

# NPL Site Narrative for Velsicol Chemical Corp. (Marshall Plant)

## VELSICOL CHEMICAL CORP. (MARSHALL PLANT) Marshall, Illinois

**Conditions at listing (December 1982):** The Velsicol Chemical Corp. Site covers 20 acres about 1 mile north of Marshall, Clark County, Illinois. In the 1930s, the company built a plant there to produce resins. In 1946, the plant started to manufacture chlordane. In 1950, the company shut down its two resin units, but continued to produce the pesticide.

In the early years of operation, process waste waters were discharged from the plant without treatment. In 1965, an injection well was installed for disposal of both waste water and storm run-off. A second well was installed in 1973. These wells, under permit from the State, continue in operation. Part of the injection well system consisted of surface impoundments known as Ponds 5/6, which are now inactive. These ponds contain about 105,000 cubic yards of chlordane and sludge contaminated with hexachlorocyclopentadiene.

The surface impoundments have overflowed during heavy rain, and chlordane-related compounds have been detected in a drainage ditch and two monitoring wells. Analyses of water from wells adjacent to the impoundments strongly suggest that shallow ground water beneath the plant area is being polluted with chlordane-related compounds. Mill Creek, its tributaries, and the Wabash River are similarly contaminated.

**Status (July 1983):** The State and Velsicol are negotiating for the cleanup of Ponds 5/6.

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/toxfaq/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.