

NPL Site Narrative for Beckman Instruments (Porterville Plant)

BECKMAN INSTRUMENTS (PORTERVILLE PLANT) Porterville, California

Conditions at proposal (October 15, 1984): Beckman Instruments manufactures electronic equipment on a site near Porterville, a small rural community in Tulare County, California. A number of solvents and electroplating chemicals are used in the facility's operations.

A solar evaporation pond is part of the facility's waste water treatment system. The pond's liner developed a leak, allowing waste water containing heavy metals and volatile organic compounds to enter the soil. The liner and contaminated soil were removed from the site. Organic chemicals similar to those disposed of in the pond have been found in the upper aquifer underlying the area. Beckman has provided bottled water to the 750 residents whose wells are contaminated. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board is working with Beckman to develop a comprehensive monitoring system to determine the full extent of ground water contamination.

Status (June 10, 1986): Beckman has installed and is operating a ground water extraction and treatment system to control the plume of contamination. The company will also conduct a remedial investigation/feasibility study to determine the need for additional remedial measures.

Residents previously using bottled water have been provided with a municipal drinking water supply.

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.