



D-31-7-3-23

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

**WILDCAT LANDFILL SITE
KENT COUNTY
DOVER, DELAWARE**

**EPA WORK ASSIGNMENT
NUMBER 12.3V41.0
CONTRACT NUMBER 68-01-6699**

NUS PROJECT NUMBER 0718.59

SEPTEMBER 1984

AR500001



28

DI





Park West Two
Cliff Mine Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15275
412-786-1080

D-31-7-3-28

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

WILDCAT LANDFILL SITE
KENT COUNTY
DOVER, DELAWARE

EPA WORK ASSIGNMENT
NUMBER 12.3V41.0
CONTRACT NUMBER 68-01-8899

NUS PROJECT NUMBER 0718.59

SEPTEMBER 1984

SUBMITTED FOR NUS BY:

APPROVED:

GILBERT J. MEYER, JR.
MANAGER, COMMUNITY RELATIONS

DONALD SENOVICH
MANAGER, REMEDIAL PLANNING

AR500002

CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>		<u>PAGE</u>
1.0	INTRODUCTION	1-1
2.0	BACKGROUND AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS HISTORY	2-1
2.1	SITE HISTORY	2-1
2.2	COMMUNITY RELATIONS HISTORY	2-3
3.0	ISSUES AND CONCERNS	3-1
4.0	COMMUNITY RELATIONS OBJECTIVES	4-1
5.0	COMMUNITY RELATIONS TECHNIQUES	5-1
6.0	SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	6-1
6.1	REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION	6-1
6.2	FEASIBILITY STUDY	6-1
7.0	BUDGET AND STAFFING PLAN	7-1
8.0	INTERESTED PARTIES	8-1

AR500003

DRAFT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Wildcat Landfill Site is located near Dover in Kent County, Delaware. This Community Relations Plan (CRP) outlines the history of the site, including citizen involvement, and the community's concerns. Techniques and objectives recommended for addressing these concerns are provided to assist the lead agency in establishing constructive interaction and meaningful two-way communication with the community. In order to facilitate implementation of this plan, a general schedule and budget estimate are included in this document. A list of parties interested in the site concludes this CRP.

Information for this document was obtained from a Remedial Action Master Plan (RAMP) prepared by SRW Associates, Inc., and from onsite discussions held with local, State, and Federal officials, with the cooperation of the State of Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC). In addition, telephone interviews were conducted with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III officials. The State of Delaware is expected to have the lead on remedial actions for the Wildcat Landfill Site.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS HISTORY

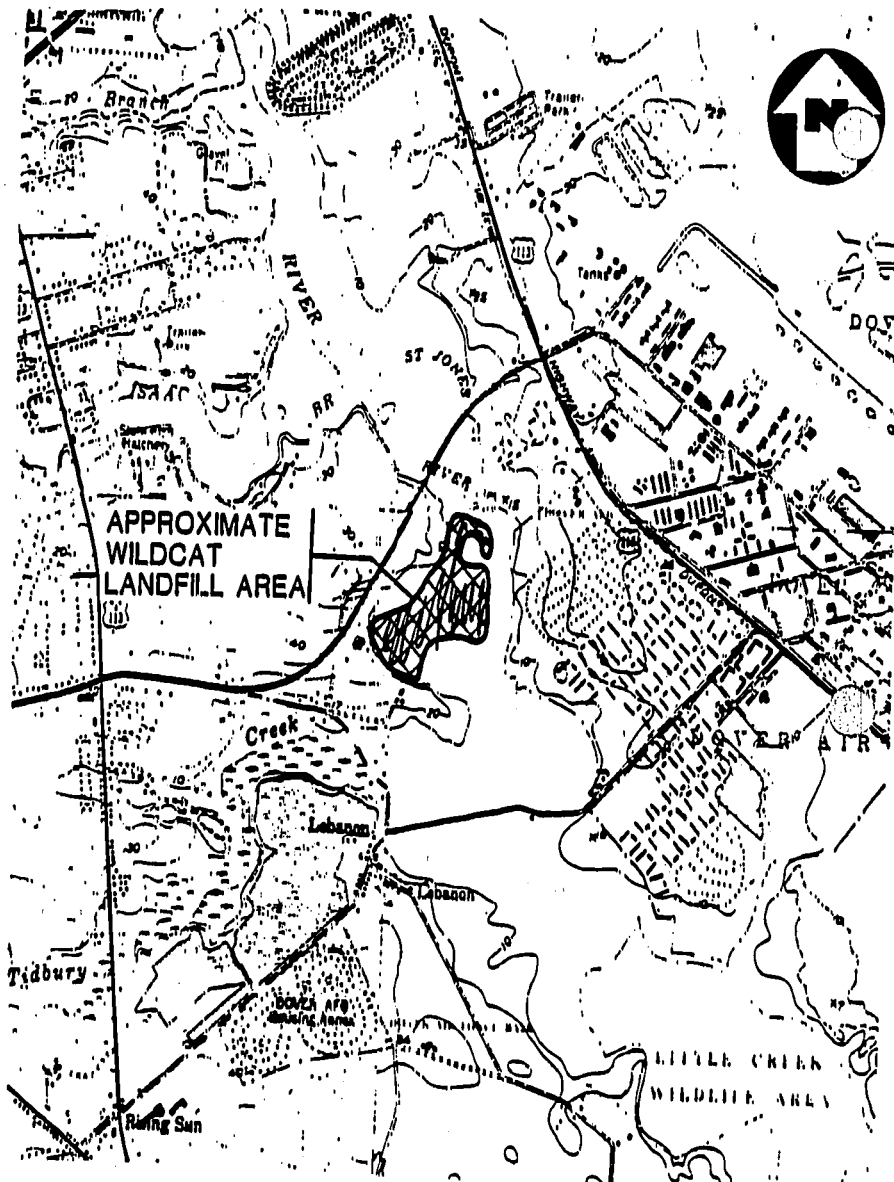
2.1 Site History

The Wildcat Landfill Site is located in a lightly developed residential area approximately 2-1/2 miles southeast of Dover in Kent County, Delaware. The ~~84-acre parcel of land is situated between the west bank of the St. Jones River and State Route 10 west of Dover in Kent County, Delaware. (See Figure 2-1, Location Map).~~ Isaac Branch and Tidbury Creek, tributaries to the St. Jones River, exist north and south of the site, respectively.

Approximately ~~10 acres~~ of this land parcel, situated in a low-lying wetland along the St. Jones River, were used for municipal and industrial waste disposal purposes. ~~Landfill operations began in 1962 and continued until 1973 when the landfill was closed by order of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) because of noncompliance with permit requirements.~~ Waste types dumped at the site reportedly included trash, bulk solids, liquid and solid latex, paint solvents, and chemical residues. The quantities of materials disposed of are not known. Liquid and solid wastes were mixed together, compacted, and covered. The owner of the site reported that bulk wastes contained in drums were disposed at the landfill and the empty drums recycled.

After its closure in 1973, the Wildcat Landfill Site was covered with borrow material from a racetrack area located adjacent to the site. The site has been revegetated and remains unused. There is both vehicular and walk-on access to the former landfill area. In various places, empty metal drums, tires, solid latex, and assorted municipal trash exist on site. ~~An estimated 400 empty drums lie on the surface or in depressions at the site.~~

Two ponds lie in the vicinity of the site. The landfill owner reported that the northern pond, adjacent to the landfill on the northwestern side, was an existing feature prior to waste disposal activities. A second pond, separate from the site



THIS BASE MAP IS A PORTION OF U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLES FOR DOVER, FREDERICA, LITTLE CREEK AND WYOMING, DELAWARE. (7.5 MINUTE SERIES, PHOTOREVISED 1981 AND 1982)

SITE LOCATION MAP
WILDCAT LANDFILL, KENT COUNTY, DE

SCALE: 1" : 2000'

2-2

FIGURE 2



DRAFT

and south of the nearby racetrack, was reported to have been formed as the result of excavation to provide cover material for the landfill.

Sampling at the site by the DNREC, EPA, and the Delaware Division of Public Health has indicated that ~~subsequent monitoring has not detected inorganic and organic contaminants in subsequent samples collected by the EPA in 1982~~ ~~indicated migration of contaminants into the St. Jones River.~~ The river, used for industrial water supplies, recreational activities, fishing, and navigation, is brackish and is therefore not used for drinking water or irrigation.

Most residents of the Dover area, including the personnel stationed at Dover Air Force Base, receive their potable water from public wells that draw from the deeper Piney Point and Cheswold aquifers. ~~It is estimated 136 homes receive their water from the shallow Columbia aquifer system in the vicinity of the site.~~ However, data assessing the extent of aquifer contamination do not presently exist.

The predominant land uses in the areas adjacent to the Wildcat Landfill Site are residential, business, and military. Farming takes place on land to the west and south of the site. Residential developments are located south and west of the landfill. Dover Air Force Base, located across the St. Jones River, is less than 1,000 feet from the site. The areas immediately adjacent to the landfill were used for recreational purposes, specifically, archery and go-cart racing. However, citizen complaints of noise and possible contamination of facilities put a halt to these activities in October 1982.

2.2 Community Relations History

Media coverage in ~~1977~~ drew public attention to the Wildcat Landfill Site. The ~~State Division of Environmental Control initiated legal action against the operation for violations of nine permit conditions.~~ Newspapers cited the failure of the Wildcat Landfill to adequately cover waste on a daily basis.

DRAFT

Public attention shifted from landfill operations to recreational activities when the site was closed in 1973. An area adjacent to the inactive landfill had been used to build a racetrack for go-carts, micromidget stock cars, and motorcycles. Picnicking and archery were also reported to have occurred near the landfill. The landfill and the racetrack are located on land owned by the same person. Noise associated with racetrack activities prompted citizen complaints and requests calling for an end to all racing activities. The issue came to a climax last winter when the Wildcat Landfill Site was placed on the National Priorities List. This listing created additional concern among residents in regard to potential risks to public health.

~~The Kent County Regional Planning Commission closed the racing operation in October 1982 for zoning law violations and denied the racetrack owner permission to operate the racetrack on the 6-acre site adjacent to the landfill.~~ The Commission cited (as reasons for the denial) complaints from neighbors concerning noise in the area and potential risks to public health from contamination emitted from the landfill. However, the Commission stated that it would welcome a reappliation for the racetrack after the issuance of a more detailed EPA report, later in the year. The planning commission's decision was upheld by the Kent County Levy Court in February 1983. The owner of the racetrack has complained that local residents are using the contamination issue as an excuse to close the racetrack. It is unclear at this point whether the Kent County Planning Commission will allow the racetrack to reopen if contamination from the Wildcat Landfill Site is not found to endanger public health.

While newspapers reported to the public that the St. Jones River was not being affected by contaminants from the Wildcat Landfill Site, concern appears to have been generated by groundwater testing and by the discovery of pollutants in a shallow well at the landfill. Residents in Pennwood Acres, near the landfill, were reportedly worried about their drinking water. However, no other information was available on this situation. During onsite visits, it was noticed that people continue to fish and crab in the St. Jones marsh area, apparently unconcerned about possible contamination of aquatic life.

3.0 ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The primary issues relating to the Wildcat Landfill Site center on land use, specifically, the operation of the go-cart racetrack rather than health risks associated with the contamination from the landfill. Residents living near the site have long expressed concern about the noise associated with the racetrack. This subject will most likely remain a primary issue in future site activities.

~~A secondary concern exists over the potential emission of methane gas from the landfill.~~ The owner requested permission to build a shopping center over the covered landfill, but permission was denied because of this potential threat. It is likely that land use issues will continue to emerge, since the owner would now like to use his land for purposes other than a landfill.

Offsite migration of contaminants also appears to be a community concern. However, recent reports stating that the St. Jones River is free of landfill contaminants may have quelled this concern. The potential for buried drums to corrode and release additional hazardous wastes was cited by newspapers as a possible problem in the future.

The fear that groundwater may become contaminated is, perhaps, the most serious concern for area residents. ~~Indications that possible groundwater pollution may be occurring from shallow aquifers on the site have prompted local officials and citizens to seek additional information on the extent of this problem.~~

Overall, the level of community awareness and concern can be characterized as moderate. Since the landfill has been closed for 10 years, the issue of the landfill itself has waned from public attention. ~~However, concerns over contaminants originating from the landfill, the potential for contamination of groundwater supplies, and the proposed alternative land use for the site could all possibly escalate this moderate level of citizen interest.~~

DRAFT



4.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS OBJECTIVES

The following objectives are recommended to establish meaningful, two-way communication between the community and government agencies:

- To provide the community with accurate, up-to-date information on ongoing site activities and the results of these activities.
- To seek citizen input on site activities and plans being considered.
- To assure that the media are provided with accurate information concerning contamination, plans for remediation, and the schedule for all remedial activities.
- To keep public officials apprised of all remedial activities and findings.
- To monitor and reassess the level of public interest and concern over the site.



5.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS TECHNIQUES

The following techniques are recommended to meet the stated objectives of this Community Relations Plan (CRP). These techniques and objectives should be modified and updated by reassessing the community relations program periodically.

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Technique</u>
To provide the community with accurate information.	Issue fact sheets to inform the public of ongoing activities and the findings of the studies conducted. These fact sheets should include the status of the race track operation. ?
	Establish an information repository in an accessible public location for all information available on site activities.
	Hold formal public meetings at the Alan Frear Elementary School to correspond with project development.
To seek citizen input on site activities.	Conduct a workshop to educate citizens and public officials on the nature of the problem.
	Hold public consultations with appropriate representatives of the community.

DRAFT

Objective

Technique

To assure that the media are provided with accurate information.

Issue press releases to correspond with project milestones.

Open lines of communication through telephone contacts between the press and representatives of the lead agency.

To keep public officials apprised of activities.

Conduct briefings of public officials as the project develops.

Initiate periodic telephone contacts with public officials to update them on project activities.

To monitor the level of public interest.

Conduct onsite discussions with members of the community to verify, clarify, and more accurately assess the situation.

Revise this CRP as the project develops.

Prepare and distribute a responsiveness summary.

DRAFT

6.0 SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

The following suggested community relations activities should correspond with the technical work plan prepared for the site:

6.1 Remedial Investigation

- Establish contact with community leaders through small group meetings.
- Establish an information repository.
- Prepare periodic fact sheets on site activities.

6.2 Feasibility Study

- Hold a briefing of local officials to discuss alternatives being considered for site cleanup.
- Issue a press release announcing the public comment period on cleanup alternatives being considered.
- Hold a public meeting to discuss cleanup alternatives and to solicit public input.
- Prepare and distribute a responsiveness summary.

DRAFT

7.0 BUDGET AND STAFFING PLAN

The following list indicates the recommended community relations activities that will be required at the Wildcat Landfill Site and the estimated staff hours required to implement them.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Work Hours</u>
Information repository (1)	10
Formal public meeting (1)	65
Fact sheets (3)	30
Work shop (1)	32
Public consultations (1)	8
Press releases (3)	12
Briefings (1)	30
Responsiveness summary (1)	<u>56</u>
Total	<u>243</u> ?

DRAFT

8.0 INTERESTED PARTIES

Federal

U.S. Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
486 Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-5042

Home Office:
6021 Boggs Federal Building
844 King Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19801
(302) 573-6345

U.S. Senator William V. Roth, Jr.
104 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-2441

Home Office:
3021 Boggs Federal Building
844 King Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19801
(302) 573-6291

U.S. Representative Thomas R. Cag^eper
1020 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4165

DRAFT

Home Office:
5021 Boggs Federal Building
844 King Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19801
(302) 573-6181

Joe Donovan, Community Relations Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III
Office of External Affairs
6th and Walnut Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106
(215) 597-9905

Bob Chadwick, Community Relations Specialist
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III
Office of External Affairs
6th and Walnut Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106
(215) 597-6728

*Ann
Carolina*

State

Governor Pierre S. duPont IV
Legislative Hall
Dover, Delaware 19901

Castle

Jeffrey Welsh
Robert Perkins, Press Secretary

Governor's Office
Legislative Hall
Dover, Delaware 19901

(302) 736-4101
Wilmington Office:
(302) 571-3210

DRAFT

State Senator William C. Torbert
Brady Lane Extended
Dover, Delaware 19901
(302) 697-1427

*734-3341
funeral home*

State Representative Gerald Buckworth
7 West Camden-Wyoming Avenue
Wyoming, Delaware 19934
(302) 697-2033

State Representative Edward J. Bennett
1129 Woodsedge Road
Dover, Delaware 19901
(302) 736-6485

Kathleen Jamison
Information Officer
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
89 Kings Highway
P.O. Box 1401
Dover, Delaware 19903
(302) 736-4506

William Razor
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
~~Water Resources Section~~
P. O. Box 1401
Dover, Delaware 19903
(302) 736-4764

Solidwest

Dace "Bubbles" Pierce

422-5262

674-0564

734-3431 (Pharmacy)

DRAFT

County

William Paskey, Levy Court President
RD 1
Box 420
Felton, Delaware 19943
~~(302) 284-4312~~

335-4421P

Donald Culver, Levy Court Commissioner
748 East Loockerman Street
Dover, Delaware 19901
(302) 734-7265

✶ Louis Giusto, Levy Court Commissioner
10 Smallwood Drive
Dover, Delaware 19901
(302) 697-9206 >

James P. Chao, County Engineer
County Administrative Building
Dover, Delaware
(302) 736-2101

Alan Thompson, Director
Kent County Planning Office
414 Federal Street
Dover, Delaware 19901
(302) 736-2010

DRAFT

Other

Dr. Robert Varen
Research Office
Water Resources Center
University of Delaware
Newark, Delaware 19711

Dr. Alan Block
University of Delaware
Newark, Delaware 19711

Dr. Thomas Mercer
907 South Governor's Avenue
Dover, Delaware 19901

218-3942

*116 Stuart Str.
1st house on right after Chensley*

Alan Hunn
RD1
Box 398
Dover, Delaware 19901
(302) 697-1339

Allen Cox
Wildcat Recreation Park
RD 1
Box 648
Dover, Delaware 19901
(302) 697-7073

DRAFT

Mrs. Fred Townsend, Secretary
Pennwood Acres, Inc.
19 Stuart Drive
Dover, Delaware 19901
(302) 697-3340

Penn Emerson, President
Pennwood Acres, Inc.
1979 South State Street
Dover, Delaware 19901
(302) 697-3234

Media

Newspapers:

News Journal, Pagon

The Wilmington Evening Journal

831 Orange Street
P.O. Box 1111
Wilmington, Delaware 19899
(302) 573-2169
Dover: (302) 734-7577

Contact:

Nancy Kessler
~~Cecile Conant~~
~~Joe Tranto~~

The Wilmington Morning News

831 Orange Street
P.O. Box 1111
Wilmington, Delaware 19899
(302) 573-2000

DRAFT

The Delaware State News

P.O. Box 737
Dover, Delaware 19901
(302) 674-3600

Radio:

WILM
Box 1990
1215 French Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19899
(302) 656-9800

WAMS
P.O. Box 3677
Wilmington, Delaware 19807
(302) 658-2500

WDEL
P.O. Box 7492
Wilmington, Delaware 19803
(302) 478-8898

WKEN
P.O. Box 563
Dover, Delaware 19903
(302) 674-1234

WAFL
P.O. Box 325
Milford, Delaware 19963
(302) 422-7575

WDOV
P.O. ~~Box~~ Drawer B
Dover, Del 19903

DRAFT

Television:

WHYY Channel 12
Fifth and Scott Streets
Wilmington, Delaware 19805
(302) 575-1515

KYW Channel 13 (NBC)
Fifth and Market Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19108
(215) 238-4700

WPVI Channel 6 (ABC)
4100 Cityline Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19131
(215) 878-9700

WCAU Channel 10 (CBS)
Monument and City Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19131
(215) 581-5510