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The United States
Environmental
Protection Agency

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EPA Responds to Emergency at Abandoned Facility

*EPA Reaches Settlement to Pay for
Waste Removal at Enviropur West
Corporation*

EPA began removing a million gallons of ignitable waste from the abandoned Enviropur West Southern California site in September 1996 and expects to finish the job this summer. Enviropur West Corporation treated hazardous waste and waste oil at its Signal Hill facility from 1984 until it went bankrupt in 1996. The Bankruptcy Trustee abandoned the Enviropur West property in September 1996, leaving behind tanks and drums containing approximately one million gallons of ignitable hazardous waste.

The site also included abandoned tank trucks and semi-trailers full of drums of waste. Many of the tanks and drums were rusted through and were releasing extremely hazardous organic vapors. The State of California asked EPA for assistance with the site. EPA immediately addressed the emergency by maintaining the flare vapor recovery system, providing site security at Enviropur and removing the waste for off-site treatment. Once the site is cleaned up, it will be part of an area the City of Signal Hill hopes to redevelop into a commercial zone.

Who's Paying For This?

EPA's legal team went to work finding potentially responsible parties to pay for the removal. EPA has reached a proposed agreement with some of the major generators, including 14 federal agencies—primarily military—and nine private parties. Under the proposed agreement, these major



When Enviropur West Corporation went bankrupt in 1996, tanks and drums containing approximately one million gallons of ignitable hazardous waste were abandoned at the site.

generators will pay for 75 percent of the removal costs (estimated at \$2.49 million). EPA intends to pursue nonsettlers for the remaining costs of removal of the aboveground waste. ○

If you have questions about the Enviropur West site or the work EPA is doing there, please contact either Richard Martyn or Jan Carlson:

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Enviropur West Corporation Site Profile

Site Description:

Former hazardous waste treatment facility

Site Size:

Four acres

Primary Contaminant:

Ignitable hazardous wastes

Nearby Population Affected:

Adjacent businesses in Signal Hill