Contract No. 68-01-7367

000707

EPA

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE
TEAM

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

BETTER BRITE CHROME AND ZINC SITES

BROWN COUNTY

DE PERE, WISCONSIN

Region V

ROY F. WESTON, INC.
Spill Prevention & Emergency Response Division
In Association with ICF Technology Inc., C.C. Johnson & Malhotra, P.C.,
Resource Applications, Inc., Geo/Resource Consultants, Inc., and
Environmental Toxicology International, Inc.

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MANAGERS DESIGNERS/CONSULTANTS

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BROWN COUNTY

DE PERE, WISCONSIN

Prepared For:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

CONTRACT NO. 68-01-7367

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Prepared By:

WESTON-MAJOR PROGRAMS DIVISION
Technical Assistance Team
Region 5

SEPTEMBER 1990

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:

ABOUT THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM

Congress enacted the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, known as "Superfund") in 1980, to respond to hazardous waste problems that may pose a threat to the public and environment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) administers the Superfund program.

Depending on the urgency of the threat or potential threat to the public and environment, U.S. EPA can respond in two ways: remedial actions are taken when long-term actions are required to clean up a site; removal actions are begun in cases of imminent danger to the public and environment. The objective of each is to bring the situation under control by stabilizing or stopping the release of hazardous substances. A variety of factors are considered in selecting either the remedial or removal line of action.

CERCLA established a trust fund to help pay for investigation and clean up of the hazardous waste sites. Superfund money is used when parties responsible for the site contamination are unknown, unwilling, or incapable of satisfactorily resolving the environmental problem. In addition, U.S. EPA can reimburse the trust fund by taking legal action to recover its clean up costs from those identified as responsible parties.

Literature discussing the Superfund processes is available in the Information Repository for this site. The Information Repository is located at:

The De Pere Branch- Brown County Library
380 Main Avenue
De Pere, Wisconsin
(414) 497-6250

Library Schedule: Monday - Thursday
8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday and Saturday
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

BETTER BRITE CHROME AND ZINC SITES

BROWN COUNTY

DE PERE, WISCONSIN

A. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

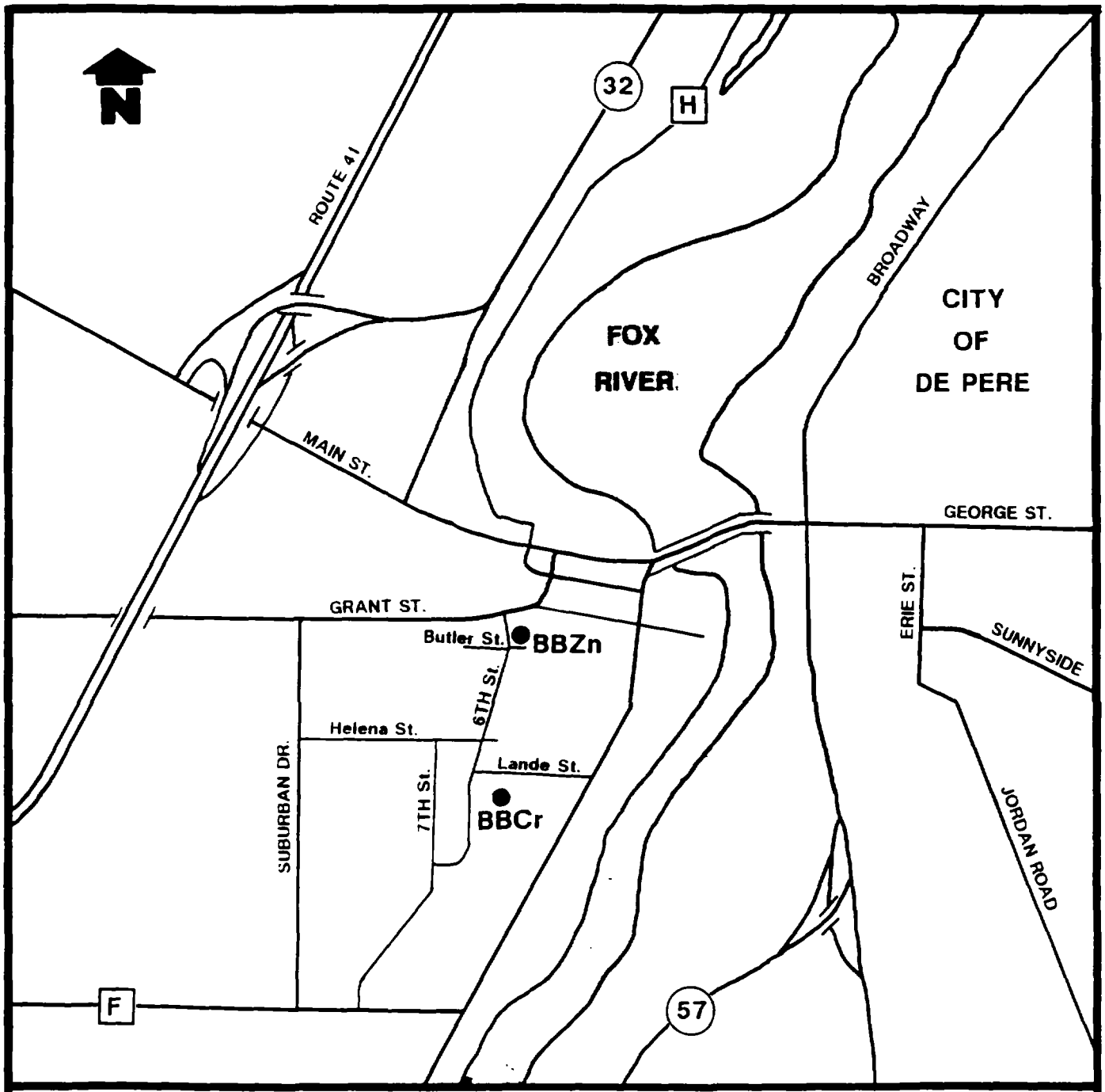
This community relations plan identifies issues of community concern regarding the Superfund removal actions at the Better Brite Chrome and Zinc sites (Better Brite sites) in Brown County, De Pere, Wisconsin. Superfund, officially known as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), was enacted by Congress in 1980 to respond directly to hazardous waste problems that may pose a threat to the public and the environment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) administers the act. Removal actions are initiated in cases of imminent danger to the public and the environment to bring the situation under control by stabilizing or stopping the release of hazardous substances.

The Better Brite sites are being addressed by the U.S. EPA Emergency and Enforcement Response Branch (EERB) as two separate removal actions. The sites have been combined for the purposes of this document and other community relations activities because of their close proximity, related background, and joint proposal to the **National Priorities List (NPL)** in October 1989. The sites were officially added to the NPL under the name, the "Better Brite Chrome Plating Co. and Zinc Shops" in August 1990.

This plan also outlines community relations activities at the sites. Interviews with local officials, interested citizens, and a review of news articles have shown that residents are greatly concerned about the sites. Individuals raised many questions during the community interviews conducted on April 2 and 3, 1990. Common questions pertained to whether a nearby municipal well has been or will be affected by the contamination, if U.S. EPA will "buy out" the residences adjacent to the Chrome site, if health problems suffered by nearby residents are associated with contamination from the Better Brite sites, and how long clean-up activities will take.

The community relations program should address these issues, Superfund removal activities, and procedures to increase public understanding of the situation. This community relations plan has been prepared to aid U.S. EPA in developing a program tailored to the needs of the community affected by the Better Brite sites. U.S. EPA conducts community relations activities to ensure that the local public has input into decisions relating to Superfund actions and is informed about the progress of these actions. Technical words are highlighted in **bold** print and are defined in a glossary. The plan is divided into the following sections:

- Site Background
- Community Background
- Highlights of the Community Relations Program
- Community Relations Techniques and Timing
- Glossary of Technical Terms



WESTON
MANAGERS DESIGNERS/CONSULTANTS

FIGURE 1

SITE LOCATION MAP

BETTER BRITE CHROME AND ZINC

DEPERE, WISCONSIN

NOT TO SCALE

B. SITE BACKGROUND

1. Location and Description

The Better Brite sites consist of two former plating facility locations: a **chromium** plating operation at 519 Lande Street (Chrome site) and a **zinc** plating facility at 315 South Sixth Street (Zinc site). The sites are located within three blocks of each other in a residential neighborhood in De Pere, Wisconsin. Within four blocks of both sites are St. Norbert College and West De Pere High School. Both sites are approximately one-quarter mile west of the Fox River. The Zinc site is within 250 feet of the nearest municipal well.

Current removal efforts are being performed by the U.S. EPA EERB, with the close involvement of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the City of De Pere. The Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services (WDHSS) and the **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)** are providing support in studying health-related aspects pertaining to the sites.

2. Site History

In 1963, a lumber yard at 315 South Sixth Street was converted into a chromium plating operation called Better Brite Plating, Inc. Better Brite opened an additional chromium plating facility in 1970 at 519 Lande Street. In the late 1970s, the main function of the original facility shifted from chromium to zinc plating.

Throughout the late 1970s and the 1980s, WDNR conducted numerous inspections of the facilities, and as a result, issued citations to Better Brite for documented **Resource Conservation and**

Recovery Act (RCRA) violations. Throughout the course of operations at the Chrome site, approximately 20,000 to 60,000 gallons of plating solution are believed to have leaked from in-ground plating vessels and several spills of hazardous materials have been reported. Numerous inspections of the Zinc site and sampling performed on soils near the facility have indicated the presence of elevated levels of **cyanide** and the following metals: chromium, zinc, **cadmium**, lead, silver, selenium, copper, and nickel. The level of cadmium found in the drummed **sludge** was high enough to classify the sludge as characteristic hazardous waste which requires disposal at a U.S. EPA-approved hazardous waste disposal facility. Results from continuous monitoring of the nearby municipal well have indicated that contamination has not reached the area's drinking water.

In August 1979, Better Brite installed several ground-water monitoring wells, a ground-water collection system, and a retention berm to prevent surface-water runoff in an attempt to monitor and contain possible contamination of the ground water and site soils at the Chrome site. In addition, contaminated soil from neighboring properties south and west of the main building was excavated and deposited on the Chrome site property.

An extent of contamination study conducted by an outside contractor for Better Brite in September 1979 identified chromium-contaminated surface soils near the main building at the Chrome site. In August 1979, Better Brite installed several ground-water monitoring wells, a ground-water collection system,

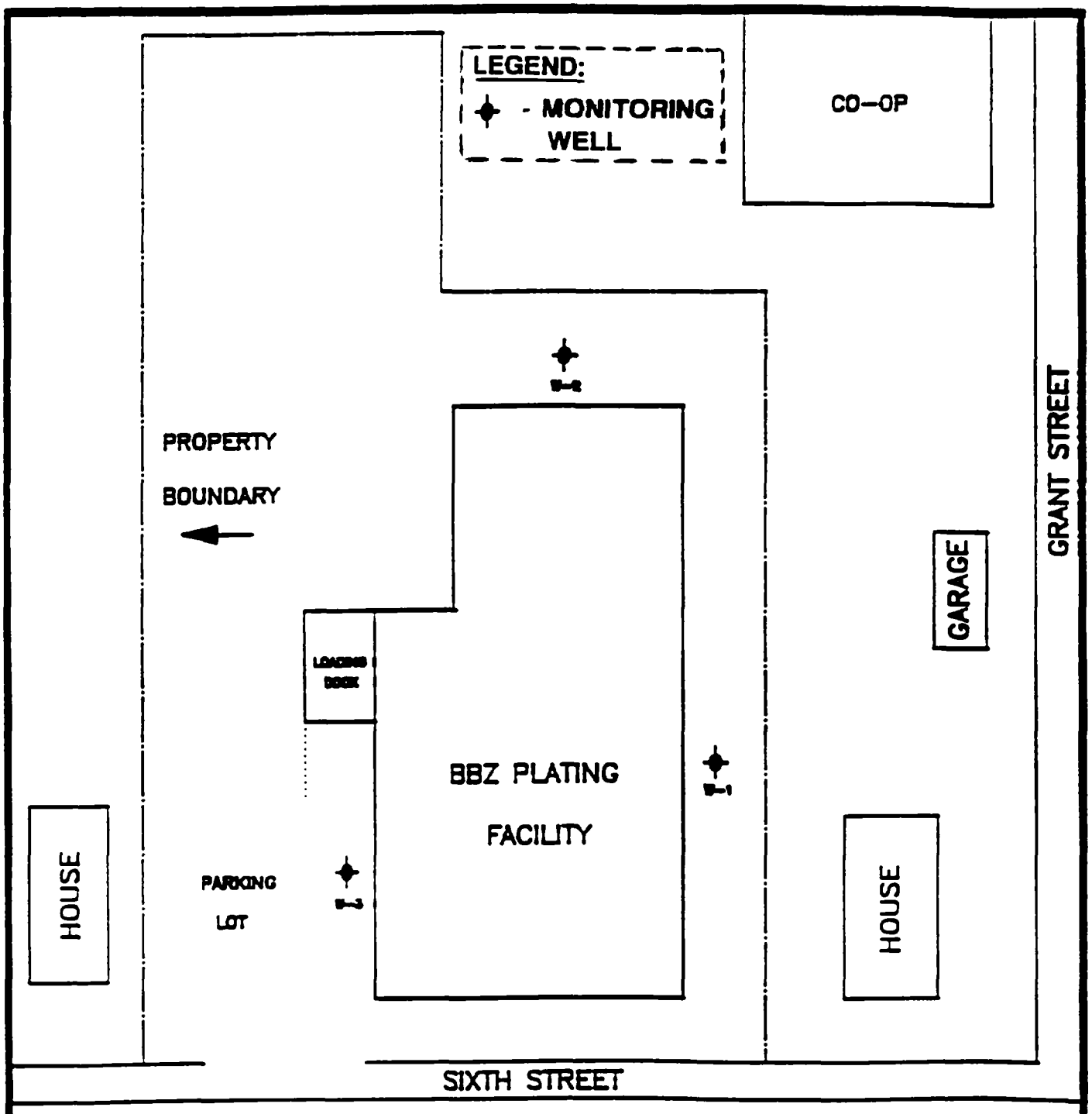


FIGURE 2

SITE MAP

BETTER BRITE ZINC

DEPERE, WISCONSIN

NOT TO SCALE

WESTON MAJOR PROGRAMS DIVISION

REGION V TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM

DRAWN BY	DATE	PCS #
K. AXE	11-29-89	2433
APPROVED BY	DATE	TDD #
R. MEHL	11-29-89	5-8910-09

and a retention berm to prevent surface-water runoff. This was done in an attempt to contain contamination on site. In addition, contaminated soils were excavated from neighboring properties south and west of the main building and deposited on the Chrome site property.

In February 1980, the Wisconsin State's Attorney filed suit on behalf of WDNR, ordering Better Brite to clean up the designated contaminated areas. This order was not adhered to, as documented by several subsequent inspections by WDNR from 1980 to 1985, which revealed extensive on-site surface and subsurface chromium contamination at the Chrome site.

Better Brite Plating, Inc. filed for bankruptcy and discontinued Chrome site operations in October 1986. The Zinc site, however, continued operating with John Zenner as acting examiner/trustee. In December 1986, Zenner officially purchased the Zinc site and its equipment (with the exception of the hazardous waste accumulated at the site and the lease of the property underlying the building) and incorporated under the name, The Zinc Shop, Inc. Operations at the Zinc site continued until July 1989.

In June 1987, WDNR conducted subsurface soil core sampling and installed several monitoring wells in the Zinc site area. Monitoring of these wells throughout the next two years verified ground-water contamination of both chromium and zinc. Low levels of cadmium, lead, and cyanide also were detected, along with **volatile organic compounds (VOCs)**.

3. U.S. EPA Involvement

In spring 1986, WDNR requested assistance from U.S. EPA at the Chrome site in investigating reports of abandoned drums and tanks, which were found to contain **chromic acid**, cyanide, and **solvents**. Results from this investigation, combined with results from previous inspections by WDNR, established that conditions at the Chrome site presented a significant threat to human health and the environment. Subsequently, WDNR requested assistance from U.S. EPA EERB in containing the immediate threats.

U.S. EPA EERB conducted removal activities at the Chrome site from September 1986 until April 1987. Activities included the removal of all on-site contaminants contained in drums, tanks, and vats, the installation of a site monitoring well, the removal of visibly stained soils from the south and southwest sides of the building, and removal of wastes from the facility plating pits. Visually contaminated soils around the plating pits were excavated and then all tanks, vats, and drums were removed and scrapped or disposed of at a U.S. EPA-permitted landfill. In total, U.S. EPA EERB removed approximately 83 tons of contaminated soil, 9,270 gallons of chromic acid, 3,600 gallons of **base/neutral** liquids, 550 gallons of cyanide solution, 150 pounds of cyanide sludge, and 500 gallons of flammable liquids.

Samples were collected from several areas, including the southeast corner of the property and in the excavated area south of the facility. Results from the sampling effort were given to ATSDR for the study of possible health effects to neighbors of the site.

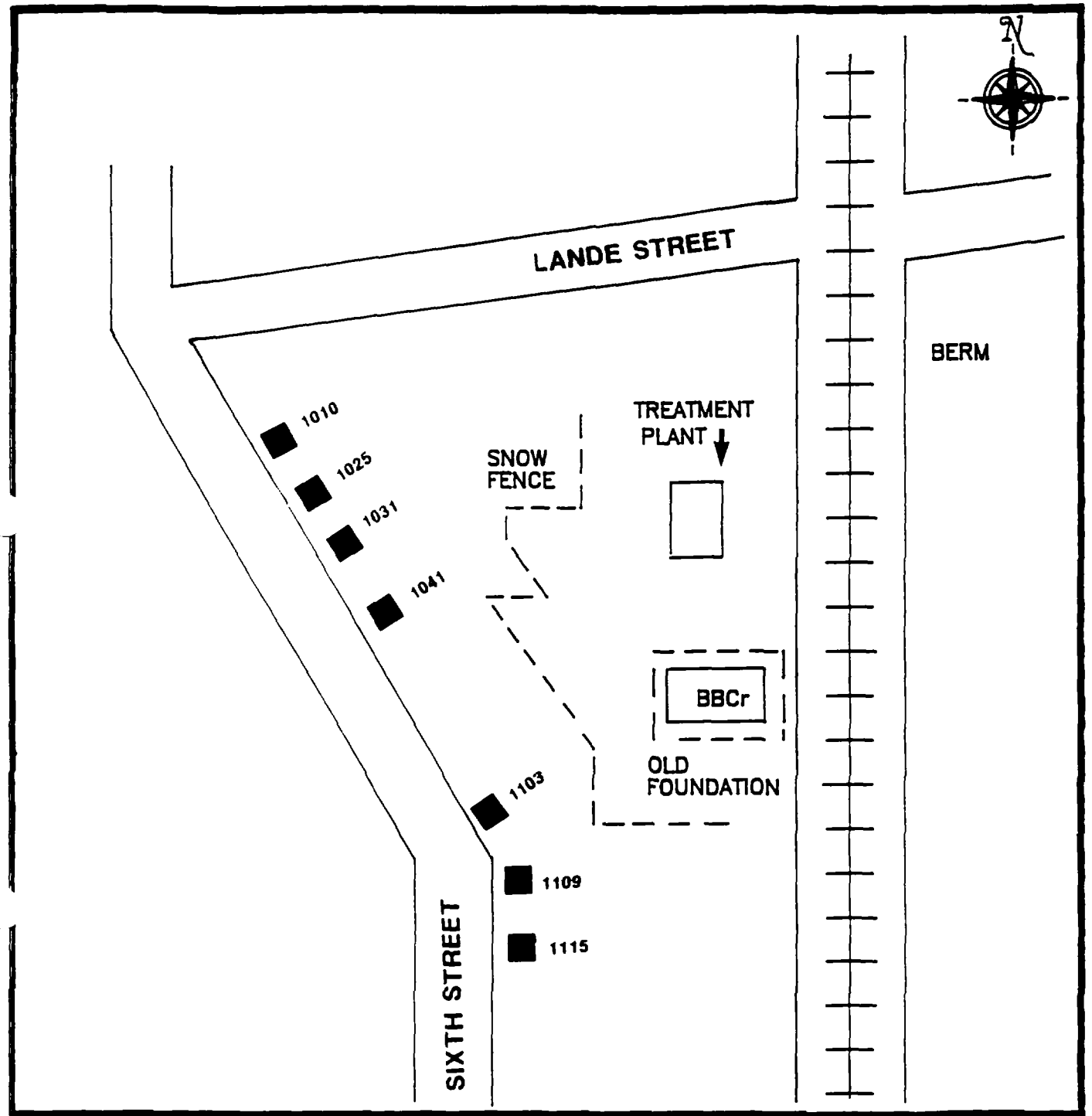


FIGURE 3

SITE MAP

BETTER BRITE CHROME

DEPERE, WISCONSIN

NOT TO SCALE

WESTON MANAGERS DESIGNERS/CONSULTANTS — MAJOR PROGRAMS DIVISION

REGION V TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM

DRAWN BY S. BENNETT	DATE 5/24/90	PCS # 5-9003-29
APPROVED BY S. BOSKO	DATE 5/24/90	TDD # 2872

ATSDR also studied results from earlier U.S. EPA and WDNR sampling efforts, and at that point, determined that the concentrations of chromium present did not pose a health threat to the adjacent residents.

In 1988, U.S. EPA EERB again responded to the Chrome site at the request of WDNR. Chromium-contaminated water was collecting in the adjacent neighbors' backyards, causing chromium to deposit in soils and gardens on their properties. U.S. EPA authorized pumping of the water into the City of De Pere sanitary sewer as an interim measure to eliminate ponding.

In summer 1989, the Chrome site building and contents were sold by the owner of the property, Zenner. The City of De Pere and WDNR stipulated to the buyer of the property that the area beneath the building had to be capped (covered) and the pond closed off. The Chrome site operations building and concrete foundation were removed and the former building area was capped with clay. The area also was fenced to prevent public access.

In October 1986, U.S. EPA EERB conducted a site assessment at the Zinc site at the request of WDNR. An inventory of materials and storage units present on site was taken and samples were collected from the sump water in an adjacent house and from soil on the south side of the Zinc site. Sampling results indicated elevated levels of chromium, zinc, and cyanide. The enforcement case was then referred to the Wisconsin Department of Justice (WDOJ). WDOJ currently is taking action concerning the Zinc site.

Upon the request of WDNR, the U.S. EPA EERB performed a second

site assessment at the Zinc site in October 1989. The assessment confirmed WDNR reports of illegal storage of hazardous materials and contamination of surface soils in an adjoining residential property.

4. U.S. EPA Clean-up Programs and Activities

Chrome Site

In an effort to eliminate the threat of ground-water contamination and continued off-site movement of contaminants at the Chrome site, U.S. EPA EERB is installing an on-site, ground-water treatment system. The system includes a recovery well, a 6,000 gallon holding tank, a staging pad (an area used for securely storing drummed wastes), and diking. The system was designed in cooperation with the City of De Pere and is expected to be operational in fall 1990.

The system will treat up to 2,000 gallons of chromium-contaminated water per day, making it safe for discharge into the De Pere sanitary sewer. Contaminants removed from the water will be sent to an approved disposal facility.

Operational costs can only be covered for one year after implementation by the Superfund Removal Program. The City of De Pere will run the system in cooperation with U.S. EPA EERB for the first year. Additional costs and the responsibility of running the treatment system will then shift to the City of De Pere and WDNR, who have formulated a joint agreement for funding and personnel.

U.S. EPA EERB has been conducting soil sampling in the Chrome site area and the backyards of residences adjacent to the Chrome

site to determine whether contaminants are present, and if so, whether they pose an immediate threat to public health and the environment. As a result of the soil sampling effort, approximately 50 to 100 yards of soils contaminated with chromium, found immediately outside the fenced-in, former facility area, will be excavated and shipped to an off-site facility for disposal in fall 1990. The excavated area will then be covered with clay and topsoil.

Zinc Site

Following the U.S. EPA EERB's October 1989 assessment of the Zinc site, a work outline was developed to eliminate the immediate threats to human health and the environment. Many aspects of the work outline have been completed at the Zinc site.

Hazardous materials stored in tanks, drums, and vats on site were sampled and sorted according to type. The majority of the waste materials have been shipped to U.S. EPA-approved disposal facilities, with protective clothing used during the removal activities and eleven drums still remaining on site. The protective clothing and remaining wastes should be shipped off site by the end of September 1990. The floor of the facility and empty containers have been decontaminated.

U.S. EPA sampled soils from the Zinc site and the yards of adjoining residences. Results from the soil sampling did not indicate an immediate need to remove soil from the site.

The sump water in a neighboring residence also was analyzed, along with water samples from several on-site monitoring wells.

Results from this effort indicated the presence of elevated levels of chromium and cadmium in the area's ground water. These findings, combined with the results from previous water sampling activities, indicated the need to contain and remove the contaminated ground water from the Zinc site area.

U.S. EPA developed and installed a sump system capable of collecting high volumes of ground water at the Zinc site in June 1990. The sump system collects and pumps contaminated ground water and is capable of storing up to 4,500 gallons. The contaminated water is stored in tanks on-site, and until fall 1990, when the water treatment system at the Chrome site is operational, the water will be shipped to an off-site disposal facility. The water will be transported to and treated at the Chrome site water treatment system when it is operational. U.S. EPA EERB anticipates involvement in Zinc site activities through the end of September 1991 and is running the sump system in conjunction with the City of De Pere and WDNR.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

Any additional Chrome or Zinc site contamination deemed not immediately threatening to public health and the environment will be addressed by U.S. EPA or WDNR in a long-term study called a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS).

The Remedial Investigation section of the RI/FS is an in-depth study designed to gather the data necessary to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a Superfund site, to establish criteria for cleaning up the site, to identify preliminary

alternatives for remedial action, and to support the technical and cost analyses of the clean-up alternatives. The Feasibility Study section of the RI/FS is a description and analysis of potential clean-up alternatives for a site on the National Priorities List. The Feasibility Study usually recommends selection of a cost-effective alternative. It usually starts as soon as the Remedial investigation is underway.

C. Community Background

1. Community Profile

The City of De Pere is located in Brown County in eastern Wisconsin. The population of De Pere is approximately 17,000, with a mixture of blue and white collar workers. Many of the workers commute into nearby Green Bay, which is located approximately five miles north of De Pere. The average annual temperature in De Pere is 79 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer and 19 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter. The city is home to St. Norbert College, located in the western section of De Pere, next to the Fox River.

According to local residents, the people of De Pere are family oriented and enjoy boating, hunting, fishing, and skiing in their leisure time. Residents and local officials also stated that the city has an excellent voter turnout for political elections, and the city government structure is that of a full-time city administrator/part-time mayor.

Residents and officials said they regularly read one or more of the following three papers: The De Pere Journal (weekly), the Green Bay Press Gazette (daily), and the Green Bay News-Chronicle

(daily). De Pere is serviced by three network and two independent television stations and three radio stations.

2. Chronology of Community Involvement

Community members, local officials, and the local electronic and print media have shown a great deal of interest in the Better Brite sites. Congressman Toby Roth and U.S. Senator Herbert Kohl also have taken an active interest in site activities.

While conducting community interviews on April 2 and 3, 1990, U.S. EPA learned that a resident living adjacent to the Chrome site began contacting WDNR in 1978 after noticing large patches of bright-yellow snow in the resident's backyard. The home lies directly downhill from the former Chrome site facility; therefore, the resident immediately linked the cause of the yellow snow to the Chrome site. In the years following, family members began to notice yellow water ponding and the vegetation in their garden beginning to slowly die. The issue was brought to the attention of local government officials and the media throughout the early to mid-1980s.

Other residents with property adjacent to the Chrome site also began having similar experiences, with ponding yellow water, yellow snow, and dying vegetation. One couple had a problem with two dogs that began "to act crazy" in 1985. The dogs' conditions worsened, and the family had them put to sleep in 1986. The couple had allowed the dogs to run loose in the backyard and believe the problem was caused by the animals' exposure to the ponding yellow water. The same couple has three children, including a daughter

who suffered from abnormally low weight gain and ill health starting soon after her birth. The mother had fed the girl food which she had prepared from vegetables grown in the backyard garden, which is adjacent to the Chrome site. They believe contaminants from the site could be the cause of the child's problems. No health data or blood sampling was done to prove this. The family members have since abandoned the home because they feel it is not safe.

Community interest in the Better Brite sites, the Chrome site in particular, has become increasingly stronger since 1988. The Chrome site OSC met personally with residents in March 1989 to discuss their concerns and removal actions planned for the Chrome site. To answer any questions nearby residents might have had concerning activities at the Better Brite sites and to establish contact with local officials, the U.S. EPA Office of Public Affairs (OPA) sent a community relations team consisting of an OPA Community Relations Coordinator (CRC) and a Technical Assistance Team Community Relations Specialist (CRS) into the community on April 2 and 3, 1990. The team conducted community interviews with nearby residents and distributed fact sheets concerning the U.S. EPA Superfund Removal Program and several information sheets describing chemical hazards presented by the sites. The CRC also answered questions, discussed probable future site activities and technical assistance grants (TAGs) with citizens, and distributed the U.S. EPA toll free number to former and current neighbors of the sites. U.S. EPA held two informal discussion sessions on

April 19, 1990 at the De Pere Municipal Service Center to give residents the opportunity to talk to representatives of U.S. EPA, WDNR, and WDHHS on a one-to-one basis. U.S. EPA distributed a four-page fact sheet to residents at the sessions and added all attendees to the Better Brite sites mailing list.

3. Key Community Concerns

Local officials and residents have voiced several main points of concern about the Better Brite sites. Questions posed by residents included topics such as when the removal of contaminants will be completed, what health threats contaminants at the sites present, to what extent the contaminants had spread off-site, and if the drinking water would eventually be affected by the contaminants.

Several homeowners near the sites were greatly concerned about whether or not their homes could possibly be "bought out" by U.S. EPA. These residents were informed that such an event would be highly unlikely, but were told that their opinions and situations are under U.S. EPA's consideration and evaluation.

Site security is another issue of importance to community members. Residents near the Chrome site said they believe the security fencing surrounding the former facility location is inadequate in preventing accidental contact with hazardous contamination. The residents also believe the spread of surface contamination has greatly exceeded the boundaries of the fencing and would like to see the fencing extended to the west of the site.

All residents were notified that their names would be added to

the Better Brite sites mailing list and that they would receive any future mailings concerning the sites. They also were given the name and phone number of the CRC as the main site contact.

D. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM

The community relations program for the Better Brite sites should be designed to provide an opportunity for the community to be informed about the sites and the Superfund removal process. To be effective, the community relations program must be gauged according to the community's interest and need for information.

The community relations program at the Better Brite sites should take the following approaches:

1. Enlist the support and participation of local officials in coordinating community relations activities.

People to involve in a community relations program include the local officials of De Pere and Brown County, including Mayor Nancy Nussbaum, City Administrator Jerry Smits, Director of Public Works Carl Weber, Wastewater Treatment Plant Engineer Manager Dave Benner, and City Attorney Jim Kalny. Other people to involve include WDHSS officials and ATSDR representatives. These officials are visible leaders in the community and are, therefore, an invaluable resource in U.S. EPA's effort to understand and monitor community concern. Two-way communication between local officials and U.S. EPA will ensure that site activities, plans, findings, and developments are understood by all concerned.

2. Identify and access citizen perception of the site.

Information regarding citizen perception of the site is indispensable. Community residents are concerned about the site, as stated in the section of this document entitled "Key Community Concerns." Understanding these concerns will assist U.S. EPA in focusing the level of effort for community relations activities at the site. Background information and the direction of local concern will determine those activities that best meet the community's needs.

3. Provide follow-up explanations about sampling and clean-up activities to area residents.

Fact sheets or press releases should provide concise, easily understood, and timely information to all area residents concerning the schedule of technical activities, their purpose, and their outcome. Personalized letters are appropriate for releasing information such as sampling results. The community relations staff should attempt to respond to special situations or concerns where more specialized information is desired by individuals or groups.

4. Inform area residents and local officials about the procedures, policies, and requirements of the Superfund removal program.

An effort should be made to circulate information to the community describing the Superfund removal process to dispel possible confusion about U.S. EPA's purpose and responsibilities on the site. Superfund limitations as prescribed by Congress and

possible state actions or future U.S. EPA involvement in the site should be defined as clearly as possible.

E. COMMUNITY RELATIONS TECHNIQUES AND TIMING

A member of the U.S. EPA Region 5 community relations staff should continue to respond directly to media and public inquiries regarding site procedures. A number of activities should be implemented to ensure that the community is well informed.

1. Initiate and maintain contact with local officials.

Through telephone contact, correspondence, and meetings, U.S. EPA has contacted government officials and informed them of activities at the sites. Designated U.S. EPA personnel (CRC or OSCs) should maintain contact with appropriate officials at all levels of government (municipal, county, state, federal) to continue providing them with information on Superfund removal activities at the Better Brite sites. Careful attention should be given to maintain contact with officials who have previously indicated an interest in the site. All local officials should receive timely information updates so they will be prepared to respond to questions about the site.

2. Develop a citizen mailing list.

A mailing list of interested people in the area has already been developed. It should be maintained so information about site activities can be sent directly to these people. Citizens should be aware that their comments and questions may be sent directly to U.S. EPA. The contact for the Better Brite sites is:

Susan Pastor

Office of Public Affairs, 5PA-14

U.S. EPA, Region 5

230 South Dearborn Street

Chicago, Illinois 60604.

3. U.S. EPA Toll Free Number.

Citizens should have access to a local telephone number or the U.S. EPA Region 5 toll free number (800-621-8431 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Central Time) so they can be informed of site activities and receive timely responses to questions and concerns. The phone number was given to residents during the community interviews and was publicized in the fact sheet which was distributed at the discussion sessions held on April 19, 1990. The number should be made available at future meetings and listed on correspondence, fact sheets, and press releases.

4. Write and distribute news releases.

News releases should coincide with technical milestones at the site, including the completion of the removal action. Because news releases usually contain only the most important information, other details that citizens may be more interested in are often excluded. A news release alone cannot address all citizen concerns. Therefore, this community relations plan includes additional methods of communication that supplement the news release purpose.

5. Write and distribute fact sheets.

On April 19, 1990, U.S. EPA distributed a fact sheet pertaining to the Better Brite sites to local officials and

community members. Another brief fact sheet should be prepared and distributed during the final phase of removal activities or when activities have been completed. Fact sheets should inform the community of technical procedures in non-technical language.

Public understanding of the issues involved in the removal program is increased through fact sheets that explain site background, U.S. EPA involvement, removal activities, Superfund procedures, future of the site following the cleanup, and community concerns. Fact sheets should include the name, address, and telephone number of the U.S. EPA personnel who can provide further information and should be distributed to the appropriate government officials and agencies, area residents, citizen's groups, the media, and other interested persons.

6. Sponsor a public meeting/discussion session.

On April 19, 1990, an informal discussion session was held to give citizens the opportunity to talk with representatives from the government agencies involved in current activities at the Better Brite sites. Future discussion sessions or public meetings may be held at the same location as the first, which was the De Pere Municipal Service Center. The contact for the Municipal Service Center is Director of Public Works Carl Weber, (414) 336-5736.

7. Information Repository

An Information Repository containing information about the Superfund program, technical documents, and all other site-specific information has been placed for public review at the De Pere Branch of the Brown County Library, 380 Main Avenue, De Pere, Wisconsin.

The contact person at the library for the Information Repository is Librarian Sue Blechl at (414) 497-6250. The repository should be updated as new documents concerning the Better Brite sites are generated. A representative of U.S. EPA should check on the repository periodically to assure that it is intact and accessible to the public.

8. Provide assistance with Technical Assistance Grant (TAG).

Citizens were offered information concerning TAGs during the community interviews and discussion sessions. The CRC followed through and sent literature to citizens who appeared particularly interested in the program. The CRC should continue providing assistance to residents interested in TAG or refer them to other U.S. EPA representatives who could also be of assistance.

9. Revise community relations plan.

Through the various means of communication and interaction previously mentioned, U.S. EPA will note changes in community concerns, information needs, and activities, and modify this community relations plan, as necessary, to respond to these changes.

Glossary

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) - ATSDR is part of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Under Superfund, ATSDR has been given the legal authority to provide health effects information to U.S. EPA. The major responsibilities of ATSDR are the evaluation of populations with current or potential exposure to waste sites, development of health advisories, and the follow up on populations for the evaluation of future health effects.

Base/neutral - A group of organic (carbon-containing) compounds that do not readily tend to evaporate. They have a neutral or high pH (a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a liquid or solid material) and can cause burning when coming into contact with skin. They tend to adhere to soil particles and therefore, move slowly through soils.

Cadmium - Used in electroplating, the manufacture of batteries, and as a paint pigment. Chronic exposure to cadmium can damage the liver and kidneys. It also has been associated with hypertension. Heavy smoking appears to increase the risk of cumulative toxic effects of cadmium exposure. Studies on animals have shown that cadmium can produce tumors and birth defects.

Chromic acid - A poisonous acid which is corrosive to skin. It has

the potential for explosion if combined with certain chemicals. It is used in chromium plating and process engraving.

Chromium - Used in electroplating, photography, and as a paint pigment. Acute ingestion of one form of chromium causes hemorrhages of the gastrointestinal tract. Airborne chromium has caused lung and other respiratory cancers in workers who were frequently exposed to it on the job.

Cyanide - A poison that asphyxiates the cells in the body. Warning signs of cyanide poisoning include dizziness, numbness, rapid pulse, and nausea. A large dose can cause immediate unconsciousness. It is primarily used in the extraction of ores, electroplating, and metal treatments. It is also used in fumigation and in the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals.

National Priorities List (NPL) - The NPL is the list which prioritizes hazardous waste sites in the country which are eligible for cleanup under Superfund. If an immediate threat to public health and the environment exists at an NPL site, it can be alleviated through a removal action by U.S. EPA EERB. If contamination does not present an immediate threat, then the site is normally subject to a long-term study followed by a remedial action cleanup. This leads to an effective cleanup by the U.S. EPA Remedial Enforcement and Response Branch.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) - A federal law that established a regulatory system to track hazardous substances from the time of generation to disposal. The law requires safe and secure procedures to be used in treating, transporting, storing, and disposing of hazardous substances. RCRA is designed to prevent new, uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.

Sludge - A semi-solid residue from any number of air or water treatment processes. Sludge can be a hazardous waste.

Solvents - Substances capable of dissolving another substance to form a solution. The chief uses of industrial solvents are as cleaners for degreasing, in paints, and in pharmaceuticals. Many solvents are flammable and toxic to varying degrees.

Superfund - The common name used for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Enacted in 1980, CERCLA authorizes the federal government to respond directly to releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment. Depending on the level of threat or potential threat posed by the hazardous substances, U.S. EPA will initiate either a removal action (for emergency situations) or a remedial action (long-term evaluation and preparation for cleanup at sites where contaminants do not present an immediate threat).

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) - Carbon-containing compounds that are characterized by their greater tendency to change into a gaseous state.

Zinc - A bluish-white crystalline metallic element. It is generally combined with cyanide for plating purposes, and in this combination, can be highly toxic.

ATTACHMENT A

LIST OF CONTACTS AND INTERESTED PARTIES

BETTER BRITE CHROME AND ZINC SITES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

ELECTED OFFICIALS

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