

**NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION**

**If you have any questions or
would like more information
about the site, please contact:**

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please contact the following
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Health Liaison Program

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**Site documents can be viewed
at the following document
repository locations:**

Amenia Town Clerk's Office

Mechanic Street

Amenia, NY 12501

(914) 373-8118

or

at the NYSDEC Regional

Office located in New Paltz

FACT SHEET

Upcoming Site Investigation

Amenia Town Landfill

Site Number 3-14-006

August 1998

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) have prepared this fact sheet to update you on upcoming activities at the Amenia Town Landfill site.

The site is listed as a Class 2 site in the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal sites. The Class 2 designation signifies that the site is believed to present a significant threat to human health and the environment, and that action is required.

This site is approximately 10 acres in size and is located on Route 22 in the Town of Amenia, Dutchess County (see figure). The site is predominately open grassy field, but also contains a fenced fuel storage area and helicopter landing pad on the north end of the site. A ravine with ponds, wetlands, and woods borders the site to the west and north. Beyond the wetlands and woods to the west and north is the Island Green Country Club golf course. The site is bordered to the east by Route 22, and to the south by woods.

The Amenia Town Landfill site was operated from the late 1940s until 1976. Except for a period between 1968-1971, the site was operated by the Town of Amenia as a municipal landfill. During the 1968-1971 operating period, records and County inspections documented the presence of industrial wastes at the site. In 1970, records and aerial photos confirmed the presence of large numbers of 55-gallon drums stored on site. Industrial wastes were reportedly removed from the drums and transported off-site in tanker trucks, with the empty drums either sold or crushed and buried on-site. County inspection reports and local residents reported leaking industrial wastes on-site and oil sheens on the site surface waters.

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

A preliminary site assessment called a Phase II Investigation was completed by LMS Engineers on behalf of the NYSDEC in 1993. As a part of this effort, surface soil, soil gas, surface water, and sediment samples were collected and analyzed. Analytical results from soil gas sampling indicated extremely high concentrations of several volatile organic contaminants, including vinyl chloride, benzene, toluene, xylenes, and others. In addition, numerous surface soil and sediment samples collected contained significant concentrations of PCBs. However due to the rural and relatively isolated nature of the site, it is not likely to pose an immediate human health risk to anyone other than site trespassers. A copy of the Phase II Investigation Report is on file at the document repositories listed on this page.

CURRENT SITE STATUS

The NYSDEC has recently begun negotiations with the Town of Amenia on a Consent Order (a legal agreement) which would require the Town to conduct a full remedial program at the site. Execution of a Consent Order is required if the Town wishes to receive State assistance for the remedial program. Utilizing funds from the 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act Title 3 program, the Town would be eligible for reimbursement of up to 75% of its expenses.

Under terms of the Consent Order, the Town will be required to procure a qualified engineering consultant to develop and conduct a full remedial program at the site. A remedial program typically consists of the following:

- Remedial Investigation (RI) to define the nature (soil, groundwater, surface waters, sediment, air, etc) and extent of site contamination
- Interim Remedial Measures (IRMs) which are sometimes appropriate to address specific site problem areas which can be addressed concurrently with the investigation
- Feasibility Study to screen and evaluate various remedial alternatives
- Preparation of Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) by the State which is presented to the public for comment
- Preparation of a Record of Decision (ROD) by the State which selects and details a site remedy
- Design of the remedy contained in the ROD
- Construction of the remedy
- Operation and maintenance of the remedy along with long term monitoring of the site to ensure the remedy is effective

IMMEDIATE SITE INVESTIGATION TASK

Previous inspection records and aerial photos, as well as results of the past Phase II investigation, suggest the possibility of drum disposal within the landfill. If drummed wastes are present within the site, significant additional work and costs will be incurred for the removal effort. It is therefore necessary to further investigate and attempt to confirm the presence of drums within the landfill.

The NYSDEC will have a contractor perform "test pit" excavations in several areas of the site believed to be the most likely to contain drums of hazardous waste. An excavator (typically a backhoe) will dig small trenches into the landfill waste in order to confirm the presence of buried drums. The objective of this effort will be to identify the presence and magnitude of any drum disposal, not to perform a removal effort. Should the presence of drums be confirmed through these excavations, a future removal effort will be developed and implemented. A health and Safety plan will be implemented during the investigative work to protect both the site workers and the surrounding area.

The test pit program is currently expected to begin in late August or early September. Information obtained from this effort will be used by the Town and the NYSDEC to determine if an IRM (such as a drum removal) is appropriate and should be included in the remedial program. This information will be of particular importance to the Town, since they would be obligated under a Consent Order to perform the IRM.

When the remedial program for this site begins, additional Fact Sheets and informational activities will be used to keep the public informed of the site status.