

PJP Landfill

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD980505648

EPA REGION 2 **Congressional District(s): 13**

Hudson
Jersey City

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 12/1/1982
Final Date: 9/1/1983

Site Description

The PJP Landfill covers 87 acres in Jersey City. The site may have been used as early as 1968 to dispose of an unknown quantity of chemical and industrial wastes. The State certified the landfill to receive solid wastes in 1971. Approximately 11,900 people reside within a 1-mile radius of the site. The closest residence is within 1,000 feet of the site. A high-rise apartment complex and a park are within 1/2 mile. The site is bordered by the Hackensack River on the west. The river is used for boating and for commercial shipping.

The landfill has a history of underground fires. Presently, the site is closed, fenced and the landfill is partially capped. Recently, a portion of the site was purchased by AMB Corporation. They have begun construction of a warehouse and transfer station. Jersey City has shown interest in using the remainder of the site for a recreation area.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through a combination of State, Federal, and Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) actions. NJDEP is the lead agency

Threat and Contaminants

The shallow ground water in the vicinity of the site is contaminated with the heavy metal chromium, phenols, various pesticides, and volatile organic chemicals (VOCs). The leachate from the landfill is contaminated with VOCs, including benzene and chlorobenzene, and the heavy metal lead. The deeper aquifer has not been significantly impacted by the landfill. Potential health risks are possible from the accidental ingestion of contaminated ground water and leachate, or from direct contact with the contaminants. The Landfill is fenced and the drinking water is supplied through a municipal system.

Cleanup Approach

The site is being addressed in two stages: initial actions and a long-term remedial phase directed at cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Initial Actions: In 1985, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) extinguished the landfill fires through major excavation work and capping of the landfill. In addition, a gas venting system was installed to prevent the buildup of gases within the landfill.

Long-term Remedial Phase of the Entire Site : NJDEP began an investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination, and to identify remediation options. All phases of the site investigation, which included field sampling of ground water, sediment, soil and surface water from the Hackensack River were completed in 1995. A Record of Decision (ROD), signed in September 1995, documented the remedy which includes: removing all buried drum materials; capping of the remaining landfill area; replacing of the Sip Avenue ditch with an alternative form of drainage; monitoring and modeling of groundwater/leachate; conducting quarterly site inspections; and creating institutional controls (e.g., deed restriction).

Site Facts: NJDEP entered into an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) with the PRPs for the Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA) for the Site on June 2, 1997. In 2007, Waste Management submitted a 100% Design Report which has been approved. In early 2008, AMB submitted an amended 100% Design Report for their portion of the site. The AMB design has been approved and construction began in the fall of 2008.

Cleanup Progress

Initial actions to extinguish underground fires at the site and the installation of a gas venting system have reduced the potential for exposure to hazardous contaminants at the site. NJDEP, with EPA concurrence, has issued a ROD for the site. The drum removal phase of the Remedial Design has been completed and activities associated with capping of the remaining landfill area have been initiated. About half of the landfill has been capped.

At the present time, EPA and NJDEP have approved the 100% remedial design submission for capping of the landfill owned by Waste Management. Construction is expected to start in 2009. The amended 100% remedial design submitted by AMB in early 2008 has been approved and construction began in the fall of 2008.

Site Repositories

Jersey City Public Library 472 Jersey Avenue Jersey City, NJ 07302 201-547-4516

US EPA Region 2 290 Broadway, 18th Floor NY, NY 10007 212-637-3261