



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II
26 FEDERAL PLAZA
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278

February 13, 1986

Dr. Jorge Berkowitz
Administrator
Hazardous Site Mitigation Administration
New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection
428 East State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Dr. Berkowitz:

This is in response to your letter of January 23 concerning a possible drinking water problem in the Townships of Chester and Washington in the vicinity of the Combe Fill South Landfill Superfund site.

We have reviewed your sampling plan for potable wells and agree that the sampling is warranted in view of the potential health risks to affected residents. The close proximity of the wells to the landfill suggests that it may be the source of contamination. Therefore, the sampling effort may appropriately be considered part of the overall RI/FS for the site.

EPA is hereby providing the Department with conceptual approval for the sampling program and will consider an amendment to the cooperative agreement for the Combe Fill site when a formal application is received.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

John S. Frisco

John S. Frisco, Chief
New Jersey Remedial Action Branch

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Please review
situation and
recommend action



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT
HAZARDOUS SITE MITIGATION ADMINISTRATION
CN 028, Trenton, N.J. 08625

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MARWAN M. SADAT, P.E.
DIRECTOR

JORGE H. BERKOWITZ, PH.D.
ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. William Librizzi, Director
New Jersey Remedial Action Branch
USEPA-Region II
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

23 JAN 1986

Re: Combe Fill South Contamination

Dear Mr. Librizzi:

There are indications that potable wells in Chester and Washington Townships may be contaminated by Combe Fill South (CFS) Landfill (NPL #35). Several residential wells north and adjacent to the CFS landfill showed presence of volatile organic substances, such as chloroform, and a corresponding pollutant in a monitoring well on the landfill. This situation is expected since flow of groundwater from the site appears to be to the northeast for the northern portion of the site and to the south and southwest from the southern portion. The composition of the pollution in the wells often varies probably because the geology of the area is a fractured, granitic gneiss bedrock with a siphoric overlay.

To protect public health, the NJDEP Division of Water Resources has recommended to the local health officers that a written warning be issued to three homes adjacent to the site stating that their well water should not be used indefinitely and that alternate sources be sought. Bottled water is suggested as a immediate measure. Also, an area surrounding the landfill has been alerted to a possible potable water problem; it has been suggested that persons living within the designated area be advised that they should use bottled water if they felt concerned and that reimbursement for purchase of water may be available through the New Jersey Spill Compensation Fund.

In order to better identify the extent and character of contamination, NJDEP has undertaken a program which will sample 35 potable wells on all sides of the landfill. Fourteen wells in this group will be re-sampled in order to confirm previous data as well as other homes adjacent to the landfill not previously sampled.

Since there are indications that the Combe Fill South Landfill is the source of contamination, NJDEP feels that the costs of this additional sampling should be an eligible cost under the CERCLA RI/FS program currently in progress. The information gathered from this sampling program will be directly used in the CFS project.

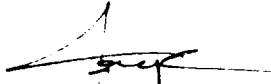
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Since there is a public health risk involved in this program, NJDEP is moving quickly and HSMA is planning to sample these wells in the latter part of this month (January 1986). In order to establish EPA's position and initiate funding for the sampling program, Hazardous Site Mitigation Administration (HSMA) is hereby requesting conceptual approval to proceed with this sampling program with the assurance that funding will be considered upon formal application for a cooperative agreement amendment.

A change order to existing RI/FS contract is not necessary since our staff will conduct the sampling with analysis performed through our lab contract. The cost of this program is estimated at \$96,860 for samples, analyses, ancillary QA work and NJDEP administration expenses. This request is made with the knowledge that the RI/FS is not completed, but as mentioned above, these results will augment the project and clarify the public health questions that have recently arisen.

Your immediate attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Edgar G. Kaup of my staff at (609)984-2990.

Very truly yours,



Dr. Jorge H. Berkowitz
Administrator

HS102:jb

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