

# NPL Site Narrative for Lackawanna Refuse

## LACKAWANNA REFUSE

### Old Forge Borough, Pennsylvania

**Conditions at listing (December 1982):** The Lackawanna Refuse Site covers 258 acres in Old Forge Borough, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. In 1978, the State closed the privately owned site for accepting industrial waste without a permit. One 5-acre strip pit contains 10,000 to over 100,000 drums of hazardous substances. Wastes were also disposed of on other parts of the property, but it is not known if they contained hazardous substances. Leachate flows from the site into an intermittent stream and drainage ditches and into the nearby St. John's Creek, which flows to the Lackawanna River. Organic vapors have been detected in the air near the 5-acre pit.

**Status (July 1983):** EPA recently completed a Remedial Action Master Plan outlining the investigations needed to determine the full extent of cleanup required at the site. In summer 1983, EPA is scheduled to start a remedial investigation to determine the type and extent of contamination at the site. It will be followed by a feasibility study to identify alternatives for remedial action.

In 1983, the owners and operators of the site pleaded guilty to failing to notify EPA that hazardous substances were disposed of, paid a \$30,000 fine, and agreed to use the proceeds from any sale of the land to help finance a cleanup at the site. They were also convicted on criminal charges in a State action arising from operation of the landfill. The potential penalty associated with the State conviction is a fine of up to \$100,000, 4 years imprisonment, or both.

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.