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Building 10, GSA Depot
Woodbridge Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837 • (201) 549-6225

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE REMOVAL AND PREVENTION
EPA CONTRACT 68-01-6669

TAT-02-F-00411

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bruce Sprague
Emergency Response and Hazardous
Materials Inspection Branch, U.S. EPA

FROM: William J. Kowalski, TAT II *William J Kowalski*

SUBJECT: Combe Fill South Landfill
Superfund Site #256
Chester, New Jersey

DATE: May 31, 1983

In accordance with TDD #2-8304-34A, an on-site visit was made to Combe Fill South Landfill, Chester, New Jersey. The site visit was made on May 3, 1983 by myself, William Kowalski, of the Technical Assistance Team and Bruce Sprague of the U.S. EPA.

BACKGROUND:

Combe Fill South Landfill is located on Parker Road (see Attachment #1) in Chester and Washington Townships, Morris County, New Jersey. The 197-acre tract had been in operation for approximately 30-35 years and constitutes the headwaters of Trout Brook and is drained by two small tributaries; the East Branch and the West Branch.

OBSERVATIONS:

On May 3, 1983, at approximately 11:00 a.m., Bruce Sprague (U.S. EPA) and William Kowalski (TAT) met with Frank Matteo, Assistant Health Officer for the Madison Health Department, and Don Lynch and Mike Zachowski of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection at the Chester Township Municipal Building.

In May 1981, a sampling program of the landfill was jointly undertaken by Chester Township, Washington Township, the State Department of Environmental Protection, and the Upper Raritan Watershed Association.

In reviewing the report on the water quality testing program (see Attachment #2), it was determined by Bruce Sprague (U.S. EPA) and William Kowalski (TAT) that although some levels of

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contamination were found in the samples, these contaminants and levels are indigenous to most landfills and do not in themselves qualify a significant or immediate potential hazard to the public or the environment. The report itself recommends additional testing off-site, particularly at residential wells (Attachment #2, page 22).

In June 1981, additional samples were taken at residential wells along Parker Road. These test results (see Attachment #3) show indiscriminant low level contamination by a limited number of substances. This information is inconclusive and does not define the source of this contamination.

At approximately 12:00 p.m., Bruce Sprague (U.S. EPA), William Kowalski (TAT), Don Lynch and Mike Zachowski (NJDEP), and Frank Matteo (Madison Health Department) toured the site.

The above team noted that leachate was migrating from the landfill to the surrounding marsh and woodlands. However, it was also noted that, for the most part, the leachate was collecting in niches in the marshland adjacent to the landfill and not actually entering Trout Brook or its tributaries (see photographs). At the present time, this problem can probably be resolved by applying sorbent materials at the collection points and thus facilitate future actions at this facility.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

It has been concluded that the sample results which are available for this landfill are outdated and do not fully represent the present status of the landfill or the residential wells. The sampling program also does not conclusively define a migration pattern from the landfill to the residential wells.

It is recommended that an updated and more defined sampling program be undertaken and that sorbent material be placed at leachate collection points in the marshland to ensure the integrity of Trout Brook.

Attachments

WJK:ls

Subject:

Combe Fill South Landfill

Date and Time: 5/3/83 12:30 PM

Photographer: W Kowalski (TAT)

Witness: B Sprague (EPA)

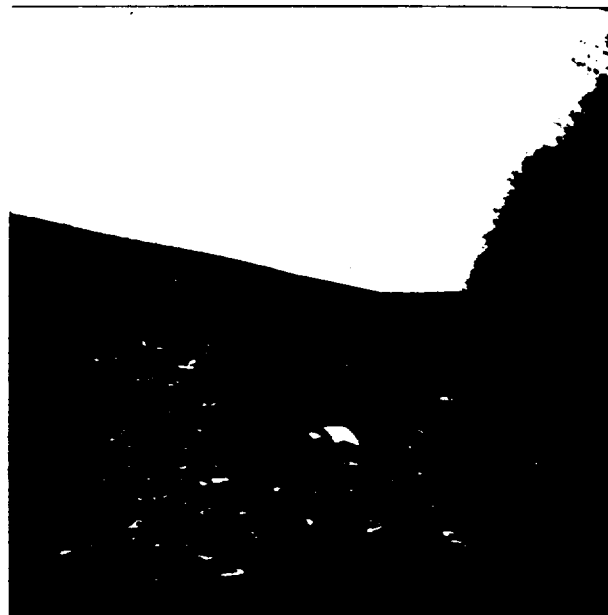
Shutter Speed: Fixed

Lens Opening: Fixed

Distance Setting: N/A

Type of Film: Polaroid

Photos show leachate
emanating from the
sides of the landfill



Subject:

Combe Fill South Landfill

Date and Time: 5/3/83 12:30 PM

Photographer: W Kowalski (TAT)

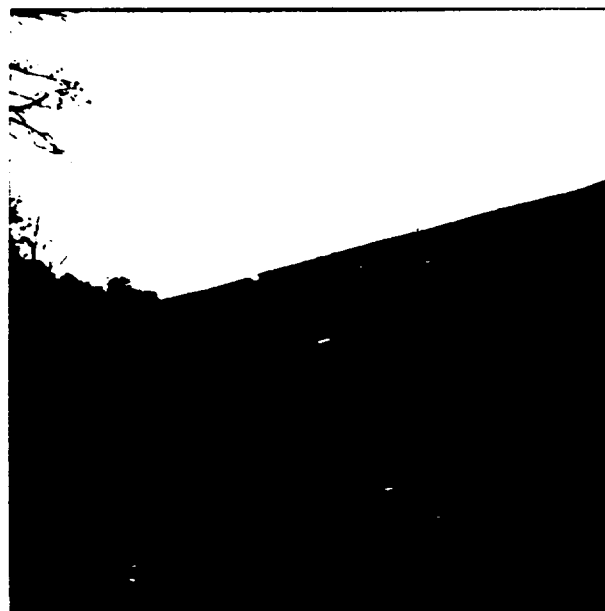
Witness: B Sprague (EPA)

Shutter Speed: Fixed

Lens Opening: Fixed

Distance Setting: N/A

Type of Film: Polaroid



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Subject:

Combe Fill South landfill

Date and Time: 5/3/83 12:40 PM

Photographer: W KOWALSKI (TAT)

Witness: B SPRAGUE (EPA)

Shutter Speed: FIXED

Lens Opening: FIXED

Distance Setting: N/A

Type of Film: POLAROID



Photos show leachate
emanating from the
sides of the landfill

Subject:

Combe Fill South landfill

Date and Time: 5/3/83 1240 PM

Photographer: W KOWALSKI (TAT)

Witness: B SPRAGUE (EPA)

Shutter Speed: FIXED

Lens Opening: FIXED

Distance Setting: N/A

Type of Film: POLAROID



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Subject:

Combe Fill South landfill (Marsh)

Date and Time: 5/3/83 1:15 PM

Photographer: W Kowalski (TAT)

Witness: B Sprague (EPA)

Shutter Speed: Fixed

Lens Opening: Fixed

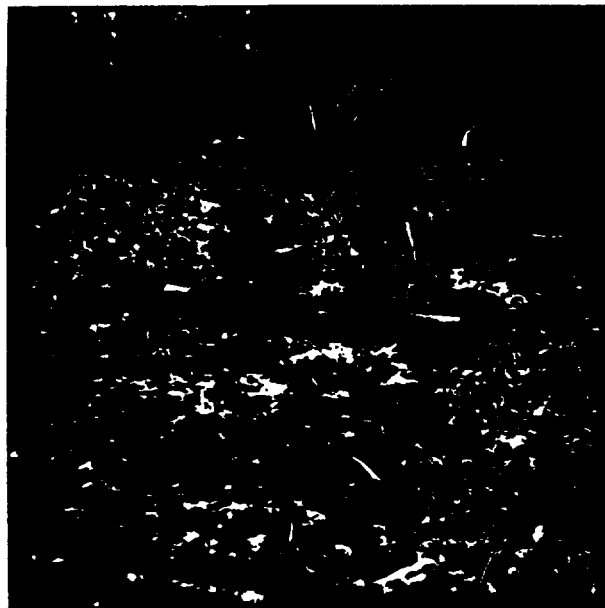
Distance Setting: N/A

Type of Film: Polaroid



Photos show leachate
collecting in Marshland.

Note: Top photo - stream
is clean - no leachate
entry.



Subject:

Combe South landfill (Marsh)

Date and Time: 5/3/83 1:15 PM

Photographer: W Kowalski (TAT)

Witness: B Sprague (EPA)

Shutter Speed: Fixed

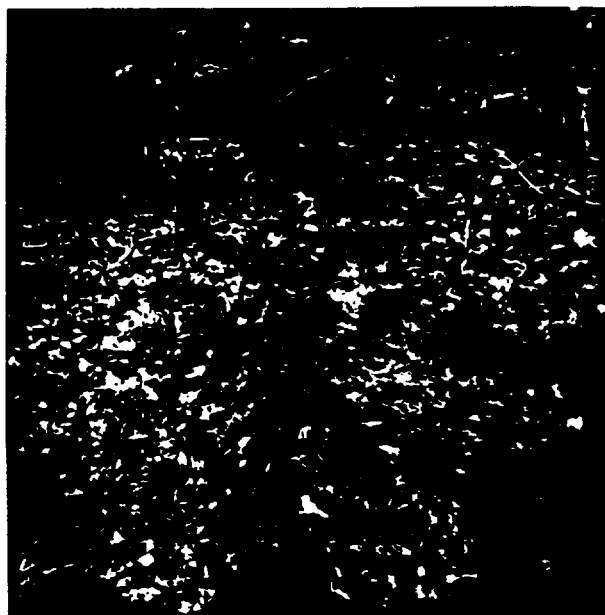
Lens Opening: Fixed

Distance Setting: N/A

Type of Film: Polaroid

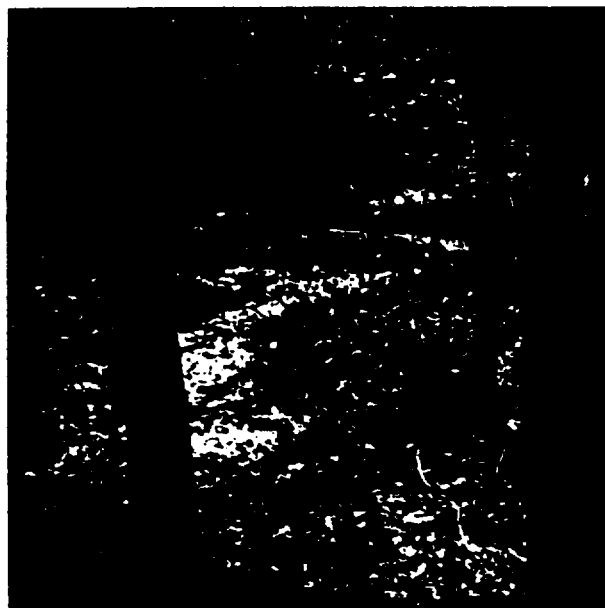
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Subject: Combe Fill South Landfill (Marsh)
 Date and Time: 5/3/83 1:30 PM
 Photographer: W KOWALSKI (TAT)
 Witness: B SPRAGUE (EPA)
 Shutter Speed: Fixed
 Lens Opening: Fixed
 Distance Setting: N/A
 Type of Film: Polaroid



Photos show leachate
collecting in MARSHLAND

Subject: Combe Fill South Landfill (Marsh)
 Date and Time: 5/3/83 1:30 PM
 Photographer: W KOWALSKI (TAT)
 Witness: B SPRAGUE (EPA)
 Shutter Speed: Fixed
 Lens Opening: Fixed
 Distance Setting: N/A
 Type of Film: Polaroid



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