

C&J Disposal Leasing Co. Dump

New York

EPA ID#: NYD981561954

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 23

Madison
Eaton

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 6/24/1988
Final Date: 3/30/1989
Deletion Date: 9/20/1994

Site Description

During the 1970s, industrial wastes were disposed of in a trench on property adjacent to residential property owned by the C&J Leasing Company. The disposal site was never licensed or permitted for this purpose and the amount of material disposed of there is unknown. During 1976, C&J Leasing personnel were observed dumping what appeared to be paint sludges and other liquid industrial waste materials into the trench. An inspection of the site by New York State revealed 75 to 100 drums lying in a pool of liquid waste. The trench was subsequently covered with clean fill, reportedly by C&J Leasing, apparently burying the drums in the process. After the site was placed on the National Priorities List in 1989, C&J Leasing excavated the site without authorization. The drums that were believed to have been buried there may have been removed at that time, or earlier.

The area around the site is rural. There are twelve residences within 1,800 feet of the site which depend on private wells for drinking water. As many as 3,000 people live within 3 miles of the site and also depend on wells for drinking water. A small pond and wetland area are located approximately 100 feet downgradient from the disposal trench. The pond discharges to Woodman Pond, approximately 3,000 feet south of the site. Prior to 1989, Woodman Pond provided drinking water to an estimated 3,800 people in the Village of Hamilton; it now serves as a backup water supply.

Site Responsibility: This site was addressed through federal and a potentially responsible party's actions.

Threat and Contaminants

Soils in the disposal trench were found to be contaminated with a variety of hazardous organic compounds, including phthalates, phenols, and volatile organic chemicals, as well as lead. Surficial soil samples contained similar chemicals. Sediments from the small pond indicated contamination, as well. The contaminants in the trench were bound in the waste matrix and to the site soils, but could have been released in significant amounts into the ground water or migrated off-site in surface water runoff. Potential health threats included direct contact exposure, drinking of contaminated ground water, and eating fish or other aquatic life that have been contaminated. Migration of contaminants to an adjacent agricultural field posed a risk associated with eating foods grown there. Drainage of chemicals from the disposal area threatened Woodman Pond and state-designated wetlands, including an adjacent ecological preserve, Fiddler's Green.

Cleanup Approach

This site was addressed in two stages: immediate actions and a single long-term remedial phase that focused on the cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Immediate Actions: EPA stabilized several stockpiles of soil and waste material which were left from the unauthorized excavation of the trench by the C&J Leasing Company. Site security measures were upgraded by the installation of fences and gates, and sampling of the site was performed for waste disposal classification.

Entire Site: A remedial investigation and feasibility study was conducted in late 1989 to early 1991 to determine the nature and extent of the contamination at the site and its environs, and to evaluate remedial alternatives. A Record of Decision was signed in March 1991, selecting a remedy which called for the excavation, removal, and off-site disposal of the contaminated soil and debris at an EPA-approved disposal facility. The remedy also included quarterly monitoring of both on-site and off-site wells for a period of one year. Remediation of the adjacent pond was not required. In September

1991, one of the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) associated with the chemicals found at the site agreed to conduct the necessary design and cleanup operations at the site. EPA approved the proposed design for the cleanup in the fall of 1992; excavation and removal of the contaminated soil and debris was completed in January 1993. Although it was originally estimated that approximately 1,250 cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris were contained in the trench area, the discovery of additional waste material, which extended the trench further northward, resulted in the total excavation of more than 2,400 cubic feet of waste material from the trench. The waste material was taken to a permitted off-site disposal facility. The trench was backfilled and final site restoration (revegetation, etc.) activities were completed in June 1993. Quarterly testing of on-site monitoring wells and local residential wells was performed for one year following the completion of on-site remedial activities; no contaminant migration was found.

The site was deleted from the National Priorities List on September 20, 1994.

Site Facts: EPA issued an Administrative Order in May 1989 to prevent further unauthorized excavation of the site by C&J Leasing. In September 1991, one PRP signed a Consent Decree to reimburse EPA for its past expenditures related to its response actions at the site. A Unilateral Administrative Order was also issued in September 1991 to the same PRP, who performed the design and completed the implementation of the selected remedy during 1993. In February 2000, EPA entered into a settlement with the property owner (which was responsible for the disposal activities at the site) for the recovery of a portion of its past costs.

Cleanup Progress

The excavation of approximately 4,000 tons of contaminated soil and debris from the site and disposal in an EPA-approved off-site disposal facility has eliminated the threat to human health and the environment. Quarterly groundwater and residential well testing for one year following remediation indicated that no contaminants from the site had migrated to any of the on-site monitoring wells or to nearby residential wells .

Site Repositories

Village of Hamilton Public Library, 7 Broad Street, Village of Hamilton, NY 13346

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