

GORICK CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION LANDFILL
KIRKWOOD (T), BROOME COUNTY
I.D. 7-04-019

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

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SECTION I INTRODUCTION TO PLAN

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is committed to a citizen participation program as a part of its responsibilities for the inactive hazardous waste sites. It provides an opportunity for the Department to obtain information from the public in developing a comprehensive remedial program which is protective of both public health and the environment.

SECTION II BASIC SITE INFORMATION

Site Description - The Gorick Construction and Demolition (C&D) landfill is a 35 acre site located between US Route 11 and the Susquehanna River in the Town of Kirkwood, Broome County (see Figure 1). Waste allegedly disposed at the site included construction and demolition debris from the neighboring community. The landfill surface is soil covered and vegetated with tall grasses and shrubs. Metal debris can be found throughout much of the site as well as large construction machinery and metal storage tanks.

The site is located approximately 100-300 feet from the Susquehanna River. The Town of Kirkwood municipal supply wells are located between the dump and the river. Additionally, the Town's water treatment plant and a PVC pipe factory are located within 300 feet east of the landfill.

Site History - The unpermitted dump site was owned and operated by Alfred Gorick, Jr. from 1959 to 1988. In November, 1988, the NYSDEC, through a closure order, required Mr. Gorick to close the site.

In 1977, the Town of Kirkwood installed two municipal water supply wells between the dump and the river. A third supply well was installed in 1986. The wells are located on Town owned lands which were taken through eminent domain from Mr. Gorick. The nearest well is approximately 300 feet from the site. In 1981, contamination of the wells with volatile organic contaminants (VOCs) was first documented. Subsequent analysis of monitoring wells have revealed groundwater contamination of up to 600 ppb of VOCs, with trichloroethylene (TCE) ranging up to 430 ppb in downgradient wells. Typical values of TCE in the water supply wells is 10 - 14 ppb, which exceeds newly adopted NYS Part 5 Drinking Water Standards of 5 ppb.

The water treatment originally consisted of a greensand filter for well #1 and a Vyredox iron removal system around well #3. Well #2 is not used as a production well, but is used as an injection well in the Vyredox facility for well #3. In order to reduce the VOC contamination in the raw water, in the fall of 1988 the Town purchased and installed a 1000 gpm air stripper package water treatment plant. Samples are routinely collected and analyzed from the effluent water from this plant. Analysis performed on those routine samples indicate that the water serviced to the community at the time of collection is of acceptable quality. However, at this point in time, the design flows of the water system is limited to the air stripper and greensand filter design flow rates (1000 gpm) which are less than the maximum allowable well yields of both well #1 (1000 gpm) and well #3 (2000 gpm).

Current Status - The site is presently listed as a Class 2 hazardous waste site (a site posing a significant threat to the public health or environment and requiring action) in the registry of inactive hazardous waste disposal.

In order to resolve the observed problems at the site, the NYSDEC has issued two work assignments to URS Consultants, Inc., Buffalo, New York for remedial activities at the Gorick C&D landfill site. The first assignment is to perform an evaluation of the water supply needs and then design an interim remedial measure (IRM). The second assignment is to perform a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) of the field environment conditions on-site and off-site. The work plans for this work, which have been submitted to and approved by the NYSDEC, detail all aspects of the project and are summarized below.

SECTION III PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The remedial program for the Gorick C&D landfill is composed of two work assignment, an IRM and a RI/FS.

IRM - The IRM involves the evaluation of the water supply needs of the community and then the design of an interim remedial measure. This IRM includes an evaluation of alternatives for treatment of the contamination documented at the municipal well head to meet the water needs of the community. URS Consultants have completed the evaluation of several possible IRMs, and the Department's preferred alternative to resolve the water supply needs is to install a 2000 GPM air stripper at well #3 with operation and maintenance provided by the Town of Kirkwood.

A contingency plan has also been developed to meet the immediate water supply needs of the community, if shortages occur, while the IRM is being constructed. For this, the Department has recommended that the Town use their interconnection with the City of Binghamton.

RI/FS - The objective of the RI portion of the study is to acquire information for the characterization of the physical, geological, hydrogeological, chemical, and environmental factors unique to the Gorick site. The site characterization data gathered during this phase of the project will be utilized to evaluate the environmental and health risks associated with the site and in the development of possible remedial alternatives to be examined in the FS.

Once the RI/FS has identified all applicable, relevant, and appropriate requirements for remedial action, and following a required public comment period, the NYSDEC shall select a final remedial program for the site in a record of decision (ROD). Unless the ROD recommends the "no action" alternative, the program will move to the remedial design phase.

Project Schedule - The air stripper is expected to be in service by the summer of 1991. The preliminary design of the air stripper is largely completed. The RI/FS is expected to take approximately 18 months to complete, but is dependent upon things like field conditions encountered and time necessary for analytical data validation. Field work for the RI is expected to start in the summer of 1990.

IV. IDENTIFICATION OF AFFECTED AND/OR INTERESTED PUBLIC

Congressman Matthew McHugh
28th District
201 Federal Buidling
Binghamton, NY 13902

Senator Daniel Moynihan
304 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Alfonse D'Amato
1259 Federal Bldg.
100 S. Clinton St
Syracuse, NY 13260

NYS Assemblyman James R. Tallon, Jr.
Room 404 Press Buidling
19 Chenango St
Binghamton, NY 13901

NYS Senator Thomas Libous
Suite 510
84 Court St
Binghamton, NY 13901

County Executive Timothy M. Grippen
County Office Building
Government Plaza
Binghamton, NY 13902

Ms. Lisa D. Rosas
Acting Director
Broome Co. Environmental Management Council
Broome County Office Bldg
Box 1766
Binghamton, NY 13902

Dr. Kathleen A. Gaffney
Health Commissioner
Broome Co. Office Building
Government Plaza
Binghamton, NY 13902

Mr. Robert Denz
Broome Co. Office Building
Government Plaza
Binghamton, NY 13902

Mr. Joseph A. Griffin
Town Supervisor
Box 2000
Crescent Dr
Kirkwood, NY 13795

Ms. Carolyn W. Fitzgerald
Town Clerk
Box 2000
Crescent Dr
Kirkwood, NY 13795

Mr. John A. Finch
Superintendent of Public Works
Town of Kirkwood
Box 2000
Crescent Dr
Kirkwood, NY 13795

Mr. Herbert A. Kline
Town of Kirkwood Attorney
Box 1864
Binghamton, NY 13902

Mr. Ronald Tramontano
Director
Bureau of Environmental Exposure Assessment
2 University Place
Albany, NY 12203

Mr. Ronald Heerkens
State Health Department
Syracuse Regional Office

677 S. Salina St
Syracuse, NY 13202

V. IDENTIFICATION OF DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Central Office Albany:

RI/FS Project Manager: David A. Camp, Project Manager
Div. of Hazardous Waste Remediation
NYSDEC, Room 222
50 Wolf Road
Albany, New York 12233-7010
518/457-4343

IRM Project Manager: Ray Lupe
Chief, Central Projects Section
Div. of Hazardous Waste Remediation
NYSDEC, Room 222
50 Wolf Road
Albany, New York 12233-7010
518/457-5677

Regional Hazardous Waste Engineer:

Charles Branagh
Regional Headquarters - NYSDEC
615 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, NY 13204-2400
315/426-7551

Citizen Participation Specialist:

Sue Miller
Regional Headquarters - NYSDEC
615 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, NY 13204-2400
315/426-7400

NYSDOH - Contact Syracuse: Ronald Heerkens
NYS Dept. of Health
Syracuse Office
677 South Salina St
Syracuse, NY 13202
315/426-7613

NYSDEC Toll-free Information Telephone Number:

1-800-342-9296

VI. IDENTIFICATION OF DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES

Local Repositories

Town of Kirkwood
Town Hall, Box 2000
Crescent Drive
Kirkwood, New York 13795

DEC Regional Office
Kirkwood Sub-Office
Flood Control Maintenance Bldg.
Route 11
Kirkwood, New York 13795

Regional Repositories

DEC Regional Office
Office of Public Affairs
615 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, NY 13204

VII. DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC CITIZEN PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES

The proposal is to: 1) proceed with the design of an IRM to treat the public water supply wells contaminated with volatile organic chemicals, and 2) proceed with a RI/FS to define the vertical and lateral extent of contamination and to evaluate remedial alternatives.

The following summarizes the necessary public participation activities which will be carried out related to this project to insure the public is informed and involved in the remedial activities planned.

1. Local officials will be contacted regularly by telephone or letter and given updates on the status of the projects (both the IRM and the RI/FS work).
2. Updates on the remedial projects will be supplied to those included on the mailing list in writing through fact sheets or update sheets. These will be issued at appropriate points in the process.
3. We will continually attempt to expand the mailing list to include other interested or affected publics. Sign up sheet at public meetings will assist in this effort.
4. Copies of documents relating to remedial activities will be placed and maintained for public review in the identified repositories (Section VI) throughout the life of the project as required under DEC policy in the statewide CP plan for inactive waste sites.

Availability of documents will be publicized. Documents will include, but not be limited to:

- workplan for RI/FS
 - first phase report of RI/FS
 - final draft RI/FS
 - transcripts of required public meeting on RI/FS
 - responsiveness summary
 - PRAP (Proposed Remedial Action Plan)
5. A public presentation will be given either independently at a public meeting or in conjunction with local officials as part of a public town board meeting on:
- the scope of work to be performed under the RI/FS including project workplan, health and safety plan and projected schedule and
 - the design and schedule for implementation of the IRM for water supply needs and water supply contingency plans developed. Information discussed will include IRM alternatives evaluated, the selected IRM and implementation schedule.
- Public comments, questions and concerns will be solicited and considered.
6. A public availability session or small group meeting for local officials and affected publics will be held when the first phase of the RI/FS is completed and the workplan for the second phase of work is available.
7. News releases with contact names will be issued at appropriate points in the project's process to keep citizens informed and offer opportunities for direct contact on issues or problems. Local town supervisor would be contacted prior to issuance of news releases as a courtesy and for informational purposes.
8. The required public meeting will be held once a draft final RI/FS is available for public comment. The event and its purpose will be well publicized in advance.
- The PRAP will be drafted and placed with the RI/FS report in the designated repositories. These documents will be made available before the meeting.
 - Public comment period will be held.
 - Responsiveness summaries will be prepared.
 - RI/FS will be finalized and PRAP finalized into the ROD on selected alternative.

9. Dependent on how project proceeds, we will conduct further citizen participation activities as needed in relation to the IRM and the RI/FS.

VIII. GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS AND MAJOR PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Availability Session - Scheduled gathering of the Department staff and the public in a setting less formal than a public meeting. Encourages "one-to-one" discussions in which the public meets with Department staff on an individual or small group basis to discuss particular questions or concerns.

Citizen Participation - A process to inform and involve the interested/affected public in the decision-making during identification, assessment and remediation of inactive hazardous waste sites. This process helps to assure that the best decisions are made from environmental, human health, economic, social and political perspectives.

Citizen Participation Plan - A document that describes the site-specific citizen participation activities that will take place to complement the "technical" (remedial) activities. It also provides site background and rationale for the selected citizen participation program for the site. A plan may be updated or altered as public interest or the technical aspects of the program change.

Citizen Participation Specialist - A Department staff member within the Office of Public Affairs who provides guidance, evaluation and assistance to help the Project Manager carry out his/her site-specific Citizen Participation program.

Contact List - Names, addresses and/or telephone numbers of individuals, groups, organizations and media interested and/or affected by a particular hazardous waste site. Compiled and updated by the Department. Interest in the site, stage of remediation and other factors guide how comprehensive the list becomes. Used to assist the Department to inform and involve the interested/affected public.

Document Repository - Typically a regional DEC office and/or public building, such as a library, near a particular site, at which documents related to remedial and citizen participation activities at the site are available for public review. Provides access to documents at times and a location convenient to the public. Environmental Management Councils (EMCs), Conservation Advisory Committee (CACs) as well as active local groups often can serve as supplemental document repositories.

Information Sheet - A written discussion of a site's remedial process, or some part of it, prepared by the Department for the public in easily understandable language. May be prepared for the "general" public or a particular segment. Uses may include, for example: discussion of an element of the remedial program, opportunities for public involvement, availability of a report or other information, or announcement of a public meeting. May be mailed to all or part of the interested public, distributed at meetings and availability sessions or sent on an "as requested" basis.

Definitions of Significant Elements and Terms of the Remedial Program

NOTE: The first eight definitions represent major elements of the remedial process. They are presented in the order in which they occur, rather than in alphabetical order, to provide a context to aid in their definition.

Site Placed on Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites - Each inactive site known or suspected of containing hazardous waste must be included in the Registry. Therefore, all sites which state or county environmental or public health agencies identify as known or suspected to have received hazardous waste should be listed in the Registry as they are identified. Whenever possible, the Department carries out an initial evaluation at the site before listing.

Phase I Site Investigation - Preliminary characterizations of hazardous substances present at a site; estimates pathways by which pollutants might be migrating away from the original site of disposal; identifies population or resources which might be affected by pollutants from a site; observes how the disposal area was used or operated; and gathers information regarding who might be responsible for wastes at a site. Involves a search of records from all agencies known to be involved with a site, interviews with site owners, employees and local residents to gather pertinent information about a site. Information gathered is summarized in a Phase I report.

After a Phase I investigation, DEC may choose to initiate an emergency response; to nominate the site for the National Priorities List; or, where additional information is needed to determine site significance, to conduct further (Phase II) investigation.

Phase II Site Investigation - Ordered by DEC when additional information is still needed after completion of Phase I to properly classify the site. A Phase II investigation is not sufficiently detailed to determine the full extent of the contamination, to evaluate remedial alternatives, or to prepare a conceptual design for construction. Information gathered is summarized in a Phase II report and is used to arrive at a final hazard ranking score and to classify the site.

Remedial Investigation (RI) - A process to determine the nature and extent of contamination by collecting data and analyzing the site. It includes sampling and monitoring, as necessary, and includes the gathering of sufficient information to determine the necessity for, and proposed extent of, a remedial program for the site.

Feasibility Study (FS) - A process for developing, evaluating and selecting remedial actions, using data gathered during the remedial investigation to: define the objectives of the remedial program for the site and broadly develop remedial action alternatives; perform an initial screening of these alternatives; and perform a detailed analysis of a limited number of alternatives which remain after the initial screening stage.

Remedial Design - Once a remedial action has been selected, technical drawings and specifications for remedial construction at a site are developed, as specified in the final RI/FS report. Design documents are used to bid and construct the chosen remedial actions. Remedial design is prepared by consulting engineers with experience in inactive hazardous waste disposal site remedial actions.

Construction - DEC selects contractors and supervises construction work to carry out the designed remedial alternative. Construction may be as straightforward as excavation of contaminated soil with disposal at a permitted hazardous waste facility. On the other hand, it may involve drum sampling and identification, complete encapsulation, leachate collection, storage and treatment, groundwater management, or other technologies. Construction costs may vary from several thousand dollars to many millions of dollars, depending on the size of the site, the soil, groundwater and other conditions, and the nature of the wastes.

Monitoring/Maintenance - Denotes post-closure activities to ensure continued effectiveness of the remedial actions. Typical monitoring/maintenance activities include quarterly inspection by an engineering technician; measurement of level of water in monitoring wells; or collection of groundwater and surface water samples and analysis for factors showing the condition of water, presence of toxic substances, or other indicators of possible pollution from the site. Monitoring/maintenance may be required indefinitely at many sites.

Consent Order - A legal and enforceable negotiated agreement between the Department and responsible parties where responsible parties agree to undertake investigation and cleanup or pay for the costs of investigation and cleanup work at a site. The other includes a description of the remedial actions to be undertaken at the site and a schedule for implementation.

Contract - A legal document signed by a contractor and the Department to carry out specific site remediation activities.

Contractor - A person or firm hired to furnish materials or perform services, especially in construction projects.

Delisting - Removal of a site from the state Registry based on study which shows the site does not contain hazardous waste.

Potentially Responsible Party Lead Site - An inactive hazardous waste site at which those legally liable for the site have accepted responsibility for investigating problems at the site, and for developing and implementing the site's remedial program. PRP's include: those who owned the site during the time wastes were placed, current owners, past and present operators of the site, and those who generated the wastes placed at the site. Remedial programs developed and implemented by PRP's generally result from an enforcement action taken by the State and the costs of the remedial program are generally borne by the PRP.

Ranking System - The United States Environmental Protection Agency uses a hazard ranking system (HRS) to assign numerical scores to each inactive hazardous waste site. The scores express the relative risk or danger from the site.

Responsible Parties - Individuals, companies (e.g. site owners, operators, transporters or generators of hazardous waste) responsible for or contributing to the contamination problems at a hazardous waste site. PRP is a potentially responsible party.

Site Classification - The Department assigns sites to classifications established by state law, as follows:

- o Classification 1 - A site causing or presenting an imminent danger of causing irreversible or irreparable damage to the public health or environment -- immediate action required.
- o Classification 2 - A site posing a significant threat to the public health or environment -- action required.
- o Classification 2a - A temporary classification for a site known or suspected to contain hazardous waste. Most likely the site will require a Phase I and Phase II investigation to obtain more information. Based on the results, the site then would be reclassified or removed from the state Registry if found not to contain hazardous wastes.
- o Classification 3 - A site which has hazardous waste confirmed, but not a significant threat to the public health or environment -- action may be deferred.
- o Classification 4 - A site which has been properly closed -- requires continued management.

- o Classification 5 - A site which has been properly closed, with no evidence of present or potential adverse impact -- no further action required.

State-Lead Site - An inactive hazardous waste site at which the Department has responsibility for investigating problems at the site and for developing and implementing the site's remedial program. The Department uses money available from the State Superfund and the Environmental Quality Bond Act of 1986 to pay for these activities. The Department has direct control and responsibility for the remedial program.

Project Manager - A Department staff member within the Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation (usually an engineer, geologist or hydrogeologist) responsible for the day-to-day administration of activities, and ultimate disposition of, one or more hazardous waste sites. The Project Manager works with the Office of Public Affairs as well as fiscal and legal staff to accomplish site-related goals and objectives.

Public - The universe of individuals, groups and organizations: a) affected (or potentially affected) by an inactive hazardous waste site and/or its remedial program; b) interested in the site and/or its remediation; c) having information about the site and its history.

Public Meeting - A scheduled gathering of the Department staff and the public to give and receive information, ask questions and discuss concerns. May take one of the following forms: large-group meeting called by the Department; participation by the Department at a meeting sponsored by another organization such as a town board or Department of Health; working group or workshop; tour of the hazardous waste site.

Public Notice - A written or verbal informational technique for telling people about an important part of a site's remedial program coming up soon (examples: announcement that the report for the RI/FS is publicly available; a public meeting has been scheduled).