

NPL Site Narrative for MIDCO I

MIDCO I Gary, Indiana

Conditions at listing (December 1982): The Midwest Solvent Recovery Co. (MIDCO) I Site occupies 4 acres in an area of wetlands in Gary, Indiana. In April 1975, the company began storing and reclaiming thousands of drums of hazardous wastes on-site. The company apparently also dumped sludges and other wastes into a pit on the site. In December 1976, a fire destroyed more than 14,000 drums, essentially halting operations. In late 1977, operations started up again and stopped in 1979. Several thousand drums containing materials such as paint sludges, solvents, acids, caustics, and cyanides were left on-site, many of them leaking and deteriorated. The drums burned in the 1976 fire also remained. Surface water, ground water, and soils are contaminated.

In June 1981, using \$10,829 under Section 311 of the Clean Water Act, EPA fenced the site. In February 1982, with \$995,000 in CERCLA emergency funds, EPA removed the wastes and about 1 foot of soil and placed a temporary clay cap on the site, thereby alleviating the threats of fire, explosion, and human contact.

The Department of Justice, on behalf of EPA, has brought a Federal civil action seeking injunctive relief against parties potentially responsible for wastes associated with this site.

Status (July 1983): EPA recently prepared a Remedial Action Master 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.