FACT SHEET

Loeffel Site Groundwater
Operable Unit 2
Inactive Hazardous Waste Site
ID #442006
January 2001

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Dear Interested Citizen:

The Record of Decision documents the selected remedy for the Dewey Loeffel Site, Operable Unit 02, Containment Cell/ Groundwater in the Town of Nassau, Rensselaer County, New York.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact:

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NYSDEC
Div. of Environmental Remediation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12233-7010
(518) 457-5637

For site related health questions, please contact the following New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) representatives at:

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NYSDOH
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180
(518) 402-7890

Introduction

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is pleased to inform you that the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Loeffel Site Containment Cell/Groundwater has been finalized. The ROD, signed January 3, 2001, documents the selected Remedial Action Plan. This was done after all public comments were considered and a Responsiveness Summary was developed which answered questions raised as part of the public review process. The selected remedy for the site presented in the ROD is the same remedy as in the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (November 1999).

Background

The Loeffel site is an 11-acre inactive hazardous waste landfill located on Mead Road, 2.5 north east of Nassau Lake in the Town of Nassau, Rensselaer County. The site was operated from 1952 to 1980 as a disposal facility for approximately 43,000 tons of waste materials. Persistent organic chemicals such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are the compounds of concern.

In 1983 and 1984 the disposal site was capped with clay and a bentonite slurry wall was installed around the site perimeter in order to contain the waste. A system designed to collect contaminated water (leachate) from within the containment system was also installed, as were groundwater wells to monitor containment effectiveness over time.

Following the remedial measures described above, further investigations revealed that past releases from the disposal site before capping have resulted in the deposition of PCB throughout the surface water system between the site and Nassau Lake. The low-lying areas immediately below the site, Mead Road pond near the site, tributary T11A, the Valatie Kill, and Nassau Lake all contain PCB. The mixture of PCB present at this site, Aroclor 1260, is a PCB mixture which bioaccumulates readily in fish and other animals, and is resistant to natural breakdown. In 1989, the State of New York brought suit against GE in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New

York seeking to hold GE liable for cleanup costs and natural resource damages relating to impacts of hazardous waste on areas downstream of Loeffel site, including the Valatie Kill and Nassau Lake. These areas are referred to as "off-site areas." GE agreed to conduct a Remedial Investigation (RI) in accordance with a DEC approved work plan. GE also agreed to conduct a Feasibility Study (FS) to develop and evaluate potential remedial actions. This work is being conducted pursuant to a Judicial Consent Decree. A "Loeffel Site Environs Proposed Remedial Action Plan" is in progress to address this portion of the contamination problem and will be issued this Spring.

A groundwater contaminant plume was discovered in the bedrock to the south of the site in the early 1990's, when monitoring wells were installed as part of the off-site Remedial Investigation discussed above. Investigations have revealed that, although the regional groundwater flow is to the west, the presence of fracture zone associated with a previously unknown fault in the bedrock was allowing the flow of contaminated groundwater to the south. These studies are documented in a Remedial Investigation Report (July 1995-July 1997), a Feasibility Study (November 1997), and a Feasibility Study Addendum (June 1998). Together, these documents describe the nature and extent of the groundwater plume, identify alternatives to remediate the plume and prevent further releases from the disposal cell, and provide engineering evaluations of these alternatives. In November 1999, the Department issued the Proposed Remedial Action Plan.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SELECTED REMEDY

The NYSDEC has selected disposal site hydraulic containment with downgradient groundwater recovery and treatment as the preferred remedy. The major elements of the selected remedy as outlined in the ROD include:

- *design and installation of an enhanced leachate collection system within the Loeffel containment cell.*
- *installation of groundwater extraction wells between the landfill and the residential wells to the south of the site. These recovery wells are intended to accelerate the restoration of the bedrock groundwater quality to achieve applicable standards, and to prevent the contamination of other nearby residential wells.*
- *construction and operation at the site of a water treatment facility to manage waste waters generate by the leachate management at the disposal site, and by the groundwater extraction system*
- *maintenance of all existing residential well monitoring and treatment, to prevent exposures of people using water from the residential wells to the contaminants within the bedrock groundwater contaminant plume above applicable standards;*
- *design and implementation of a monitoring program to evaluate groundwater elevations and groundwater quality over th duration of the remedy;*
- *design and implementation of a monitoring and maintenance program for the disposal site to evaluate performance of the water and leachate management system.*
- *continuation of institutional controls at the site.*

Next Steps

The next step in the remedial process is for the Department to seek a legal agreement with the responsible party for implementation of the selected remedy (design, construction and operation). In the event that the PRP does not agree to implement the selected remedy, the State will pursue implementation provided funds are available through the State Superfund.

For More Information

Public understanding and involvement are crucial to the success of New York's hazardous waste remedial program. To keep you updated, NYSDEC distributes fact sheets like this one, and periodically holds public meetings as appropriate. We also place site documents in a repository in your community for easier access. The NYSDEC has established Document Repositories for the Dewey Loeffel Inactive Hazardous Waste Site at :

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Hours: M-F 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

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