



Winthrop Landfill Superfund Site

Winthrop, Maine

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND



MAINTAINING AND MONITORING SUPERFUND

SITES: After a Superfund Site or portion of a Superfund Site has been cleaned up, EPA continues to monitor the site to ensure the cleanup is operating effectively over time. Five-Year Reviews provide an opportunity to fully evaluate the implementation and performance of a cleanup and determine whether it remains protective of human health and the environment.

INTRODUCTION:

This is the sixth Five-Year-Review (FYR) for the Site. The Sitewide remedy currently protects human health and the environment because 1) the public drinking water is supplied to the entire area surrounding the Site, 2) the landfill cap prevents physical contact with the waste, and 3) the majority of institutional controls are in place to further prevent any unacceptable exposures, and the Hoyt Brook Pilot Study appears to be effective. However, in order for the remedy to be protective in the long-term, several actions need to be taken. During the FYR process, interviews were conducted to document any perceived problems or successes with the remedy that has been implemented to date. EPA's Project Manager informed the Town of Winthrop Town Manager, Code Enforcement Officer, and Tax Assessor of the five-year review process. No issues or concerns were identified.

BACKGROUND

The 13-acre Winthrop Landfill Superfund Site (Site) is located in Winthrop, Maine. The area is located west of Lake Annabessacook and consists of two adjacent properties, the Winthrop Town Landfill and the privately owned Savage Landfill. A sand and gravel pit initially operated on-site in the 1920s. In the 1930s, parts of the Site received municipal, commercial and industrial wastes. The Site accepted hazardous substances between the early 1950s and mid-1970s. It is estimated that

more than three million gallons of chemical wastes, mostly complex organic compounds including resins, plasticizers, solvents, and other process chemicals, were disposed of at the Site. Following construction of the long-term remedy, operation and maintenance activities and monitoring are ongoing.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Evaluation of existing Institutional Controls and, if determined to be necessary, record a notice on the deed on one parcel.
- Continued monitoring of the Hoyt Brook Pilot Study to assess its protectiveness.
- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are an emerging class of compounds often found in the environment. PFAS are a diverse group of compounds resistant to heat, water, and oil. Given the extended period of time that the Winthrop Landfill operated, and its use for both municipal and

industrial waste, it is possible that material containing PFAS may have been disposed of in the landfill. However, since the public water supply lines have been extended to all residences within the area covered by the Town ordinance, whether or not PFAS were disposed of in the landfill, there is no risk of exposure to PFAS (or any other verified landfill contaminants) in the drinking water. PFAS will be included in an upcoming monitoring event to determine if these compounds are associated with the Site.

FACT

Following construction of the long-term remedy, operation and maintenance activities and monitoring are ongoing.