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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION REPORT

DEC 5 1 1998

I. HEADING

Date: November 20, 1998

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

POLREP NO.: Two (2)

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

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DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION

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/m<sup>3</sup> 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 the 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 NYSDECs 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**

ERRS has excavated 167 drums, approximately 220 cubic yards of contaminated soil and approximately 30 empty drums. In addition, 85 laboratory sized bottles have also been retrieved from the excavation area. All drums have been overpacked and sampled with the exception of one drum which contains medical waste. All of the overpacked drums have been transferred to secure containers at the north end of the Site.

###### **2. Removal actions to date**

During the week of November 2, ERRS continued to sample drums excavated the previous week and relocate sampled drums into the mobile storage units located in the north corner of the Site near Sharon Oil. An additional 21 drums were excavated from the second area during this week.

On November 9, ERRS mobilized a lab trailer and chemist to conduct hazcating and bulk testing. During the week, excavation of buried drums and contaminated soil was completed. Two drums were found in the area north of concentrated drums, one was on the surface and one crushed drum was buried in the drainage area to the wetlands.

During the week of November 16, the labpack containers were visually inspected by the chemist. All but one type of container were unlabeled, and most of the labeled containers

were rusted and empty. The lab containers were crushed on a flat surface in a depression in the soil pile and mixed. A composite soil sample was collected from the pile on November 18. ERRS completed sampling and hazcatting the samples on November 18. The chemist conducted bulk testing and generated composite samples of like materials to be sent out for disposal analysis. Samples were sent to the lab on November 19, 1998.

The soil pile was reshaped, covered with a plastic tarp and a berm was created around the pile to reduce rainwater runoff from the pile. The excavated areas were graded, a geotextile type fabric was installed to provide a visible barrier and 6 inches of topsoil was applied and seeded. The area was covered with straw matting to protect the seed and provide erosion control.

Representatives for the property owner, the Town of Amenia and the NYSDEC have been on Site to monitor EPA activities and examine the material being excavated

### **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 were carefully examined for Potential Responsible Party (PRP) information prior to being secured. The OSC maintains 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**

Upon receipt of disposal analysis, disposal for the drummed material and soil will be arranged. At the time of disposal, enforcement sampling will be conducted utilizing the drum information, hazcat data and analytical results.

Due to the large quantity of drums encountered, additional funding will be required. As a result, a Ceiling Increase Action Memorandum is undergoing review to provide funds for additional sampling and disposal of contaminated materials.

#### **D. Key Issues**

Access to remove the contaminated soil from the Site would be difficult utilizing the dirt road which runs through the property. The access road which runs from the adjacent Harlem Valley Landfill north to the Amenia Town Landfill is more accessible for trucks, as most of the roadway is paved. An access agreement was obtained to allow access for truck traffic through the Harlem Valley Landfill property to transport the soil for off-site disposal.

## V. COST INFORMATION

The costs estimated below are through November 19, 1998.

	CURRENT APPROVED CEILINGS	CURRENT EXPENDITURES	BALANCE OF REMAINING FUNDS
ERRS <sup>1</sup>	\$130,000	\$120,000	\$10,000
START	\$15,000	\$6,200	\$8,800
EPA	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
CONTINGENCY	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$160,000	\$136,200	\$23,800

<sup>1</sup> 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