

# New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

## Division of Environmental Remediation

Remedial Bureau B, 12th Floor

625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-7016

Phone: (518) 402-9768 • Fax: (518) 402-9779

Website: [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)



Alexander B. Grannis  
Commissioner

## **Dewey Loeffel Landfill (NYSDEC I.D. # 4-42-006)** **Project Update - July, 2010**

### **Operable Unit 1 (landfill cap and slurry wall)**

- **Status of the maintenance of the landfill** - Pumping from the on-site leachate collection tank continues. Tanker trucks continue to transport the leachate for off-site treatment at a permitted disposal facility. Routine site maintenance continues by DEC personnel and DEC contractors.
- On April 20th, 2010 one of the tanker trucks spilled diesel fuel onto the side of Mead Road while waiting to load. A spill was called into the DEC hotline by a Town of Nassau official. A DEC contractor cleaned up the spill and removed the impacted soil. Diesel fuel did not impact the T11A tributary. The company providing the tanker trucks will be pay for the cost of the cleanup. The spill was closed on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

### **Operable Unit 2 (landfill waste, leachate and groundwater)**

- **Status of the operating off-site bedrock groundwater extraction system** - The three off-site bedrock groundwater plume extraction wells have been operating since early spring by a DEC contractor. Approximately 6 - 7,000 gallons of contaminated groundwater are being extracted per day for off-site disposal. The extraction wells were installed to capture the off-site bedrock groundwater contaminant plume and based on results to date, appear to be working effectively. Performance monitoring is being conducted, including the measurement of groundwater elevations in the area around the extraction wells to determine the extent of plume capture.
- **Off-site groundwater monitoring program status** - Monitoring by GE's consultant of a network of the off-site groundwater monitoring wells on a semi-annual basis continues in accordance with the approved work plan. The May 2010 Groundwater Sampling Event Monitoring Report was submitted on July 26, 2010 and a copy will be made available at the Nassau Free library. At the request of the DEC, GE added nine additional wells to the May, 2010 sampling event. Volatile organic compounds (vocs) continue to be detected in the monitoring wells south the

landfill, although a significant portion of them are being captured by the bedrock groundwater extraction wells. Benzene and toluene continue to be detected in monitoring wells close to the landfill. Trichloroethene (TCE) continues to be detected in wells further from the landfill. VOCs again were not detected in monitoring wells OMW-222 and OMW-223, which are located the furthest from the landfill. This indicates that the groundwater plume has not spread further along Central Nassau Road.

- **Residential potable well treatment and sampling program status** - The maintenance of the 4 residential well treatment systems continues by a GE consultant and bottled water continues to be provided. The impacted wells are sampled quarterly. The spring sampling program for non-impacted residential wells has been completed also and a report submitted on June 11th. This sampling included the semi-annual list (6 residential wells), the annual list (6 residential wells) and the biennial list (7 residential wells) for a total of 19 residential wells. No new residential wells have been impacted by the groundwater plume.
- **Status of the upgraded on-site leachate collection system and treatment plant design** - As previously explained, the design and construction of the on-site treatment plant is on hold. It is anticipated that the design will be re-evaluated by the USEPA once the site is finalized on the National Priorities List (see below for additional information).
- **Soil Vapor Intrusion Study** - Access to two of the four properties which needed to be evaluated was obtained and shallow water table groundwater monitoring wells installed by a GE contractor and sampled. A report was submitted on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and is available for review. No site-related vocs were detected in the shallow groundwater, an indication that structures located on these properties may not be at risk from vapor intrusion. Access to the other two properties is being pursued.

### **Operable Unit 3 (drainageways and Nassau Lake)**

- **Valatie Kill & Nassau Lake fish collection and sampling** - The 2010 fish collection events were completed in June and July by a GE consultant with DEC oversight. As in previous years, fish were collected at 12 different locations in the T-11A tributary, the Valatie Kill and Nassau Lake. Multiple species are collected at most locations. Samples are being processed in accordance with the accepted statement of work dated March 2009. Results will be finalized later this year and then made available to the public. The 2010 fish data represents the last year of the five-year remedy review period. As stated in the January 2002 Record of Decision for the surface drainageways and Nassau Lake, if the advisories related to human consumption of fish contaminated with PCB cannot be lifted or reduced, than an evaluation will be performed to determine whether or not there are any additional feasible remedial actions which will allow for the advisories to be lifted

or reduced. A decision to perform this evaluation will be made once the 2010 fish data is reviewed.

- **Fish advisories for the Valatie Kill & Nassau Lake** - The NYSDOH issued the 2010 fish advisories on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010 for the entire State of New York. The advisories for Nassau Lake and the Valatie Kill (between county Rte. 18 & Nassau Lake) did not change. The advisory currently in-place is “eat none” for all species. The new advisory booklet can be found at [www.nyhealth.gov/fish](http://www.nyhealth.gov/fish).
- **Status of the Nassau Lake replacement dam construction** - The replacement dam was completed and a final completion certification was issued by the design engineer on May 4, 2009. The first annual technical inspection of the dam was completed by GE’s consultant on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The dam was found to be sound and in good condition, we no observed structural deficiencies. A full inspection report is available for review.
- **Sediment/Soil Re-evaluation in the Tributary T-11A** - Based on soil and sediment sampling completed in the summer, 2009 by the DEC, GE has agreed to conduct a supplemental investigation in the tributary T-11A of the Valatie Kill. The concern is that there may be residual PCBs remaining in the tributary T-11A soils and sediment that are continuing to impact fish. The first phase of the supplemental investigation has been completed which verified the 2009 DEC sampling data. GE has begun a second phase of the supplemental investigation the week of July 26<sup>th</sup>. Up to 164 soil and sediment samples will be collected from within the tributary T-11A. Results should be available in the early fall.
- **Surface Water/Suspended Sediment Monitoring** – The annual high flow sampling event was scheduled for the month of June depending on weather and flow conditions.

## **USEPA Involvement**

As you may recall, the NYSDEC formally nominated the site to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on October 13, 2009 for listing on the federal National Priorities List (NPL), commonly called the Superfund. The USEPA evaluated the site, completed a Hazard Ranking Score to qualify the site and has proposed the site for listing in the federal registry on March 4, 2010. There was a 60 day public comment period on the proposed listing. See <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/pubcom.htm>. The USEPA is currently preparing a responsiveness summary to address those comments and to determine whether to finalize the site for listing on the NPL. Comments can be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#home> and typing into the “keyword” box the site docket number “EPA-HQ-SFUND-2010-0075.” If finalized on the NPL, the USEPA will be the lead government agency for the site.

In addition to preparing a responsiveness summary for the NPL listing, the USEPA is also evaluating the past history of the site, as well as reviewing past investigations, remediation efforts and ongoing monitoring for the site and surrounding areas to determine if there are any data gaps that need to be addressed in either the groundwater or surface water pathways. The DEC and the NYSDOH will work closely with the USEPA in the reevaluation of the site.

**For further information on the Dewey Loeffel Landfill Site, contact:**

**For questions on the overall project status:**

Michael Komoroske, P.E.  
Division of Environmental Remediation  
NYSDEC  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-7016  
(518) 402-9767 or via e-mail at [mjkomoro@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:mjkomoro@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

**For questions on the fish collection and analysis program:**

Michael Kane  
Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources  
NYSDEC  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233  
(518) 402-8973 or via e-mail at [mwkane@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:mwkane@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

**For health related issues:**

Bridget Callaghan  
Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation  
NYSDOH  
Flanigan Square  
547 River Street  
Troy, NY 12180-2216  
(518) 402-7860 or via e-mail at [bk01@health.state.ny.us](mailto:bk01@health.state.ny.us)

**For information on the USEPA NPL listing:**

Kristen Pelhan Skopeck  
EPA Public Affairs Specialist  
Hudson River Field Office  
421 Lower Main Street, Suite 100  
Hudson Falls, New York 12839  
(518) 747-4389 or via email at [skopeck.kristen@epa.gov](mailto:skopeck.kristen@epa.gov)

**Where can I find information on the site?** Site related documents can be viewed at the Nassau Free Library, 18 Church Street, Nassau, N.Y. (open 2pm - 8pm Monday - Friday and 10am - 1pm on Saturday. Closed Sunday) or by contacting one of the above listed individuals. Also, on the DEC website at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37564.html>