

NPL Site Narrative for Southside Sanitary Landfill

SOUTHSIDE SANITARY LANDFILL Indianapolis, Indiana

Conditions at proposal (June 10, 1986): Southside Sanitary Landfill covers approximately 160 acres of the White River floodplain southwest of Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana. The area is heavily industrialized. Southside Landfill, Inc., owns the site and started landfilling in December 1971 and is still in business.

In 1971, the 34 acres on the north side of the area were licensed by both Marion County and the State for disposal of solid wastes. A 100-foot strip of land was excavated to depths of 3 to 6 feet. The loose dirt was piled on a 50-foot strip of land immediately south of the excavated area for use later as cover material. After the first excavated area was filled by alternate dumping of refuse and covering with a layer of dirt, a second area was excavated 150 feet south of the first one. After these areas were filled, the land between the two was excavated. In 1975, the site was expanded to 160 acres, plus buffers along the edges.

In all, more than 4 million cubic yards of waste have been buried at the landfill, according to estimates made by the U.S. Geological Survey. The wastes include coal tar, asbestos insulation, iron oxide sludge, paint waste, and clarifier sludge.

Metals, including arsenic, chromium, cadmium, and nickel, are present in ground water, according to analyses conducted by EPA. The landfill lies above a continuous shallow sand and gravel deposit along White River, Fall Creek, and Eagle Creek. About 6,100 people depend on private wells within 3 miles of the site that draw on the shallow deposit. The area has been described by several sources, including the Indiana State Board of Health, as having the greatest potential for ground water development (in terms of well yield) of any area in Marion County.

Eagle Creek is contaminated with metal compounds (aluminum, lead, and zinc), according to tests conducted by EPA. The creek is used for fishing and boating. All of White River and Eagle Creek is a potential habitat for the Indiana bat, a species designated as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The landfill continues to operate as a solid waste disposal facility under a State permit. The State has taken an enforcement action based on permit violation and is negotiating a settlement for the alleged violation with owners and operators involved with the site. In addition, the State is discussing measures to control leachate with the current owner/operator.

Status (March 31, 1989): Under an Agreed Order signed with the State on December 3, 1986, the current owner/operator constructed an underground slurry wall to control migration of ground water and a leachate collection system. The owner/operator is now seeking a permit from the State to construct a system for pretreating the leachate before it is discharged to the sewer system.

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.