

Asbestos Dump

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD980654149

EPA REGION 20 Congressional District(s): 11

Morris
Millington

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

Site Description

The Asbestos Dump site consists of the 11-acre Millington site and three separate satellite sites. The Millington site lies in a residential and commercial area. Beginning in 1927, a succession of owners operated an asbestos products manufacturing plant at the Millington site. Asbestos was disposed of at the Millington site, comprising a large mound approximately 1.5 acres in size. Prior to remediation, erosion and weathering of the mound exposed areas of asbestos along the Passaic River bank. One satellite site, known as the Dietzman Tract or the Great Swamp area, is located within the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, about 2 miles southeast of New Vernon Road. This site was used as a refuse and asbestos disposal area for approximately 40 years and is bordered by Great Brook and a woodland habitat. The New Vernon Road and White Bridge Road satellite sites are residential properties. The New Vernon Road site occupies approximately 30 acres. Broken asbestos tiles and siding, as well as loose asbestos fibers, were landfilled on this former corn and dairy farm during the late 1960's. The White Bridge Road site, covering 12 acres, is bounded by the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and private residences. This property was a farm until 1969, when the current owner started landfilling asbestos waste from the Millington facility. The wastes were present on the site as subsurface fill or as part of an asbestos waste mound. Disposal continued until 1975.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal actions.

Threat and Contaminants

Asbestos is the contaminant of concern at the site. Different levels and types of contaminants have been detected at the different subsites, however, asbestos has been detected at all four subsites.

Cleanup Approach

The four subsites comprising the Asbestos Dump site are being addressed in three operable units: the Millington site is the first operable unit, the New Vernon Road and White Bridge Road sites are the second operable unit, and the Dietzman Tract is the third operable unit.

Response Action Status

Immediate Actions: In 1983, the National Gypsum Company, a potentially responsible party for the site contamination, stabilized the Passaic River bank by correcting erosion that took place during heavy spring rains at the Millington site. In 1990, federally funded, temporary actions were conducted to immobilize asbestos contamination at the New Vernon Road and White Bridge Road sites. Removal activities were conducted at each property in response to a Health Advisory issued by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. These removal actions included: erecting signs and fences, sampling of air and soil, capping two driveways, covering visible asbestos containing materials with geotextile fabric, removing a dilapidated shed, and removing asbestos containing materials from the ground surface.

Millington Cleanup (Operable Unit 1): A Record of Decision was issued on September 30, 1988. The remedy selected by EPA for cleaning up the Millington site includes: installing a soil cover on areas of exposed asbestos; building a chain-link security fence around all areas of known or suspected asbestos disposal; protecting and stabilizing the slope along the base of the asbestos mound embankment; building channels to divert surface runoff; conducting operation and maintenance, and long-term monitoring. In 1990, the potentially responsible parties submitted a work plan for technical designs and specifications for the final cleanup at the site. However, as a result of a bankruptcy settlement with the PRP, EPA undertook the remedial design activities. In July 1998, the remedial design was finalized. Construction of the remedy for this portion of the site began in June 1999 and was completed in June 2000. In September 2001, EPA

approved the Remedial Action Report as well as the 30 Year Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan. NJDEP is conducting O&M activities. NJDEP is preparing the deed notice for this property, which is expected to be filed in 2008.

New Vernon Road and White Bridge Road Cleanup (Operable Unit 2): A Record of Decision was signed on September 27, 1991. The selected remedy involved in-situ solidification/stabilization treatment of asbestos containing materials. A treatability study was initiated in the fall of 1991 and completed in the winter of 1993. Remedial design activities were initiated in January 1992 and completed in May 1993. Construction activities began on July 14, 1994. Phase I, consolidation and solidification of asbestos containing materials, was completed as of December 1994. However, Phase II, which consisted of site restoration and wetland mitigation, was delayed due to the use of unacceptable fill material to backfill the residential properties. This issue was resolved at the White Bridge Road site and remediation of this property was completed in November 1995. In summer 1999, EPA conducted activities at the White Bridge Road property to install a French drain in a ponding area of the cap. In May 2000, EPA conducted activities to re-establish the vegetative growth at the site. In August 2000, EPA completed all activities at White Bridge Road. On February 8, 2002 EPA deleted the White Bridge Road property from the NPL.

In June 1998, EPA acquired the New Vernon Road property. In July 1998, additional work to complete remedial activities at the New Vernon Road portion of the site was initiated. This work, which included the excavation and off-site disposal of the unacceptable fill and site restoration activities, was completed in March 1999. In September 2000, EPA approved the final Remedial Action Report for the New Vernon Road portion of the Site. In January 2002, EPA, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) reached an agreement on the terms of the transfer of a portion of the New Vernon Road property to FWS to expand the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. In September 2002, the Final Remedial Action Report for New Vernon Road was completed. In September 2002, a 25 acre portion of the New Vernon Road property was formally transferred to the FWS and is now part of the Refuge. The remaining 5 acre portion of the New Vernon Road property was transferred to the State of New Jersey. NJDEP is conducting operation and maintenance activities for this property.

Dietzman Tract Cleanup (Operable Unit 3): The Dietzman Tract is located in the Great Swamp Natural Wildlife Refuge, which is owned by the U.S. Department of the Interior. A remedial investigation was initiated by the National Gypsum Company in 1986. Due to the bankruptcy of National Gypsum Company, the Dietzman property is being addressed by the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI). DOI completed an additional Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study for this operable unit (OU3) in 1997. As part of its field work, DOI conducted removal actions on small areas where asbestos contaminated materials may have been a potential exposure threat to refuge visitors. EPA issued a ROD in September 1998, and by November 1998, cleanup activities were completed including consolidation of asbestos and the construction of a cap to contain asbestos. In September 1999, EPA approved the Final Remedial Action Report (RAR) documenting that all remediation is complete at the Dietzman Tract portion of the Asbestos Dump site. Currently, FWS is conducting Operation and Maintenance activities.

Site Facts: EPA and the National Gypsum Company signed an Administrative Order on Consent in 1985, under which the National Gypsum Company agreed to perform site studies. In 1989, EPA issued a Unilateral Order to the National Gypsum Company for cleanup activities at the Millington site. In October 1990, the National Gypsum Company filed for bankruptcy and the government settled its claims against the Company in the winter of 1993.

The second Five Year Review for this Site was completed in September 2005. Representatives from EPA, NJDEP and USFWS conducted a site visit on May 23, 2005 as part of the Five Year Review process.

Cleanup Progress

Construction activities have been completed on all three operable units comprising the Site. Operation and Maintenance activities are ongoing. The White Bridge Road portion of the site was deleted from the NPL on February 8, 2002. Efforts to delete the remaining portions of the Site are ongoing.

Site Repositories

Long Hill Township Free Library, 91 Central Avenue, Stirling, NJ 07980 Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, 152 Pleasant Plains Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 USEPA – Records Center, 290 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10007-1866