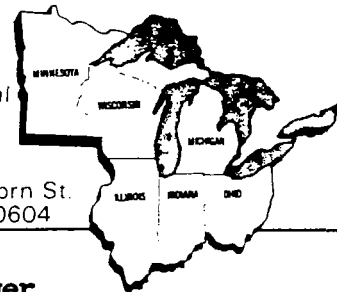


EPA Environmental NEWS RELEASE

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EPA PROPOSES 2 MIDWEST SITES FOR SUPERFUND LIST

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 announced today that U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery, Inc. (East Chicago, IN), and Refuse Hideaway Landfill (Middleton, WI), have been proposed for addition to EPA's National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites.

These sites were proposed because they pose a risk to human health and the environment, according to EPA's hazard ranking system. It is a numerically based system designed to evaluate such risks.

"It is important to get these sites proposed for the priorities list because this brings us one step closer to investigating suspected threats to local residents and the environment," said Regional Administrator Valdas V. Adamkus.

These 2 sites are among 30 nationwide being proposed for addition to the list. There are now 52 sites proposed and 1,183 sites currently on the list, for a national total of 1,235.

The total of final and proposed hazardous waste sites in Region 5 breaks down as follows:

Illinois	37
Indiana	34
Michigan	77
Minnesota	42
Ohio	33
Wisconsin	40
	<u>263</u>



Funds for cleaning up hazardous waste sites are authorized under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, better known as Superfund. Whenever possible, site owners and operators, as well as waste generators and transporters, are expected to pay for site investigations and cleanups. This preserves Federal funds for site investigations and cleanups when responsible parties are unable to pay or cannot be located.

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