

NPL Site Narrative for Stewco, Inc.

STEWCO, INC. Waskom, Texas

Conditions at proposal (October 15, 1984): Stewco, Inc., formerly owned, operated, and maintained a fleet of trucks on a 2.5-acre site on Texas Farm Market Road 9, about 0.5 mile south of Interstate 20 in Waskom, Harrison County, Texas. The company contracted with the oil and gas industry to haul glue, resin, gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, and creosote. The tank trucks were steam-cleaned between loads with an alkaline solution. The wash water was routed to Pond 1 to evaporate. The overflow from Pond 1 went to Pond 2, in which a spray evaporation system was installed and sometimes operated. The overflow from Pond 2 was to be trucked to a third pond on another site.

The ponds are unlined and in poor condition. Drainage from the parking area around the truck terminals flows into the ponds, causing them to overflow. The ponds were to be skimmed to minimize the oil layer on the surface. EPA has found no record of the ponds ever being skimmed. Thus, when the ponds overflowed, the surface layer of oil moved with the overflow onto surrounding drainage areas.

According to analyses conducted by EPA, on-site soil, surface water, and ground water are contaminated with tetrachloroethane, methylene chloride, naphthalene, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, toluene, phenanthrene, DDT, arsenic, mercury, lead, and cadmium.

In May 1984, under a CERCLA Administrative Order, EPA used emergency funds to remove the liquids and sludges in the ponds, transport the material to a regulated disposal facility, and fill in the ponds.

About 3,100 people use wells within 3 miles of the site as a source of drinking water.

Status (June 10, 1986): A public meeting was held on May 22, 1985, to discuss a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) to determine the type and extent of contamination at the site and identify alternatives for remedial action.

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/toxfaq/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.