# March 2020 National Priorities List Rules

## Potential Sites for March 2020 Final Rule:

| Reg. | State | Site Name | City/County | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | DE | Blades Groundwater | Blades | PFOA/PFOS; non-compliance with RCRA |
| Nonresponsive based on revised scope | | | | |



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**Blades Groundwater, Blades, DE**

**Background (former site use):** Two co-mingled groundwater plumes from two electroplating facilities, one currently active and one former, are potential sources. Procino Plating has been operational since 1983. Peninsula Plating operated at that location from 1980 until 1995.

**Contaminants of Concern:** Chromium, copper, nickel, zinc and cyanide exceeding EPA screening levels and/or MCLs in groundwater and soil. PFOA/PFOS exceeding PFOA/PFOS health advisory levels (HALs) in groundwater. The site would score without PFOA/PFOS.

**Nature and Extent of Risk:** Groundwater in the contaminated aquifers serve as the sole-source drinking water for approximately 1,600 people living in the town of Blades who are served by three public and more than 100 private drinking water wells. Chromium, copper, nickel, zinc and cyanide significantly above background in groundwater. Levels of PFOA/PFOS in groundwater exceed EPA's PFOA/PFOS HALs. The residential area to the west of the site is a low-income area.

**PRP Information**: PRPs have not yet been definitively identified but potential facilities include Procino Enterprises (viable) and Peninsula Plating (viable, but minimal contribution likely).

**Notable Site Issues:** Both facilities are in the State's voluntary cleanup program but very limited investigation and cleanup work has been done. The facilities have been in non-compliance with RCRA and the Clean Water Act in the past and have had EPA enforcement and limited soil removal actions conducted to contain and manage the contamination. Groundwater contamination was not addressed in the past. The State requested EPA's assistance due to insufficient cleanup work under the state voluntary cleanup program (VCP).

**Other Cleanup Approaches Considered/Undertaken:** Prior to both PRPs entering the State VCP, enforcement actions were taken - violations were issued by the state and EPA. Procino Plating Inc. received notices of violation from DNREC-SHWMS and EPA for improper handling of hazardous waste in 1994, 2002, 2007, 2008, and 2009. EPA initiated a Federal criminal investigation for hazardous waste storage and wastewater treatment permit violations in 2009 which led to criminal charges against Procino Plating. In 2013, the owner entered a guilty plea for violations of the Clean Water Act, both on behalf of the corporation and as a private citizen. Procino Plating was sentenced to five years of probation and a $400 special assessment. The owner was sentenced to one year of probation, a $50,000 fine and $100 special assessment for illegal storage of hazardous waste without a permit under RCRA.

In 1995 the Fire Chief requested State and EPA assistance because the Peninsula Plating facility was abandoned, had violated EPRCA, and had a series of noncompliance with industrial permitting. Due to apparent threats from onsite contamination an Emergency Removal Action was performed to address bulk contamination and surface soils (August 1995 to December 1995).

A treatment system was installed in 2018 by the town of Blades on three public wells that exceed EPA'ss PFOA/PFOS HALs. The state of Delaware installed point of treatment for eight residential wells for those locations that exceeded EPA' s PFOA/PFOS HALs. Temporary measures taken to mitigate exposure included bottled water from February to May 2018 and then installation of a treatment system. Adding the site to the NPL is necessary for operation and maintenance of the treatment systems, continued cleanup of the two plating facilities, evaluation of other potential sources and restoration of the drinking water aquifer.

**Status of State Support:** Concurrence letter received August 30, 2019.

**Stakeholder Input:** The town of Blades owns/operates the municipal wells and the treatment system and supports proposal to NPL. The town has requested that EPA hold public meetings at major junctures in the site assessment process.

# Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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