

INFORMATION UPDATE: **NIAGARA SANITATION LANDFILL, WHEATFIELD**



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

March 2016

Introduction:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recently reclassified the Niagara Sanitation Landfill (Site Number 932054) to a Class 2 from a Class 3 site on the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste sites. The DEC reclassified the site due to recently characterized elevated surface soil concentrations identified in several locations and the presence of hazardous waste in the subsurface. Once a site has a Class 2 designation, DEC is authorized to seek out responsible parties who operated and/or disposed of hazardous substances and/or hazardous waste at the landfill to compel them to complete a comprehensive investigation and remediation of the landfill. If no responsible parties agree to investigate and remediate the property, the Class 2 listing also authorizes DEC to spend State Superfund money to complete the investigation and remediation. DEC would then take legal action to recover all costs from the parties that are responsible for the contamination.

Site Background:

Location: The Niagara Sanitation Company Site, also known as the Nash Road Landfill, is an inactive landfill located off Nash Road in the Town of Wheatfield, Niagara County. The landfill is owned by the Town of Wheatfield. The site is bordered by commercial and residential properties, vacant land and a utility corridor.

Site Features: The site consists of approximately 18.7 acres of a single 20.8 acre parcel. The property is vacant, and is overgrown with mature trees and brush. Portions of the property are covered with surface water at certain times of the year, particularly in the spring. Historic landfilling activities have resulted in irregular ground surface topography. Access to the site has not been restricted by the Town of Wheatfield.

Current Zoning and Land Use: The New York State property class code for this site is 852 - Landfills and Dumps. Surrounding land use includes residential properties to the south and west, and commercial properties to the north and east.

Past Use: The site was operated as a landfill by the Niagara Sanitation Company from the 1950s to 1968. The landfill accepted both municipal and industrial solid wastes, including caustic materials, plating tank sludge and municipal wastes. DEC records indicate that the Niagara Falls Air Force Base, Bell Aerospace, Carborundum, Frontier Chemical, Graphite Specialties, Continental Can, and Grief Brothers disposed of waste at the Site.

Records also indicate that approximately 1,600 cubic yards of waste, which was generated during construction of the LaSalle Expressway in Niagara Falls near what was later to become the Love

Canal site, was landfilled in a trench at this site between June 6 and July 15, 1968. The disposal trench reportedly measured 100 feet by 30 feet, and was 27 feet in depth. The waste debris was placed in the bottom 15 feet of the trench and covered with 12 feet of fill. This waste was excavated from the site during the Fall/Winter of 2014, and the Winter/Spring of 2015 and sent out of state for incineration by Glenn Springs Holdings, an affiliate of the Occidental Chemical Corporation.

Remedial History:

DEC completed a Phase I Investigation (historical records review and site walk over) of the site in 1983, a Phase II Investigation (on-site data collection) in 1985, and an expanded Phase II Investigation in 1989. These investigations confirmed the location of municipal and industrial wastes including the LaSalle Expressway/Love Canal waste. In association with these investigations, the Department of Health also completed surface soil sampling in 1991 to evaluate potential exposure risks. At that time, it was determined that the site did not pose a significant threat to public health or the environment because the exposure was limited; the materials were buried, contained or covered sufficiently to avoid significant exposure to the public or environment. Groundwater as a potential exposure path was determined to be limited because the area was served by public water and the closest private well was approximately one mile away. As a result, the site was designated as a Class 3 (action can be deferred) in the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites (Registry).

In 2013, Glenn Spring Holdings, an affiliate of Occidental Chemical Corporation commenced an Interim Remedial Measure to characterize and remove the wastes that were disposed of as part of the LaSalle Expressway construction. In association with this Interim Remedial Measure, DEC conducted a follow-up Site Characterization Study to re-evaluate the Class 3 designation for the site, to confirm the location of the wastes and to reevaluate the potential for exposure based on the surface soil. This investigation refined the location of the LaSalle Expressway/Love Canal waste disposal area and removal of the LaSalle Expressway/Love Canal waste was completed in 2015.

In 2014, DEC conducted a Supplemental Site Characterization investigation to characterize the municipal and industrial waste in the remainder of the landfill and reevaluate the surface soils and potential exposure pathways. While the majority of the site contained contaminant concentrations typical of non-hazardous municipal/industrial wastes, three areas were identified with hazardous concentrations of lead and PCBs. Several surface soil samples exceeded residential cleanup standards for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and metals, typical of municipal landfill sites across New York State. Groundwater within the footprint of the landfill contains elevated concentrations of volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, pesticides and metals that exceed drinking water standards. Surface water is confined to the landfill in ponded areas and does not run off the site. No significant off-site contamination is anticipated due to a naturally existing clay layer beneath and around the landfill which limits the migration of contaminants from the landfill.

The recently characterized elevated surface soil concentrations identified in several locations and the presence of hazardous waste in the subsurface prompted DEC to reclassify the site to a Class 2.

Next Steps:

DEC is currently seeking responsible parties who operated and/or disposed of waste to complete a comprehensive remedial investigation and final closure of the site. If no responsible parties come forward, DEC will investigate and remediate the site using State Superfund money. DEC will then

attempt to recover all costs from the responsible parties.

DEC anticipates a remedial investigation will begin in the fall of 2016 with investigation activities continuing into 2017. Remedy selection, remedial design and remedial construction activities will follow completion of the remedial investigation.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Your comments and questions regarding this project are welcome, and you can contact the following representatives for additional information:

Site Cleanup Related Concerns

Glenn May

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Local Project Manager
DEC Buffalo Office
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 851-7220
glenn.may@dec.ny.gov

Site Health Related Concerns

Matthew Forcucci

NYS Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation
584 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202
(716) 847-4501
BEEI@health.ny.gov

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=932054>