

# NPL Site Narrative for Amoco Chemicals Corp. (Joliet Landfill)

## AMOCO CHEMICALS CORP. (JOLIET LANDFILL) Joliet, Illinois

**Conditions at proposal (June 24, 1988):** Amoco Chemicals Corp. manufactures chemicals on a 75-acre property approximately 6 miles southwest of Joliet, Will County, Illinois. According to information the company provided to EPA, as required by Section 103(c) of CERCLA, about 5 million cubic feet of wastes, including organics, inorganics, heavy metals, acids, and mixed municipal refuse, were disposed of in a 6-acre landfill on the property during 1958-72. Some ignitable wastes and organic acid residues were disposed of in drums in the landfill. In 1976, Amoco covered the landfill with 2 feet of compacted clay and seeded it with perennial grasses. A leachate collection system was installed under a permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). The leachate is treated in Amoco's waste water treatment plant before it is discharged to Des Plaines River. The landfill was officially closed in February 1978. Tests conducted by Amoco in 1982 and IEPA in 1974 indicate that monitoring wells downgradient of the site are contaminated with benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and para-, meta-, and ortho-xylene. A shallow aquifer underlies the site. Approximately 1,100 persons obtain drinking water from private wells drilled into the aquifer within 3 miles of the site.

According to IEPA, leachate from the old landfill flows into an inlet to the adjacent Des Plaines River. IEPA tests detected phenol, cadmium, copper, lead, and manganese in the river, which is used for recreational activities. The site is open to the river, making it possible for people and animals to come into direct contact with hazardous substances.

**Status (February 21, 1990):** IEPA and Amoco are investigating various alternatives for 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/toxfaqs/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.