National Priority List/Superfund: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Proposes Addition of 12 Sites

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The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has proposed the addition of 12 sites to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ("Superfund") to the National Priority List ("NPL"). See 86 Fed. Reg. 50515.

The 12 sites include:

Site	City/County, State
Westside Lead	Atlanta, GA
North 5th Street Groundwater Contamination	Goshen, IN
Lower Neponset River	Boston/Milton, MA
Bear Creek Sediments	Baltimore County, MD
Michner Plating – Mechanic Street	Jackson, MI
Southeast Hennepin Area Groundwater and Vapor	Minneapolis, MN
Meeker Avenue Plume	Brooklyn, NY
Bradford Island	Cascade Locks. OR
Ochoa Fertilizer Co	Guanica, PR
Galey and Lord Plant	Society Hill, SC
National Fireworks	Cordova, TN
Unity Auto Mart	Unity, WI
Paden City Groundwater	Paden City, WV

Sites listed on the NPL are eligible for government funded remedial action through the Superfund program. Placement of a site on the NPL can have significant financial consequences for the owner or operator of a listed property or other responsible parties.

EPA makes NPL determinations pursuant to Superfund authorities. Sites on the NPL are high priorities for remedial action due to their "relative risk or danger to public health or welfare or to the environment." EPA determines which sites to add to the NPL based on the Hazardous Ranking System ("HRS"), which quantifies site-specific risk factors based on scientific methodology.

The HRS evaluates relative threats to public health and the environment posed by uncontrolled releases or threatened releases of such substances. It uses information obtained from the initial, limited investigations conducted at a site. EPA uses the HRS to assign each site a score ranking from 0-100 based on the likelihood that contaminants have been or will be released from the site, physical and toxicological characteristics of the contaminants present at the site, and the human population or sensitive environment or potentially exposed to release from the site.

The HRS measures the risk posed by migration of hazardous substances through four possible pathways:

- Air
- Soil
- Surface water
- Groundwater

As to each of these four pathways, EPA calculates a score by measuring what it describes as factor categories:

1. Waste characteristics
2. Likelihood of release
3. Targets (i.e., an individual, a human population, resources and sensitive environments)

Subsurface or vapor intrusion was added as a hazard in 2018. The Minneapolis stie references vapor as a hazard.

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