

NPL Site Narrative for Brown's Battery Breaking

BROWN'S BATTERY BREAKING Shoemakersville, Pennsylvania

Conditions at proposal (October 15, 1984): The Brown's Battery Breaking Site is an abandoned battery recycling facility which operated in a rural area near Shoemakersville, Berks County, Pennsylvania, from 1961 to 1971. About 25,000 cubic yards of battery casings were found on the site, either whole or in pieces. In some instances, small pieces were used as a substitute for road gravel in the area.

The State detected lead in air near the site, in surface and subsurface soils on the site, and downstream in the Schuylkill River, which adjoins the site. The State found elevated blood lead levels in children living on the site.

Approximately 1,000 people use wells within 3 miles of the site as a source of drinking water.

In 1983-84, EPA spent \$1.4 million in CERCLA emergency funds to fence the site, excavate, consolidate, and cap contaminated soils on-site, and regravels the driveway leading into the site.

Status (June 10, 1986): In March 1985, EPA filed a complaint in the Eastern District Court of Pennsylvania against General Battery Corp. and another potentially responsible party for costs incurred during the emergency operations.

The State is developing a final workplan for a remedial investigation/feasibility study to determine the type and extent of contamination at the site and identify alternatives for remedial action.

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.