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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "AGENCY WANTS GD SITE ON LIST OF WORST DUMPS" NAS
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Agency wants GD site on list of worst dumps

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WASHINGTON — A hazardous disposal site at the General Dynamics plant in Fort Worth should be listed among the nation's worst dump sites, the Environmental Protection Agency said yesterday.

The location continues to be a threat to health and environment, EPA officials said.

The site, known as Air Force Plant No. 4, has been of concern to federal officials for some time because hazardous substances were found in the early 1980s in a storm water outfall that drains into a creek on the west side of the plant.

Local officials have been concerned about possible contamination of drinking water in nearby areas such as White Settlement.

White Settlement and Defense Department officials have said the site poses no imminent threat to public drinking water.

The Defense Department has been cleaning up the site, but yesterday's action signals the EPA's intention to take a more direct role.

Federally owned sites do not qualify for money under the five-year \$8.5 billion Superfund program, which is financed largely by taxes on oil and chemicals.

But including the General Dynamics disposal site on the EPA's list of hazardous dumps — an action that could take six to 18 months — would force the Defense Department to clean up the site to Superfund standards.

"It prioritizes the site, and it provides EPA's Superfund oversight," said EPA spokeswoman Priscilla Flattery.

At EPA Region 6 in Dallas, spokeswoman Karen Brown added, "The fact that these sites are a substantial hazard we feel is the kind of information that should be available."

The General Dynamics site "poses enough of a threat to health and environment to rank inclusion on the list," Brown said.

The site is one of seven federal facilities that the EPA proposed adding to the Superfund list, officially known as the National Priorities List.



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