

***DRAFT* Community Update**
Winthrop Landfill Superfund Site, Winthrop, Maine
July 2015

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP, collectively the Agencies) together with Amec Foster Wheeler Environment and Infrastructure, Inc. (Amec Foster Wheeler) and United Technologies Corporation (UTC) have prepared this update to inform you about the status of future work this calendar year, with specific focus on the Hoyt Brook Seep Area. This and future status updates will be mailed directly to people living next to the former Winthrop Landfill (the Site).

Should you have any questions after reviewing this update, please contact any of the project personnel, whose names and phone numbers appear on the last page under the section “For More Information.” This section also includes instructions for visiting the public information repository located at Town Hall.

Background

On February 14, 2007, USEPA issued an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD), which determined that continued operation of the groundwater pump and treat system on the Site would not be effective in reducing levels of naturally occurring arsenic. Arsenic is the only contaminant in groundwater that is significantly above the Alternate Concentration Limits, which are the cleanup targets set for the Site groundwater. The ESD noted that the groundwater that flows between the Landfill and points where the groundwater discharges to surface water (called “seeps”) contains low oxygen conditions (called “anaerobic” or “reducing” conditions). When this low oxygen water meets the oxygen rich surface water at seep areas, naturally occurring metals such as iron, manganese and arsenic precipitate out of solution in the very shallow lake/brook/marsh/bog sediments and on the surface of rocks as an orange, pasty material referred to as “flocculent”.

Numerous investigations of the seeps have been completed over the last seven years, including sediment studies, surface water studies, algae studies, and fish studies. Based on the findings of those studies (available at the repository), USEPA has determined and MEDEP concurred that the naturally occurring arsenic in sediments at the Hoyt Brook Seep Area poses a potentially unacceptable human health risk, and that remediation of sediment in that area is needed. The Hoyt Brook Seep Area is approximately 15 feet by 70 feet in size and is readily identified by the orange flocculent described above.

Based on the studies, Amec Foster Wheeler submitted a feasibility study (FS) to the Agencies discussing the various remedial alternatives available for the Hoyt Brook Seep Area. Based on Agency reviews of the FS, revisions to the document and meetings with Amec Foster Wheeler and UTC, a preferred alternative was identified which would

include excavation of impacted sediment and then restoring the area via the installation of a drainage layer, protective layer and natural vegetation.

Next Steps

Hoyt Brook Seep Area

After assessing the results of all Hoyt Brook Seep Area activities, the Agencies proposed that a pilot study be conducted to assess the viability of the proposed remedial alternative before a final decision can be made regarding the remedial approach.

The objective of the pilot test is to answer four critical questions:

1. Would the re-designed cover material itself become re-contaminated over time?
2. Would new seeps emerge outside the remediated area?
3. Would the remediation be stable from erosion and flooding?
4. Would the remediation result in exceedances of performance criteria in surface water?

The pilot study will consist of the following components:

1. Excavating sediment at the seep and adjacent soils near the shore that have natural arsenic levels above performance criteria.
2. Placement of drainage materials over the seep to ensure flow from the seep is not obstructed or directed elsewhere.
3. Covering the seep and adjacent areas with rip rap (rocks about 12 inches in diameter) to prevent contact with the underlying material and armor the area from potential erosion.
4. Placing mulch and native vegetation on top of the rip rap to blend in with the natural forest floor cover in the area.
5. Implementing a monitoring program to determine if the pilot test objectives had been achieved.

The pilot study design acknowledges that any remediation of the Hoyt Brook Seep Area will occur in a wetland/floodplain area, and that legal requirements regarding wetlands/floodplains require that impact to such areas be minimized to the extent possible.

Other Seep Areas

Although studies have determined that remedial measures are not necessary at other seep areas, Amec Foster Wheeler will continue to collect surface water and sediment samples from the seep areas in accordance with the approved Post-Closure Monitoring Plan.

Informational Meeting

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The Agencies, Amec Foster Wheeler and UTC will conduct an informational meeting prior to the start of the Hoyt Brook Pilot Study to answer questions about the proposed study and receive input from the community. The meeting will be held on [add date] at [add time] at the Winthrop Town Hall.

For More Information

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A public information repository containing major decision and enforcement documents, five-year review reports, and major technical documents related to the Winthrop Landfill Superfund Site is located at the Town Offices at 17 Highland Avenue. Documents, various reports and memos, regarding the Hoyt Brook Seep Area, the Annabessacook Lake Seep Area, and the algae/flocculent issues in Annabessacook Lake are included in the repository. Please contact Peter Neilsen, Town Manager, to access the repository.

Site information and decision documents are also available on USEPA's webpage at:

www.epa.gov/ne/superfund/sites/winthrop