

Solvent Savers

New York

EPA ID#: NYD980421176

EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 23

Chenango

Lincklaen

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 12/1/1982

Final Date: 9/1/1983

Site Description

The Solvent Savers site covers 13 acres in the Town of Lincklaen. Industrial solvents and other wastes were brought to Solvent Savers Inc., a chemical waste recovery facility, for reprocessing or disposal from about 1967 to 1974. Operations included distillation to recover solvents for reuse, drum reconditioning, and burial of liquids, solids, sludges, and drums in several on-site areas. The quantities and types of wastes disposed at the site and their locations are not fully known. Two residences are located approximately 500 feet north and 1,250 feet south of the site. Public water supplies do not exist in the general area; therefore, the residents rely on private wells. The Town of Lincklaen has a population of approximately 500 people. Fifteen dairy farms are located in the Town. Pastures for dairy cows are located two miles from the site along a portion of Mud Creek, which is downstream of the site. Mud Creek is classified as a trout stream by the State and is used for recreational activities and livestock watering. In addition, alfalfa, corn, and other crops for human and livestock consumption are grown in the area.

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

Threat and Contaminants

The ground water, surface water, sediments, and soil are contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) which include, primarily, tetrachloroethene, trichloroethylene, and 1,1,1-trichloroethane. The soil and ground water contain inorganics, including arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, and lead. The soil is also contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Direct contact with contaminated ground water, surface water, soil, or sediments may pose a health risk. Cows grazing in nearby pastures may be harmed if contaminants migrate to the fields. Wildlife in and around Mud Creek may be exposed to pollutants seeping from the site into the water.

Cleanup Approach

The site is being addressed in two stages: immediate and long-term remedial actions focusing on the cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Immediate Actions: In early 1989, during site investigation field work performed by EPA, 127 drums were excavated and overpacked with leakproof outer drums. In December 1990, the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) removed the overpacked drums for off-site treatment/disposal at an EPA-approved facility. The PRPs also excavated 33 drums and drum parts buried on-site, which were removed for off-site treatment/disposal in September 1991. Contaminated soil, which was excavated in conjunction with the exhumation of the drums and drum parts, was removed for off-site treatment/disposal by the PRPs in November-December 2000.

Entire Site: In 1990, 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 the extraction and treatment of contaminated groundwater, excavation of the PCB- and VOC-contaminated soil, treatment of PCB-contaminated soil via off-site incineration, and treatment of the VOC-contaminated soils with on-site low temperature thermal extraction. The ROD also called for the performance of treatability studies to determine whether the low level VOC-contaminated soils could be treated using in-situ vapor extraction (ISVE), which involves drawing air through a series of wells to volatilize solvents from soils. The extracted vapors are treated in an activated carbon unit and monitored before being vented to the atmosphere. If the ISVE treatability studies showed that ISVE would be an effective means of treatment, then the remedy

would be so changed.

Following the completion of field sampling to better define the extent of the soil contamination, a pilot-scale ISVE system was designed and constructed to treat a portion of the VOC-contaminated soil. Since the completion of its construction in 1995, the system has been expanded and modified several times such that it now encompasses all of the unsaturated (above the water table) VOC-contaminated soil. In light of the success of the ISVE system in addressing the VOC-contaminated soils (the volume of VOC-contaminated soil has decreased from approximately 135,000 cubic yards to approximately 2,000 cubic yards), EPA changed the remedy for the VOC-contaminated soils to ISVE via a June 20, 2006 Explanation of Significant Differences. EPA also modified the remedy for the PCB-contaminated soils and two VOC-contaminated soil hot spots via a September 29, 2006 ROD Amendment. The modified remedy includes excavation of the contaminated soils followed by on- and/or off-site treatment /disposal. It is anticipated that the design related to the soil remedy will be completed in 2010.

The groundwater is being addressed under the requirements of the 1990 ROD. It is anticipated that supplemental pre-design groundwater investigation field work will be completed in late 2010. This effort will allow the subsequent completion of the design related to the groundwater in late 2011.

Site Facts: In September 1989, EPA issued an administrative order to the PRPs, directing them to carry out removal activities at the site, which included the disposal of the overpacked drums and the excavation and disposal of the buried drums and contaminated soils associated with these drums. In May 1991, EPA issued a second administrative order to the PRPs, requiring them to undertake design and cleanup activities in accordance with the remedy selected for the site. Following the approval of the ROD Amendment, a third administrative order was issued to the PRPs requiring them to undertake soil design activities in accordance with the the ROD Amendment. In September 2008, negotiations with the PRPs were completed, resulting in a consent decree settlement agreement for the completion of the remaining work on the soil and groundwater remedy design and construction.

Cleanup Progress

The excavation and off-site disposal of 160 drums and drum parts and approximately 200 cubic yards of contaminated soil have significantly reduced the threats associated with further migration of hazardous materials and contamination of the soil and ground water.

Design and treatability study activities related to addressing an estimated 121,600 tons of VOC-contaminated soil and 16,200 tons of PCB-contaminated soil are currently underway. The data that has been generated indicates that the ISVE system has been effective in removing the VOCs from the unsaturated soils in most areas; the volume of VOC-contaminated soil has decreased from approximately 135,000 cubic yards to approximately 2,000 cubic yards.

Site Repositories

Lincklaen Town Hall, DeRuyter, NY 13052

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