

NPL Site Narrative for Stauffer Chem (Chic Heights Plnt)

STAUFFER CHEMICAL CO. (CHICAGO HEIGHTS PLANT)

Chicago Heights, Illinois

Federal Register Notice: [January 22, 1987](#)

Conditions at proposal (January 22, 1987): Stauffer Chemical Co. produces food-grade products and sodium bicarbonate in a plant covering 15 acres in Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois. Until 1978, it also produced pesticides. Stauffer purchased the plant in 1958 from Victor Chemical Works, which had made phosphates there since 1902.

Stauffer Chemical disposed of about 175,000 cubic feet of hazardous waste in an unlined pile and in buried drums, according to information the company provided EPA as required under CERCLA Section 103(c). The waste area covers 2.5 acres. At one time, Stauffer also had two settling lagoons. After they were closed, the sediment from the lagoons was added to the pile. When on-site disposal ceased in 1979, the 60-foot-high pile was covered with 1 to 2 feet of clay.

According to tests conducted in 1984 by EPA, high levels of arsenic and lesser amounts of antimony and selenium are present in shallow ground water below the site. To date, the deeper aquifer is not contaminated. However, the two aquifers are hydraulically connected so that water can move between them. Wells extending into the lower aquifer within 3 miles of

the site provide drinking water for an estimated 29,500 people. The nearest well is within 1 mile of the site.

The site is near a drainage ditch that leads to Thorn Creek 3,000 feet away. Sauk Trail Lake, which is used for recreational activities, is within 3 miles downstream of the site.

Status (October 4, 1989): In response to public comments, EPA re-evaluated the site documentation and revised the site's score on the Hazard Ranking System used to assess sites for the NPL. Because the score is now below the cutoff point EPA has established to include a site on the NPL, this site is being dropped from consideration for the NPL at this time.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated with the HRS. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. See [56 FR 5600](#), February 11, 1991, or subsequent FR notices.]