

Wide Beach Development

New York

EPA ID#: NYD980652259

EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 30

Erie
Brant

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 12/30/1982
Final Date: 9/8/1983
Deletion Date: 8/30/1994

Site Description

Wide Beach Development is a 55-acre suburban development of 60 homes located in Brant, a small community on Lake Erie, north of the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation. Lake Erie is the western boundary of the Wide Beach Development. From 1968 to 1978, the Wide Beach Homeowners' Association applied about 155 cubic meters of waste oil to the local roadways to control dust. Some of the oil was contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). As a result, roads, driveways, parking spaces, storm drains, and homes were contaminated from the oil applications. In 1980, workers excavated soil from around the roadways while installing a sanitary sewer line in the development. Unaware that a PCB problem existed, some residents used this soil as fill in their yards and in a community recreational area. Subsequent sampling revealed PCBs in the air, road dust, soil, vacuum cleaner dust, and water samples from private wells. The site drains through a system of swales and ditches into a marsh and stream located south of the development. The stream flows into Lake Erie, as does surface runoff from the site. The area around the site is residential and agricultural. All residences in the development receive their water from private wells. Approximately 5,000 people within a 3-mile radius of the site depend on municipal and private wells for drinking supplies.

Site Responsibility: This site was addressed through federal actions.

Threat and Contaminants

Before the site was remediated, PCBs were detected in the air, ground water, sediments, soil, and surface water. Wetlands near the site were also contaminated with PCBs. Health hazards included coming into direct contact with contaminated soils, ingesting contaminated water, or inhaling contaminated vapors.

Cleanup Approach

The site was addressed in two stages: emergency response actions and a long-term remedial phase directed at the cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Emergency Actions: In 1985, in response to the levels of PCBs found in dust in Wide Beach homes, EPA acted to protect residents until a long-term remedy could be applied. This emergency action included paving the roadways, driveways, and drainage ditches; decontaminating the homes by vacuuming, rug shampooing, and replacing air conditioner and furnace filters; installing particulate filters on individual wells to protect the population from the sporadic PCB contamination in the ground water; and repairing a storm drain to alleviate flooding problems.

Entire Site: In 1985, 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: (1) excavating the PCB-contaminated soils in the roadways, drainage ditches, driveways, yards, and wetlands; (2) chemically treating the PCB-contaminated soils; (3) backfilling excavated areas with treated soils; and (4) repaving the roadways and driveways. The technical specifications for the cleanup were completed in 1989. Final cleanup actions commenced in March 1990 and the treatment of contaminated soils was completed in September 1991. In all, 36,160 tons of PCB-contaminated soils and sediments from the site's roadways, drainage ditches, driveways, yards, and wetlands were treated.

The design for the restoration of an on-site wetland area, which was unavoidably damaged by site cleanup activities, was

completed in 1991. The wetland restoration was completed in September 1992. A Close-Out Report , documenting the completion of the remedial action, was approved in September 1993.

The site was deleted from the National Priorities List on August 30, 1994.

Cleanup Progress

EPA performed numerous emergency response actions at the Wide Beach Development to make conditions safer for the residents while the investigations leading to the selection of the long-term clean up actions took place. Public health and the environment are protected now that 36,160 tons of PCB-contaminated soils and sediments have been excavated and dechlorinated.

Site Repositories

Brant Town Hall, Brant, New York, 14057

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