

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 3
DELAWARE, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA AND THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**



**Hidden Lane Landfill
Sterling, VA
January 2012
Community Update Number 2**



THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) HAS DEVELOPED THIS FACT SHEET TO UPDATE YOU ON ONGOING CLEANUP AND INVESTIGATIVE WORK AT THE HIDDEN LANE LANDFILL SITE, AND TO INFORM YOU OF UPCOMING, ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION WORK THAT WILL ENSURE PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT REMAIN PROTECTED.

**NEW INFORMATION, AND ANOTHER
QUESTION**

EPA now has a much better picture of where the contaminated groundwater plume is, and we're beginning to develop a conceptual site model to show where it may be going. EPA's most recent data also indicates that there is a potential for contaminated groundwater to go even deeper than 350 feet.

As contaminated groundwater moves north towards the Potomac River, it also moves up to shallower zones. EPA believes that the contaminant plume is moving up as it moves north towards the Potomac River.

HOW WE LL GET ANSWERS

EPA is going back out to three of the newly drilled 350-foot deep wells and deepen them to 500 feet.

This work is a bit more complicated because of how deep we're drilling, but it will look very much like the well drilling we did last year.

Then EPA will perform geophysical studies and take samples from the newly deepened sections. This will tell us if and where groundwater contamination has moved.

The work will begin in January 2012 and we expect to be finished by June 2012. If, as EPA believes, the contamination has remained south of the Potomac River, then we can start evaluating cleanup options. If contamination is moving further north, we may have more work to do.

CLEANUP WORK CONTINUES

To protect public health, EPA placed the landfill on the National Priorities List of most hazardous waste sites in 2008 to make it eligible for funding from the federal Superfund cleanup program. Upon site listing, EPA :

- Took over maintenance responsibilities for water treatment systems in homes with contaminated wells previously maintained by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.
- Began investigating the landfill property and surrounding area. This phase is called the Remedial Investigation (RI). The RI includes:
 - Repairs and upgrades to the existing methane monitoring system around the landfill.
 - Regular testing of the upgraded methane monitoring system.
 - Testing of surface water and sediments in the Potomac River for trichloroethene (a.k.a. trichloroethylene or TCE).
 - Installing a system of 19 monitoring wells in and around the site to determine the location of the plume of contaminated groundwater in 2009.
 - Installing nine deeper monitoring wells (as deep as 350 feet) in 2010 and 2011 after EPA determined the plume of contaminated groundwater went deeper than originally thought.

SITE BACKGROUND BEFORE CLEANUP

The Hidden Lane Landfill was once a 25-acre privately owned and operated disposal facility north of Virginia Route 7 between the Broad Run Farms and Countryside communities. It is adjacent to the flood plain of the Potomac River. Starting in 1971, the facility accepted a variety of solid wastes including construction and demolition wastes.

The county closed the facility in the mid-1980s, and in 1989, this site was found to be a likely source of the degreasing solvent trichloroethene, which was detected in drinking water wells of some homes in the Broad Run Farms subdivision.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/sites/VAD980829030/index.htm>

Community Resources at EPA

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/>

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