

Little Valley

New York

EPA ID#: NY0001233634

EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 31

Cattaraugus
Little Valley

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 10/2/1995
Final Date: 6/17/1996

Site Description

The Little Valley site is located in a rural, agricultural area between the Village of Little Valley and the City of Salamanca. In 1982, the Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) detected trichloroethylene (TCE) in nearby private wells. A plume of TCE extends approximately 7 miles from the southern end of Little Valley to the northern edge of Salamanca, which is part of the Allegheny Indian Reservation. NYSDEC installed a number of monitoring wells in the area to investigate possible sources of the contamination, including a former drum storage area, a private disposal site next to the former drum storage area, an inactive municipal landfill which accepted industrial wastes, and industrial facilities. There are approximately 200 residences and small businesses in the immediate vicinity of the site which use private wells as the sole source of drinking water.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through a combination of federal, state, and municipal actions.

Threat and Contaminants

Between 1989 and 1995, the CCHD and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) sampled approximately 104 wells in the vicinity of the site. Of the wells that were sampled, 42 had levels of TCE greater than or equal to the NYSDOH drinking water standard of 5.0 micrograms per liter. While the levels of contaminants may not be significant enough to pose an immediate threat to public health, many of these wells have been contaminated since the early 1980s, presenting the residents with a potential long-term exposure risk. The CCHD issued health advisories to the exposed residents in 1989. Approximately six well owners independently installed granular activated carbon filter systems; others purchased bottled water.

Cleanup Approach

The site is being addressed in a single long-term remedial phase focused on providing an alternate water supply for the affected residents, identifying and controlling the source of contamination, and remediating the contaminated groundwater.

Response Action Status

Immediate Action: Based on preliminary investigations, EPA determined that the contaminant levels present at the site did not warrant immediate action while a focused feasibility study to develop, screen, and evaluate various alternatives for an alternative water supply system for the affected and potentially affected residences at the site was being conducted (see "Entire Site" section, below). Some residents, however, elected to install treatment units on their wells, and others purchased bottled water.

Entire Site: Focused Feasibility Study for Alternate Water Supply, prepared in-house, was completed in July 1996. Based upon the findings of the focused feasibility study, EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) on September 30, 1996, providing for an alternate water supply. The ROD called for the installation of point-of-use air stripper treatment units on all affected and potentially affected private wells.

Installation of the air stripper treatment units was completed in August 1997. Subsequently, granular activated carbon units were installed in addition to the air strippers to improve the overall contaminant removal efficiency. Since the air strippers were reaching the end of their useful life and the maintenance requirements associated with these units would likely increase, and because of the significant reduction in contaminant concentrations in the private wells, EPA

determined that granular activated carbon units alone would be able to effectively remove the contamination. These findings were documented in an April 2002 Explanation of Significant Differences.

Five-year reviews are undertaken at sites to ensure that implemented remedies protect public health and the environment and that they function as intended by site decision documents. In May 2002, EPA issued a Five-Year Review Report, which concluded that the individual treatment units are functioning as designed and have addressed the immediate threat to public health. EPA completed a second five-year review in May 2007. The five-year review concluded that the remedy is functioning as intended by the decision documents and is protecting human health and the environment. The third five-year review will be conducted by May 2012.

In September 1996, EPA initiated a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) to locate the source(s) of the TCE contamination, and to identify and evaluate measures to control or mitigate the source(s). Based upon the results of the RI/FS, EPA issued another ROD on August 19, 2005. The selected remedy called for the excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soils at one source area and monitored natural attenuation and institutional controls to address the contaminated groundwater. The ROD also called for an evaluation of the potential for soil vapor intrusion into structures within the study area and mitigation, if necessary.

A review of the residential well sampling results indicate that there are decreasing levels of contaminants in all but a few drinking water wells and there is no current unacceptable risk associated with exposure to the contaminated groundwater, because point-of-use treatment systems have been installed on all of the affected drinking water wells pursuant to the September 1996 remedy decision for the site. In addition, contaminants in these wells will reach drinking water standards in an estimated ten years. Therefore, EPA will continue to protect public health with the point-of-use treatment units that were installed.

In Fall 2005, in accordance with the selected remedy for the soil, EPA undertook pre-excavation soil sampling to define the boundaries of the soil contamination at the source area. The results from this sampling effort indicated that the volume of contaminated soil was substantially greater than originally estimated in the ROD (it has increased from approximately 220 cubic yards to approximately 3,000 cubic yards). Based upon a reassessment of the remedy and the positive results of a pilot-scale treatability study, on September 28, 2006, a ROD Amendment was approved changing the remedy to in-situ vapor extraction (SVE). The SVE system continues to operate.

Based upon the results of subslab and indoor air vapor intrusion sampling, mitigation systems were installed in two homes in late September 2006. Post-installation sampling results have shown that the systems are effective in addressing the subslab contamination at both homes.

On September 29, 2006, EPA approved a Preliminary Close-Out Report, documenting the completion of construction activities at the site.

Annual monitored natural attenuation groundwater sampling commenced in October 2006.

Site Facts:

Following the proposed listing of the site on the National Priorities List in 1995, EPA commenced a search for parties that might be responsible for the contamination. EPA initiated negotiations with one responsible party for the site in late June 2005.

Based upon results from the periodic sampling of the residential and commercial wells, additional treatment systems were installed. To date, a total of 91 treatment units have been installed at the site. In September 2002, the existing air strippers were removed and replaced with activated carbon treatment units. The dual-phase activated carbon treatment units will continue to provide potable water until drinking water standards are met at the site.

Cleanup Progress

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The SVE continues to treat the contaminated soil and MNA is addressing the groundwater.

Site Repositories

Town of Little Valley Municipal Building, 201 3rd Street, Little Valley, New York 14755

Salamanca Public Library, 155 Wildwood Avenue, Salamanca, New York 14779

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