

NPL Site Narrative for Whittaker Corp.

WHITTAKER CORP.

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Conditions at listing (September 1983): The Whittaker Corp. Site contains several contaminated areas within a 10-acre Whittaker property, which is in an industrial area of northeast Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota. The Mississippi River flows about 1,200 feet to the west. A residential area begins several blocks to the south.

Industrial operations have been conducted at the site from the mid-1940s through 1981. Whittaker has owned most of the site since 1957, when it acquired American Petrochemical Co., the site's previous owner. Tool Tech, a manufacturer of rotary drill pipe, purchased a portion of the site in 1977. Materials manufactured and/or packaged at the site included paints, industrial coatings, and antifreezes. Paints, paint sludges, paint pigments, solvents, and still bottoms are among the wastes that may have been buried or spilled in several areas of the site. Suspicious materials were unearthed during a 1978 excavation for installation of a parking lot on Tool Tech property. The State learned of the materials in 1981.

At the request of the State, Whittaker and Tool Tech have compiled records and interviewed former employees to gather information on previous activities at the site. They have compiled some corporate records regarding past ownership and disposal practices on their properties. Whittaker has commissioned a study to determine what, if any, impacts the site has on area ground water.

Status (June 1984): The State has requested that Whittaker (1) undertake additional investigations of ground water contamination at or near the site, including resampling of existing monitoring wells and installation of three additional monitoring wells and (2) establish more clearly the types and amounts of materials buried on-site. The State is contacting other parties in the vicinity of the site for additional information.

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.