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3 area dumps among county's worst

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The following is a list of the 10 most serious abandoned hazardous waste dumps in Contra Costa County in terms of health and environmental factors.

The list is based on ratings published in July by the state

Department of Health Services.

It also indicates the dump's location, rough preliminary estimates of its cleanup costs, some of the substances discarded there, and what stage the cleanup is in.

1. United Heckathorn, 401 Wright St., Richmond.

Cleanup cost: \$7 million. Soil sampling shows "significant" levels of DDT, dieldrin, lindane, and other pesticides. Limited soil sampling performed; no cleanup plan prepared yet.

2. California Cap. Co., 47th St. and Hoffman Blvd., Rich-

mond. Cleanup cost: \$2 million. Early soil sampling showed high mercury contamination in two tests; later analysis also showed slight zinc, copper and other heavy metal contamination. Additional sampling pending; no cleanup plan formulated yet.

See 10, page 4.

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• 10 serious dumps listed

From page 1

3. West Contra Costa Sanitary District, Richmond. Cleanup cost: unknown. Part of barren lot littered with barrels containing sodium cyanide, acids, solvents; nearby soil tainted with the pesticide toxaphene and some PCBs. Cleanup completed.

4. Old Hercules Powder Works site, Railroad Ave., Hercules. Cleanup cost: \$10 million. Site has numerous 55-gallon drums filled with unknown materials and piles of spent chemical catalyst;

sampling of catalysts showed high levels of lead, zinc, chromium and copper. Additional sampling pending; no cleanup plan yet.

5. FMC Corp., 855 Parr Blvd., Richmond. Cleanup cost: \$15 million. Shut-down pesticide plant has reportedly left heavy pesticide contamination at the site. Some soil sampling; FMC has reportedly volunteered to excavate entire site for cleanup, if necessary.

6. Pt. Isabel Regional Park, Pt. Isabel and Central Ave., Richmond. Cleanup cost: \$10 million. Tests of shallow San Francisco Bay waters off park show extremely high levels of lead and zinc; probably caused by thousands of cut-up car batteries dumped along shoreline. Lead and zinc have heavily contaminated Bay mussels and littleneck clams; shellfish consumption has been banned. Additional sampling pending; county health officials have asked the site's owners, Santa Fe Land Improvement Co., to prepare cleanup plan.

7. Shell-PG&E chemical pond, Willow Pass Rd., West Pittsburg. Cleanup cost: \$2-\$30 million. Early tests of sediment in this closed 72-acre chemical pond and nearby piles of unidentified material show high levels of organic carbon, and further tests are planned. Some residents complained of bronchial and eye irritation from clouds of dust blowing from pond; PG&E flooded the pond to hold down the dust in 1978. No cleanup plan formulated pending further sampling.

8. Union Collier Co., Nichols Rd. and Port Chicago Highway, West Pittsburg. Cleanup costs: \$2 million. Tests at abandoned holding ponds at site showed high levels of arsenic, lead, selenium, and zinc. Also, large piles of waste gypsum, a byproduct of fertilizer manufacturing. Following inspection by state water officials in 1980, the waste materials were cleaned up.

9. Allied Chemical Co., Nichols Rd., West Pittsburg. Cleanup costs: \$700,000-\$2 million. After tests showed pesticide contamination, state water officials required company to build a thick dike around three abandoned chemical ponds. Company demonstrated to state Regional Water Quality Control Board that its new dikes and underlying solid were relatively impermeable and should contain remaining wastes.

10. Richmond Tank Car and Manufacturing Co., Ferry Point and South Garrard Blvd., Richmond. Cleanup costs: \$20,000. Sampling showed high concentrations of lead and selenium, a non-metallic byproduct of copper, and low levels of titanium. Investigators also discovered two buried metal tanks, but aren't sure of their contents. State water officials are currently investigating the site; no cleanup plan yet drawn up.

Key to dump sites

Known dump sites identified in Contra Costa County as shown on the map are:

1. Allied Chemical Corp., Nichols Rd., West Pittsburg.

2. American Smelting and Refining Co. (now defunct) Highway 40, Selby.

3. Bray Oil Co., 801 Wharf St., Richmond.

4. California Cap. Co., 47th St. and Hoffman Blvd., Richmond.

5. Chemical and Pigment Co., Port Chicago Highway and Nichols Rd., West Pittsburg.

6. Citation Developers, Railroad Ave., Hercules.

7. Copper Chemical Co., 2 Giant Rd., Richmond.

8. D&S Developers, Railroad Ave., Hercules.

9. Dexter-Hysol Corp., 2850 Willow Pass Rd., West Pittsburg.

10. Drew Vacant lot/Drew Sales Co., Castro St. near 7th St., Richmond.

11. Great Western Chemical Co., 860 Wharf St., Richmond.

12. Hercules Properties Ltd., Inc., Railroad Ave., Hercules.

13. Monsanto Co., 1777 Monsanto Way, Avon.

14. Pt. Isabel Regional Park, end of Central Ave., Richmond.

15. Richmond Tank Car & Manufacturing Co., Ferry Point & South Garrard Blvd., Richmond.

16. Shell Chemical Co./PG&E pond, Willow Pass Road, West Pittsburg.

17. Stauffer Chemical Co., 100 Mococo Rd., Martinez.

18. Stauffer Chemical Co., 1415 S. 47th St., Richmond.

19. Union Collier Co., Nichols Rd. and Port Chicago Highway, West Pittsburg.

20. United Heckathorn, 401 Wright St., Richmond.

21. Western States Chemical Co., east of Nichols Rd., West Pittsburg.