

# Dunn Mine and C&D Debris Landfill Monitoring and Enforcement

NYS Solid Waste and Mined Land Reclamation Programs

Partition Street Extension, Rensselaer

## WHO TO CONTACT



Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

### PROJECT-RELATED QUESTIONS:

NYSDEC Region 4  
1130 N. Westcott Road  
Schenectady, NY 12306  
(518) 357-2096  
Brian Maglienti, P.E.  
Jonathan A. Whitcomb

### REPORT ODORS:

24-Hour, Hotline  
(518) 292-0449

### FOR INFORMATION ON DEC'S ONGOING AIR QUALITY STUDY OF THE DUNN FACILITY:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/117071.html>

## NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and Department of Health to hold Public Availability Session on February 27

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Health (DOH) will hold a public availability session on February 27, 2020 to discuss the ongoing operations of the Dunn Mine and C&D (construction and demolition) Debris Disposal Facility on Partition Street Extension. At the availability session, individual stations on various aspects of DEC's roles in the oversight and monitoring of the Dunn facility will be staffed by experts from DEC and DOH to provide opportunities for interested residents and community members to have specific questions answered. Community members can arrive at any time throughout the evening.

**Thursday, February 27, 2020**  
**Rensselaer City School Cafeteria**  
**5:30 – 7:30pm**

DEC and DOH are committed to protecting the environment and public health of the City of Rensselaer and its residents during the ongoing operations of the Dunn facility. DEC continues to rigorously oversee all operations at the Dunn facility and has taken actions to respond to community concerns and minimize any impacts on quality of life.

This update includes the latest information on DEC's efforts to ensure that operations at the Dunn facility are in compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations, and reports on DEC's responses to community concerns regarding the facility.



## Reporting Hotline

Call (518) 292-0449 (24-hour hotline) to report nuisance odors.

Residents are encouraged to call the Hotline should they experience a significant odor event related to the landfill. This will alert the operator and require them to respond and address any problem at the facility. In addition, using the Hotline will immediately alert DEC, create a record of the complaint, and allow DEC the opportunity to respond.

## New Operations Requirements

New York State's top priority is ensuring that residents and students, faculty, and staff at the Rensselaer City School campus are not exposed to any potential site-related health or safety hazards. In October, DEC took action to modify the Dunn facility's permit to address potential impacts in response to community input and DEC's ongoing daily monitoring and inspections. The new requirements under the permit modifications will further reduce the potential for odors and other off-site impacts by going beyond existing voluntary actions. The modifications require the facility to improve the collection and treatment of gas, cover waste on a daily basis, and establish new protocols to help ensure prompt investigations upon receiving reports to the new complaint hotline.

## Perimeter Berm

In a 2019 Consent Order, DEC required the submission of a permit modification application for the construction of a soil berm along the northern and northeastern perimeter of the Dunn facility adjacent to the school to provide an additional visual, odor, dust, and noise buffer to the school and its recreational fields. The limits of the landfill are not expanding beyond those already approved by DEC.

As a result of the requirement to construct a berm, landfill operations in the areas closest to the school have been delayed. The operator applied for the permit modification in August and in September DEC found the application to be incomplete and is awaiting additional information from the operator. If the additional information is provided and DEC determines that there is enough information to begin the public review of the application, DEC will schedule opportunities for public comment.



*Examples of mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) berms similar to what will be used along the northern and northeastern perimeter of the Dunn facility.*

## Odor Control

In January, DEC approved the Dunn facility's proposed plan for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a modified active gas collection and treatment system and landfill gas monitoring, as required by the DEC's permit modification. The facility has begun installing the approved system.

The installation process requires boring through the waste mass to install vertical gas collection wells. Temporarily during installation, odorous gasses might escape through these boreholes. DEC requires the

facility to take steps to minimize these odors and will continue to strictly monitor the facility.

## Site Inspections

DEC maintains active and continuous monitoring and inspections of the Dunn facility to ensure that its operations remain in compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations and to allow DEC to quickly respond to any actual or potential violations or other concerns.

In addition to the daily inspections undertaken by the DEC's full-time on-site monitor since July 2019, DEC staff have been diligently responding to community concerns and performing after-hours and weekend odor inspections nearly every day. DEC staff also visit the Dunn facility regularly during normal business hours to ensure compliance with the permit and all outstanding DEC enforcement measures and to identify any potential areas of concern for further action.



*DEC requires hydroseeding at the Dunn facility to stabilize the sand, reducing offsite dust issues.*

## Air Quality

DEC continues to closely monitor air quality conditions at the facility and surrounding community and will strictly oversee the implementation of the corrective actions and modifications to ensure public health and the environment are protected to the fullest extent under the law.



*Map of DEC air quality sampling locations*

The DEC air monitoring trailer at Van Rensselaer Elementary School continues to take continuous samples of air particulate matter of 10 micrometers or less in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>). On September 19, 21 and 22, PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations increased above concentrations measured at the Albany County Health Department, but still well below the National Ambient Air Quality Standard. The increases may have been due to traffic related to school athletic events, lawn maintenance or dust moving offsite from activities at the landfill. To date, all other data collected by the trailer showed PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations to be lower than current measurements across the Hudson River in the City of

Albany and below the National Ambient Air Quality Standard. Data from DEC's ongoing air quality monitoring at the Dunn Landfill and the surrounding community are available on DEC's website.

DEC installed four hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) AcruLog monitoring devices strategically mounted around the perimeter of the Dunn facility. Over the monitoring period of April 4, 2019 - November 21, 2019, the

number of occurrences when H<sub>2</sub>S was detected was very low (less than 1% of the measurements) and predominantly during late evening and early morning hours when the landfill was closed. During these periods of time winds were calm, and other conditions were sometimes present which can keep heavier than air gasses, such as H<sub>2</sub>S, close to the ground. There were a few dates when the monitors measured H<sub>2</sub>S above 0.010 parts per million (ppm) for consecutive 10-minute readings. New York State has an ambient air quality standard for H<sub>2</sub>S. In any one-hour period, the average concentration of H<sub>2</sub>S shall not exceed 0.010 ppm. A summary for each of the sampling locations follows:

- Cemetery: 0.29% (88 of 30,325 observations) of the readings detected H<sub>2</sub>S and the maximum 10-minute reading was 0.050 ppm
- Soccer Field: 0.31% (96 of 31,323 observations) of the readings detected H<sub>2</sub>S and the maximum 10-minute reading was 0.052 ppm
- Baseball Field: 0.86% (268 of 31,333 observations) of the readings detected H<sub>2</sub>S and the maximum 10-minute reading was 0.420 ppm
- Garden Place: 0.24% (28 of 11,850 observations) of the readings detected H<sub>2</sub>S and the maximum 10-minute reading was 0.009 ppm
- 9th Street: 0.011% (2 of 18,141 observations) of the readings detected H<sub>2</sub>S and the maximum 10-minute reading was 0.003 ppm - monitor moved on August 14 to Garden Place

The H<sub>2</sub>S air sampling results indicate that the landfill is a source of sporadic but noticeable odors. These odors may trigger temporary symptoms in some people, such as headache, nausea and throat irritation, but the levels detected are highly unlikely to result in long term health effects. All H<sub>2</sub>S monitors were removed in November because the instruments are not effective during cold weather but will be activated again in the spring

## Where to Find More Information

Data from DEC's ongoing air quality monitoring will be posted at the following website:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/117071.html>

Questions and comments should be directed to:

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(518) 357-2096, Attn: Brian Maglienti, P.E., Jonathan A. Whitcomb

Watch for additional Community Updates from DEC