New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Fact Sheet

March 2001

Dewey Loeffel
Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site

SITE ID # 442006

Town of Nassau, Rensselaer County

PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN ISSUED FOR DEWEY LOEFFEL SITE

Operable Unit 3: Surface water system, including Nassau Lake and the Valatie Kill

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has issued a Proposed Remedial Action Plan, in which the Department is proposing a remedial alternative to address the PCB contamination in the Nassau Lake/Valatie Kill surface water system which resulted from past releases of PCB from the Dewey Loeffel site. The proposed remedial alternative would consist of the removal of PCB contaminated sediments from the small stream which leads from the site to the Valatie Kill, removal of PCB contaminated sediments from an area of the Valatie Kill where the highest concentrations of PCB contaminated sediments were identified, along with monitoring of the fish, water and sediments in the surface water system. The proposed remedial alternative also would include evaluations of remedial effectiveness to determine if additional measures would be undertaken to achieve the goals set for this site. The proposed remedial alternative also includes completion of the Interim Remedial Measure (to address the Northwest Drainage Ditch, Low-lying Area, Mead Road Pond and outlet, and the Mead Road Pond spoil banks) by GE in accordance with the approved work plan to meet the remedial goals for the site.

INTRODUCTION

The Dewey Loeffel inactive hazardous waste disposal site is located on Mead Road in the Town of Nassau, Rensselaer County. The site was used for the disposal of solvents, waste oils, PCBs, scrap materials, sludges, and solids from 1952 to 1968. The site was the subject of a remedial program in 1984-85, when a cap and slurry wall were installed to prevent further migration of contaminants away from the disposal site. However, no agreement could be reached at that time with the responsible parties for the site to address off-site impacts. Recently, the Department has selected additional remedial measures to upgrade the water management system at the site, and to recover and treat contaminated groundwater from the bedrock aquifer beneath and to the south of the disposal site. For further information related to site history, remedial history, and selection of the additional remedial measures, please see the Record of Decision issued by the Department in January, 2001.

An off-site impact related to pre-closure releases of PCB from the disposal site is the contamination of surface waters, soils and sediments in the Valatie Kill/Nassau Lake drainage basin. The primary drainage leaving the disposal site was to the northwest, along Mead Road through a low-lying area to Mead Road Pond a short distance away. A small unnamed tributary to the Valatie Kill (referred to as T11A of the Valatie Kill) drains Mead Road Pond into the Valatie Kill. Approximately two miles downstream of T11A, the Valatie Kill enters Nassau Lake, an impoundment of the Valatie Kill. Figure 1, attached, is a map showing the location of the disposal site, the surface water system including Nassau Lake.

PCB from the Dewey Loeffel site has been identified in samples taken throughout T11A, the reach of the Valatie Kill between T11A and Nassau Lake, and in Nassau Lake.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVE

The elements of the proposed remedy would be:

1. A remedial design program to verify the components of the conceptual design and provide the details necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance, and monitoring of the remedial program. Any uncertainties identified during the RI/FS would be resolved.

2. The Interim Remedial Measure, proposed by GE and approved by NYSDEC (to remove contaminated soils and sediments from Mead Road Pond, the spoil banks adjacent to Mead Road Pond, the Low-lying Area, and the Northwest Drainage Ditch) would be implemented by GE and completed by August 2001.

3. The PCB contaminated sediments in T11A would be removed and disposed in a permitted disposal facility off-site.

4. The PCB contaminated sediments in Area 28 of the Valatie Kill would be removed and disposed in a permitted disposal facility off-site.

5. Appropriate site restoration activities would be done in the areas disturbed by the removals in T11A and the Valatie Kill.

6. Natural attenuation processes would be ongoing which may aid in the decrease of PCB concentrations in surface sediment and fish.

7. Since the remedy results in untreated hazardous waste constituents remaining in Operable Unit 3 of the Dewey Loeffel site, a long term monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed remedy would be instituted. There would be several elements to the monitoring program. They would include:

   - annual biota sampling in T11A, in the Valatie Kill, and in Nassau Lake, along with reference locations;
   - annual surficial sediment sampling in T11A, in the Valatie Kill and in Nassau Lake;
   - annual suspended sediment sampling in Nassau Lake;
   - surface water sampling, especially during high flow events, in T11A, in the Valatie Kill, and in Nassau Lake.

   This monitoring program would be designed to measure the concentrations of PCB in the various media (biota, sediment, water), and to determine the long-term trends in the PCB concentrations in these various media after remediation.

8. Institutional controls for the site would include advisories against consumption of fish from the impacted portion of the Valatie Kill and from Nassau Lake

9. An inspection program would be established to ensure that the dam which impounds Nassau Lake will continue to do so for as long as it is necessary, to contain the PCB contaminated sediments in Nassau Lake. If the dam is found to be deficient, then work will be done as appropriate to maintain the dam.

10. Remedy reviews would be conducted (at least every five years) to determine if the results of the remedy are protective of human health and the environment and if they meet the remedial goals listed below.

    The monitoring program will be designed to determine, in a statistically significant manner, if the advisories related to human consumption of fish contaminated with PCBs can be lifted or reduced. If after a reasonable period of time, (likely three to five years) the advisories can not be lifted or reduced, then an evaluation will be undertaken of whether or not there are additional feasible remedial actions which will allow for the advisories to be lifted or reduced.

    In a similar manner, the remedy reviews will also evaluate whether all of the goals of the

remedial program have been met, and whether or not there are feasible remedial actions which will result in the other remedial goals being met.

In order to determine which additional remedial actions would be implemented if the goals of this remedy are not met, a supplemental Feasibility Study would be performed in accordance with applicable guidance. Selection of the appropriate additional remedial actions would follow the NYSDEC remedy selection process, including public comment.

Availability Session and Public Meeting Scheduled for April 19, 2001

An availability session and public meeting have been scheduled to allow the public to obtain information about the proposed remedial alternative and to have questions answered about proposed remedial alternative. The availability session, a question and answer session in an informal setting, will take place from 3 pm to 5 pm on April 19, 2001 at the St. Mary's Parish Hall in the Village of Nassau. The public meeting, which will consist of a presentation of the proposed remedial alternative and the findings of studies to date, and a question and answer period, will be held from 7 pm to 9 pm at the same location on April 19.

Document Repositories

Documents pertaining to the site, such as the PRAP, RI and FS reports, are available for public review at the repositories listed below.

Nassau Library
Church Street
Nassau, New York 12123

NYSDEC Division of Environmental Remediation
Room 242, 50 Wolf Road
Albany, New York 12233

For Further Information

If you have any questions or comments concerning the Proposed Remedial Action Plan, please contact:

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