

File 484C Rose Valley Int. Herk Co.



FACT SHEET



April 2, 2001

State Finalizes Cleanup Plan For the Rose Valley Landfill Site

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The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in conjunction with the New York State Department of Health (DOH), recently selected a cleanup plan for the Rose Valley Landfill inactive hazardous waste disposal site no. 6-22-017 on Rose Valley Road in the Town of Russia in Herkimer County (see map). This plan is described in a document called a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD also summarizes site investigations, cleanup alternatives evaluated by the State, and comments received from the public about the chosen plan.

The plan calls for the installation of a single layer cover over the major fill area, treatment of the leachate and contaminated eastern groundwater plume by monitored natural attenuation, excavation and disposal of contaminated surface soils beneath the landfill cover, replacement of the impacted homeowner well with a deeper well, and semi-annual monitoring of the western groundwater plume.

This entire cleanup will cost an estimated \$920,300. The cost to construct the remedy is estimated at \$656,700, and the average estimated annual operation and maintenance cost for 30 years is \$16,500.

The Record of Decision and other site-related documents are available at the Central Office of the DEC in Albany and at four other document repositories:

Town Clerk for the Town of Russia
8916 North Main Street
Poland, New York 13431
(315) 826-3432

Poland Town Library
Main Street
Poland, New York 13431
(315) 826-3112

Herkimer District Office
New York State Department of Health
5665 State Route 5
Herkimer, New York 13350
(315) 866-6879

Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority
1600 Genesee Street
Utica, New York 13502
(315) 733-1224

This fact sheet also provides background information about the site.

About the Rose Valley Landfill Site:

The Rose Valley Landfill is located in a sparsely populated area of the Town of Russia in Herkimer County. It is bounded by Rose Valley, Bromley and Military Roads and includes a segment of an unnamed tributary of Hurricane Creek. The landfill properties cover 91 acres and include a 60 foot

sand embankment. The major land filled area is located on the side of a hill, and is vegetated with brush and small trees.

The landfill was a privately-owned, unlined dump that was operated from 1963-1984. It served as a municipal landfill for the Villages of Poland and Cold Brook, and also, starting in 1972, the Towns of Coxsackie, Newport, Herkimer, and Manheim. Residential, commercial, industrial and septic tank (scavenger) type wastes were accepted.

The last landfill owner/operator was frequently cited for DEC permit violations. Leachate outbreaks were commonly noted and refuse was often left uncovered and uncompacted. The most notable violation was in 1979, which was the documented observation of chlorinated solvents, notably trichloroethane (TCA), being brought to this landfill and burned. Improper disposal of trichloroethane and other solvents has resulted in groundwater contamination in excess of applicable class GA drinking water standards. A residential well adjacent to the landfill was sampled (late in 1991) and found to be contaminated with 1,1,1-trichloroethane and 1,1-dichloroethane.

In 1982, the last owner/operator entered into a legal agreement (consent order) with NYSDEC to upgrade the landfill to comply with NYSDEC regulations. In 1983, after the owner and NYSDEC did not agree on an appropriate engineering plan, the owner agreed to close the landfill by the end of 1985. In 1984, a landfill closure plan was submitted by the owner's consultants and accepted by NYSDEC. However, the closure plan was never implemented; a partial cap was constructed and found to be totally inadequate. Over time, the cap became eroded and was left in disrepair. The site owner abandoned the landfill and moved out of state. In 1986, a portion of the landfill property (not including the major fill area) was separately deeded to Joyce Miller.

In 1988, a preliminary assessment performed for the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classified the site as "medium priority" for site remediation. The ranking was attributed to uncontrolled leachate seeps discharging to surface water bodies at the base of the landfill. In August, 1995, the EPA's final site assessment determined that the landfill did not present a great enough risk to human health or the environment to warrant a cleanup by the federal government.

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) collected two well samples in 1981. Beginning in 1986, the NYSDOH has monitored private drinking water wells in the neighborhood of the landfill (in 1986, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1999 and 2000). All samples that were evaluated were considered satisfactory with the exception, in 1991, of one private drinking water well. The residential well immediately adjacent and south of the landfill entrance was found to contain low levels of chlorinated hydrocarbons exceeding drinking water standards. Bottled water delivery was initiated for this residence; and in October, 1993, NYSDEC installed a granular activated carbon filter (GAC) to remove the contaminants from the impacted well water.

In 1989, NYSDOH collected and analyzed four leachate/sediment samples from the base of the major fill area at the landfill. The results indicated the presence of a variety of contaminants at relatively low levels which is indicative of mixed municipal/industrial refuse. In 1990 and 1991, a site contamination assessment of the landfill was completed for the NYSDEC Division of Solid Waste. Subsequently, on March 24, 1992, the site was added to the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites as a Class 2 Site posing significant threat to human health and the environment. In 1998, the Rose Valley Landfill site was referred to the State Superfund Program for action.

Based on the environmental investigation and the feasibility study completed between May, 1999 and January, 2001, the State proposed a cleanup plan and presented it at a March 8, 2001 public meeting. The State's responses to comments received at the public meeting and during the 30-day comment period are included in Appendix A of the Record of Decision. A copy of the Record of Decision can be found at each of the document repositories listed on page 1, or a copy can be requested from the DEC project manager listed below.

What Happens Next:

Once the DEC's legal staff clears the site for use of State Superfund monies, remediation design of the selected remedy will be completed. The project will go out to bid. After the contract is awarded, the remedy will be constructed in 6-9 months. Thereafter, maintenance of the landfill cover and fence will be performed as needed, and semi-annual groundwater monitoring will be completed and reported.

For More Information:

Please do not hesitate to contact the following staff member if you have questions about:

The Record of Decision:

Kathryn Eastman, Project Manager
NYSDEC
50 Wolf Rd.
Albany, NY 12233-7010
(518) 457-1741

You can also contact DEC toll-free at 1-800-342-9296. Leave your name, phone number, and a brief message and someone will return your call.

Site-Related Health Questions:

Mr. Gregory Rys, Public Health Specialist 3
District Office Of the NYS Department of Health
5665 State Route 5
Herkimer, New York 13350
(315) 866-6879

Mr. Mark Van Deusen, Outreach Specialist
NYS Department of Health
547 River Street
Troy, New York 12180
(800) 458-1158 or (518) 402-7530

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Figure 1
SITE LOCATION MAP
ROSE VALLEY LANDFILL SITE
HERKIMER COUNTY, NEW YORK



SOURCE: USGS Newport Quadrangle New York, 7.5 Minute Series, 1982;
USGS Mendonville Quadrangle New York, 7.5 Minute Series, 1989