

Site Redevelopment Profile

West Kingston Town Dump URI Disposal Area Superfund Site

Plains Road, South Kingstown, Rhode Island 02881

Property Overview

Size

18 acres

Current Site Uses

- Local residents and University of Rhode Island (URI) students use the site for passive recreation, such as walking, and Kearsarge Energy operates two solar arrays on site.

Use Restrictions

- Disturbance of remedy components, including the capped areas, and use of site groundwater are prohibited.

Surrounding Population

5,070
1 MILE

15,036
3 MILES

32,246
5 MILES



A map of the site in Rhode Island.

Site History and Redevelopment Timeline

1945 - 1987

The towns of South Kingstown and Narragansett and URI operated two separate waste disposal areas on site.

1989

EPA conducted a formal site investigation.

1992

EPA placed the site on the National Priorities List.

2005 - 2006

The towns consolidated and permanently closed the landfill areas under state oversight.

2006

EPA selected the final remedy for the site.

2009

The towns completed construction of remedial components.

2015

South Kingstown Solar Consortium put out a request for proposals for potential solar facilities, including the West Kingston Town Dump/URI Disposal Area site.

2017

Kearsarge Energy won the contract and began construction of the solar array on site.

2018

Kearsarge Energy completed construction of the solar array on site and began its operation.



Aerial view of one of the two solar arrays at the site. (Source: Photo courtesy of Kearsarge Energy).

History and Cleanup

The West Kingston Town Dump/URI Disposal Area Superfund site covers 18 acres in a predominantly residential, agricultural and commercial area in South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island. It includes the areas where the towns of South Kingstown and Narragansett and URI (University of Rhode Island) (the responsible parties) operated separate waste disposal facilities from 1945 until 1987. As a result of groundwater and soil contamination caused by past waste disposal operations, EPA placed the site on the Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL) in 1992.

Before EPA involvement, URI removed 159 tons of contaminated materials and transported them to waste disposal facilities. The responsible parties also capped the landfill areas before official remedy selection. Following formal investigations, the responsible parties conducted cleanup activities under EPA and state agency oversight. The responsible parties implemented in-place oxidation treatment for contaminated soil and groundwater in a waste disposal area located upgradient from the capped landfills. They also put in place land use restrictions to protect the remedy. Cleanup finished in 2009. Regular reviews of the site's cleanup approach by EPA have found that the remedy continues to protect people and the environment from remaining site contamination. Today, monitoring of groundwater continues, as well as prescribed operation and maintenance activities.

Redevelopment

Land use restrictions are currently in place and restrict disturbance of remedy components, including the landfill cap areas, and use of site groundwater. The site is currently

in use for passive recreation and two active solar arrays. Local residents and URI students use the site for walking and nature viewing. In 2015, South Kingstown officials and residents formed the South Kingstown Solar Consortium and put out a request for proposals for potential solar facilities around the town, including the West Kingston Town Dump/URI Disposal Area site. Kearsarge Energy provided the most favorable proposal and began construction of the solar arrays in fall 2017.

Construction of the solar arrays finished in spring 2018. One array occupies 8 acres of the former West Kingston Town Dump disposal area and has an estimated capacity of 1.2 megawatts of direct current. The other array occupies 14 acres of the former URI disposal area and an adjacent field and has an estimated capacity of 2.7 megawatts of direct current. The solar arrays are in accordance with site land use restrictions and are on the landfill caps. They came at no cost to the municipalities and 25 percent of the power generated will be sold back to the municipalities. All municipal buildings in both towns, including the school districts, have access to power generated at the solar facilities.

Contacts

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