

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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DATE NOV 16 1983

SUBJECT Decision Memorandum: Cooperative Agreement with the  
State of New Jersey for the Combe Fill South Landfill

FROM Jacqueline E. Schafer  
Regional Administrator (EPA)



TO Decision Official  
Lee M. Thomas, Acting Administrator for  
Solid Waste and Emergency Response (WH-562A)

THRU: Recommending Official  
William Hedeman, Director  
Office of Emergency and Remedial Response (WH-548)

I. Objective of the Proposed Project

The objective of the proposed project is to conduct a remedial investigation and feasibility study of the alternatives for remediation of the Combe Fill South Landfill site located in Washington and Chester Townships, New Jersey.

Background

The Combe Fill South Landfill site is located on a 100-acre tract of land in Washington and Chester Townships, Morris County, New Jersey.

The landfill site is situated in a partially wooded, rural-residential area. The eastern third of the landfill is located in Chester Township and the remaining western two-thirds in Washington Township. The site is bordered to the east and south by Parker Road, to the north by private properties on Schoolhouse Lane and East Valley Brook Road, and to the west-southwest by a 50-acre tract described as a hardwood wetland. This wetland constitutes the headwaters of Trout Brook, a tributary to the Lamington River. Surface runoff from the site drains to both the East and West Branches of Trout Brook.

Beyond Parker Road to the southeast lies Hacklebarney State Park, a popular recreational facility. Tanners Brook is located to the west and northwest of the site beyond East Valley Brook Road. This brook, which also drains part of the site, flows northeast to the Lamington River.

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Sampling results of groundwater taken from the existing monitoring wells at the landfill have indicated the presence of numerous hazardous substances. As a result of the abrupt termination of the landfilling operation and the owner (Combe Fill Corporation) filing for bankruptcy, the formal closure plan for the site has not been implemented.

The Combe Fill South Landfill when operating was approved for the disposal of municipal and industrial wastes as well as septage and sewage sludge. Although the quantities of hazardous wastes disposed of at the site are unknown, hazardous substances have been detected. Contaminants identified as a result of monitoring well sampling included carbon tetrachloride, tetrachloroethylene, heptane, 1,2-dichloroethane, 1,4-dichlorobutane and trichloroethylene. Sampling and testing of adjacent surface waters have uncovered significant levels of dichloromethane, carbon tetrachloride, trans-1,2-dichloroethane and 1,1-dichloroethane. Groundwater contamination beneath the site gives rise to concern as over 11,000 people within a 3-mile radius rely on groundwater for drinking purposes.

The EPA Field Investigation Team (FIT) conducted an air monitoring survey at the site on April 14, 1983. Utilizing an organic vapor analyzer, the FIT recorded readings in excess of 100 ppm at several on-site locations.

The following items represent the remedial projects agreed upon by EPA and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for the Combe Fill South Landfill site.

Task I            Remedial investigation to collect data to determine the nature and extent of the contamination. Also a feasibility study will be prepared to develop and evaluate long-term alternatives and identify the most cost-effective, environmentally-sound, comprehensive remedial action for the site.

Estimated Cost: \$495,000

Task IIA        Design of the selected remedial action.

Estimated Cost: To be determined by Amendment

Task IIB      Implementation of the selected remedial action.  
                  Estimated Cost: To be determined by Amendment

Task III      NJDEP Administration and Management under the  
                  Cooperative Agreement for Management of Task.  
                  Estimated Cost: \$55,000

Costs for management of Tasks I and III to be  
 determined by Amendment.

A community relations plan has been developed and will ensure that the general public and local, state, and federal elected/appointed officials are kept informed of the nature of the problems and the progress of the project, and have an opportunity to provide input to decision making.

## II. Relationship of the Project to CERCLA's Goals

The proposed tasks have been developed to best control the potential health and environmental hazards associated with the Combe Fill South site. These actions are consistent with the objectives set forth in CERCLA (PL 96-510). In addition, to accomplish these tasks, the NJDEP has agreed to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with EPA.

## III. Relationship of the Project to Other Efforts

EPA and NJDEP have performed limited site investigations. Also EPA has completed a Remedial Action Master Plan (RAMP). The proposed actions represent the next step required to begin to remedy the situation at the site, consistent with the recommendations of the RAMP.

The proposed project as presented in NJDEP's application represents a logical approach consistent with EPA goals and funding availability.

## IV. Recommendation

Region II recommends that a Cooperative Agreement be awarded in the amount of \$550,000.

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Attached you will find a copy of the Cooperative Agreement application that was submitted by NJDEP including all the necessary assurances. These documents are submitted to you with the understanding that revisions and/or adjustments may be necessary. Certain issues, including the State's responsibility in the payment of operation and maintenance costs, and the ability of the State to provide adequate off-site disposal facilities, are addressed in the special conditions in a manner consistent with current EPA policy.

V. Review and Approvals

Detailed within the State's application are the roles and responsibilities assigned to both parties. All key work plans, work assignments and reports are to be reviewed and approved concurrently by the EPA Region II and NJDEP Project Officers.

VI. Regional Project Officer

To oversee this effort, I have designated Robert N. Ogg as the Project Officer for Region II. He can be contacted at FTS 264-2647 at the Environmental Protection Agency, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, New York 10278.

Attachment

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