
EPA Removes Dangerous Chemicals from Building

Advance Plating Site

Indianapolis, Indiana

December 2011

For more information

For questions, comments or information about the cleanup at the Advance Plating site you can contact these EPA team members:

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800-621-8431, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30
p.m., weekdays

On the Web:

www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/advanceplating

Read the documents:

You can review the official documents at the site repository located at:

**Indianapolis-Marion County
Public Library**
Garfield Park Branch
2502 Shelby St.
Indianapolis

Contractors under the oversight of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have begun a cleanup at the former Advance Plating Works site that involves removing hundreds of containers holding hazardous chemicals and preventing future trespassing on the property. The EPA is authorized to spend up to \$913,000 on the project under the Agency's emergency cleanup authority for sites that pose an imminent health threat to the public if left uncontrolled. The cleanup project is scheduled to last until March with short breaks during that period due to conflicts with another EPA activity and the city's preparations for the Super Bowl.

An EPA emergency responder inspected the site at 1005 E. Sumner Ave. in Indianapolis on Sept. 20 at the request of the Marion County Public Health Dept. Drums, bins, plating vats and other containers were found inside and outside the facility buildings. Many drums were unlabeled and in poor condition. Labeled drums included toxic, corrosive and flammable materials. EPA documented 163 drums, 10 totes, five plating vats, five pits and sumps, and hundreds of small containers that will have to be removed or drained. The labeled materials alone included hazardous chemicals such as sodium hydroxide, hydrogen peroxide, potassium, cyanide, sodium cyanide, sulfuric acid, hydrocyanic acid and nitric acid.

It was officially determined the abandoned drums, many of which were in poor condition and leaking, posed a health and safety threat to people and *continued on back page ...*



An EPA inspector discovered dozens of containers holding hazardous chemicals abandoned at this former metal plating operation located at 1005 E. Sumner Ave. EPA contractors secured the property and then began removing the dangerous materials in mid-December in a project that is scheduled to last until March.

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In addition, there was also a threat of fire or explosion from improperly stored flammable materials in a building where trespassing had occurred. A section of wooden fence had been pulled down, overhead doors in the rear of a building were open, and metal piping hanging over vats had been vandalized.

Cleanup plan

After the September inspection, EPA and its contractors in coordination with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management secured the site from further trespassing and began to organize for the main cleanup work that began in mid-December. The cleanup will involve cataloging and separating the drums and containers and collecting samples for laboratory analysis. Contractors will then remove the drums and containers and drain the vats and take the materials to a licensed disposal site. Workers will also dismantle and decontaminate processing equipment,

repair damaged fencing and install additional fencing where gaps exist.

Residents will see workers wearing hazardous material suits. A health and safety plan will be followed that protects both workers and residents from exposure to the hazardous substances. Air monitoring around the site will ensure hazardous fumes do not escape from the location. If a responsible party can't be found to reimburse EPA, the work will be paid from the Agency's emergency pollution cleanup fund.

Background

Advance Plating Works was a family-owned business that operated as a plating shop beginning in 1912 until 2009 when the company declared bankruptcy. Former operations at the facility included nickel, chrome, zinc, cadmium and copper plating. The 3-acre site contains two abandoned buildings – the plating shop and a warehouse. The neighborhood is mainly commercial, but a nursing home borders the site to the east and several houses sit a few hundred feet to the northeast.



An EPA emergency responder checks out some of the numerous drums containing dangerous acids and flammable liquids discovered in the abandoned Advance Plating facility. The drums will be removed and the site secured during the cleanup project that is expected to last until March.