

Colesville Municipal Landfill

New York

EPA ID#: NYD980768691

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 24

Broome
Colesville

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 10/1/1984

Final Date: 6/1/1986

Site Description

The 30-acre Colesville Municipal Landfill site was owned and operated by the Town of Colesville from 1965 until 1969, when ownership was transferred to Broome County. The landfill accepted about 9,000 tons of municipal refuse each year. From 1973 to 1975, industrial wastes, such as organic solvents, dyes, and metals, were deposited in the landfill. Two streams collect drainage from the landfill and empty into the Susquehanna River. The New York State Department of Health inspected the site in 1984 and detected volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the ground water.

Approximately 1,900 people live within 3 miles of the site and depend on private wells as their source of drinking water. The closest residence is 300 feet from the site. The area is rural and woodlands surround the landfill. The Susquehanna River is used for fishing and recreational activities.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through federal, state, municipal, and potentially responsible party actions.

Threat and Contaminants

Private wells, sediments, soil, and leachate draining from the landfill are contaminated with VOCs. Leachate drains into two on-site streams, which are tributaries of the Susquehanna River. Although the river is not used as a source of drinking water, it is used for fishing and recreation. Deer and wild turkeys forage for food on the site, and people who eat these animals, which may contain bioaccumulated contaminants, may suffer adverse health effects.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in two stages: an initial action and a long-term remedial phase focusing on the cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Initial Action: The County, a potentially responsible party (PRP), is providing residents with bottled water or activated charcoal filters for contaminated private wells and is monitoring the wells quarterly.

Entire Site:

In 1991, following the completion of a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) to determine the nature and extent of the contamination at and emanating from the site and to evaluate remedial alternatives, a Record of Decision was signed, selecting a remedy for the site. The selected remedy includes capping the landfill, installing a leachate collection system, collecting and treating contaminated ground water, and constructing and operating a new water supply system for the affected residents. The PRPs began the engineering design for the remedy in the spring of 1991. In 1994, the PRPs completed the engineering design for the capping of the landfill and wetlands restoration areas. The capping of the landfill and wetlands restoration was completed in October 1995. The alternate water supply (deep wells) design was approved by the State in 1995; the implementation of the design was, however, put on hold while the County attempted to purchase all of the impacted residences. Since all of the properties could not be purchased, two new deep wells were installed.

The results of pre-design field tests showed that the ground water extraction well system called for in the ROD is not likely to be an effective means of remediating the ground water. A pilot-scale treatability study was conducted to evaluate

the effectiveness of an in-situ reactive zone process. This investigation was completed in the Fall of 1999. A final ground water remediation design, using this technology in combination with a downgradient ground water extraction and treatment system, was approved by NYSDEC on August 24, 2000. Construction of the ground water remedy commenced shortly, thereafter. The completion of the construction was delayed due to the bankruptcy of GAF, one of the PRPs. After signing a new consent order with New York State, the County completed the construction in September 2002.

In September 2000, EPA issued an ESD to enhance the ground water remedy specified in the ROD by injecting molasses at the land fill on a periodic basis.

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. During an inspection of the site for an April 2000 five-year review, EPA found a spring and a low-lying wet area in the vicinity of the landfill. Contaminated water from the spring and the low-lying wet area discharge to nearby streams. An in-place treatment system was installed in late Summer 2003 to prevent the migration of contaminated water from the spring. Measures were taken in July 2004 to prevent the migration of contaminated water from the low-lying wet area. In September 2004, it was concluded that all actions at the site were complete. EPA conducted a second five-year review in April 2005. The five-year review report concluded that the remedy is functioning as intended by the decision documents and is protecting human health and the environment. EPA conducted a third five-year review in April 2010. The five-year review report concluded that the site-wide remedy protects human health. A protectiveness determination relative to ecological receptors cannot be made until additional information is obtained and corrective measures are undertaken, if necessary. Additional investigative work is being performed now. A report addendum is expected to be issued in fall 2011. The fourth five-year review will be conducted on or before April 2015.

Site Facts: The PRPs and the State of New York signed a Consent Order in 1987. Under this order, the PRPs performed an RI/FS and have agreed to conduct design and cleanup activities under state supervision.

Cleanup Progress

The capping of the 35-acre landfill and the treatment of the contaminated ground water has significantly reduced the threat to public health and the environment.

Site Repositories

Town of Colesville Town Hall, Harpursville, NY 13787

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