State of Wisconsin

Department of Health & Social Services
Division of Health

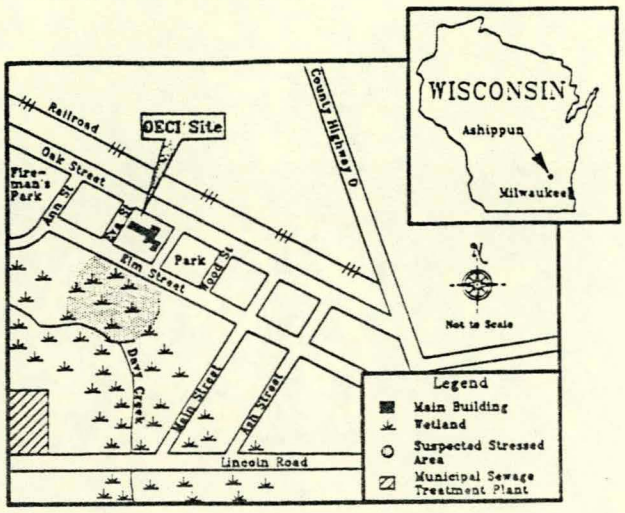
Superfund Site:
Oconomowoc Electroplating Company

Oconomowoc Electroplating Company is one of forty "Superfund" sites in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Division of Health (DOH) is evaluating each site's potential to harm public health. This brochure summarizes the findings and recommendations from the DOH's health assessment of the site based on data collected from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) remedial investigation of this site.

A site qualifies as "Superfund" when it is determined that there is a release or threatened release of hazardous substances which may endanger public health, welfare or the environment.

********* *Trespassing on this Superfund site is dangerous* *********

SITE DESCRIPTION:



2572 West Oak Street
Town of Ashippun
Dodge County

- 500 feet from Davy Creek
- One mile from the Rock River
- Semi-rural area of light industry and residential neighborhood
- 570 people reside within one mile of the site
- Nearest residence is 100-150 feet away

History

Oconomowoc Electroplating Company, Inc. (OECI) has been an active plating industry since 1957. The OECI has used metals, a variety of solvents and cyanide in its plating processes. Sludge lagoons were built on the property in 1972. Waste waters were poured into the lagoons and had occasionally overflowed into a wetland next to the property. Prior to 1973, untreated wastewaters were discharged directly into the wetland.

In 1980, one million pounds of wastewater sludge were removed from the sludge lagoons, however, the lagoons remain one-third full. At least four chemical spills occurred on the property in 1986, adding to the total amount of chemicals released into the environment.

Groundwater is shallow in this area (less than ten feet from the surface). The wetland is located in the 100-year flood plain of Davy Creek, which flows into the Rock River. Groundwater and flood water could carry contaminants away from the property.

Current Conditions

The OECI property is partially fenced. The most contaminated area of the wetland is fenced on the street side and posted with signs that warn of danger.

We are not aware of any conditions that create unusual physical hazards in the wetland. Typical industrial materials are present on the OECI property and could be a physical hazard to unauthorized people.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

Contamination

OECI property The soil is contaminated with cadmium at levels of health concern. Test wells on the property show contamination in groundwater. The sludge lagoons are heavily contaminated with metals. (see chemical table)

Off-property test wells Chemicals were found in a test well off of the OECI property at levels of health concern (see chemical table). Test wells were installed to measure the location and levels of groundwater contamination.

Wetland Soils contain metals and cyanide (see chemical table).

Davy Creek Water in the creek and in the wetlands contains high levels of metals. Cadmium in the water may build up in fish.

Conclusions

* Residential well water is currently not a health concern.
* People can come in contact with contamination from the wetland or the OECI property by touching, accidentally eating or inhaling contaminated soil particles. Children may be of special concern since they are more likely to walk in the wetlands.
* Fish may accumulate metals in their body tissue.

Recommendations

* Residential wells should be periodically monitored.
* Parents should keep their children from playing in the wetlands or entering the OECI property.
* Soil in yards downwind from the site should be tested.
* The OECI should eliminate trespassing on their property.
* Public access to the OECI and contaminated wetland should be restricted.
* Davy Creek and Rock River sediments should be tested.
* Rock River water should be tested.
* Bottom-feeding fish should be sampled for metals.

Department of Health & Social Services

WISCONSIN DIVISION OF HEALTH

The Wisconsin Division of Health is concerned about the health and well-being of Wisconsin citizens. It has a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to provide the following Superfund site services:

- **HEALTH ASSESSMENT:** Visit, study, and evaluate data on or around hazardous chemical Superfund sites to determine if there is a current or potential threat to public health. Assessments may also be done at hazardous non-Superfund sites by formal request of concerned citizens. Each site will be evaluated to see if further investigation is needed.

- **EDUCATION & HEALTH CONSULTATIONS:** Answer health related questions and provide information about chemical contamination to communities.

- **HEALTH STUDIES, DATA & RESEARCH:** Monitor the health of residents around Superfund sites, determine if long term health studies are needed, and if necessary conduct those studies.

- **EMERGENCY RESPONSE:** Providing health related information when the public is threatened by hazardous materials related to Superfund sites.

ATSDR is a federal agency that evaluates health hazards associated with Superfund site. Congress passed 2 acts giving ATSDR its authority and directing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to supervise cleanup of the sites. The Superfund acts are; the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA).

Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources DNR identifies and recommends sites for the federal Superfund or National Priority List (NPL). US EPA determines which DNR recommended sites will be on the NPL and is responsible for the final clean-up of the site.

MARCH 1990

CHEMICALS OF CONCERN

On OECI property	Location	Common Use
1,1, Dichloroethylene	groundwater	lacquer solvent
1,1,1 Trichloroethane	"	degreaser
Trichloroethylene	"	metal degreaser
Cyanide	"	compound for electroplating
Cadmium	soil, sludge lagoon	"
Chromium	sludge lagoon	"
Nickel	"	"
Off-Site Test Wells		
Vinyl chloride	groundwater	ingredient for plastics
Trichloroethylene	"	(above)
1,1 Dichloroethylene	"	(above)
Davy Creek		
cadmium	groundwater	(above)
chromium	"	(above)
nickel	"	(above)
Wetland		
Arsenic	sediments	pesticide
Selenium	"	machining material
Silver	"	etching compound
Zinc	"	galvanizer
Cyanide	"	(above)
Cadmium	sediment & water	(above)
Chromium	"	(above)
Nickel	"	(above)

Individual chemical fact sheets are available from the Wisconsin Division of Health. These brochures explain the known health effects of many of the chemicals listed in this table.

Printed on recycled paper

INFORMATION RESOURCES:

HEALTH

For health concerns you feel are related to the site, contact your physician. Explain your situation and to what you may have been exposed. Your physician may contact the County Health Department or Wisconsin Division of Health with any questions.

Dodge County Nurses
Court House
Juneau WI 53039-1373
(414) 386-4411 ext. 350

Mary Manering
Division of Health (DOH)
1 West Wilson
Madison, WI 53701
(608) 267-7199

The DOH will provide copies of the health assessment upon written request.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR):
Louise Fabinski
320 S. Dearborn
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 354-3681

REVIEW OFFICIAL RECORDS

F & M Bank of Ashippun
N533 Highway 67
PO Box 365
Ashippun, WI 53003
(414) 474-4416

PROGRESS ON THIS SITE

For information on the site contact: (Please specify the site when calling for information)

U.S. EPA - Region 5
230 South Dearborn
Chicago, Il., 60604
1-800-621-8431

Susan Pastor
Community Relations Coordinator

Tom Williams
Remedial Project Manager
(312) 886-6157

DNR - Department of Natural Resources
Celia VanderLoop
Project Manager,
Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707
(608) 266-3308

OTHER SITES

If you have concerns about other sites and think they may contain dangerous chemicals, contact the Solid Waste Coordinator at the DNR Southern District office below.

WELLS/ WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

For information regarding the safety of your well or water quality standards, contact the Water Supply Supervisor of the Southern District office at 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd., Fitchburg WI 53711, (608) 275-3266.

MARCH 1990

WISCONSIN DIVISION OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
IN COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH
AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

DE

Dist #3

The State of Wisconsin

BOARD OF HEALTH
STATE OFFICE BUILDING
MADISON 2

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO:
SECTION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION

Wisconsin State Board of Health
RECEIVED
JUN 12 1953
THIRD DISTRICT

June 9, 1953

Dodge Co. Ashippun
Waste

Messrs. Harold J. Durnford
James H. Durnford
Oconomowoc Electroplating Company
Ashippun, Wisconsin

Gentlemen:

There is enclosed herewith a copy of a report covering an investigation of the method of waste disposal of your electroplating and metal finishing plant at Ashippun, Wisconsin, made on March 18, 1953.

The findings in the report indicate that all wastes including electroplating, metal finishing wastes, and sanitary sewage resulting from operation of your plant in Ashippun is discharged to a septic tank with a capacity of approximately 750 gallons. The overflow of this tank is connected to a tile with resulting discharge of partially treated industrial waste and sanitary sewage to Ashippun Creek. The survey indicates that the cyanide and chromium contained in your industrial waste are toxic to both fish and animals and that their continual discharge to the drainage ditch readily accessible to children and animals results in a hazard to public health and welfare of the community. In addition, it is probable that during dry periods and low flow in the stream, that these toxic elements may exceed the lethal limit for fish and result in fish mortalities downstream from the sewer outfall.

The report further discusses the means by which metal plating and finishing establishments may reduce the quantity of wastes requiring treatment and suggests that a consulting engineer be retained to survey plant wastes and prepare plans and specifications for both industrial wastes and sanitary sewage.

The report concludes with recommendations for consideration by your company. It is requested that receipt of this report be acknowledged and information forwarded to this office indicating the action taken by your company in carrying out the recommendations of the engineer.

Very truly yours,

H. E. Wirth
Assistant State Sanitary Engineer

HSR:dv
Enc.

The State of Wisconsin

COMMITTEE ON WATER POLLUTION
(SEC. 144.51 — 144.57 STATUTES)

STATE OFFICE BUILDING

MADISON, WISCONSIN

June 9, 1953

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STATE HEALTH OFFICER
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

O. J. MUEGGE
STATE SANITARY ENGINEER
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Mr. O. J. Muegge
State Sanitary Engineer
Rm. 453 State Office Bldg.
Madison 2, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Muegge:

There is submitted herewith a report covering an investigation of the method of waste disposal of a metal plating company made on March 18, 1953.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Owner: Oconomowoc Electro-plating Company
Ashippun, Wisconsin

Officials: Harold J. Durnford, Partner
James H. Durnford, Partner

Products: Electro-plating and metal finishing of metals.

Wastes: Wastes include drag-out, leaks and spilling from the various plating baths, finishing wastes, and sanitary sewage. The measured waste volume on the day of the survey was 5,100 gallons excluding sanitary sewage waste volume.

Soil: Miami Bellefontaine yellow or gray-brown loam.

Stream: A small tributary stream to the Village of Ashippun.

Drainage Basin: Rock River No. 1

Location: The electro-plating and metal finishing plant of the Oconomowoc Electro-plating Company is located on Main Street in the Village of Ashippun, Dodge County, Wisconsin.

In order to determine the volume and characteristics of wastes discharged from the plant it was necessary to install a 6-inch rectangular weir in the sewer receiving wastes from the plating and metal finishing department of the plant. A record of waste flows and a composite sample of wastes proportional to the waste flows were obtained over an eight and one-half hour period during plant operations.