

NPL Site Narrative for Peerless Plating Co.

PEERLESS PLATING CO. Muskegon, Michigan

Conditions at proposal (June 24, 1988): Peerless Plating Co. started operating an electroplating shop on a 1-acre site at 2554 Getty Avenue in Muskegon, Muskegon County, Michigan, in 1937. The site is surrounded by commercial, industrial, and residential areas. The plant closed in June 1983 as a result of State and local enforcement actions, labor problems, and financial difficulties.

Operations at the plant involved toxic, corrosive, reactive, and flammable chemicals. According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), wastes containing heavy metals were discharged into three unlined lagoons at the rear of the facility. MDNR also determined that manholes inside the plant discharged directly onto the ground and that drummed wastes were stored on-site.

In September-October 1983, EPA used CERCLA emergency funds in a removal action at the site. EPA removed 37,000 gallons of sulfuric acid, nitric acid, chromic acid, cyanide plating solution, chromium plating solution, hydrochloric acid, and trichloroethylene. Also, the lagoons were drained; soil was removed from the lagoon areas; the interior of the building was cleaned; vats, lines, and tanks were decontaminated; sewer lines were sealed; and cyanides and nitric acid were neutralized on-site. Hazardous materials were removed to a facility regulated under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Approximately 15,000-20,000 gallons of sludges and liquids remain on-site.

In 1985, EPA detected cadmium, chromium, cyanide, trans-1,2-dichloroethylene, and trichloroethylene in an on-site well. An estimated 1,500 people obtain drinking water from private wells within 3 miles of the site. The nearest well is less than 100 feet from the site.

The site is on a nearly level lake plain. Little Black Creek, which empties into Lake Manor, is a major drainage pathway. The lake is used for recreational activities.

Status (August 30, 1990): In July 1989, EPA began planning a remedial investigation/feasibility study to determine the type and extent of contamination at the site and identify alternatives for remedial action. Field work is expected to start shortly.

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.