

NPL Site Narrative for Auto Ion Chemicals, Inc.

AUTO ION CHEMICALS, INC. Kalamazoo, Michigan

Conditions at listing (December 1982): The Auto Ion Chemicals, Inc., Site covers 1 acre in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Between 1963 and 1973, the company treated chromium plating wastes on the site. About 122,000 gallons of liquid plating wastes and sludges remain on-site in three basement areas and an outside concrete-lined lagoon. While the plant operated, the State documented numerous discharges of pollutants to the ground, sewers, and Kalamazoo River. Hexavalent chromium and cyanide were detected in spills on the ground and in the river. Two city wells located within 1.3 miles of the site may be threatened. The wells are part of the Kalamazoo municipal system, which provides water to over 100,000 residents.

In 1981, Kalamazoo tried to condemn the facility. The owner filed for an injunction, but the case was dropped when the property reverted to the State because the owner failed to pay taxes. Vandals have repeatedly destroyed sections of the fence around the site.

Status (July 1983): EPA is preparing a remedial plan outlining the investigations needed to determine the full extent of cleanup required at the site. It will guide further actions at the 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.