

Clothier Disposal

New York

EPA ID#: NYD000511576

EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 24

Oswego
Granby

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 10/1/1984
Final Date: 6/1/1986
Deletion Date: 2/8/1996

Site Description

The Clothier Disposal site is a 15-acre privately-owned dump site, 6 acres of which were used from the early 1970s to 1984 to dispose of demolition debris, household wastes, junk vehicles, and approximately 2,200 drums of hazardous chemical waste from the Pollution Abatement Services, Inc. (PAS) site, which is also listed on the National Priorities List (NPL). In 1973, the Oswego County Health Department discovered drums containing various amounts of waste from the PAS site at the Clothier Disposal site, and reported it to state authorities. In 1976, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) brought suit against the owner of the property for operating an illegal dump. Subsequently, a temporary permit was granted for a period of one year to clean up the site. In 1977, the owner made an attempt to bury or cover the waste materials dumped on the site. In doing so, drums were broken open and drained. Between early 1978 and 1980, additional efforts were made by the owner to clean up the property. Again these efforts largely entailed burying or covering previously exposed wastes. In 1985, NYSDEC staged and characterized the wastes and drum contents. During these activities, it was discovered that approximately 80 drums were in danger of rupturing; these drums had to be placed in new containers immediately. It was also reported that prior to staging and sampling, up to 90 drums had already ruptured and their contents had leaked onto the ground. The site was listed on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) on June 1, 1996.

Approximately 160 people live within a 1-mile radius, with the nearest residence located 2,000 feet from the site. Residents in the area rely on private wells for drinking water. A wetland passes through the site to the west of the area used for waste disposal. Ox Creek flows through the site, feeding into the Oswego River, and a portion of the site is located within a 100-year flood plain.

Site Responsibility: This site was addressed through federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

Threat and Contaminants

Initially, volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, and high concentrations of heavy metals were found in the soil; barium in Ox Creek sediments; and heavy metals including cadmium, chromium and manganese in the ground water. Subsequent to a drum and visibly-contaminated soil removal action, the main contaminants found in the soil were low residual levels of polychlorinated biphenyls and carcinogenic polyaromatic hydrocarbons. Samples of on-site ground water and surface water and sediment collected from an adjacent wetland showed few and isolated instances of organic constituents, and when found, their concentrations marginally exceeded standards or guidelines.

Cleanup Approach

This site was addressed in two stages: initial actions and a long-term remedial action focusing on the cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Initial Actions: During 1986, drums were moved to a centralized on-site location. A number of potentially responsible parties (PRPs) subsequently removed 1,858 drums of waste. In 1987 and 1988, EPA removed the remaining drums and visibly-contaminated soil and debris associated with the drums.

Entire Site: In 1989, following the completion of a remedial investigation and feasibility study 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 called for regrading and placement of a 1-foot soil cover over the residually-contaminated areas and revegetating the site, installation of erosion control devices, as needed, on the embankment sloping toward Ox Creek, implementation of institutional controls to prevent the use of the underlying ground water or any land use involving significant disturbance of the soil cover, and long-term ground-water, soil, sediment, and surface-water monitoring. During grading activities for the soil cover, seven drums were uncovered. The drums and soil surrounding them were loaded into dumpsters which were removed in October 1992. A Close-Out Report, documenting the completion of the remedial action, was approved in December 1993. Long-term monitoring and inspection of the site, which commenced in April 1994, led to the discovery of three buried drums. The drums were excavated, overpacked, and removed from the site. As a precaution, a limited-area geophysical investigation was undertaken to determine the possible presence of other buried drums. This investigation led to the discovery of buried metallic debris, which was subsequently removed from the site.

The site was deleted from the NPL on February 8, 1996.

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 March 1998, March 2003, and March 2008, EPA issued Five-Year Review Reports which concluded that the remedy at the site was implemented in accordance with the remedy selected in the ROD and that the remedy set forth in the ROD is fully protective of human health and the environment. EPA will conduct another five-year review on or before March 2013.

Site Facts: In 1986, a Consent Order was signed with several PRPs requiring them to dispose of a number of drums located on-site. In 1989, the PRPs signed a Consent Decree to design and implement the remedy and to provide long-term monitoring and inspections at the site.

Cleanup Progress

The removal of 2,207 drums and visibly-contaminated soil significantly reduced the potential for exposure to contaminated materials at the Clothier Disposal site. The installation of the soil cover over the residually-contaminated areas provides additional protection.

Site Repositories

Fulton Public Library, 160 South First Street, Fulton, New York 13069

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