

Helen Kramer Landfill

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD980505366

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 02

Gloucester
Mantua Township

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 12/30/1982

Final Date: 9/8/1983

Site Description

The Helen Kramer Landfill site encompasses a 66-acre refuse area. Three leachate collection ponds and an 11-acre stressed vegetation area were also present. The landfill originally was operated as a sand and gravel pit. The site became a landfill between 1963 and 1965, when landfilling occurred simultaneously with sand excavation. Several types of wastes were deposited at the landfill, including municipal wastes, septage, industrial wastes, and hospital wastes. Industrial wastes included sludges, waste oils, solvents, chemical intermediates, pesticides, plastics, acids and bases, heavy metals, catalysts, and paints and pigments. The bulk of these wastes were disposed of directly into the landfill, not in containers. The landfill ceased operation in 1981 through court-ordered closure. An underground fire at the site in 1981 burned for about two months. The population of Mantua Township is approximately 15,000. Edwards Run, a tributary of Mantua Creek and the Delaware River, is located immediately east of the former landfill.

Site Responsibility: This site was addressed through Federal actions. The State and responsible parties are responsible for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the remedy at the site.

Threat and Contaminants

Air sampling in 1983 revealed high levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Sediments from the former on-site lagoons contained heavy metals such as arsenic and cadmium, as well as various VOCs. The aquifer beneath the site is contaminated with heavy metals such as arsenic, chromium, lead, and cadmium, as well as various VOCs. Prior to the remediation of the site, gases released from the landfill posed a potential health threat to nearby residents.

Cleanup Approach

This site was addressed by one multi-component remedial action which focused on the containment of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Entire Site: Based upon the results of the remedial investigation and feasibility study, EPA issued a Record of Decision on September 27, 1985. The remedial design phase was then initiated. After the completion of the remedial design, the remedy was constructed at the site.

Cleanup Progress

(Construction Completed)

The major components of the remedial action included: (1) construction of a multi-layer cap over the site; (2) remediation of on-site lagoons; (3) construction of a slurry wall to surround the entire site; (4) construction of a ground water/leachate collection trench to prevent leachate from entering Edwards Run; (5) pretreatment of leachate from the collection trench prior to discharge to the Gloucester County Utilities Authority; (6) construction of an active gas collection and treatment system; and (7) implementation of surface water controls. Construction of the remedial action began in February 1990 and was completed in 1993. Operational activities are ongoing.

Long-term operation and maintenance (O&M) of the remedy includes: operation of the leachate and gas collection systems and the two associated treatment plants, maintenance of the cap and the surface water controls, and environmental monitoring. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for the long-term

O&M, which started in May 1994. There was extensive coordination to ensure the effective transfer of site responsibilities from the Federal government to the State of New Jersey. In May 1997, the Settling Parties in the State's cost recovery action started performing the long-term O&M at the site. EPA issued five-year review reports for the site in 2000 and 2005. The aforementioned five-year reviews documented that the remedy remained protective of human health and the environment. A five-year review report issued by EPA in September 2010 indicated that a protectiveness determination of the remedy could not be made until further information was obtained. EPA contacted the Settling Parties in March 2011 for assistance.

Site Facts: The United States sued potentially responsible parties (PRPs) for reimbursement of costs incurred. The case was settled in the summer of 1998. The PRPs agreed to reimburse the United States \$95 million plus interest.

Additional Links:

Record of Decision Abstract

Site Repositories

West Deptford Free Public Library, 420 Crown Point Road, West Deptford, NJ; and

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 290 Broadway, 18th floor, New York, NY 10007

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