

NPL Site Narrative for Carter Industrials, Inc.

CARTER INDUSTRIALS, INC. Detroit, Michigan

Conditions at proposal (June 24, 1988): Carter Industrials, Inc., operated an industrial scrap metal yard in Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, during 1971-86. This 3.6-acre site is at the north end of Humboldt Road, which ends at the yard. On-site facilities include a furnace for melting aluminum, a furnace for melting copper, a brick warehouse, and an office building. Numerous unsheltered piles of scrap metal and equipment are found throughout the yard.

On July 3, 1984, a fire broke out on the west side of the property in an area of wooden pallets and scrap iron mounds. After noting several transformers in the area of the fire, the city asked the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the fire marshall's office to investigate potential exposure to PCBs in the transformer oil. Oil was found near the fire area and near the base of three large transformers. Other transformers on the west side proved to be empty. Four soil samples were taken from various locations, including near the office and 150 feet south of the end of Humboldt Road, to measure background levels. PCBs ranged from 31 to 2,430 parts per million. Except for the areas noted, no conclusive evidence of oil storage or dumping was discovered on the west side of the property. However, other areas were not investigated.

A follow-up inspection by MDNR in May 1986 indicated serious environmental contamination at and around the site. Barrels of used PCB oil were stored on-site in and around scrap metal piles. Oil leaking from the barrels contained as much as 50 percent PCBs. Additional sampling in June 1986 indicated that contamination had spread well beyond the Carter Industrials property, including into backyards of nearby residences. The area is highly urbanized, with 34,000 people living within 1 mile of the site.

During June-October 1986, EPA used CERCLA emergency funds to carry out removal action at the site. Soil, air, and the interiors of nearby residences were extensively sampled. Private yards, streets, and alleys were cleaned with a high-power vacuum. Transformers and drums were removed to a facility regulated under the Toxic Substances Control Act. Soil and refuse were piled and stored on-site. Alleys and streets were repaved with 2 feet of asphalt, and the site was fenced.

In October 1986, MDNR found PCBs in the sewer leaving the site and at the sewer outfall in the Detroit River.

Status (March 31, 1989): EPA's emergency program continues to maintain the repaved areas around the site.

EPA is conducting a search to identify parties potentially responsible for wastes associated with the site. Notice letters will then be sent to those identified informing them of their potential liability.

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.