

**NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL)**

\*\*\*NPL Site\*\*\*

September 2023

**FEDERATED METALS CORP WHITING** | **Hammond, Indiana**  
*Lake County*** Site Location:**

The site is located in Lake County, Northwest Indiana. It consists of a former smelting facility, contaminated sediments in a nearby lake and affected residential soils in surrounding neighborhoods of both the cities of Hammond and Whiting.

** Site History:**

The Federated Metals Corporation (FMC) site is a former metal smelting, refining, recovery, and recycling facility, that operated nearly 50 years in Hammond, Indiana along the shore of George Lake. Federated Metals closed operations in 1983 but various smelting facilities subsequently operated on the property. FMC property was regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), but in 2016, the site was referred to EPA's Superfund Removal Program to investigate potential contamination in the surrounding neighborhood. Sediment sampling at the George Lake also revealed the presence of high levels of lead which may be impacting the wildlife.

** Site Contamination/Contaminants:**

Lead was found at elevated concentrations in residential yards and lake sediments. Arsenic was found at elevated concentrations in residential yards near the facility.

** Potential Impacts on Surrounding Community/Environment:**

Approximately 130 residential properties have soils that are contaminated with lead. State officials have also indicated that fish and diseased swans near George Lake have elevated lead levels in internal organs.

** Response Activities (to date):**

The RCRA Program's corrective action included dredging the lake and creating a landfill within the former facility. A Superfund removal action was conducted off-site from the facility property between 2016 and 2019. The EPA sampled over 220 residential properties and 33 priority properties were remediated. Approximately 700 residential properties remain to be sampled. In 2021, the city of Hammond began to remediate lead contamination. As of March 2023, Hammond had cleaned up 47 residential yards. The city of Whiting does not have the funds to conduct remediation of yards.

** Need for NPL Listing:**

The state of Indiana referred the site to the EPA for NPL listing because the site requires a long-term response action. Other federal and state cleanup programs were evaluated but are not viable at this time due to the extent of the contamination and complexity of the site. The EPA received a letter of support for placing this site on the NPL from the state.

*[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.]*

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](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq/index.asp) can be found on the Internet at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq/index.asp> or by telephone at 1-800-CDC-INFO or 1-800-232-4636.