

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5

**DATE:** August 16, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on August 4, 2006

**FROM:** Richard C. Karl, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Bharat Mathur  
Acting Regional Administrator

Norman R. Niedergang  
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Removal Completion, Western Rubber Site, Goshen, Indiana**

On June 19, 2006, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Ken Theisen and Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractors mobilized and began removal work at the Western Rubber site in Goshen, Indiana. The Western Rubber site was a rubber manufacture that produced parts for the auto industry that had been abandoned. With the removal of numerous containers of corrosives, thousands of gallons of flammable oils, numerous mercury switches, friable asbestos outside the building, gas cylinders, a small laboratory containing acids and peroxides, and various powders containing high levels of metals eliminated the threat to public health posed by these materials. The site was completed on July 14, 2006. Good relations were maintained with the City of Goshen throughout the project. The project was completed in the scheduled time frame and under estimated cost.

Contact: Ken Theisen (312-886-1959)

**Removal Start, Northwestern Plating Works Site, Chicago, Illinois**

On July 31, 2006, mobilization to the Northwestern Plating Works (NPW) Site occurred. U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Jim Mitchell and Mike Harris along with the Superfund Technical

Assistance & Response Team (START) contractor and an Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor will support removal operations at the NPW Site. Northwestern Plating Works, Inc., is a metal plating company that has been in operation since the 1920's. NPW base operations consisted of plating brass, zinc, copper, and cadmium to other solid surfaces for corrosion protection. According to the Chicago Department of Environment (CDOE), operations ceased at this facility in August 2005. However, the potentially responsible party (PRP) which is the current owner of the facility has been unresponsive in providing CDOE with a closure plan. Based on inspections by CDOE, large amounts of plating chemicals and waste from plating operations were stored at the facility in an unsafe manner. CDOE was concerned about the potential health hazards from chemicals and wastes at the site posed to nearby residents and other receptors, and the potential for the facility to dispose of the plating materials illegally. After apparent vandalism at the facility on March 6, 2006, CDOE referred the site to the U.S. EPA. Removal activities will continue at the site until all wastes are removed.

Contact: Jim Mitchell (312-353-9537)

**Ready for Reuse Document Issued, Augustus Hook Site, Frankfort, Indiana**

On July 13, 2006, U.S. EPA Region 5 issued its third Ready for Reuse (RFR) Document to assist with the redevelopment of the Augustus Hook site in Frankfort, Indiana. The Augustus Hook site is listed in Region 5's Superfund Redevelopment Initiative (SRI) Program as a Return To Use (RTU) site. Through the RTU process, U.S. EPA provides assistance to local communities to return sites that have completed the cleanup process but remain vacant, to productive use. Clinton County Economic Development Department has potential plans for a logistics warehouse/distribution facility on this 13-acre site.

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