

NPL Site Narrative for Bendix Corp./Allied Automotive

BENDIX CORP./ALLIED AUTOMOTIVE St. Joseph, Michigan

Conditions at proposal (June 24, 1988): Bendix Corp., now known as Allied Automotive, manufactures automotive brake systems on a 4.4-acre site in St. Joseph, Berrien County, Michigan. The facility is located in a well-populated area, both commercial/industrial and residential in nature.

During approximately 1966-75, Bendix used a seepage lagoon for disposal of machine shop process waste water. According to information Bendix provided to EPA, spent chlorinated organic solvents, waste water from electroplating operations, spent cyanide plating bath solutions, chromium, and lead were placed in the lagoon.

A hydrogeologic study performed in 1986 by a consultant to Allied detected contamination in the shallow sand aquifer; 35 monitoring wells were installed and found to contain 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,2-dichloroethane, trichloroethylene, trans-1,2-dichloroethylene, and vinyl chloride. An estimated 4,300 people obtain drinking water from private wells within 3 miles of the site. A private well approximately 750 feet from the site was closed in 1982 because of contamination. The well owner now obtains water from a municipal system.

Status (February 21, 1990): On February 13, 1989, Bendix (Allied Automotive) entered into an Administrative Order on Consent with EPA to conduct a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) to determine the type and extent of contamination at the site and identify alternatives for remedial action.

In August 1989, Bendix began work on a treatability study to determine if a biological process would be a feasible alternative for removing the volatile organic chemicals in ground water underlying the site.

Currently, Bendix is modifying the workplan for the RI/FS in response to EPA's comments and plans to begin field work early in 1990.

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.