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CLEARVIEW LANDFILL COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PHILADELPHIA AND DELAWARE COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA

SEPTEMBER 2012

Q: It seems like a lot of people in the Eastwick neighborhood have cancer. Is the Clearview Landfill the cause?

It's not likely. The Clearview Landfill, as it sits today, does not pose an immediate risk to the community.

EPA has completed a comprehensive evaluation of the potential long-term health risks based on the current conditions and the risks are very low. They aren't zero, but they are low.

EPA understands that residents are concerned about why so many people in their community have cancer. However, it is very unlikely that the Clearview Landfill is causing cancer.

It is always very challenging to determine what factors cause a person to develop cancer. According to the National Institutes of Health, 1 in 2 people in the U.S. will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. A number of factors can influence the development of cancer including genetics, lifestyle choices, diet, and tobacco usage.

To read more about EPA's comprehensive study at the Clearview Landfill, please visit:

<http://go.usa.gov/GTq>

Q: Has anyone evaluated the cancer rates in the Eastwick community?

Yes. In February 2012, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) finalized their evaluation of the cancer incidence rates for the Eastwick area zip code, 19153. Their evaluation concluded:

- ◆ When compared to the rest of Pennsylvania, there is an increased incidence of cancer in Philadelphia County.
- ◆ Cancer rates in zip code 19153 are less than the cancer rates in the rest of Philadelphia County.
- ◆ PADOH concluded that except for liver cancer, the types of cancer found in zip code 19153 are not closely linked to chemicals found in the environment.

The full PADOH report is available on the EPA LDCA website at: <http://go.usa.gov/GTq>

Q: Have you properly identified the health risks posed to community residents living near the site?

EPA is confident that we have identified the potential risks to both human health and the environment.

Working with PADOH and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, EPA is using specific risk assessment guidelines that we have to follow when evaluating the risk to people and the environment.

We use these same guidelines at similar landfill sites across the country.

In the case of the Clearview Landfill, EPA conducted an initial risk assessment in 2001. As part of the remedial investigation, EPA conducted extensive sampling of the landfill, city park and neighborhood and developed a second risk assessment.

Professor Ted Emmett, M.D., an independent expert from the Penn School of Medicine, evaluated our approach to assessing risk at the Clearview Landfill in 2002 and he found it to be appropriate.

EPA's Remedial Investigation and Dr. Emmett's report are available at: <http://go.usa.gov/GTq>

Q: Why isn't there a fence around the Clearview Landfill?

The site is not fenced because the risks to people walking on the site are very low. In addition, fencing does not necessarily deter trespassers who will often times vandalize our fences to access the property. EPA did place signs on the boundary of the wooded property, which is private property, cautioning people not to trespass.

EPA encourages the community to be aware of the signs and help encourage others not to trespass on the property.

Q: Was the water that entered my home during Hurricane Floyd contaminated by the landfill?

There is no way to know. In an urban area, flood waters contain a variety of common urban pollutants from such places as streets, sewers, and businesses.

However, EPA and FEMA took samples from the park and in residential areas after the floods and could not identify a pattern of contamination that could be linked to the landfill.

The key health problems from flooding come from bacteria and moisture which create mold and other health threats, which is why cleanup after flooding is very important.

For more information about preparing for and cleaning up after a flood please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/naturaldisasters/flooding.html>

Q: Is the City Park going to be cleaned up?

EPA's plan is to address the contamination in the city park in order to reduce the potential risks to human health and the environment. Once our comprehensive investigation is complete, EPA will propose a cleanup plan to the community for their comment and input. We expect to be able to propose the plan in 2013.

Q: Why is the cleanup taking so long?

Unfortunately, cleaning up Superfund sites can take a long time and EPA understands that it can be a frustrating process for communities living near the sites. However, the process EPA is following will ensure that a thorough and comprehensive investigation is done so that we may select the best cleanup option to protect human health and the environment.

In the case of the Clearview Landfill, there were also legal hurdles that added to the time it took before an investigation could begin. Specifically, it took five years for EPA to be granted legal access to the Clearview Landfill, significantly slowing down the Superfund cleanup process.

Since then, EPA has done extensive investigative work and by early 2013, we expect to propose a cleanup plan to the community.

For information about how Superfund works visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/process.htm>

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/today/pdfs/TIS%20FINAL%209.13.11.pdf>

Q: Did EPA focus on the environmental risks rather than human health risks when the site was evaluated for the National Priorities List (NPL)?

Because the NPL listing score was based on environmental risks when EPA first evaluated the site for the NPL, people in the community believed that we didn't care about the human health risks, which was not the case.

The NPL scoring process is a tool that EPA uses to determine if a site is eligible for the NPL. To be considered for the NPL, a site must score at least **28.5**.

Based on the ecological data alone, EPA had enough information to score the Clearview Landfill and that score was **48.03**. Therefore, we were able to move forward and list the site, enabling us to conduct a comprehensive evaluation which included a full human health risk evaluation and an ecological risk evaluation.

For more information about how the Superfund process works, please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/process.htm>

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/today/pdfs/TIS%20FINAL%209.13.11.pdf>

Q: Are the PCBs in the groundwater affecting my health?

Your health is not being affected by PCBs in the groundwater at the site. The groundwater in the vicinity of the site is not used for drinking or other purposes. Also, there is an active cleanup underway at Clearview which is addressing the PCB contamination.

EPA is removing PCBs from soil and waste in a small area of the landfill. There is no plume of PCB contaminated groundwater heading towards the Eastwick neighborhood. PCB concentrations in groundwater are low and localized to the area of the removal action, further west towards the center of the landfill, and in a small area in the northern part of the landfill.

Q: Given that EPA had issues dealing with stormwater during the removal, how does EPA intend to deal with stormwater during the larger cleanup?

Stormwater management will be a major issue for the larger cleanup. EPA will work closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Delaware County, and the City of Philadelphia to address this issue throughout the design and construction process. However, the specifics of stormwater management will not be determined until a cleanup plan is selected.

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