

# Hertel Landfill

## New York

EPA ID#: NYD980780779

### EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 26

Ulster  
Plattekill

NPL LISTING HISTORY  
Proposed Date: 10/1/1984  
Final Date: 6/1/1986

## Site Description

The 80-acre Hertel Landfill site located in the Town of Plattekill is an inactive waste disposal area that was established in 1963 as a municipal waste landfill. Approximately fifteen acres of the land were used for disposal. In 1970, Dutchess Sanitation Services, Inc. began hauling refuse from Dutchess County to the Hertel Landfill. Dutchess Sanitation purchased the landfill in 1975. The Ulster County Department of Health revoked the landfill permit in 1976 due to violations. This action and a Town ordinance prohibiting the dumping of out-of-town garbage at the landfill resulted in the permanent closing of the landfill in 1977. The site was proposed for inclusion on EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) in 1984 and was included as final on the NPL in 1986.

Approximately 1,350 people live within 3 miles of the site; approximately 500 people living within one mile. Residents within the area surrounding the site obtain their drinking water from individual wells. The site is situated in the valley of a tributary to Black Creek and is surrounded by wetlands.

#### Site Responsibility:

This site is being addressed through Federal, State and potentially responsible party actions

## Threat and Contaminants

In 1994, surface water and sediment samples were analyzed for metals, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), VOCs, and cyanide. VOCs and SVOCs were detected at all sampling locations, while PCBs were not detected in any samples. Some metals were also detected. Following the completion of the installation of a landfill cap in 1998, the monitoring program has included annual collection of sediment and surface water samples from three different areas: upgradient of the landfill, along the landfill's eastern edge, and downgradient of the landfill. The VOCs and SVOCs previously present in the surface water and sediment samples were no longer detected. Groundwater on site and surface water are contaminated with high levels of iron and manganese. Contaminants have seeped into the wetlands on the site, posing a possible threat to ecologically sensitive resources, wildlife, or aquatic biota.

Additional samples were collected in December 2003 to further characterize the nature and extent of iron and manganese at these two seeps. Iron and manganese concentrations at the seeps remain elevated and levels of risk continue to exist at these discrete locations. However, concentrations of iron and manganese in the surface water decrease with distance downstream of the seeps. Overall, surface water, sediment, and groundwater quality has improved. Results of the evaluation of sediment and groundwater data showed stability and consistency in site-related groundwater contaminant levels.

The January 2005 amendment to the 1991 Record of Decision includes a long-term monitoring program. Under this monitoring program, groundwater, surface water, and sediment samples are being collected and analyzed on an annual basis. In addition, nearby residential wells are being sampled annually.

## Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in two long-term remedial phases focusing on (1) the reduction of soil contaminant mobility by containment through the installation of a solid waste landfill cap and (2) the implementation of institutional controls and long-term monitoring of surface and groundwater.

## Response Action Summary

Entire Site: EPA has completed an investigation of the nature and extent of groundwater, surface water, and soil contamination at the site. A remedy for the site was selected through a Record of Decision (ROD) signed by EPA on September 27, 1991. The objectives of the remedy, as outlined in the ROD, are as follows: 1) minimization of infiltration of rainfall and snow melt into the landfill, thus reducing percolation and leaching of contaminants; 2) minimization of further contamination of the wetlands; and 3) reduction in the movement and toxicity of the contaminated leachate into groundwater, and subsequent downgradient migration of contaminants.

The important features of the remedy selected in 1991 were the installation of a landfill cap designed and constructed in accordance with New York State municipal landfill closure regulations, and the extraction, chemical precipitation and filtration of contaminated groundwater to remove dissolved metals, followed by ultraviolet oxidation of dissolved organic compounds. Construction of the landfill cap began in June 1997 and was completed in December 1998.

Since completion of the landfill cap construction, EPA used data from the on-going groundwater monitoring program to re-evaluate the necessity of the groundwater extraction and treatment program that was called for in the 1991 ROD. The results of that evaluation showed that construction of the landfill cap improved surface water, sediment, and groundwater quality, therefore, the groundwater extraction and treatment portion of the remedy was no longer necessary. The 1991 ROD was amended on January 21, 2005, eliminating the groundwater extraction and treatment program and modifying the remedy to include institutional controls.

Site Facts In September 1992, EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) to six potentially responsible parties (PRPs), directing them to perform the remedial design/remedial action (RD/RA). Ford Motor Company was the only PRP at the time to comply with the UAO. In February 1997, EPA issued a second UAO to eight additional PRPs, directing these parties to cooperate and participate in the site cleanup with Ford and with Golden Books Publishing Co., Inc. (formerly Western Publishing Co., Inc.), which had come into compliance with the first UAO. In September 1998, EPA entered into a Consent Decree settlement with eleven PRPs, all of whom had been recipients of one of two previously-issued UAOs for continued performance of the RD/RA. At the same time, EPA entered into a second Consent Decree settlement with eight other parties to recover costs associated with EPA's work at the site.

## Cleanup Progress

After adding this site to the NPL in 1986, EPA performed preliminary investigations and determined that no immediate actions were required at the Hertel Landfill site while an investigation leading to the final selection of a cleanup plan was taking place. Subsequent, more comprehensive studies have led to the selection of a cleanup plan through a Record of Decision (ROD) signed in 1991. The primary features of the 1991 ROD were the installation of a cap and extraction and treatment of groundwater. Construction of the landfill cap, which was completed in December 1998, included removal of approximately 10,000 cubic yards of waste material from the adjacent wetland area and consolidation of that waste in one main area of the landfill. Approximately 50 drums containing varying amounts of waste were also removed from the landfill during excavation and grading activities. The drums were sent to an off-site disposal facility.

The necessity of extracting and treating the groundwater was evaluated through an on-going groundwater monitoring program which was designed to determine the potential impact to the wetlands from groundwater extraction. It was also designed to determine if completion of the landfill cap would result in improved groundwater quality. Overall, surface water, sediment, and groundwater quality has improved. Results of the evaluation of sediment and groundwater data showed stability and consistency in site-related groundwater contaminant levels. The results also showed that there would be negative impacts on wetlands from the groundwater extraction and treatment program. Thus, EPA determined that the original groundwater extraction and treatment program was not necessary. An amendment to the ROD was issued in January 2005, modifying the selected remedy to remove the groundwater extraction and treatment program and include Institutional Controls and Long-Term Monitoring.

## Site Repositories

Plattekill Town Hall, P.O. Box 45, Modena, New York 12548 and the Plattekill Public Library, 2047 State Route 32, Modena, NY 12548.

U.S. EPA Region 2, Records Center, 290 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, NY, 10007