New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Fact Sheet October 2002

Dewey Loeffel

Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site

SITE ID # 442006

Nassau, Rensselaer County

REMEDIAL ACTION TO REMOVE PCB CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS FROM TRIBUTARY T11A and DEC CONSULTANT TO DESIGN SITE CONTAINMENT IMPROVEMENTS AND GROUNDWATER REMEDIAL SYSTEMS

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has reached an agreement with the General Electric Company which will result in the removal of 570 cubic yards of PCB contaminated soils and sediment. This removal will occur within a tributary to the Valatie Kill downstream from the Dewey Loeffel inactive hazardous waste disposal site on Mead Road in the Town of Nassau, Rensselaer County. This action is a key element of the Operable Unit 3 Record of Decision (January 2002), and is intended to permanently abate this tributary as a source of PCB to the Nassau Lake/Valatie Kill drainage basin, and as potential sources of human and habitat exposure to the PCB within the tributary.

In addition, the NYSDEC has retained Dvirka and Bartilucci Consulting Engineers (D&B) to design an enhanced leachate collection system within the Loeffel containment cell, a bedrock groundwater recovery system to accelerate the restoration of the bedrock groundwater quality, and a water treatment facility to manage the water generated from these systems. These systems were called for in the Operable Unit 2 Record of Decision (January 2001).

INTRODUCTION

The Dewey Loeffel inactive hazardous waste disposal site is located on Mead Road in the Town of Nassau, Rensselaer County. The site was used for the disposal of solvents, waste oils, PCBs, scrap materials, sludges, and solids from 1952 to 1968. The site was the subject of a remedial program in 1984-85, when a cap and slurry wall were installed to prevent further migration of contaminants away from the disposal site. However, no agreement could be reached at that time with the responsible parties for the site to address off-site impacts. In January 2001, the Department selected additional remedial measures to upgrade the water management system at the site, and to recover and treat contaminated groundwater from the bedrock aquifer beneath and to the south of the disposal site. For further information related to site history, remedial history, and selection of the additional remedial measures, please see the Record of Decision (Operable Unit 2) issued by the Department in January, 2001.

Interim remedial measures were completed by GE, under DEC oversight, in the Fall 2001 which resulted in the removal of approximately 5000 cubic yards of PCB contaminated soils and sediments in the vicinity of Mead Road Pond, adjacent to the Loeffel Landfill.

An off-site impact related to pre-closure releases of PCB from the disposal site is the contamination of surface waters, soils and sediments in the Valatie Kill/Nassau Lake drainage basin. The primary drainage leaving the disposal site was to the northwest, along Mead Road through a low-lying area to Mead Road Pond a short distance away. A small unnamed tributary to the Valatie Kill (referred to as T11A of the Valatie Kill) drains Mead Road Pond into the Valatie Kill. Approximately two miles downstream of T11A, the Valatie Kill enters Nassau Lake, an impoundment of the Valatie Kill. Figure 1, attached, is a map showing the location of the disposal site, the surface water system including Nassau Lake, and the areas to be addressed by this remedial measure.

PCB from the Dewey Loeffel site has been identified in samples taken throughout T11A, the reach of the Valatie Kill between T11A and Nassau Lake, and in Nassau Lake. The areas to be addressed by this remedial measure represent the furthest upstream currently active sources of PCB to the Valatie Kill/Nassau Lake surface water system. Following remediation, mobilization of PCB to the Valatie Kill will be eliminated.

DESCRIPTION OF THE REMEDIAL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

The remedial construction will be performed by General Electric, with the full time oversight of NYSDEC. The project is scheduled to begin in October 2002. It is anticipated that work may be suspended from January to April 2003 (depending on winter weather and stream flow conditions) and completed in the Spring of 2003.

The areas which will be addressed by this action are generally shown in Figure 1, attached. The purpose of this remedial action is to remove PCB contaminated sediments from T11A, the tributary of the Valatie Kill downstream from the landfill.

Remedial Activities will include the following:

- construct access roads to facilitate removal actions;
- temporarily divert water within T11A to facilitate discrete removal operations and prevent downstream transport of sediments;
- set up and operate a temporary waste water treatment system to manage the diverted water;
- dewater the sediments, and dispose the sediments at an approved off-site facility;
- restore affected areas of T11A including restoration of the streambed and habitats in T11A.

The total volume of sediment to be removed is estimated to be 570 cubic yards. An estimated 40 cubic yards of this material is anticipated to be hazardous waste requiring disposal at a waste disposal facility permitted to receive waste characterized as hazardous under Toxic Substances Control Act. he selected facility is the Model City disposal facility near Buffalo, NY. The remaining non-hazardous 530 cubic years will be disposed at High Acres facility near Rochester, NY.

Monitoring will be performed during the work to ensure that releases of contaminants is minimized, and to protect both site workers and the public. Any waters collected will be treated prior to discharge. Air monitoring will be done during the project in accordance with New York State Department of Health guidance to determine the appropriate dust control measures.

DESIGN ACTIVITIES

NYSDEC has retained a standby consultant, funded by the State Superfund, to design the remedial plan selected in the January 2001 Operable Unit 2 Record of Decision. Dvirka and Bartilucci Consultant Engineers were selected. It is expected that the work plan, currently being developed, will be approved this fall with plans and specifications scheduled to be bid for a Spring 2004 construction start. The consultant has been tasked to:

- design an upgraded leachate collection system, within the landfill, to eliminate the disposal site as an ongoing source of groundwater contamination by achieving hydraulic containment of the leachate and groundwater associated with the disposal site.

- design 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.

- design a water treatment facility to manage waste waters generated by the leachate collection system at the disposal site, and by the groundwater extraction system.

Document Repositories

Information about the remediation of the Loeffel site, such as the two Record of Decision documents and the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study reports, are available for public review at the repositories listed below.

Nassau Library
Church Street
Nassau, New York 12123

NYSDEC Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, New York 12233-7016

For Further Information

If you desire further information regarding these projects, please contact:

NYSDEC Project Manager - Construction
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NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
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NYSDEC Project Manager - Design
James N. Ludlam, P.E.
NYS Dept. Of Envir. Conservation
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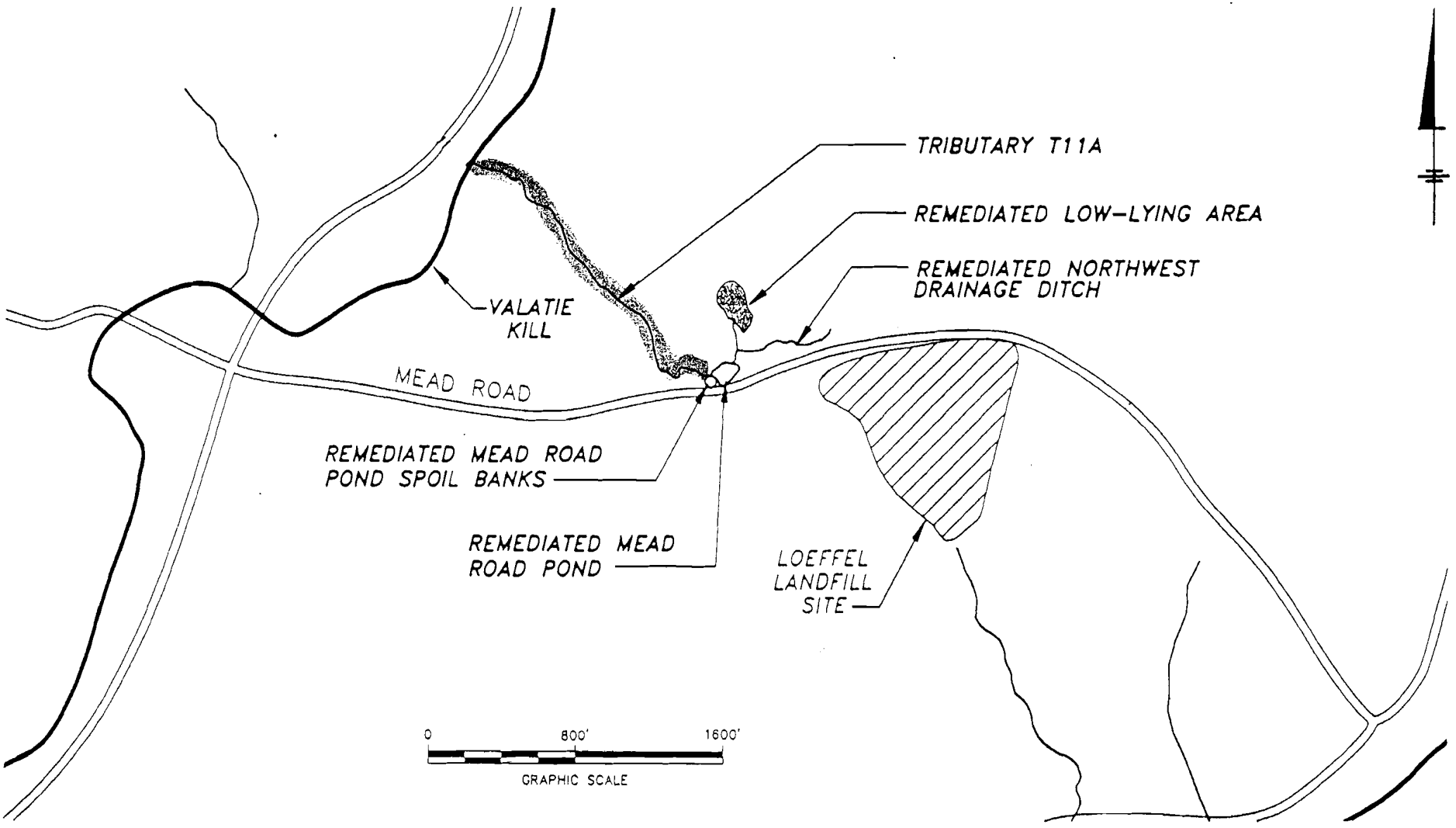
Telephone: 518-402-9774

For site-related health concerns:
John Sheehan
NYS Department of Health
Flanigan Square
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180
Telephone 518-402-7890



GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
LOEFFEL SITE ENVIRONS
TRIBUTARY T11A
REMEDIAL ACTION WORK PLAN

SITE LOCATION MAP

BBL
BLASLAND, BOUCK & LEE, INC.
engineers & scientists

FIGURE
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