New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
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Commissioner

FACT SHEET
PATTON'S BUSY BEE DISPOSAL
INACTIVE HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE

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The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health (NYSDEC and NYSDOH) would like to update you on the progress of the remedial program at Patton's Busy Bee Disposal Site in Alfred, New York.

Patton's Busy Bee Disposal Site (Site # 9-02-014) consists of the Busy Bee Landfill, located off Clark Road in the Town of Alfred, Allegany County, and the Henry Landfill, located adjacent to the Busy Bee Landfill in the Town of Hartsville, Steuben County. This site is listed as a Class 2 site on the NYSDEC Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites. A Class 2 site is one which presents a significant threat to public health and/or the environment, requiring remedial action.

The Busy Bee Landfill consists of three unlined trenches which began operating in 1980. There is also a clay lined "remedial" trench which was constructed in 1986 with a leachate collection line at the bottom of the trench (over the clay liner). The collection line and liner were constructed to also intercept a portion of the leachate produced in the older unlined trenches. The entire landfill was closed and capped in 1989 and 1990.

The Henry Landfill is older than the Busy Bee Landfill. Not much information is known about the landfill, although it is believed to have accepted household and municipal waste from the late 1960's until the late 1970's. At the time it stopped accepting waste, the landfill was operated by Mr. Laverne Patton, who also operated the Busy Bee Landfill.

The original description of the site in the registry consisted of the Busy Bee Landfill disposal trenches. This description has been expanded to include the adjacent, older Henry Landfill as well. Although the NYSDEC has no direct evidence that hazardous waste was disposed of at the Henry Landfill, it was operated in its final years by Mr. Patton and likely received similar waste as the Busy Bee. New monitoring wells installed near the Henry Landfill indicate the presence of hazardous waste constituents in groundwater at levels at or slightly above groundwater standards. Based on this information and the likelihood that both landfills impact the same groundwater, the NYSDEC has expanded the Registry description to include both landfills.

Remedial Investigation - Phase 1

A remedial investigation is performed to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a site. The first phase of the remedial investigation at this site was completed late in 1994. Briefly, it consisted of the following:

Fourteen **new monitoring wells** were installed at seven locations and at various depths in the bedrock around both landfills. The accompanying map shows the locations of both old and new wells. At the Busy Bee Landfill, sample results from both old and new wells indicated the presence of volatile organic compounds (primarily trichloroethylene and dichloroethylene). This confirmed the results of earlier samples taken from the old wells. The highest levels of contamination were found in wells close to the landfill. Levels of contamination were lower in wells farther from the landfill and in deeper wells. No volatile organic compounds were detected in eight of the new wells. Some of the same volatile organic compounds were detected in wells at the Henry Landfill but at concentrations at and below groundwater standards. In addition, there were detections of chlorobenzene just above groundwater standards in two of the Henry Landfill wells. Groundwater flow directions are generally to the west and southwest.

Groundwater quality in the deepest bedrock investigated shows little impact from the site. There are four monitoring wells installed in this unit, two east of the Henry Landfill, and two west of the Busy Bee Landfill. One well west of the Busy Bee Landfill showed 15 parts per billion of dichloroethylene and 4 parts per billion of trichloroethylene. The groundwater standard for each of these compounds is 5 parts per billion. The other three wells in this zone had no detections of landfill contaminants.

Fifteen **residential wells** were sampled and no contaminants related to the landfill were found. All homeowners whose wells were sampled have been supplied with sampling results from their individual wells. Most of the residential wells (those to the south and southwest) are located well below the deepest bedrock zone where contamination was detected. The residences whose water wells are located in the upper bedrock zones appear to be upgradient of the site. It is unlikely that site groundwater would flow toward those wells. Additional data will be obtained during Phase 2 to confirm this.

Test pit excavations confirmed edges of the waste mass at both landfills. A small, previously unreported landfill waste area was identified between the two landfills, east of the landfill road. This area is included in the investigation.

Surface water (streams, springs, and ponds) **and sediment** were sampled at seven locations around the landfills. Surface water and sediment at one location southwest of the Busy Bee Landfill showed low levels of chlorinated solvents. The surface water at this location had a trace detection (2 parts per billion) of trichloroethylene. The sediment showed trichloroethane, trichloroethylene, and xylene at a total concentration of 30 parts per billion. This level of

contamination is not significant and is well below NYS cleanup standards.

Leachate and associated sediment were sampled at seven locations around both landfills. Volatile organic compounds were not identified in these samples. The levels of some metals, particularly iron and aluminum, were very high in some samples.

Surface soil sampling identified no landfill impacts on surface soils.

A **fish and wildlife impact analysis** was performed and identified no impacts to fish and wildlife.

The **leachate tanks** which have been collecting leachate from the remedial trench at the Busy Bee Landfill have been periodically emptied since Spring 1994. To date, over sixty thousand gallons of leachate have been removed and transported for off-site disposal.

Remedial Investigation - Phase 2

As results of phase one of the investigation were reviewed, the need for additional data was identified. Late this spring, the NYSDEC's contractor, URS Consultants, Inc. will begin additional field work to close final data gaps. Briefly, these activities will include:

- Sampling additional springs and seeps on the hillsides around the landfills not previously sampled.
- Subsurface soil sampling in the field south of the Busy Bee Landfill to identify any contamination that may be present in subsurface soils.
- Investigation of the leachate line west of the Busy Bee Landfill. Due to the elevated levels of groundwater contamination next to the western end of the Busy Bee Landfill, we suspect that there may be a leak in the leachate line in this area. A series of test trenches will be excavated in this location to investigate the leachate line.
- Installation of eight additional monitoring wells to confirm the groundwater flow directions and provide additional information on groundwater quality.
- Collection of additional groundwater samples from all site wells.

Feasibility Study

A Feasibility Study evaluates possible remedial alternatives for an inactive hazardous waste site. A preliminary draft Feasibility Study has been prepared by URS Consultants. As

Additional Information

If you have any questions, you may contact any of the people listed below:

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If you prefer, you may call the NYSDEC toll-free line at 1-800-342-9296, leave a message with your name and number, and the project manager will return your call.