

CPS/Madison Industries

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD002141190

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 12

Middlesex

Old Bridge Township

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 12/1/1982

Final Date: 9/1/1983

Site Description

The CPS/Madison Industries site consists of two adjacent manufacturing facilities located on a 35-acre tract of land. The CPS Chemical plant, which was acquired by Ciba in 1998 and operated until 2001, processed, treated, and stored organic chemicals used in the production of water treatment agents, lubricants, oil field chemicals, and anti-corrosive agents. Madison Industries and a related business, Old Bridge Chemical, are still in operation. Madison Industries produces zinc compounds for fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, and food additives, and Old Bridge Chemical produces copper compounds used in fertilizers, and food additives. Since at least 1967, careless handling of hazardous substances on the two manufacturing facilities, including discharges into the public sewer system, have resulted in soil and groundwater contamination. The municipal wellfield for the city of Perth Amboy is downgradient of the site, and thirty-two municipal wells have been closed due to contamination attributed to the site. Prickett's Brook and Prickett's Pond, are also downgradient of the site, and may have been contaminated by the site from upwelling of contaminated groundwater; neither are used for recreation or as a drinking water source.

Based on 2002 aerial photography, less than 100 residences are within one mile of the site.

Site Responsibility

This site is being addressed through Federal, State, and potentially responsible party actions

Threat and Contaminants

Soil contamination at the closed CPS facility may pose direct contact risks to trespassers. The Madison/Old Bridge facility is still in use and the companies maintain health and safety plans to protect on-site workers; however, inadvertent exposure to hazardous substances and trespasser exposure are potential site risks.

Groundwater is contaminated with various volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and heavy metals including zinc, cadmium, copper, and lead. People who drink or are exposed to contaminated groundwater from the site may be at risk.

The sediments and surface waters of Prickett's Pond and Prickett's Brook (in the area near the site) are contaminated with zinc. While neither water body is available for recreational use, ingestion of water or contact with sediments may pose a health risk to children who play in the pond.

Cleanup Approach

Response Action Status

Interim Actions: The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) required CPS and Madison Industries to install groundwater pump and treat systems as a temporary measure to prevent contamination of the nearby Perth Amboy wellfield while further studies were performed. These systems began operation in 1991 and are still in operation. In addition, the New Jersey State Court has ordered the companies to provide NJDEP with funds for wellhead protection of the Perth Amboy supply wells. As a result, in 1994 Perth Amboy modified its wellfield to add water treatment.

Because of potential exposure risk to recreational use of Prickett's Pond and Prickett's Brook, fencing and no trespassing signs have been maintained to limit the potential for exposure.

Entire Site: Beginning in the 1990s, NJDEP signed separate Administrative Consent Orders with CPS and Madison

Industries to perform remedial investigations to evaluate the extent of site contamination. These field investigations have identified a number of on-site source areas, and Madison Industries and CPS have taken a number of on-site response actions to address these sources, either voluntarily or under the direction of NJDEP. The pace of voluntary action increased on the CPS property when the company was purchased by Ciba, and the facility was subsequently closed. To date, Ciba has removed all process equipment and some of the on-site buildings.

In 2003, NJDEP requested that EPA take the lead for the CPS/Madison site. Also in 2003, Madison Industries filed for bankruptcy protection, and Old Bridge Chemical followed suit soon thereafter.

In 2005, EPA signed an administrative order with Ciba to complete the RI/FS for its former facility, addressing contaminated soils and other facility problems, and to complete a comprehensive RI/FS for site groundwater. Field studies under this order are on-going. In addition, Ciba continues to maintain an interim groundwater pump and treat system at the site.

Madison Industries continues to maintain interim groundwater measures as well. Because of the bankruptcy status of the two companies, EPA is considering whether to proceed with federal funds to complete the RI/FS for the Madison/Old Bridge facility. Field work for this phase of site investigations is expected to begin in 2008.

Site Facts - The Evor Phillips Superfund site lies just north of the CPS/Madison site, and appears to be the source of some of the groundwater contamination found in the CPS/Madison monitoring wells. The comprehensive groundwater investigation will evaluate this issue.

Cleanup Progress

In addition to various on-site actions directed by NJDEP, interim groundwater recovery systems have been installed to contain the spread of groundwater contamination and protect the Perth Amboy wellfield, which provides a public drinking water supply. In addition, the municipal wellfield has added an air stripper to protect against VOC contamination. The recovery well system operated by Madison Industries is currently pumping and treating groundwater at a rate of approximately 80 gallons per minute and a CPS system is currently withdrawing about 30 gallons per minute. These interim measures, along with site security measures, may be required until comprehensive site remedies are selected and implemented.

Site Repositories

USEPA Records Center 290 Broadway, 18th floor New York, NY 10007 (212) 637-4308