

# Update on Investigation and Cleanup Activities

**Economy Plating Inc. Site**  
Chicago, Illinois

September 2009

## Public meeting

EPA will hold a meeting to update you on activities at the site:

**Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009**

6:30 p.m.

Vienna Beef Factory Store  
2501 N. Damen Ave.  
Chicago

## For more information

You may review site documents and other site information at:

### Chicago Public Library

Bucktown-Wicker Park  
1701 N. Milwaukee  
Chicago

## Web sites:

[www.epa.gov/region5/sites/economy](http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/economy)

<http://epaossc.org/economyplatinginc>

## Contact EPA

For questions, comments or for special accommodations at the meeting contact:

### Mike Joyce

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*Emergency response workers remove hazardous wastes from Economy Plating.*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will hold a public meeting Sept. 9 to update the community about ongoing cleanup activities at the Economy Plating Inc. site. At the meeting (*see adjacent box for details*), EPA will discuss cleanup activities and security measures already taken as well as additional work planned to complete the project. Economy Plating Inc. is a former plating shop that operated for about 70 years at 2348-52 N. Elston Ave. The facility was discovered vacant and abandoned in January 2009 by the Chicago Department of the Environment. DOE's inspection indicated the presence of numerous drums and containers that were filled with unknown and possibly hazardous liquids and solids. DOE ordered the owner of the property to clean up the site, but the owner was unable to comply so the location was referred to EPA for cleanup in May.

EPA conducted a site assessment of the property in June and found evidence of trespassing on the site. EPA also found approximately 195 containers and 12 chrome plating vats. Markings on the containers indicated they held chromic acid, hydrochloric acid, methyl acetate and oxidizer as well as other acids and unknown solids. Several containers were leaking and holes were found in the ceiling and walls in the basement. Samples were taken of the liquid and solid waste. Results of the sampling showed the presence of highly concentrated cyanide in some of the open containers plus chromium, cadmium and other wastes. Because of the immediate threat to human health, EPA returned to the site on June 13 and removed and disposed of the cyanide waste, secured the open and leaking containers, locked the building and put up signs to prevent further trespassing.



*EPA posted signs to discourage trespassing.*

## Additional cleanup activities

After removing the cyanide and securing the building, hazardous substances still remained at the facility. To finish cleaning up the site, EPA will conduct the following additional activities this summer and fall:

- Sample and determine the contents and hazards associated with the contents of all containers, drums, vats, tanks, and other unknown materials.
- Consolidate and package all hazardous substances and contaminants for transportation and disposal.
- Investigate the potential for contamination of the building's walls and floors plus soil on the property.
- Dismantle and decontaminate equipment containing hazardous substances such as tanks and vats, piping, and building components as necessary
- Transport and dispose of all contaminated substances that pose a substantial threat at an EPA-approved hazardous waste disposal facility.

- Take any actions necessary to manage any release or threatened release of any hazardous substance that EPA determines may pose an imminent threat to public health or the environment.

Once these activities are completed, EPA will transfer the site back to the authority of Chicago DOE or to Illinois EPA for further cleanup actions if necessary.



*Drums in the basement of Economy Plating.*

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