



At a Glance

Catalyst for Improving the Environment

Why We Did This Review

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is testing long-term monitoring results at Superfund sites the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has deleted from the National Priorities List. Jones Sanitation, located in Hyde Park, New York, is one of eight sites being reviewed.

Background

Jones Sanitation received and treated septic and industrial wastes containing hazardous substances. Remedial actions included consolidating and capping hazardous wastes. The Site was added to the National Priorities List in 1987 and was deleted 18 years later in 2005. Deletion signifies that EPA determined that clean-up goals had been achieved.

For further information, contact our Office of Congressional, Public Affairs and Management at (202) 566-2391.

To view the full report, click on the following link:
www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2009/20090923-09-P-0243.pdf

Independent Sampling Generally Confirms EPA's Data at the Jones Sanitation Superfund Site in New York

What We Found

In April 2008, the OIG obtained groundwater and surface water samples from the Jones Sanitation Superfund Site and nearby areas, and conducted a site inspection. Our independent sampling results were generally consistent with the sampling data that Region 2 has obtained historically. In addition, our site inspection showed the Site was properly maintained and secured, and is consistent with information Region 2 has obtained on the Site conditions.

Of the 113 chemical compounds that could be compared, Region 2 and OIG sampling results differed for only 11 compounds. OIG results for 7 of those 11 compounds exceeded applicable health standards. However, four of these seven compounds were contained within the Site boundaries and were, therefore, controlled by the remedy. In another case, a compound (lead) is not likely to have originated from the Site. Only sodium and nickel were found to exceed standards in the residential wells or potentially migrate off-site at levels above standards. Region 2 did not document a concern with these but concluded that the Site remedy remains protective to human health and the environment. Due to limitations in the Region's off-site monitoring activities, the Region needs to better document the rationale for its conclusions.

Region 2's lack of monitoring to determine whether nickel exceedances in the boundary monitoring well may be migrating off-site limits its ability to rule out the possible off-site migration of nickel exceedances. The Region's discontinuation of other off-site monitoring also limits its conclusions that sodium exceedances have no implications for the protectiveness of the Site remedy.

What We Recommend

We recommend that the Region 2 Regional Administrator demonstrate and document in an Addendum to the 2006 Five-Year Review that off-site migration of sodium, nickel, and any other compounds exceeding applicable standards are controlled at the Site. We also recommend that the Region modify and/or re-initiate some off-site monitoring if the Region determines it is needed to adequately support determinations of Site protectiveness. In its response to the draft report, EPA agreed with both of our recommendations and its proposed corrective actions should address our recommendations.