

Port Washington Landfill

New York

EPA ID#: NYD980654206

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 03

Nassau
North Hempstead

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 12/1/1982

Final Date: 9/1/1983

Site Description

The Port Washington Landfill site is a 54-acre portion of a municipal landfill. The landfill is located on a 139-acre lot. The site was used from the 1880s as a sand and gravel mining operation. Subsequent to mining activities, the property was used as a disposal area for construction debris. In 1973, the Town of North Hempstead purchased the property and operated it as a municipal landfill until closing it in 1983. Operation of the landfill during the 1970s resulted in the generation of an off-site soil gas plume composed of methane and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). In 1981, Southport Water District Well No. 5, located about 1,500 feet west of the landfill, was closed due to evidence of organic chemical contamination. There are approximately 4,500 people living within 1 mile of the landfill. Residential areas adjacent to the landfill are served by the Port Washington Water District. The closest public water supply well is located 2,000 feet south of the landfill. The aquifers of primary concern are the upper glacial, the Magothy, and the Lloyd aquifers. The landfill is bordered to the east by Hempstead Harbor. Site access is limited by fencing.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal, State, and municipal actions

Threat and Contaminants

Groundwater and leachate are contaminated with various VOCs. People could be at risk if they drink or otherwise come in direct contact with contaminated groundwater. The nearest public water supply well (Southport) has been taken out of service as a precaution against possible contamination, although no contaminants have been detected in this well; other supply wells in the vicinity of the site are routinely monitored to ensure the water is suitable for distribution. The landfill gas collection system and the landfill cap have addressed risks posed by contaminated soil-gas and soil contamination.

Cleanup Approach

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

Response Action Status

Immediate Actions : The Town implemented the following immediate actions: (1) installed numerous gas vents on the western edge of the landfill; (2) installed a manifold system to collect the vented gas; (3) flared the collected gas; (4) improved the existing leachate collection system; and (5) improved the dispersion of flared gases through the addition of a stack. In 1987, the Town removed and sampled about 60 drums that were discovered buried near the site. In 1990, the Town installed a perimeter gas collection and venting system.

Entire Site : In September 1989, EPA completed a Record of Decision (ROD) for the site which selected the following remedy to address site contamination: closure of the landfill; rehabilitation of the active gas collection system; additional perimeter gas venting; possible reactivation of the Southport well with air stripping treatment; and installation of additional groundwater extraction wells for the purpose of restricting further migration of contaminants in the groundwater. The Town of North Hempstead completed the first phase of landfill gas migration mitigation in 1993 and the capping of the landfill in the spring of 1997. Construction and optimization of the extraction and treatment system was completed in August 2000; it is anticipated that this system will operate for at least 30 years to achieve clean-up goals. The second phase of landfill gas migration mitigation, the extension of the gas collection system, was completed in March 2000.

Site Facts : A Consent Decree was signed by the EPA and the Town in 1990 for the Town to clean up the site. Also during 1990, the Town and the EPA signed an Administrative Order under which the Town installed additional gas vents

to prevent subsurface gas migration into a nearby industrial park.

Cleanup Progress

Capping of the 53-acre landfill has been completed, as have the two components of the landfill gas migration control system. The groundwater containment extraction and treatment system is completed and is operational. The system treats 150 gpm; to date the system has treated approximately 80,000,000 gallons.

EPA determined that all construction activities at the site were complete in July 2000. A five-year review was conducted in 1999 and a second five-year review was conducted in March 2004. These reviews indicate that the remedy selected for this site remains protective of human health and the environment. The Town submitted a plan to EPA to replace monitoring wells which were destroyed during the construction of an adjacent housing complex. These wells are currently being replaced and will subsequently be sampled. EPA performed a soil vapor intrusion investigation, which included sub-slab testing in the newly constructed development adjacent to the downgradient plume. Results of this sampling did not indicate that vapor intrusion was occurring.

Site Repositories

North Hempstead Town Hall Manhasset, NY 11030 516-869-6311

Community Involvement Coordinator, Cecilia Echols 1-800-346-5009