background in surface and subsurface soil samples.

An observed release to surface water is documented by direct observation through the direct deposition of hazardous substances along the southeastern corner of the property and by flooding of soils containing hazardous substances located on the northeast corner of the property. Elevated concentrations of benzo(a)pyrene, PCBs, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, and zinc are documented to the Hudson River, which is a fishery and a sensitive environment (i.e., state-designated water body for the maintenance of aquatic life).

Status (June 2001): EPA is considering various alternatives for this 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/toxfaqs/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.