

NPL Site Narrative for Pratt & Whitney Air/United Tech

PRATT & WHITNEY AIRCRAFT/UNITED TECHNOLOGIES CORP.

West Palm Beach, Florida

Federal Register Notice: [September 18, 1985](#)

Conditions at proposal (October 15, 1984): The Pratt & Whitney Aircraft/United Technologies Corp. Site comprises about 7,000 acres in West Palm Beach in north central Palm Beach County, Florida. Jet engines have been manufactured and tested on the site since 1957. Pratt & Whitney is a Canadian-based operation and a division of United Technologies Corp.

On the site are a sanitary landfill where solvents were disposed of, a solvent storage tank that leaked approximately 2,000 gallons of trichloroethane through an underground valve, a solvent distillation area, and jet fuel heaters which contained PCBs until the mid-1970s.

Ground water and surface water are contaminated with PCBs and organic solvents, according to tests conducted by Pratt & Whitney. The company also found that the well serving its 7,200 employees is contaminated with solvents. Pratt & Whitney has installed a forced aeration system to remove volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from its well field and is involved in discussions with the State regarding PCBs and landfill remedial actions.

The plant received Interim Status under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) when it filed Part A of a permit application. In 1983, it submitted Part B of the application.

Status (September 18, 1985): In response to public comments, EPA completely re-evaluated the site and significantly changed its score on the Hazard Ranking System used to assess sites for the NPL. Consequently, EPA is reproposing the site and soliciting comments on the revised score.

On April 26, 1985, the company signed a Consent Agreement with the State under which the company is to implement a State-approved remedial action plan to deal with VOCs and PCBs.

Other areas of contamination, including PCB-contaminated soil and a buried leaking waste oil tank containing VOCs, have been discovered.

Status (June 24, 1988): EPA is proposing to drop Pratt & Whitney Aircraft/United Technologies Corp. from the proposed NPL. Because it is a treatment and storage facility, it is subject to the corrective action authorities of RCRA Subtitle C.

Under the State-approved remedial action plan, Pratt & Whitney is pumping and treating contaminated ground water.

In June 1987, the State issued a 5-year RCRA permit for treatment and storage units. EPA expects to issue the corrective action portion of the permit, which the State is not yet authorized to issue, later in 1988.

EPA intends to pursue cleanup under RCRA authorities and to ensure that the cleanup protects public health and the environment. Superfund enforcement authorities may also be used. EPA can later repropose the site for the NPL if it determines that the owner or operator is unable or unwilling to clean up the site effectively.

Status (October 4, 1989): EPA has dropped this site from the proposed NPL.

On September 21, 1989, EPA issued the corrective action portion of the RCRA permit. The permit covers investigation of 13 solid waste management units to determine corrective action needed and also covers 3 remedial actions now underway under Consent Orders between the company and the State. The company's workplan for the 13 units is now under review.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated with the HRS. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. See [56 FR 5600](#), February 11, 1991, or subsequent FR notices.]