

# NPL Factsheets for Illinois:

## **OUTBOARD MARINE CORP.**

## **EPA REGION 5**

Lake County  
Waukegan

**EPA ID# ILD000802827** - Last  
Update: February 2002

**10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

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## **Site Description**

The Outboard Marine Company (OMC) is located on the shore of Lake Michigan in Waukegan, Illinois. Land use in the immediate area is primarily industrial, however, a public beach is directly southeast. The OMC site is actually two sites within one boundary; the OMC polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) site and the Waukegan Coke Plant.

**OMC PCBs** - From approximately 1948 to 1971, OMC purchased an estimated 8 million gallons of hydraulic fluid which contained PCBs for die casting of outboard marine/recreational engines. PCBs were discharged through floor drains into a tributary of Lake Michigan and were ultimately discharged to Waukegan Harbor. As a result, 700,000 pounds of PCBs were estimated to be present on OMC property soils and 300,000 pounds of PCBs in the soils and sediments of Waukegan Harbor.

**Waukegan Coke Plant** - In the early 1900's a wood treating plant operated on the site, followed by a manufactured gas plant in the 1920's and a coke oven gas plant in the 1940's.

Soil and groundwater contaminants include coal tar [which contains many polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PNAs), phenols and volatile organic compounds (VOCs)] and ammonia (byproducts of the manufactured gas and coke operations). Other contaminants, primarily in groundwater, include arsenic, cyanide and heavy metals. The plant was purchased and disassembled by OMC in approximately 1972. Between 1973 and 1989, OMC used the site for fire training. Other more current uses include waste oil storage, parking, stockpiling of sand from a dredging operation, and testing of snowmobiles.

OMC declared bankruptcy in December 2000, complicating site cleanup actions. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the state are following the bankruptcy proceedings to try to ensure that OMC performs all required cleanup actions.

**Site Responsibility:** This site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

**NPL Listing History:** Proposed Date: 12/30/82  
Final Date: 09/08/83

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## Threats and Contaminants

The PCB cleanup of on-site soils and harbor sediments has been completed at the OMC site. However, groundwater and soils are contaminated with PNAs, ammonia, phenol and arsenic as a result of activities that occurred at the former Gas and Coke Plant. The primary way people could be exposed to hazardous chemicals from the site is by coming into direct contact with or accidentally ingesting contaminated soils or groundwater.

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# Cleanup Progress

**OMC** - By 1980, sampling had been conducted in the Waukegan Harbor and at the OMC site. In 1984, a Record of Decision (ROD) selecting a mixture of on-site containment and off-site disposal was issued by U.S. EPA. Design work began in 1985, but was halted due to litigation between U.S. EPA and OMC regarding access to the site. OMC subsequently submitted their own proposal to clean up the site and in 1989, U.S. EPA and OMC entered into a Consent Decree (CD) implementing OMC's cleanup proposal, and the decision was amended in 1989. Construction began in 1990, and included dredging of the harbor, on-site treatment of certain high concentration wastes, construction of three on-site containment cells and consolidation of contaminated soils and sediments within those cells, installation of groundwater extraction wells in the cells, construction of a new harbor slip and, most recently, construction of three on-site water treatment systems. All construction is complete. It is anticipated that water will be removed from the cells and treated for a very extended period of time.

**Waukegan Coke Plant** - This site was discovered when implementing the Waukegan Harbor PCB cleanup. U.S. EPA and the North Shore Gas Company entered into an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) in September, 1990, for completion of a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The RI was completed in February, 1995, and a final FS was released in November 1998. The site is fenced and exposure to soils and groundwater is limited.

U.S. EPA signed a ROD on September 30, 1999 for the final cleanup of the site. Groundwater will be cleaned up to remove arsenic, ammonia, and benzene; soils will be excavated and treated to stabilize PAH and arsenic. The design phase for this work began in 2001 and will be completed in 2002. Cleanup work will then begin in 2003.

# Contacts

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