Community Update:
Dewey Loeffel Landfill Superfund Site

Town of Nassau, Rensselaer County, NY

542661

EPA

Actions to Begin This Summer to Address Contaminated Soil and Sediment in Tributary T11A

In September 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reached an agreement with GE to conduct a removal action to address polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-contaminated soil and sediment in Tributary T11A, which is a 1,900-foot stream located near the Dewey Loeffel Landfill site that flows through a steep, woody ravine into the Valatie Kill. The sediment and adjacent bank soil of Tributary T11A contain elevated levels of PCBs which serve as an ongoing source of contamination to downstream areas, such as Nassau Lake. The removal action will be performed by GE under the EPA's oversight and will consist of the excavation and off-site disposal of PCB-contaminated soil and sediment, followed by the placement of clean backfill and restoration of habitat in the tributary. This action is being taken to address contaminated soil and sediment in Tributary T11A while the long-term comprehensive study of the site continues.

The removal action field work began in October 2017 with an assessment of habitat (e.g., stream characteristics and vegetation) that would potentially be impacted during the removal action. Between November 2017 and March 2018, over 600 soil and sediment samples were collected from more than 250 locations to further determine the extent of PCB contamination in Tributary T11A and to confirm that upstream areas do not serve as a source of contamination to the tributary. The results of the habitat assessment and soil and sediment sampling are summarized in a Data Summary Report, which is available on the EPA's Dewey Loeffel Landfill site webpage (see link below) and in the Information Repository for the site (Nassau Free Library). The detailed design for the removal action, including habitat restoration, has been completed and will be followed by the implementation of the removal action during the summer and fall of 2018.

The EPA invites the public to a meeting on July 17, 2018 to discuss the upcoming removal action work for Tributary T11A, as well as other work that is underway as part of the comprehensive investigation and cleanup of the Dewey Loeffel Landfill Superfund site. An "open-house" information session will be held between 6 and 7 p.m. Members of the project team will be available for one-on-one dialogue to provide information and answer questions about current and upcoming project activities.

The presentation portion of the meeting will begin at 7 p.m. During the meeting, representatives from the EPA, General Electric (GE) and/or SI Group will provide an overview of recently completed field investigation work and the next steps in the investigation of the site, focusing on the removal action to address contaminated soil and sediment in Tributary T11A. EPA will also discuss the opportunity for the formation of a community-based advisory group for the site (see page 4 for more information).

Public Meeting

July 17, 2018
Open House: 6 - 7 p.m.
Presentation: 7 p.m.

St. Mary's Church
Parish Hall
(located behind the church)
26 Church Street
Nassau, NY 12123

www.epa.gov/superfund/dewey-loeffel-landfill

Overview: Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study of the Landfill, Groundwater and Drainageways

Two separate investigations are being conducted in parallel for the landfill/groundwater and the drainageways under the EPA's oversight. The investigation of the "drainageways" includes the ponds, streams and other water bodies that have been impacted by the site, including Nassau Lake.

The purpose of these investigations, referred to as Remedial Investigations/Feasibility Studies (RI/FSs), is to determine the nature and extent of contamination, assess the potential risks that the contamination poses to human health and the environment and evaluate potential cleanup alternatives. Since 2015, extensive sampling and field investigations have been underway including the collection of groundwater, soil, surface water and sediment data.

The RI/FS Work Plans for the landfill/groundwater and for the first phase of the drainageways investigation were finalized in 2015 and are available on EPA's Dewey Loeffel site webpage: www.epa.gov/superfund/dewey-loeffel-landfill and at the site Information Repository (Nassau Free Library). The investigation of the two components of the site (landfill/groundwater and drainageways) are being conducted in parallel under the EPA's oversight. All of the information gathered from the investigation will be compiled and presented in two *Remedial Investigation Reports (RI Reports)* - one for the landfill/groundwater and one for the drainageways. An *RI Report* is an in-depth and comprehensive document that contains all of the data collected to define the nature and extent of contamination at a Superfund site. The data collected and analyzed during each RI will be used to develop a Feasibility Study (FS) Report, which will evaluate different cleanup alternatives to reduce potential exposure risks to human health and wildlife.

Steps in the Superfund Process

	Work to be completed under EPA's 2013 RI/FS Agreements		Future Actions by EPA	
PROCESS	**Remedial Investigation (RI)** →	**Feasibility Study (FS)** →	**Proposed Plan** →	**Record of Decision (ROD)**
GOAL	• Conduct field investigations • Determine nature and extent of contamination in the landfill, groundwater and drainageways • Conduct Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments to assess if levels of contamination present an unacceptable risk to humans and/or ecological receptors (plants and animals)	Based on the risks identified, evaluate cleanup options and identify what cleanup options are protective of human health and the environment	• Summarizes the RI/FSs and presents EPA's preferred cleanup option to address contamination • Following its release, a public comment period and public meeting will be held	Final EPA decision on cleanup

Actions: Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study of the Landfill and Groundwater

Since 2015, extensive sampling and field investigation work has been completed as part of the investigation of the landfill and site groundwater. A summary of major completed and upcoming field investigation work is provided below. The results of all of the field investigation work will be summarized in an Addendum to the Site Characterization Summary Report for the landfill and groundwater, which is scheduled to be submitted to EPA in late 2018. Later in the RI/FS process, all of this information will be used to assess risks to human health and the environment and to evaluate potential cleanup alternatives for the landfill and groundwater.

Completed Field Investigation Work

- Installation of new shallow and deep monitoring wells, followed by various sampling and testing activities throughout 2017 and 2018.
- Completion of two site-wide groundwater sampling events, which included the sampling of both existing and new monitoring wells.
- Installation and collection of data from new wells to evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion.
- Sampling to evaluate potential impacts to surface water bodies from groundwater and surface runoff from the site.

Upcoming Field Investigation Work

- Completion of hydraulic conductivity testing for the new shallow monitoring wells to measure how readily groundwater flows in the surrounding aquifer. This work is scheduled to be conducted in July 2018.
- Submission of the results of all of the field investigation work in an Addendum to the Site Characterization Summary Report.

Actions: Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study of the Drainageways

The remedial investigation of the drainageways is being conducted in two phases under EPA's oversight. The field work associated with the Phase 1 investigation was completed in December 2015 and the results are included in the Site Characterization Summary Report for the drainageways. The Site Characterization Summary Report, also includes a summary of historical data for the drainageways, as well as the identification of additional data still needed and to be obtained during Phase 2. A work plan detailing the steps necessary for the completion of the remedial investigation of the drainageways (Phase 2) is scheduled to be submitted to EPA in late 2018. Later in the RI/FS process, all of the information collected during the remedial investigation will be used to assess risks to human health and the environment and to evaluate potential cleanup alternatives for the drainageways.

Completed Field Investigation Work

- Phase 1 Investigation
  - Field observations/surveys
  - Surface water sampling
  - Sediment and soil sampling
  - Evaluation of water depth and sediment thickness in Nassau Lake

Upcoming Field Investigation Work

- Submission of a work plan detailing the field work to be conducted during the Phase 2 field investigation.
- Implementation of Phase 2 field investigation.
- Submission of the results of the Phase 2 field investigation in an Addendum to the Site Characterization Summary Report.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact:

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If you would like information on general environmental concerns or the federal Superfund hazardous waste program, have concerns or complaints about the Superfund program, or if you seek assistance in resolving site-specific issues that were not fully addressed by the EPA, please contact:

George Zachos
EPA Regional Public Liaison
(732) 321-6621
zachos.george@epa.gov

Or toll free at (888) 283-7626

Community Advisory Group

Several members of the community have expressed interest in the formation of a community-based advisory group (CAG) for the Dewey Loeffel Landfill Superfund site. The EPA is offering its support to facilitate the formation of a CAG to provide a public forum for members of the community to actively participate in the Superfund process and to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process at the site.

CAGs are made up of members of the community and stakeholders affected by the site, and members should reflect the diverse interests in the community. CAG membership is voluntary and members serve without compensation. CAGs meet regularly to discuss and review plans related to the environmental studies and cleanup activities at the site and to relay information between EPA and the community about ongoing activities at the site.

Through a CAG, EPA seeks to achieve direct, regular and meaningful communication with interested parties throughout all stages of the cleanup. CAG meetings are open to the public, and all members of the community would be encouraged to participate.

The EPA does not establish or control CAGs; however, the Agency can assist interested communities in CAG activities. The EPA has offered its support to facilitate the formation of a CAG at the Dewey Loeffel site.

During the public meeting on July 17, 2018, the EPA will further discuss the purpose and role of the CAG and opportunities for membership and participation.



Information Repository:

Nassau Free Library
18 Church Street
Nassau, NY 12123
518-766-2715



www.epa.gov/superfund/dewey-loeffel-landfill