



EPA BEGINS INVESTIGATION OF THE BRILLO LANDFILL SITE

CAYUGA COUNTY NEW YORK

MAY 2025



Upcoming Activities

In Summer 2025, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will begin an investigation of the Brillo Landfill Superfund site in Victory, Cayuga County, New York.

The agency will install groundwater monitoring wells to assess the groundwater, surface water, sediment, and soil.

Additionally, the EPA will fly a drone with a heat sensitive camera to capture the unique geophysical characteristics of the landfill.

The agency will analyze and evaluate the data before developing an assessment of risk to people's health as well as risk to the environment.

The investigation will help the EPA identify different options to clean up the site.

Why are We Using Drones?

Using drones will enhance the health and safety of response personnel at the site by reducing time, risk, and potential chemical and physical exposures that are part of manned or manual data collection methods.

Privacy considerations and collection of personally identifiable information, or PII, will be of the utmost concern while operating the drone to collect site information. The pilot and data manager will take the necessary steps to comply with privacy and PII requirements listed in the agency's drone procedures/directives. The drone activities will not collect photographic data of the site.

We Want To Hear From You: Developing a Community Involvement Plan

The EPA will be developing a Community Involvement Plan, or CIP, to guide how we engage and inform the community about what's happening at the Brillo Landfill Superfund site. We will interview interested members of the community by phone to get their thoughts about what locals want to know, how they would like to get updates and how often information should be provided. The best way for the EPA to find out about what works for your community is to ask.

If you would like to participate, please contact Mike Basile, Community Involvement Coordinator. Your responses will be combined with other interviewees and kept confidential. Thank you in advance for your interest and participation.

Past Activities

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, or NYSDEC, sampled the site from 2016 to 2019 and found that the current and former waste disposal areas and surrounding soil were contaminated with volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, semi volatile organic compounds, or SVOCs, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs, polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, and inorganic compounds including chromium, lead, copper, mercury, and nickel.

In 2018 and 2019, at the request of the NYSDEC, the EPA removed hazardous waste substances from 2,018 drums and then crushed the drums. The total amount of waste managed and shipped off-site included 8,000 gallons of liquid waste, 782 tons of impacted soil and 520 cubic yards of debris, plus 14 tons of other solids.

Site History

The Brillo Landfill accepted industrial and sanitary wastes from approximately 1962 to 1986. The facility received industrial wastewater treatment and paint sludge from a nearby automotive electroplating facility. Beginning in the 1960s, facility operations included transport, storage, and disposal of waste-filled drums containing sludge and chlorinated solvents. Brillo also received polishing compound, sewage sludge and waste grain from commercial food production facilities during the 1980s.

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