



Community Relations Plan

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For Hazardous Waste Site Remedial Action in New Jersey

COMBE FILL SOUTH LANDFILL

CHESTER AND WASHINGTON TOWNSHIPS

MORRIS COUNTY

OCTOBER, 1983

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N.J. Department of Environmental Protection

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE REMEDIAL ACTION

COMBE FILL SOUTH LANDFILL
CHESTER AND WASHINGTON TOWNSHIPS
MORRIS COUNTY

OCTOBER, 1983

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT
HAZARDOUS SITE MITIGATION ADMINISTRATION

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PREFACE

This Community Relations Plan is primarily an internal working document which serves as a guide to communication with the affected community. The activities and schedules in the Plan may be altered according to future prevailing circumstances.

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
FOR REMEDIAL ACTION AT THE COMBE FILL SOUTH LANDFILL SITE
CHESTER AND WASHINGTON TOWNSHIPS, MORRIS COUNTY
OCTOBER, 1983

Introduction

This Community Relations Plan outlines activities to be conducted during Superfund hazardous waste remedial action at the Combe Fill South site in Morris County. The plan is designed to inform public officials and citizens, as well as to receive input from them on the remedial action. The plan may be updated periodically to reflect project activities and public involvement. The plan schedule is based on the project status as of October, 1983.

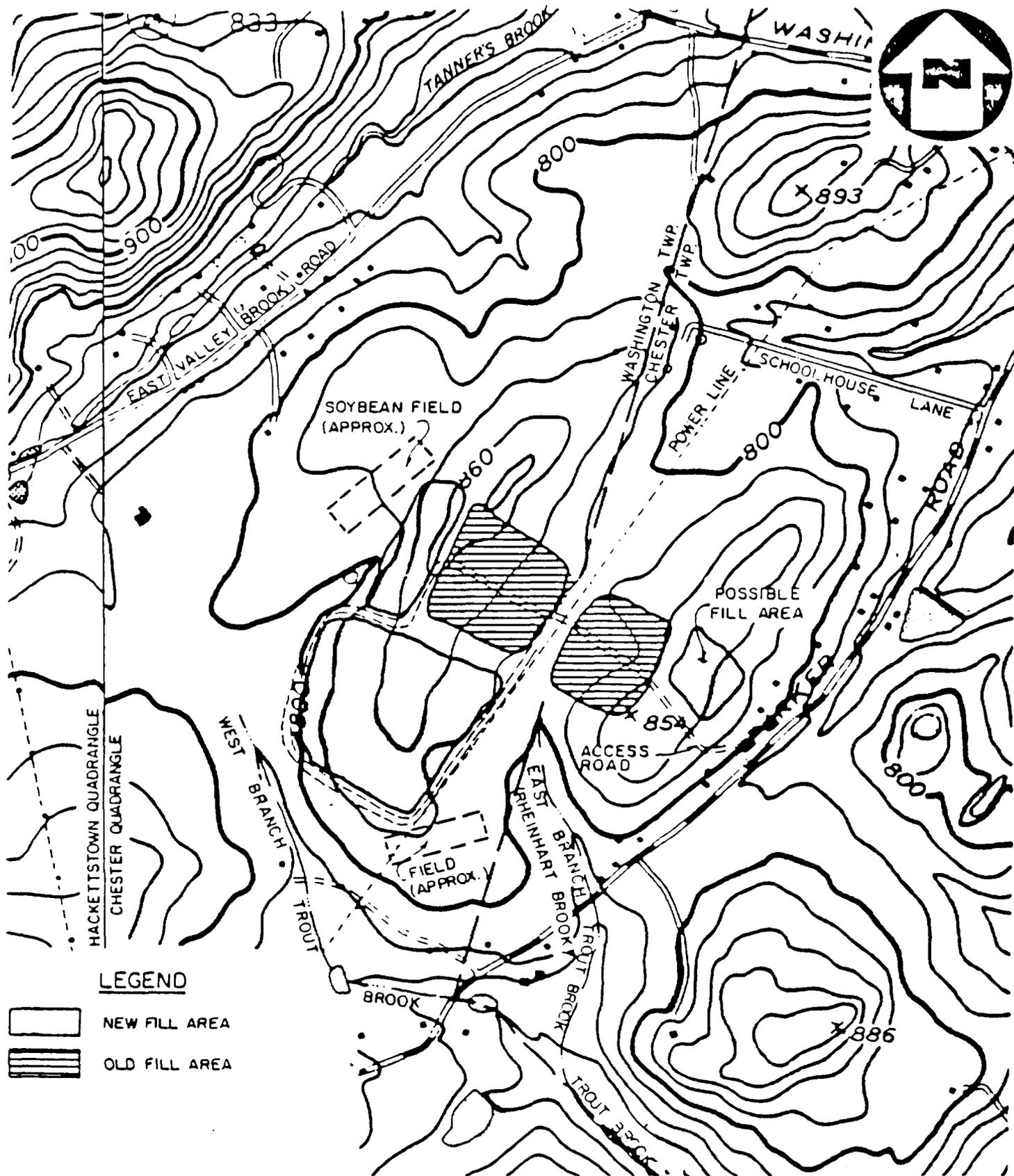
A. Background and Key Issues

1. Background

The Combe Fill South Landfill is an inactive site located on a 100 acre tract of land in Washington and Chester Townships, bordered by a 50 acre tract of hardwood wetland. The wetland is the headwaters of the west branch of Trout Brook, a tributary of the Lamington River. Surface site runoff drains to both the east and west branches of Trout Brook. To the immediate 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. (See map on page 2.)

The site itself consists of an old fill area, a new landfill area and two open fields. The old fill area may date to the 1940's and has accepted household and industrial wastes, dead animals, sewage, sludge, septic tank wastes, chemicals and waste oils. No records are available to indicate the specific types or volumes of industrial wastes disposed of at the site. Local residents have alleged that the open fields on the site may have been used in the past for unauthorized disposal of chemical and industrial wastes. On Dec. 12, 1972, the site was certified and approved for the disposal of non-hazardous municipal waste. This action marked the first state regulatory control over the landfill operation. The new landfill was closed and regraded shortly after Combe Fill Corporation, the site owner and operator, filed for bankruptcy in September 1981. The Combe Fill South Landfill was included on the proposed National Priorities List issued by EPA on December 20, 1982. Of 85 New Jersey sites on the National Priority List, the Combe Fill South site is ranked 39th in priority.

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BASE MAP IS AN ENLARGEMENT OF A PORTION OF THE U.S.G.S. CHESTER, NJ QUADRANGLE (75 MINUTE SERIES, 1954, PHOTO-REVISED 1981, CONTOUR INTERVAL 20') AND THE HACKETTSTOWN, NJ QUADRANGLE (75 MINUTE SERIES, 1953, PHOTO-REVISED 1971, CONTOUR INTERVAL 20').

APPROXIMATE SITE LAYOUT
COMBE FILL SOUTH SITE

WASHINGTON & CHESTER TOWNSHIPS, NJ

SCALE: 1" = 1000'

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2. Key Issues

The presence of organic chemicals and toxic metals has been documented in surface and ground water testing programs. In 1973, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) officials observed foul-smelling, discolored fluids discharging from a large leachate collection basin at the site. These discharges were identified as the probable cause of a fish kill in Trout Brook. Past site operational activities most probably have contributed to the potential for contamination. The operators of the landfill engaged in the practice of placing refuse in direct contact with fractured bedrock without the benefit of intervening clean fill or synthetic liners. In 1979, runoff from exposed waste was observed to be entering fractures in the bedrock. This situation resulted from the excavation of unconsolidated soils and highly fractured bedrock from the trenches to increase storage capacity, a practice that provided a direct pathway to the ground water system.

Many residential water supply wells are located within a one mile radius of the site and sampling has shown many of these wells to be contaminated with volatile organics and toxic heavy metals. Ground water samples taken at or immediately adjacent to the site have indicated contamination. Airborne organic contaminants have been measured at the site. Existing cover material consists of coarse and permeable local soils and crushed bedrock. Severe erosion has occurred on the steep slopes at the western and southern edges of the fill where vegetation has not been established. Numerous brownish-black stained seep areas are present both at the base of the fill and on the side slopes. Heavy sediment deposits at the base of the landfill and in drainage-ways also indicate erosion problems.

3. History of Community Involvement

Records indicating citizen interest in the operation of Combe Fill South date back to the early 1970's. General complaints involved blowing trash, odors, and noise from trucks. Specifically, a leachate problem was indicated in the contamination of a brook on residential property bordering the site.

Public concern over the landfill increased significantly in 1980 and 1981 when Combe Fill Corporation attempted to extend the landfill operations by clearing the hardwood wetland to make room for additional waste and by realigning the access road. The problem was aggravated when Combe Fill North, another Morris County landfill, closed in January, 1981 and waste shipments to Combe Fill South increased.

Concerned about additional waste contamination and about the destruction of a wildlife habitat, residents sent numerous mailgrams and letters to state officials demanding that the clearing operation be halted. On March 3, 1981, Chester and Washington Townships brought suit against the landfill. On March 19, 1981, NJDEP responded to

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wetland operations by issuing an Order Modifying Registration requiring suspension of activities in the wetland and submission of revised design plans.

In April 1981, the NJDEP and the Upper Raritan Watershed Association took samples from wells and surface water sources in the landfill area. Growing citizen concern was reflected in the formation of HALT (Help Avoid Landfill Tragedy). Organized initially to sponsor a sampling and analysis program of approximately 90 residential wells in cooperation with Washington and Chester Townships, the group grew and expanded its activities to include formal meetings, demonstrations, slide programs and letter writing campaigns.

On July 17, 1981, the NJDEP Division of Water Resources conducted tests on water supplies of households on Parker Road, Schoolhouse Lane, and Valley Brook Road, and concluded that onsite ground water contamination existed which might pose a threat to water supplies. The NJDEP issued a second Order Modifying Registration on September 18, 1981, requiring Combe Fill Corporation to discontinue waste disposal operations. In that same month the Corporation filed for bankruptcy. On March 15, 1982, the NJDEP proposed a permanent water monitoring program for the local area. Site investigations have continued.

Representatives of the Upper Raritan Watershed Association have worked closely with citizens in the area. Recently, a new joint committee, the Interlocal Coordinating Committee, was formed to coordinate community action in the two municipalities of Chester and Washington Townships in connection with cleanup of the site. Representatives of both Chester and Washington Townships as well as the Upper Raritan Watershed Association, are included in the new coalition. Members are David Peifer, Executive Director of the Upper Raritan Watershed Association, Brenda Payne, Washington Township Assistant Administrator, Mary Lou Pruent, Washington Township Sanitarian, Edward Russo, Chester Township Councilman, and Augustus Knight, Chester Township Environmental Commission member.

Local and state officials have closely monitored activity related to the site and, together with concerned citizens, have campaigned to have the landfill closed and to obtain State and Federal funds to clean up the site. State Assemblyman Richard Zimmer, who represents the area of both Combe Fill North and Combe Fill South, has expressed a strong interest in the sites and wishes to be a member of any advisory committee established here. He is interested in having a public meeting to discuss proposed remedial action. This will probably occur early in 1984. U.S. Representative Jim Courter of the 12th Congressional District has also been active in seeking solutions to the problems of the landfill and its impact on the quality of surface and ground water in the area.

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B. Objectives of the Community Relations Program:

1. Ensure that elected officials and interested citizens are kept abreast of plans and site developments.
2. Ensure the participation of local officials in all appropriate community relations activities and establish means of obtaining input from affected citizens and community leaders on remedial alternatives under consideration.
3. Provide local press with accurate information about important proposed actions.
4. Provide feedback to participants.

C. Community Relations Techniques To Be Used

Technique

Objective

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Telephone Calls | -- to maintain lines of communication with a highly involved citizens' group as well as local and other officials. |
| 2. Briefings | -- to inform officials, residents and other interested parties about the nature of the planned remedial action, and to provide them with background material on the technical studies when requested. |
| 3. Press Releases | -- to provide accurate information to local press and interested citizens. |
| 4. Public Meetings | -- to inform citizens of planned or ongoing activities and to discuss and receive citizen feedback on possible courses of action. |
| 5. Fact Sheets | -- to be distributed at meetings or in response to local press or citizen inquiries to ensure public understanding of basic issues involved in the remedial program. |
| 6. Responsiveness Summary | -- to provide a final summary of citizen concerns and problem areas, and the governmental response to them. |

D. Proposed Work Plan and Estimated Schedule

<u>Time (Initiation of Action)</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Staff Responsibilities</u>
<u>Feasibility Study</u>		
1st quarter of 1984 (Report expected to take 14 months for completion)	2 Public Meetings-- one at initiation of study, one at completion of study to present alter- natives	*
	2 Fact Sheets--one at initiation of study, one to de- scribe alternative remedial actions	**
	3 Press Releases (or as necessary)--two to advertise public meetings, one to an- nounce engineering designer	***
	1 Responsiveness Summary conducted in cooper- ation with contractor after public discussion of alternatives and 30 day comment period	**
<u>Engineering Design</u>		
2nd quarter of 1985	1 Public Meeting	*
	1 Press Release to advertize public meeting	***
	1 Fact Sheet	**

Removal/Treatment/Construction

- 4th quarter of 1985
 - 2 Public Meetings *
(one at initiation
of remedial action,
one at completion)
 - 2 Press Releases to ***
advertize public
meetings
 - 2 Fact Sheets **

Post Closure/Summary
of Activities

- 1 Responsiveness **
Summary
- 1 Media Appearance, *
as necessary

Travel

- Approximately 6 trips *
to site location, with
additional trips scheduled
as necessary to meet
community requirements

- * NJDEP/HSMA+ Community Relations Representative(s)
NJDEP/HSMA Bureau of Site Management Representative(s)
NJDEP/HSMA Bureau of Environmental Evaluation and Risk Assessment
Representative(s) (as necessary)
NJDEP/HSMA Administrator (as necessary)
USEPA Representative(s) (as necessary)
Project Contractor, (when requested)
- ** NJDEP/HSMA Community Relations Staff
- *** NJDEP/HSMA Community Relations Staff, through NJDEP Public Information
Office

Note: Staff work hours could not be estimated at this time.

+ Hazardous Site Mitigation Administration

E. Contacts

Federal Officials

Senator Bill Bradley (202) 224-3224
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

District Office: (201) 688-0960
1605 Vauxhall Rd.
Union, NJ 07083

Senator Frank Lautenberg (202) 224-4744
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

District Office: (201) 645-3030
970 Broad Street
Newark, NJ 07102

Representative ~~Jim Courter~~ *Dear Gallo* (202) 225-5801
325 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington D.C. 20515

District Office: (201) 538-7267
Post Office Building
1 Morris Street
Morristown, NJ 07960

State Officials

Senator Walter E. Foran (201) 782-6989
135 Main Street
Flemington, NJ 08822

Assemblyman Karl Weidel (609) 599-2588
25 South Warren Street
Trenton, NJ 08608

Assemblyman Richard A. Zimmer (201) 788-6900
63 Main Street
Flemington, NJ 08822

County Officials

Walter J. Lugar, Freeholder Director (201) 285-6000
Morris County
Administration Building
Morristown, NJ 07960

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Frank Schimmenti, Chairman (201) 285-6183
Morris County Solid Waste Advisory Council
Morris County Planning Board
Court House
Morristown, NJ 07960

Local Officials

Chester Township

Frank Adessa, Mayor (201) 879-5571(O)
Municipal Office (201) 879-6056(H)
P.O. Box 428
Chester, NJ 07930

Yale Ferguson, Councilman (201) 879-6709
Daniel Pope, Councilman (201) 879-5459
Edward Russo, Councilman (201) 879-6021
James Smith, Councilman (201) 879-5083
Dr. Michael McCormick, Chairman (201) 879-5113
Environmental Commission
Augustus Knight (201) 234-0224
Environmental Commission
Frank Matteo, Madison Board of Health* (201) 879-5572

Washington Township

Edward J. Shields, Mayor (201) 876-3315(O)
Municipal Office (201) 876-3104(H)
P.O. Box 216
Long Valley, NJ 07853

Brenda Payne, Assistant Administrator (201) 876-3315
Mary Lou Pruent, Sanitarian* (201) 876-3315
Thomas Kimpland, Committeeman (201) 876-4472
Gilbert Taylor, Committeeman (201) 879-6876
Tracy Tobin, Committeeman (201) 876-4266
Robert Schmieder, Committeeman (201) 876-3778
Rodney Robinson, Chairman (unlisted phone)
Environmental Commission
Ken Short, Member Environmental (201) 879-7676
Commission

* Both Chester and Washington Townships are contracting communities to the Madison Borough Board of Health, Hartley Dodge Memorial, Kings Road, Madison, NJ 07940. The phone number is (201) 377-2193 and Robert Deasey is the principal Health Officer.

Citizen Groups

- (201) 234-1852

Upper Raritan Watershed Association
Larger Cross Road
RD #1, Box 30-W
Gladstone, NJ 07934
David Peifer, Executive Director
- (201) 879-6033

HALT (Help ^{Avoid} Arrest a Landfill Tragedy)
P.O. Box 113
Chester, NJ 07930
Mrs. Lee Tucker, Chairman
- East Valley Brook Residents
157 A East Valley Brook Road
Long Valley, NJ 07853
Mr. Bodo Baltycki

(unlisted phone)
- Interlocal Coordinating Committee*

David Peifer

(201) 234-1852

Executive Director of the Upper Raritan
Watershed Association
Larger Cross Road
RD #1, Box 30-W
Gladstone, NJ 07934
- Brenda Payne

(201) 876-3315

Assistant Administrator of Washington Township
Municipal Office
P.O. Box 216
Long Valley, NJ 07853
- Edward Russo

(201) 879-6021

Councilman of Chester Township
Municipal Office
P.O. Box 428
Chester, NJ 07930

*Each of these three people should be contacted on anything related to the Interlocal Coordinating Committee.

N.J. Department of Environmental Protection

- Donald Lynch, Site Manager

(609) 984-5923
- Grace Singer, Community Relations
Program Manager

(609) 984-3141
- Sam Gianti, Site Management Team, HSMA

(609) 984-5956
- Dan Toder, Site Management Team, DWR

(609) 292-7424
- John Castner, Site Management Team, DWM

(609) 984-7873
- Karen Jentis, Site Management Team, ORS

(609) 984-7575
- Paul Schneider, Site Management Team, DAG

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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Press Contacts

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