**The Superfund**

**Hazardous Waste Research Project**

**Introduction**

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, otherwise known as the Superfund Law, was written to help clean up sites contaminated with hazardous substances. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is authorized under this law to identify individuals or corporations responsible for toxic sites and force them to restore them.

To enforce this law, the EPA has created a National Priorities List of sites that are eligible for funding under this law. This list can be accessed here: **http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/index.htm**

**Finding Local Superfund National Priority Sites**

1. Click on the link “Superfund site information”, available in the box in the upper right side of the page.
2. Type in your county name and select your state. *Note: If your county has few or no Superfund sites, you may want to try searching your entire state.*
3. Record any sites with an NPL status of “Final NPL” or “Deleted NPL”. These are sites that are currently, or were formerly designated Superfund cleanup sites.

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| **Site Name** | **NPL Status** |
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**Researching Superfund Site Details**

1. Click on the name of a designated Superfund (NPL) site.
2. Record the street address of the site.
3. Click on “More In-Depth Site Details” in the upper right box.
4. Read the site description and record each of the following: site description, specific hazardous chemicals found, and whether the site has been remediated yet or not. Record on the following data table.

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| **Site Name** | **Description** | **Chemical Contaminants** | **Current Status** |
| Outboard Marine Corp. Waukegan, IL | Hydraulic fluid was dumped into floor drains, which eventually lead into the nearby harbor and nearby soil. | Polychlorinated Biphenyls  Trichloroethene  Vinyl chloride  Coal Tar | Plant 1 – Soil cleanup complete.  Plant 2- Soil cleanup not complete. |
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| **Site Name** | **Description** | **Chemical Contaminants** | **Current Status** |
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**Identifying Toxic Chemicals**

1. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has a toxic substance database that can be accessed here: **http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/substances/toxsearch.asp**
2. Enter the name of one of the toxic chemicals present in a Superfund site above.

*Example: Vinyl Chloride*

1. Note if this substance is a carcinogen (causes cancer), teratogen (causes developmental disorders or birth defects), a neurotoxin, an endocrine (hormone) disruptor, if it irritates the skin or breathing passages, or has developmental effects.

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| **Toxic / Hazardous Chemical** | **Carcinogen** | **Teratogen** | **Neurotoxin** | **Endocrine** | **Respiratory** | **Skin Irritant** |
| Vinyl Chloride | X |  | X |  |  |  |
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**Remediation**

1. Superfund sites designated as “Deleted NPL” have been successfully remediated and are considered safe for redevelopment. Which sites fit this criteria?
2. Visit the Google Maps website at **http://** **maps.google.com.** Individually enter in the street address of each Superfund site *that has been successfully remediated*. What is there now? Would you feel comfortable living, shopping, or spending time at this site, given its past? Explain your answer.