

Conklin Dumps

New York

EPA ID#: NYD981486947

EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 22

Broome
Conklin

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 6/1/1986
Final Date: 3/30/1989
Deletion Date: 5/2/1997

Site Description

The Conklin Dumps site originally consisted of two landfilled areas totaling about 37 acres, referred to as the "Upper Landfill" and the "Lower Landfill." It is believed that only municipal solid waste was disposed of in the Lower Landfill, which was operated between 1964 and 1969. The Lower Landfill contained approximately 33,000 cubic yards of wastes before it was excavated and consolidated with the Upper Landfill in 1993. The Upper Landfill contained approximately 72,000 cubic yards of waste before it was consolidated with the Lower Landfill. It is believed that some industrial wastes were co-disposed with municipal solid wastes in the Upper Landfill. Testing conducted by Broome County found the ground water to be contaminated with heavy metals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Leachate from the site drains into Carlin Creek, a tributary of the Susquehanna River. Approximately 700 people live within 1 mile of the site.

The closest residents live 1/4 mile from the Upper Landfill's boundary. Approximately 2,000 people depend on wells within 3 miles of the site for their drinking water. The area immediately surrounding the Upper Landfill is proposed for development as an industrial park. The U.S. Department of the Interior has designated a large wetland on the site as an important biological resource.

Site Responsibility: This site was addressed through federal, state, and municipal actions.

Threat and Contaminants

Leachate from the landfill and the ground water underling the landfill contains various VOCs and heavy metals. Direct contact with or ingestion of contaminated ground water may pose a health threat.

Cleanup Approach

This site was addressed in a single long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Entire Site: Under state supervision, the Town of Conklin, the potentially responsible party, conducted a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) to determine the nature and extent of contamination at and emanating from the site and to identify cleanup alternatives. The study was completed in early 1991. In the spring of 1991, EPA signed a Record of Decision, selecting a remedy to clean up the site, which included capping the landfills, pumping and collecting leachate, and treating the leachate off-site at a publicly-owned treatment works. During preliminary design activities associated with the selected remedy, it was determined that the construction of a leachate collection trench and cap at the Lower Landfill would present significant engineering difficulties due to the proximity of the adjacent wetland and railroad tracks. In order to eliminate the leachate seeps at the Lower Landfill, it would have been necessary to install a leachate collection system below the water table. A leachate collection system installed below the water table, however, would have collected vast amounts of uncontaminated ground water and could have adversely impacted the adjacent wetland by dewatering a portion of it, unless hydraulic barriers were installed (which in itself could have adversely impacted the wetland). In addition, installing a cap on the Lower Landfill could have negatively impacted the adjacent wetland in that it would have encroached on the wetland. Due to these technical feasibility and environmental concerns, a modified remedy consisting of the excavation of the Lower Landfill, consolidation of the excavated Lower Landfill contents onto the Upper Landfill, capping of the Upper Landfill, and construction of a leachate collection and treatment system, was proposed by the Town. After careful study and analysis, EPA and NYSDEC agreed with the proposed modified remedy and issued an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) in August 1992, to explain the basis for

proposing a modified remedy. A final design for the modified remedy was completed in November 1992. The Lower Landfill was excavated and placed on the Upper Landfill in 1993. The capping of the Upper Landfill was completed in 1994. The installation of a leachate collection system and the construction of a pipeline to convey the collected leachate to a local sewage treatment plant was completed in January 1996.

The site was deleted from the National Priorities List on May 2, 1997.

Five-year reviews are undertaken at sites to ensure that implemented remedies protect public health and the environment and that they function as intended by site decision documents. In January 1998, January 2003, and January 2008, EPA issued Five-Year Review reports, which concluded that the response actions implemented at the site are in accordance with the remedy selected by EPA, as modified by the ESD, and that the remedy continues to be protective of human health and the environment. EPA will conduct another five-year review by January 2013.

Site Facts: In 1987, the State of New York signed a Consent Order with the Town of Conklin to conduct an RI/FS and to design and construct the remedy.

Cleanup Progress

The composition of the wastes that were encountered during the excavation of the Lower Landfill was primarily soil and decomposed organic matter intermixed with scrap metal, bottles and fabric from a local tent manufacturer. A total of 76,184 tons of soil and debris were excavated and placed on the Upper Landfill. The cap over the consolidated Lower Landfill waste and Upper Landfill covers approximately 37 acres.

To date, approximately 70,000 gallons of leachate has been collected and sent for treatment at the Binghamton-Johnson City sewage treatment plant in Vestal, New York. It is estimated that 25,000 gallons of leachate will be collected and treated annually for approximately 30 years (for a total of 750,000 gallons over the lifetime of the project).

Site Repositories

Conklin Town Hall, 1271 Conklin Road, Conklin, NY 13748

EPA Region 2 Superfund Records Center, 290 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10007-1866