

NPL Factsheets for Illinois:

YEOMAN CREEK LANDFILL

EPA REGION 5

Lake County
Waukegan

Other Names:

Waukegan Land Reclamation Project
Edwards Field - National Disposal

EPA ID# ILD980500102 -

10th Congressional District

Last Update: February 2002

Site Description

The approximately 70-acre Yeoman Creek Landfill site operated as a landfill from 1959 to 1969. The landfill has no bottom liner, and the underlying soils are permeable. More than 67,000 people in Waukegan are supplied with drinking water from a Lake Michigan intake located approximately three miles downstream from the site. About 14 active residential wells are located approximately 1/2 miles downgradient from the site. Apartments, businesses, and wetlands surround the site. Leachate has been observed seeping into Yeoman Creek since 1969, although the quantity decreased substantially after the site cover was upgraded in 1980.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal, State, municipal, and potentially responsible parties' actions.

NPL Listing History: Proposed Date: 06/24/88
Final Date: 03/31/89

Threats and Contaminants

Leachate from the landfill contains volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, and elevated concentrations of lead, manganese, iron, chloride, and ammonia. Some groundwater samples contained low concentrations of VOCs, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, and elevated concentrations of lead, chloride, and ammonia. Sediments of Yeoman Creek at the landfill, and farther downstream at Yeoman Park, contain PCBs and other organic chemicals. Landfill gases were detected migrating off-site. Combustible gases containing a number of VOCs were detected entering a building near the site. Preliminary results of the risk assessment indicate that future residential usage of the groundwater near the site would present an unacceptable health risk. There may also be significant adverse effects on wildlife in the adjacent wetland. VOC-contaminated gases present a health risk to residents of the building where they were detected, and the gases could cause explosions.

Cleanup Progress

This site is being addressed in two stages: immediate actions and a long-term phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site. In 1980, the city upgraded the site cover in most areas of the landfill under an agreement with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). In 1990, the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) installed a fence around the site, under an agreement with U.S. EPA. In mid-1994, the PRPs installed a ventilation system in a building adjacent to the site, under an agreement with U.S. EPA. The PRPs, under U.S. EPA supervision, conducted investigations involving ecological assessment and groundwater, leachate, and stream sampling to determine the nature and extent of the contamination at the site in 1995. The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed September 30, 1996, and the final cleanup remedy will entail sediment collection; installation of a flexible on-site landfill cover; continuation of measures to address landfill gases, and extensive long-term monitoring.

On April 28, 1998, a Unilateral Administrative Order was issued to the PRPs requiring the installation of a landfill gas collection system to remove explosive levels of landfill gas that had migrated to the basements and adjacent soils of certain buildings north of the site. Landfill gas at the site is known to contain VOCs in addition to methane gas. The landfill gas collection system was installed, modified several times and has not been able to achieve compliance at all monitoring points to date. A Consent Decree (CD) for Remedial Design (RD) and Remedial Action (RA) was entered by the court on April 7, 1999. Under the CD the PRPs collected additional data, conducted a long term monitoring program for the site, and designed the remedy at the site. Design activities have been completed. The remedial action includes sediment excavation, Remedial reconstruction of Yeoman Creek, waste consolidation, landfill gas collection and treatment, monitored natural attenuation and a multi-layer final cover. Initial construction activities will begin on february 1, 2002 including mobilization, clearing and surveying. Stockpiling of materials will begin in March 2002. Activities will continue through January 2004. The City of Waukegan received a superfund redevelopment grant and initial plans include use of the site for recreational activities. The local community is currently considering options for reuse of the site, including a nature park with pedestrian and bicycle paths and wildlife habitat.

Contacts

Remedial Project Manager

Matthew J. Ohl

(312) 886-4442

ohl.matthew@epa.gov

Community Involvement Coordinator

Mike Joyce

(312) 353-5546

joyce.mike@epa.gov