

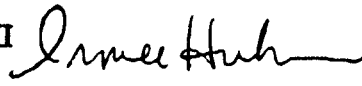
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**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT**

I. HEADING

Date: October 30, 1998

From: Irnee Huhn, OSC, Region II
Removal Action Branch



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Subject: Amenia Town Landfill, Amenia, Dutchess County, New York

POLREP NO.: Initial (1)

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.:	LZ
Delivery Order No.:	2100-02-032
Response Authority:	CERCLA
CERCLIS ID#:	NYD980641559
NPL Status:	Non-NPL
State Notification:	NYSDEC notified
Action Memo Status:	Verbal Authorization 10/8/98
Start Date:	10/12/98

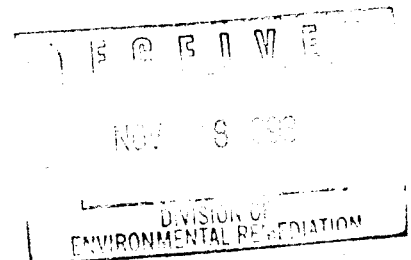
III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category: Inactive municipal landfill

B. Site Description

1. Site description

The Site is a privately owned 10 acre parcel of land located in a rural area of the Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York. The area currently being investigated by EPA is



in the southernmost portion of the Site and is approximately 1 acre in size. The Site is bordered by Route 22 to the east and by freshwater wetlands on the north and west. An unnamed stream flows through this wetland area which is a tributary to the Amenia Brook. The Harlem Valley landfill is located less than one quarter mile south west of the Site. An active public golf course is located within one half mile west of the Site.

The Site operated as a municipal landfill from the early 1940's until it was officially closed on April 16, 1976. During that period the property had several owners and operators, one of which was believed to have accepted industrial wastes in the form of drums and other containers. This allegedly occurred between 1969 and 1971, after which the owner/operator filed for bankruptcy. During an inspection performed by the Dutchess County Department of Health (DCDOH) on October 26, 1970, the inspector recorded the presence of several hundred drums of industrial waste staged in the southern end of the Site. Several of the drums were reportedly punctured and leaking onto the ground.

2. Description of threat

The Site was listed by the NYSDEC as a reported hazardous waste site in 1980 after visual inspections revealed the presence of surface drums and areas of stressed vegetation. Follow up investigations conducted by the state, which included geophysical studies, soil gas studies and test pit excavations, were conducted by NYSDEC from August 1986 through September 1998. These investigations revealed soil and sediment contamination and the presence of buried drums containing waste material. Samples of soil, sediments and surface waters have identified the presence of PCBs. This information prompted the New York State Division of Fish and Wildlife (NYSDFW) to declare this Site a significant threat to wildlife. The soil gas survey data collected during the investigation showed levels of toluene up to 1,600 ug/m³ in two sampling locations in the suspected drum burial area.

C. Preliminary Assessment Results

The NYSDEC began a Phase I investigation of this Site in August 1986. The data collected during this Phase, as well as follow up inspections performed in 1990, led NYSDEC to begin a Phase II investigation in October 1991. The Phase II investigation included a historical review of site use, literature searches on the property and interviews with personnel familiar with Site during its years of operation. Geophysical studies, soil gas surveys and soil, water and sediment sampling was also conducted at that time. The results of this investigation concluded that a Remedial Investigation, which included test pit excavations, was warranted to further delineate the Site. Test pits were conducted in September 1998 by NYSDEC which revealed numerous drums in the southwest corner of the site.

On October 6, 1998, NYSDEC formally requested EPA to undertake an Emergency Removal Action to stabilize, identify and dispose of an estimated 30 buried drums containing pesticides, spent solvents and other unknowns identified during NYSDEC's

test pit investigation of anomalies from a geophysical and soil vapor gas survey. On October 7, 1998, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) met with the NYSDEC to view the site and obtain information regarding the drums identified during test pit excavations.

IV RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Planned Removal Actions

EPA will excavate and document any identifying information from the drums prior to securing drums in overpacks. Visibly contaminated soil will be stock piled as the excavation progresses. All of the drums will be sampled and hazcatted and put into bulk groups as designated by the hazcat results. Composite samples will be sent out for disposal analysis. Once the lab analysis is received, the drums and soil will be disposed of accordingly.

B. Situation

1. Current Situation

EPA and ERRS began excavation activities on October 20, 1998. ERRS has excavated approximately 87 drums (one containing medical type waste), 60 cubic yards of contaminated soil and approximately 30 empty drums. In addition, 20 to 30 laboratory sized bottles have also been retrieved from the excavation area. After sampling, all overpacked drums will be transferred to a secure container at the north end of the Site.

2. Removal actions to date

On October 6, 1998, NYSDEC formally requested the EPA to conduct an Emergency Removal Action at the Site to mitigate the threats posed by the buried drums. Following a Site visit on October 7, 1998, funding was verbally authorized on October 8, 1998, by the EPA Director of the Emergency and Remedial Response Division to excavate the buried drums and visibly contaminated soil and sample and dispose of the drums which are leaking and deteriorated in the drainage pathway to a wetlands.

On October 12, 1998, EPA met ERRS on Site to scope out the job and discuss the project plan and schedule. ERRS fully mobilized on October 15, 1998 to begin the clean up action. Upon mobilization ERRS established a support zone and equipment needed to begin the excavation and stabilization action. START is conducting air monitoring, contractor monitoring and logging of samples of the excavation activities. ERRS initiated sampling of the excavated drums for disposal and possible enforcement actions. During this period, 32 drums were sampled.

On October 19, 1998, a Confirmation of Verbal Authorization was signed which confirmed a Project Ceiling of \$160,000.

Representatives for the Town of Amenia and the NYSDEC have been on Site to monitor EPA activities and examine the material being excavated. The representative for the property owner stops by the Site periodically to view site activities.

3. Enforcement

Due to the emergency nature of this removal action, enforcement activities have been postponed until the threats from the ongoing release are mitigated. Drums and other containers discovered on Site are being carefully examined for Potential Responsible Party (PRP) information prior to being secured. The OSC has been in contact with ORC and an enforcement strategy will be developed based on the known historical information as well as any other information retrieved from the excavated materials.

C. Next Steps

ERRS will continue with the excavation and sampling activities in the suspected drum burial areas. Upon completion of sampling, the drums will be secured in a container box while disposal arrangements are finalized.

Due to the large number of drums encountered to date and the remaining areas left to be investigated, additional funding will be required. As a result, a Confirmation of Verbal Authorization and Ceiling Increase Action Memorandum is being prepared to provide funds for additional sampling and disposal of contaminated materials.

D. Key Issues

On 10/23/98, the START member became ill while on Site and was taken to a nearby hospital. Upon examination it was determined that he was suffering from an illness unrelated to Site activities.

To date, the buried drums removed almost triple the initial estimate (with another area yet to investigate), therefore, additional funding will be required to complete the removal action.

V. COST INFORMATION

The costs estimated below are through October 30, 1998.

	CURRENT APPROVED CEILINGS	CURRENT EXPENDITURES	BALANCE OF REMAINING FUNDS
ERRS ¹	\$130,000	\$53,370	\$76,630
START	\$15,000	\$3,530	\$11,470
EPA	\$15,000	\$3,700	\$11,300
CONTINGENCY	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$160,000	\$60,600	\$99,400

¹ This amount is comprised of DCN #'s as follows: HX-0002, for \$50,000, and HE-0005, for \$80,000.

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure, which the EPA may include in any claims for cost recovery.

VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

Not applicable at this time