



# EPA Proposes to Add Dewey Loeffel Landfill to Federal Superfund List

Community Update

March 2010

## FAST FACTS

- Site was used as a disposal facility in the 1950s and 60s
- More than 46,000 tons of industrial hazardous waste, including solvents, PCBs, sludges, waste oils and solids was brought there
- Hazardous substances have migrated to the drainageways (T11A, Valatie Kill) and to Nassau Lake
- From 1983 to 1984, NYS-DEC built a slurry wall, clay cap and leachate collection system from money received from General Electric
- In 1992, NYSDEC conducted remedial investigations and feasibility studies
- NYSDEC implemented remedies for groundwater and leachate and the drainageways in 2001 and 2002
- Site was referred to EPA in early 2009, and EPA collected sediment samples in June and August

## INTRODUCTION

EPA announced March 2, 2010 that it is proposing to add the Dewey Loeffel Landfill on Mead Road in Nassau, NY, Rensselaer County, to its Superfund National Priorities List of the country's most hazardous waste sites. The Agency will take public comments on the proposal and will carefully consider all comments before making a final decision on whether to list the site. The 60-day public comment period will take place from March 4 to May 3, 2010. Comments should be submitted to EPA at <http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#home>, docket # EPA-HQ-SFUND-2010-0075 or contact Ildefonso Acosta, Region 2 NPL Coordinator at (212) 637-4344 or [acosta.ildefonso@epa.gov](mailto:acosta.ildefonso@epa.gov).

## CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act)

This law is normally referred to as Superfund, and it empowers EPA to compel responsible parties to pay for or conduct necessary response actions at contaminated sites. It also provides federal funds for cleanup of hazardous waste sites and gives EPA the authority to respond to emergencies involving hazardous substances. Discovery of toxic waste disposal sites prompted passage of the law by Congress in 1980.

## NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL)

The NPL contains the nation's most hazardous waste sites warranting further investigation and remediation. There are 1,264 sites on the NPL. Listing a site on the NPL triggers a removal site evaluation, a health consultation, a remedial investigation, and a feasibility study.

To See Site's Listing Documents: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/current.htm>



**SUPERFUND REMEDIAL PROCESS**

- Site Placed on National Priorities List
- Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study
- Proposed Remedy
- Record of Decision
- Remedial Design
- Remedial Action
- Site Deletion
- Monitoring and Maintenance as appropriate

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**ACRONYMS**

NPL—National Priorities List  
HRS—Hazard Ranking System  
RI—Remedial Investigation  
FS—Feasibility Study

**SITE HISTORY**

From 1952 until 1968, the site was used for disposal of waste materials generated by several industries, including General Electric, Bendix Corporation, and Schenectady Chemicals. The waste materials were dumped into a lagoon area, oil pit, and drum burial area. In 1968, the State of New York ordered the operator to stop discharges from the disposal facility and perform cleanup work. NYSDEC has overseen the investigation and cleanup actions there since 1980.

**WORK COMPLETED**

In 1980, General Electric entered into an agreement with NYSDEC to perform additional investigations and cleanup work at the site. During a two-year span, GE removed approximately 500 drums and four 30,000-gallon oil storage tanks. GE also paid NYSDEC \$2.33 million to conduct remedial construction, monitoring and maintenance on the site. From September 1983 to November 1984, NYSDEC built a slurry wall, clay cap and leachate collection system. Since then, the state has been maintaining the landfill and disposing of landfill leachate at an off-site, permitted facility. Starting in 1992, an RI/FS was conducted by GE under NYSDEC oversight. Remedial measures for ground water and surface water drainage pathways were completed by NYSDEC in 2001 and 2002, as well as installation of residential well treatment systems to address site-related volatile organic compounds. Between 2001-2004, GE removed about 15,000 tons of PCB-contaminated soil and sediment from the drainageway between the site and Nassau Lake, and in 2009 GE replaced a Nassau Lake dam. In 2008, NYSDEC completed an off-site ground water collection system. The state is monitoring wells, ground water, surface water and fish.

