

NPL Site Narrative for Eastern Diversified Metals

EASTERN DIVERSIFIED METALS Hometown, Pennsylvania

Conditions at proposal (June 10, 1986): The Eastern Diversified Metals Site covers about 25 acres in Hometown, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. From 1966 to 1977, the company disposed of an estimated 157 million pounds of "fluff" (plastic waste insulation material) from recycling of copper wire in an open pile 60 feet high covering an area 500 by 3,000 feet. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (PA DER) found that the waste pile was producing phenolic leachate. In 1974, as a result of a Consent Agreement with PA DER, the company installed a waste water treatment plant, diversion ditches, and an interceptor that diverts shallow ground water to the treatment plant. The surface impoundment associated with the waste water treatment plant sometimes overflows into a tributary to the Little Schuylkill River, which is used for trout fishing within 3 miles downstream of the site.

Sludge from the waste water treatment plant was disposed of on top of the waste pile until 1983, when PA DER issued a Notice of Violation to the company. The sludge is now taken to a hazardous waste disposal facility regulated under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

The site is underlain by Mauch Chunk, one of the most important water-bearing formations in northeastern Pennsylvania. About 1,400 people are served by wells that are within 3 miles of the site and draw on the Mauch Chunk Formation.

Status (October 4, 1989): In October 1987, EPA, Theodore Sall, Inc. (present owner of the site), and AT&T Nassau Metals Corp. (a major source of plastic wire insulation deposited at the site during 1969-1977) signed a CERCLA Consent Order. The order called for a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) to determine the type and extent of contamination at the site and identify alternatives for remedial action. The RI included analysis of air, surface and subsurface soils, surface water (including bioassay tests), stream bed sediments, ground water, and the waste pile. No contaminants were found in air. However, organic and inorganic contaminants were found in soil and water samples. Draft RI/FS reports are scheduled to be submitted to EPA by the end of 1989.

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.