

# NPL Site Narrative for Para-Chem Southern, Inc.

## PARA-CHEM SOUTHERN, INC. Simpsonville, South Carolina

**Conditions at proposal (October 26, 1989):** Para-Chem Southern, Inc., has manufactured organic solvents and adhesives on a 100-acre site near Simpsonville, Greenville County, South Carolina, since 1965. The area is rural and sparsely populated.

During 1975-1979, 800 to 1,600 drums of organic and inorganic wastes were buried in unlined trenches in three parts of the site, according to information the company provided to EPA as required by CERCLA Section 103(c). Waste water from the plant was disposed of in two unlined lagoons until November 1984, when the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) issued Para-Chem a permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

In October 1985, SCDHEC found manganese and several organic chemicals, including chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, and 1,1,1-trichloroethane, in on-site ground water; carbon tetrachloride and 1,1,2-trichloroethane in off-site ground water and surface water; and arsenic, barium, manganese, nickel, and zinc in sediments in on-site surface water. 1,1-Dichloroethylene, 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, 2-butanone, and tetrahydrofuran were found in on-site monitoring wells in tests conducted in July 1987 by a Para-Chem consultant. An estimated 1,500 people obtain drinking water from private wells within 3 miles of the site, the nearest within 1 mile.

SCDHEC placed the company under a joint waste water/hazardous waste Consent Order in February 1985, and in January 1986 fined the company for violating its NPDES permit. The order also addressed the buried drums and a spill of 3,500 gallons of ethyl acrylate in January 1985. Since 1986, the company has been fined twice for failure to meet its NPDES permit.

Under the Consent Order, Para-Chem excavated soil from the drum burial areas and filled in the two lagoons. The soil was moved to a hazardous waste facility regulated under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The action was completed in 1987. During the action, ground water contamination consistent with earlier analyses was detected.

**Status (August 30, 1990):** EPA is considering various alternatives for the site.

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.