

# NPL Site Narrative for Oconomowoc Electroplating Co., Inc.

## OCONOMOWOC ELECTROPLATING CO., INC. Ashippun, Wisconsin

**Conditions at listing (September 1983):** Oconomowoc Electroplating Co., Inc., operates an electroplating shop in Ashippun, Dodge County, Wisconsin. In 1972, two waste water settling ponds were constructed on-site, each about 20 by 40 feet and up to 8 feet deep. Metal-bearing sludges have accumulated in the ponds and may have been removed at infrequent intervals through the early 1970s. During this same period, the firm constructed a waste water treatment plant. Inefficient operation of the ponds and the treatment plant, as well as discharges of untreated waste water, have resulted in an accumulation of metal sludge in a wetland adjacent to Davy Creek, according to inspections conducted by the State. The creek is a tributary to the Rock River about 1 mile downstream. The extent and composition of this accumulated sludge have not been determined.

Plant operations may also have contaminated ground water in the area. Plating wastes, which typically contain nickel, chromium, copper, zinc, cadmium, tin, and cyanide, have eaten through the concrete waste troughs in the plant floor and have also seeped out of the ground near the plant walls. Drums of wastes are leaking on-site, and sludges have spilled, according to the State.

Ground water in the area is shallow and supplies water for all inhabitants in the immediate area.

In March 1981, the State court ordered the company to restrict its discharge of metals into the wetlands.

**Status (June 1984):** In December 1983, the State ruled that the company was in contempt. At present, the State and the company are negotiating a settlement that would include improved equipment for treating the company's wastes.

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.