NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Dear Interested Citizen:

This Fact Sheet provides an update and public meeting notice for the Dewey Loeffel Landfill site. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact one of the following:

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Project Manager
NYSDEC
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7013
(518) 402-9818

For site related health questions, please contact the New York State Department of Health's representative:

Daniel Geraghty
NYSDOH
Capital Dist. Reg. Office
Frear Building
Fulton Street
Troy, NY 12180
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Website:
www.dec.state.ny.us/der

Fact Sheet

Dewey Loeffel Landfill

Site No. 4-42-006
June 2005

PUBLIC MEETING

Update on Remedial Design for the Cleanup of the Landfill and the Off-site Groundwater Contamination

Update on PCB Cleanup and Fish Monitoring in Drainageways and Streams

Reconstruction of Nassau Lake Dam

June 15, 2005

St. Mary's Parish Hall
Church St.
Nassau, NY 12123

Open Availability Session 3-5 P.M.

Formal Presentation 7-9 P.M.

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Health (NYSDOH) will present an update on the status of remedial programs at the Dewey Loeffel Landfill site and environs in the Town of Nassau, Rensselaer County on Wednesday, June 15, 2005. The current design activities for the landfill and the off-site groundwater contamination will be discussed along with an update on the progress made in the removal of PCB-contaminated sediment from the site drainageways and streams. The engineering details and the schedule for the upcoming reconstruction of the Nassau Lake Dam by General Electric will be presented. The meeting will be in two sessions: an informal availability session from 3 to 5 p.m. and a formal presentation session from 7 to 9 p.m.

BACKGROUND

The Dewey Loeffel Site is located on Mead Road in the Town of Nassau, Rensselaer County. The site was used by the by the Loeffel Waste Oil Removal and Service Company from 1952 to 1968 as a disposal facility for waste materials. In 1966, the State of New York initiated legal action against the Loeffel Waste Oil Removal and Service Company, leading to a 1968 New York State Supreme Court Order and Judgment against the company to stop discharges from the disposal facility and to perform remedial activities. In October 1970, the Loeffel Waste Oil Removal and Service Company retained an engineering firm, C.T. Male and Associates, to develop remedial measures for the Loeffel waste disposal facility. From 1974 to 1980 the site was reportedly used as a transfer station for waste oils utilizing four 30,000 gallon above-ground storage tanks. Approximately 46,000 tons of liquid hazardous wastes were reported as disposed at the site. The site is listed on the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites as a Class 2 site. A Class 2 site represents a significant threat to public health or the environment and cleanup action is required.

The NYSDEC has divided the Loeffel Landfill/Nassau Lake environs into three separate Operable Units, or "OUs". OU1 consists of the encapsulation of the landfill by DEC in 1983-84. OU2 consists of the groundwater contamination discovered outside the landfill encapsulation system several years ago. OU3 consists of the PCB-contaminated surface water areas down gradient of the landfill, i.e. Tributary T11A, a portion of the Valatie Kill (Area 28), and Nassau Lake.

REMEDIAL HISTORY

Since 1974, extensive remedial actions have been performed at the site and its environs.

In1974, remedial actions consisting of covering and grading the drum disposal area, oil pit and lagoon and construction of a system of drainage ditches were completed.

In 1980, GE entered into an agreement with the NYSDEC known as the "Seven Sites Agreement". This agreement required GE to perform field investigations to determine the conditions at the Loeffel Site and the nature and extent of hazardous wastes, and to fund the installation of a cap and slurry wall containment system at the site.

In 1982, CECOS International, Inc. removed approximately 500 surface drums from the eastern portion of the site. Four 30,000 gallon above-ground tanks were also removed.

Between September 1983 and November 1984, a contractor hired by NYSDEC constructed the cap and slurry wall containment system. NYSDEC began operation and maintenance of the site after the final post-construction inspection in October 1985.

The State of New York, in 1989, 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 substances that had migrated from the disposal site prior to construction of the cap and slurry wall.

In September 1992, GE and the State of New York entered into a Judicial Stipulation, under which GE agreed to conduct a Remedial Investigation (RI) and Feasibility Study (FS). The investigations progressed over several years, defining the nature and extent of volatile organic chemical (VOC) contamination in groundwater, and PCB contamination of surface water, sediment, and fish in the Valatie Kill/Nassau Lake drainage basin. Two private well systems were found to be contaminated with VOCs; GE agreed to provide and maintain filtration systems on the private wells.

A Record of Decision (ROD) for Operable Unit 02 was issued by NYSDEC in January 2001, which called for the construction and operation of a upgraded hydraulic containment system at the disposal site and an off-site groundwater recover and treatment program, along with continued monitoring and maintenance of filters on impacted residential wells.

GE implemented the Mead Road Pond Interim Remedial Measure between August and October 2001, which resulted in the removal of approximately 9600 tons of PCB contaminated soils and sediments in the area immediately adjacent to the disposal site and in Mead Road Pond, a short distance downgradient of the site.

A second Record of Decision for Operable Unit 03 was issued by NYSDEC in January 2002, which consists of the removal of PCB contaminated sediments from T11A of the Valatie Kill and Area 28 in the Valatie Kill, with long-term monitoring.

CURRENT REMEDIAL STATUS

Operable Units 01 and 02: The OU2 ROD called for an estimated $8.6 million remedial program designed to cut off migration of contaminants from the Landfill. The State retained Dvirka and Bartilucci Consulting Engineers (D&B) in August 2002 to design (1) an enhanced leachate collection system within the landfill to allow for increased hydraulic containment of waters within the landfill; (2) a bedrock groundwater recovery well system south of the landfill to control migration of the contaminant plume that had already left the landfill and to decrease the time needed to achieve groundwater and drinking water standards in the bedrock groundwater; and (3) a wastewater treatment facility at the landfill to manage leachate and groundwater generated as part of the landfill remedy.

D & B commenced a pre-design study in August 2002. Through 2002 and 2003, geophysical studies were performed and a number of groundwater monitoring wells were installed both inside and downgradient of the landfill to monitor environmental conditions and generate information to support the detailed engineering design. Preliminary data indicates that an alternative leachate collection system, using a combination of wells, drains, and other conventional technologies, would be effective in collecting significant quantities of contaminated water and product from the source area, thus minimizing additional migration of contaminants to the groundwater. For the off-site groundwater, pumping tests conducted during the pre-design study suggest that off-site contaminant flow paths in bedrock are complex and bedrock extraction wells may not produce the significant quantities of water needed for effective contaminant removal. The off-site contaminant flow pathways will require further investigation to determine the ultimate feasibility of containing the plume by collecting contaminated groundwater from the bedrock downgradient of the landfill.

DEC's consultant will be conducting additional field investigation activities within the Landfill and in the off-site bedrock within the next few weeks. The design of the groundwater and leachate treatment system portion of the remedy is being completed. The data gathered during the additional bedrock groundwater investigations will be used to evaluate and ultimately design a remediation system for that portion of the site. The remedial design for OU2 is currently scheduled to be completed in late fall 2005.

Domestic wells south of the site have been impacted by site contaminated groundwater. An extensive homeowner well monitoring program is being conducted by GE, including continued sampling of 22 residential wells, and maintenance of carbon filtration treatment units on four residential wells, pursuant to a 1997 letter-agreement between GE and the State.

Operable Unit 03: The Remedial Program in the OU3 ROD calls for removal of the most significant remaining sources of PCBs in the drainage basin- in Tributary 11A and "Area 28" of the Valatie Kill, to be followed by extensive monitoring of residual PCB levels in the ecosystem over time. DEC will review the remedy in approximately 5 years to determine whether the advisories related to human consumption of fish contaminated with PCBs can be lifted or reduced, and whether the other goals of the ROD have been met. If at that time the advisories cannot be lifted or reduced, and/or other remedial goals have not been met, DEC will evaluate whether there are other feasible remedial actions. The ROD also requires an inspection program to ensure that the dam which impounds Nassau Lake continues to do so, with appropriate dam maintenance or restoration work as needed. GE has concluded it is best to replace the dam entirely.

Sediment Removal: In 2001, GE removed approximately 9,600 tons of PCB-contaminated soils and sediments from areas adjacent to the Landfill, including Mead Road Pond, the spoil banks adjacent to Mead Road Pond, the "Low-Lying Area", and the Northwest Drainage Ditch. In 2003 GE removed about 1200 tons of PCB-contaminated materials from the Tributary 11A stream bed and then restored the stream.

Between August 2003 and May 2004, GE removed approximately 4,000 tons of PCB-contaminated soil and sediments from Area 28 of the Valatie Kill. GE also initiated post-construction sampling of surface waters (base flow and high flow).

Fish Sampling. DEC and GE have been sampling fish from the Nassau Lake drainage basin since 1979. The fish sampling efforts have been enhanced over time to track the efficacy of the remedial activities that have occurred. DEC conducted fish sampling in the Valatie Kill and Nassau Lake in July 2004; GE funded analysis of the samples. DEC expects to collect approximately 200 fish and other biota (frogs, invertebrates) samples during the summer months of 2005, with GE's assistance in the field and during sample preservation.

DEC has drawn the following preliminary conclusions from the fish sampling data collected to date:

- PCB concentrations since 1979, although variable, indicate declining levels
- Tributary streams and associated ponded waters in headwater areas of the system above the disposal areas, e.g., Nassau Sportsman's Pond, and Mud Pond, show little evidence of PCB contamination, i.e. they are generally 1000 to 10,000 times less contaminated than those from directly impacted sites which include 'T11A,' Valatie Kill and Nassau Lake
- PCB concentrations are higher in Nassau Lake fish compared to biota from upstream contaminated segments of the Valatie Kill
- Although there are indications that remedial efforts in the headwaters of 'T11A' and the tributary itself have resulted in declines, concentrations are still high in fish and continued monitoring is in order

Surface Water/Suspended Sediment Sampling. In addition to monitoring PCB levels in fish, the OU3 ROD calls for sampling of suspended sediments as well as surface water, especially high flow events, in the vicinity of the landfill, in T11A, in the Valatie Kill and in Nassau Lake. Sampling results submitted by GE in October 2004 indicated that concentrations of PCBs were present in T11A surface water and suspended sediment during August 2003 and August 2004 sampling events. At the State's request, GE performed additional sampling in T11A, including two baseflow sampling events and one high-flow sampling event late last year. GE will obtain more samples in the spring and summer of 2005 to resolve this issue.

Nassau Lake Dam Replacement: The Nassau Lake Dam is owned and operated by the Nassau Lake Park Improvement Association ("Association"). The ROD for Operable Unit 03 also required an inspection program to ensure that the dam which impounds Nassau Lake continues to do so, with appropriate dam maintenance or restoration work as needed. GE subsequently concluded that it is best to replace the dam entirely. In December 2003, GE submitted a remedial design to NYSDEC and the Association for construction of a new dam. Based on comments received from DEC and the Association, GE submitted a supplemental design package. DEC is expected to approve GE's dam design and construction documents shortly. GE also needs to obtain a wetlands disturbance permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. GE has commenced permitting and property access activities, and dam construction activities will commence this Summer.

DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES

For more information, please contact those listed in the side bar on the previous page. Various site related documents are available for review at the following locations:

Nassau Public Library
Church Street
Nassau, New York 12123
(518) 766-2715

NYSDEC Central Office
Division of Environmental
Remediation
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7013
(518) 402-9818