

# Batavia Landfill

## New York

EPA ID#: NYD980507693

### EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 27

Genesee  
Near Batavia

#### NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 10/1/1981

Final Date: 9/1/1983

Deletion Date: 11/29/2005

## Site Description

From the 1960s until 1980, several operations dumped industrial wastes at the 35-acre Batavia Landfill, which is now inactive. Drummed and undrummed wastes disposed of at the site include heavy metal sludges, oils, and organic solvents. The Galloway Swamp, a protected wetland, borders the site on the north and east. Liquids had been seen seeping from the landfill into the swamp, which contained heavy metals. Residential wells to the immediate south of the site were threatened by contaminants emanating from the landfill. The groundwater was the lone source of potable water for these residents. The surrounding area is rural; 200 people live within a 1-mile radius of the site. The underlying aquifer supplies drinking water to approximately 6,500 people living within a 3-mile radius of the site. A total of 1,000 private and public wells serve the population within 3 miles of the site.

Site Responsibility: This site was addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties' (PRPs) actions

## Threat and Contaminants

On-site groundwater is contaminated with lead and other metals, phenols, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Samples taken from nearby residential wells showed elevated iron and VOC levels. The heavy metals barium and lead were found in sediment and surface water samples taken from the Galloway Swamp.

## Cleanup Approach

This site was addressed in two phases: immediate actions and a long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

#### Response Action Status

Immediate Action : On July 31, 1990, EPA signed an Administrative Order on Consent with six potentially responsible parties to remove surface drums and visibly contaminated soils from the Batavia Landfill Site. In the Summer of 1991, 632 drums, some containing chemical wastes, were removed from the landfill.

Water Supply Remedy : A residential well survey conducted by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), in August and October of 1991, revealed the presence of site-contaminants in nearby residential wells. An interim Record of Decision was signed on March 31, 1993 which selected the provision of municipal water to the affected residents. On September 21, 1993, the EPA issued an Administrative Order requiring all the potentially responsible parties (7) to extend the local municipal water supply system to the residents living adjacent to the site whose potable water supply was threatened by contaminants from the landfill. The remedial construction of the municipal waterline extension was completed in October 1995.

Entire Site: In August 1984, NL Industries, Inc., one of the PRPs, and EPA entered into an Administrative Order on Consent to conduct an extensive remedial investigation (RI) of the site to determine the nature and extent of the contamination to the soils, sediment, surface water and groundwater. The RI was completed in August 1993. A feasibility study to evaluate alternatives for cleaning up the landfill was completed in September 1994. Subsequently, a Record of Decision mandating the remediation of the landfill was signed by the Regional Administrator on June 6, 1995. The major components of the selected remedy include the following:

1) Excavation and consolidation of wastes, contaminated soil and sediment under a NYS Solid Waste Standard cap in

the southern area of the site.

- 2) Excavation and removal of onsite buried drums for offsite treatment and disposal.
- 3) Construction of a leachate collection system.

On September 29, 1995, the Regional Administrator also signed an Administrative Order on Consent that required the PRPs to develop and perform the remedial design of the site remedy mandated by the aforementioned June 1995 Record of Decision. The remedial design was completed in August 2000.

## Cleanup Progress

On September 27, 2000, the Regional Administrator signed a Consent Decree requiring the PRPs to perform the remedial construction for the selected site remedy. The remedial action construction, completed by the PRPs in November 2002, was formally approved by EPA on September 26, 2003.

The removal of 632 drums from the site's surface (some were filled with hazardous wastes) which amounted to 35.3 tons of contaminated solids, 1,700 gallons of decontamination water, 27.1 tons of crushed drums and 55 gallons of cyanide-bearing oils, has reduced the risks of direct exposure to hazardous substances. The extension of the municipal water supply system to nearby residents has eliminated the potential threat posed by the ingestion of the ground water.

A Five Year Review completed in September 2005 has found that the consolidation of contaminated soils and wastes under a multilayered landfill, the collection and offsite disposal of leachate, and the continued groundwater monitoring of the local aquifer have all significantly reduced the potential for human and ecological exposure to hazardous materials at the site. The restored wetlands are supporting a diverse herbaceous plant community that meets the performance standards mandated by the 1995 ROD. The first Five Year Review for the site was completed in June 2000. A third Five Year Review is scheduled for completion by September 30, 2010.

The PRPs are required to implement long-term operation and maintenance activities at the landfill site. These activities include periodic inspections of the site, continued monitoring of the groundwater quality, maintenance of the wetlands and the placement of institutional controls to protect public health and the environment.

EPA and NYSDEC have determined that PRPs have implemented all appropriate response actions required and that the Site poses no significant threat to public health or the environment. A Notice of Intent to delete the site from the NPL was published in the Federal Register on September 30, 2005. The deletion became final on November 29, 2005.

## Site Repositories

Richmond Library, 19 Ross Street, Batavia, NY 14020.