

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

ST. PAUL - CHEMOLITE - HUTCHINSON WET SCRAP DISPOSAL

1. 3M must currently dispose of four million gallons of chemical wet scrap per year (St. Paul Plant, Laboratories, Chemolite, Hutchinson).
2. For handling purposes, wet scrap is classified into four categories:
 - liquids
 - pumpable solids
 - non-pumpable solids
 - solvent soaked trash, bottles, cans, etc.
3. Until 1960 the only method of disposal available was landfill. Landfill operations were gradually reduced from 1960 until 1966 when they were discontinued.
4. Because of the potential water contamination hazard alternate methods of disposal were initiated as follows:
 - 1960 - Redistilling of waste solvents and resale by a vendor to reduce the volume of liquids to be landfilled.
 - 1961 - Experimentation with incineration of liquids began - no commercial equipment available.
 - 1962 - Pilot burner (#1) placed in operation at Newport by Commercial Chemical Company.
 - 1963 - A larger pilot burner (#2) placed in operation at Newport for liquids and pumpable solids, #1 burner scrapped.
 - 1964 - Experimentation with incineration of pumpable and non-pumpable solids.
 - 1965 - Commercial Chemical burner #3 installed at their new Savage site, for liquids, pumpable solids and non-pumpable solids. Burner #2 scrapped.
 - 1966 - Landfill operations closed at Woodbury.
 - Commercial Chemical burner #4 installed at Savage site.
 - 3M incinerator for burning of solvent soaked trash and for burning of other classifications of wet scrap on a standby basis, installed and being shaken down at the Chemolite site.
5. Water contamination at the Woodbury landfill site first appeared in April, 1966. Details about this contamination follow.