

NPL Site Narrative for Tower Chemical Co.

TOWER CHEMICAL CO. Clermont, Florida

Conditions at listing (October 1981): The Tower Chemical Co. manufactured pesticides from 1970 until November 1980 on a 30-acre site in Clermont, Florida. About 1,000 people live in this area of Lake County, and much of the land is devoted to orange groves. The company used DDT as an intermediate and disposed of its wastes in a percolation pond. When rainfall caused the pond to overflow, damaging an adjacent wetland, the company constructed a spray irrigation field for waste disposal. The State never permitted the field. Tower Chemical stopped operations after two court orders prohibited the use of the field and of DDT. The land was later purchased by a real estate investment group. EPA first investigated the site in August 1980. At that time, EPA found that the percolation pond and an area where waste had been burned were contaminating surface water and ground water.

Status (July 1983): In June 1983, EPA issued an order to the company under CERCLA Section 106; the company did not respond to this order. Therefore EPA began remedial work at the site, including setting up a water treatment system for the percolation pond, excavating the burn site, and removing the soil to an approved disposal site.

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at [ATSDR - ToxFAQs](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.