

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 3
DELAWARE, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA AND THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Hidden Lane Landfill Superfund Site
Sterling, VA
November 2012
Community Update #2



The Groundwater Investigation is Complete

EPA has completed its groundwater investigation at the Hidden Lane Landfill Superfund Site. Part of the investigation included taking additional steps to find out if contaminated groundwater was reaching or going underneath the Potomac River as it moved north. To do this, EPA deepened three of our deep monitoring wells from 350 to more than 500 feet and took additional samples. The results show:

- ✓ The plume of contaminated groundwater significantly decreases as it moves toward the Potomac River. It also tends to get shallower as it moves north (see Figures 1 and 2).
- ✓ Groundwater is most heavily contaminated in a small area just west of the Hidden Lane Landfill (see Figure 1), between about 350 and 450 feet deep (see Figure 2). Fractures in the underlying bedrock likely allowed the trichloroethene (TCE) to 'sink' and accumulate there at about 300 ug/L (micrograms per liter) or 300 parts per billion (ppb). The Maximum Contaminant Level established by the EPA for TCE for drinking water is 5 ppb, which is equivalent to five drops of water in an Olympic sized pool.

EPA began this three-phase investigation to characterize the groundwater contamination back in 2009 by drilling and sampling 19 monitoring wells around the Hidden Lane Landfill.

We followed up with nine more deep wells and geophysical studies in 2010 and 2011 and began to get a better picture of the TCE contaminant plume.

Next Steps

Over the next several months, EPA will conduct a risk assessment to identify under what scenarios this contamination poses the greatest risk to human health and the environment. Using information from the groundwater investigation, EPA will do the risk assessment in two phases:

Phase 1: A Human Health Risk Assessment to determine what exposure conditions may pose the most risk to people.

Phase 2: An Ecological Risk Assessment to determine what exposure scenarios may pose risk to wildlife in the local environment.

Once these risks are identified, EPA will design cleanup alternatives that can address the contamination.

EPA will evaluate a variety of alternatives to deal with these risks and pick the one it thinks will work best. If necessary, EPA may conduct pilot tests for some of the alternatives, part of a process called a Feasibility Study, to make sure they'll work before we propose them to the public for comment.

**For more information, please visit our
website at:**

<http://go.usa.gov/Yy2A>

We'll Keep You Informed

Once EPA has a solution to the problem, the proposed cleanup plan, EPA will prepare a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for the public. The PRAP describes the problem, what alternatives EPA considered and which alternative EPA favors and why.

EPA will then hold a public meeting to present the PRAP to the public and give the public an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on the cleanup plan. Details about the public meeting will be announced in the Loudoun Times Mirror and in a mailing to the community. EPA expects to hold that public meeting sometime in 2013.

After EPA has reviewed, considered, and responded to all the comments received, EPA will make a final decision and issue a Record of Decision or 'ROD.'

The ROD is the formal document that details EPA's final cleanup decision for the site, along with documenting our responses to public comments.

Site Background

The Hidden Lane Landfill was once a 25-acre privately owned and operated disposal facility north of VA Route 7 between the Broad Run Farms and Countryside communities. It is adjacent to the flood plain of the Potomac River. Starting in 1971, the facility accepted a variety of solid wastes including construction and demolition wastes.

The facility closed in the mid-1980s. In 1989, TCE contamination was first detected in drinking water wells of some of the homes in the Broad Run Farms subdivision, west of the Landfill.

Over the next 16 years, TCE would be discovered in five new wells installed in the Broad Run Farms development. In February 2005, TCE contamination was identified in additional private wells located in the eastern portion of the Broad Run Farms neighborhood.

In March 2005, 67 additional residential wells in the Broad Run Farms neighborhood were sampled for TCE by the Loudoun County Health Department. Following that effort, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) placed 22 affected residences on water treatment systems to intercept the TCE before it entered the house plumbing.

EPA began a Site Assessment at the Hidden Lane Landfill in October 2005. That action was completed in 2007, resulting in the Hidden Lane Landfill being proposed to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) of contaminated sites on September 19, 2007. The Hidden Lane Landfill was listed on the NPL on March 19, 2008.

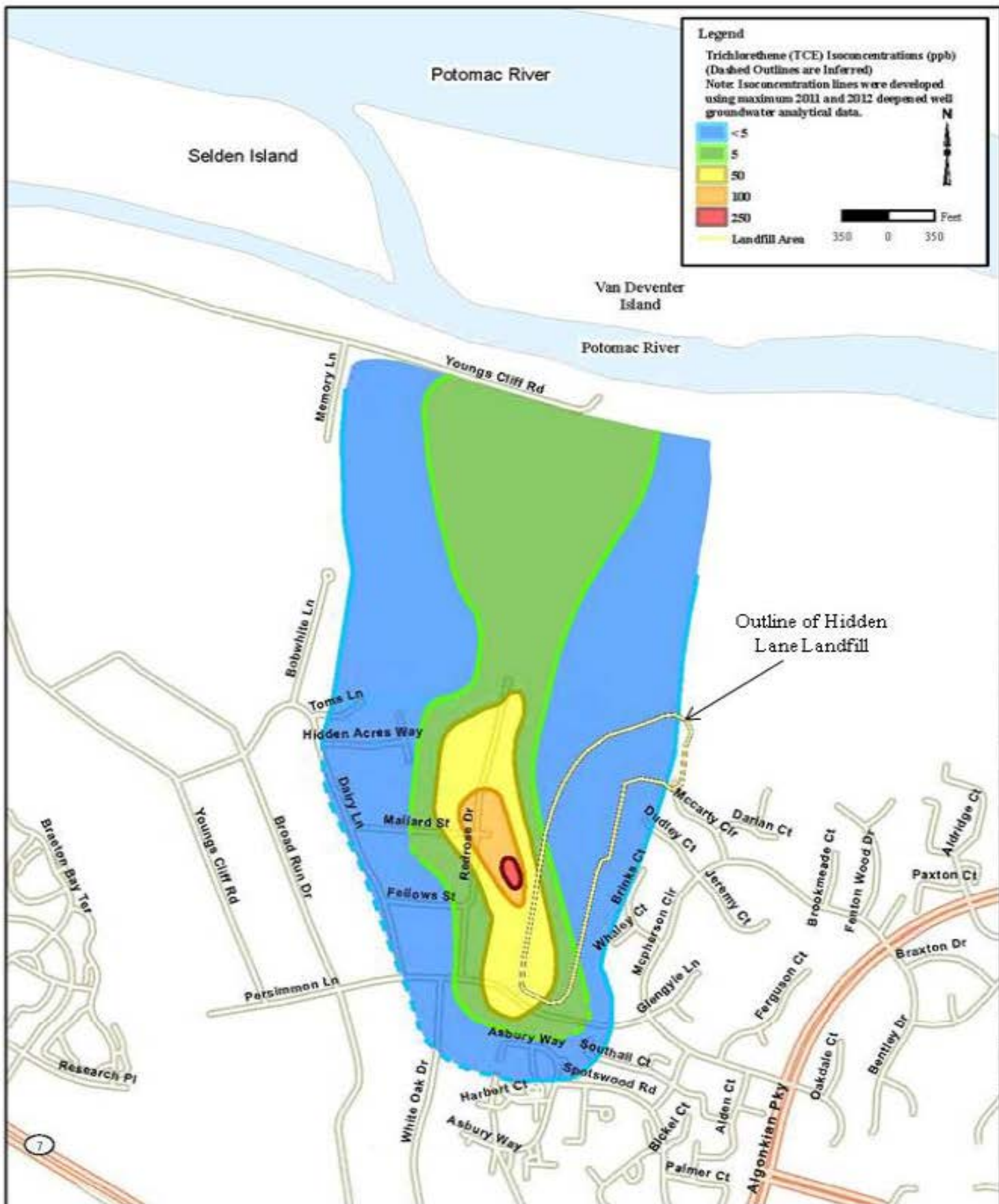
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Hidden Lane Landfill Site
 Loudoun County
 Sterling, VA

Figure 1

Top View
Trichloroethene Isoconcentration
Map

Conceptual TCE Plume Isoconcentration Cross-Section (looking west)

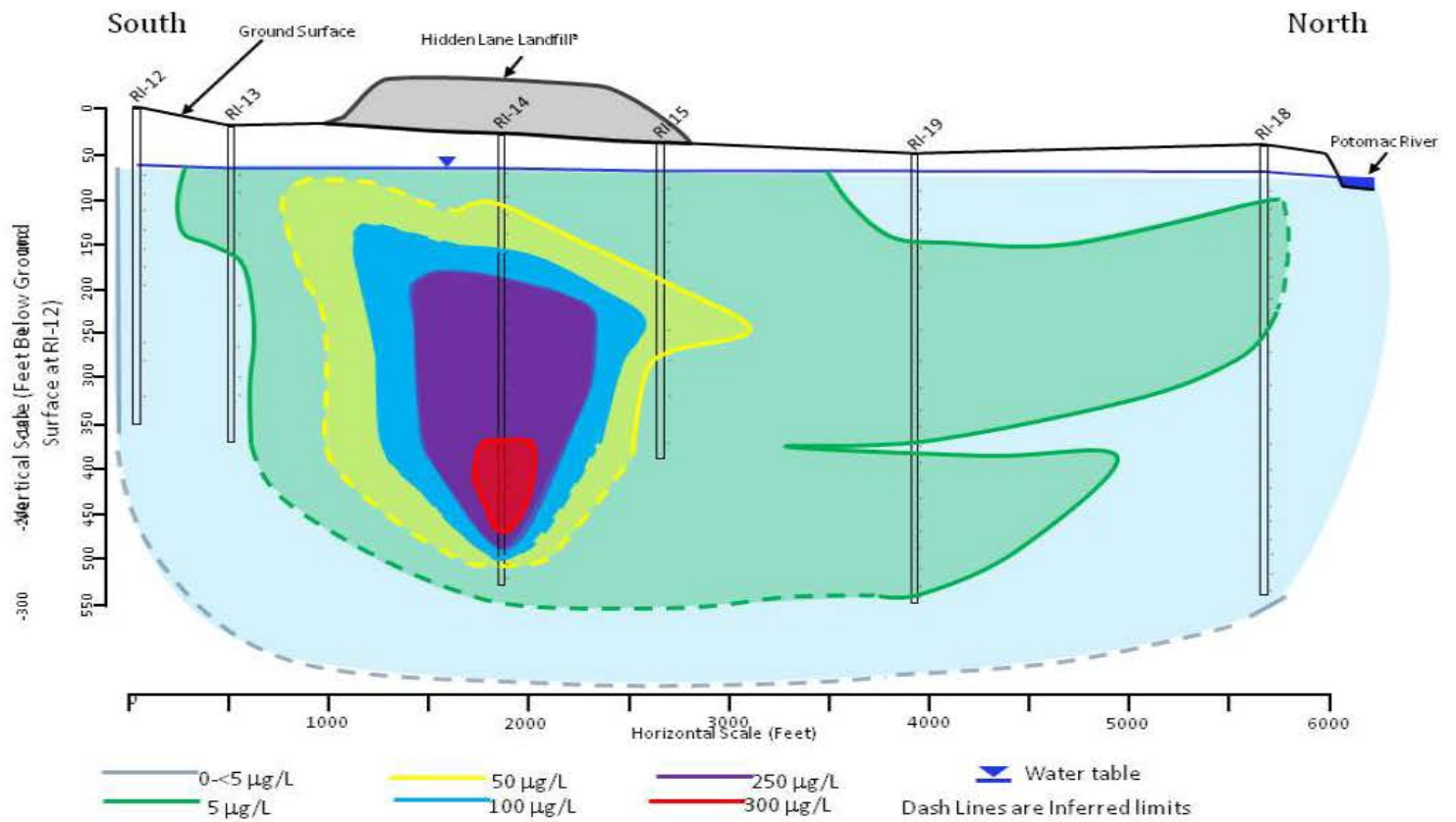


Figure 2

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