



Dewey Loeffel Landfill Superfund Site

Town of Nassau, Rensselaer County, NY

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 2 • Winter 2017 • Community Update

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites the public to a meeting on January 25, 2017 to discuss the work that is underway as part of the comprehensive investigation 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 planned 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 SI Group will present an overview of the field investigation work completed in 2015 and 2016, as well as next steps in the investigation of the site.

Public Meeting

January 25, 2017

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

In 2013, the EPA reached agreements with two of the parties responsible for the contamination at the Dewey Loeffel Landfill Superfund site (GE and/or SI Group) to perform comprehensive investigations of the landfill, groundwater and the drainageways, as well as to evaluate cleanup options for the site. 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.

These investigations, referred to as Remedial Investigations/Feasibility Studies (RI/FSs), are the first step in the long-term cleanup of a site under the federal Superfund program. The purpose of the RI/FS is to determine the nature and extent of contamination, assess the 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.

Field Investigation and Sampling (Work Completed 2015/2016)

Landfill/Groundwater

- Direct-sensing investigation for shallow soil and groundwater, as well as follow-up sampling of soil and shallow groundwater
- Began installation of additional permanent shallow and deep groundwater monitoring wells
- Sampling for evaluation of potential groundwater impacts to surface water
- Installation of wells for vapor intrusion evaluation

Drainageways

- Phase 1 Investigation
 - Field observations/surveys
 - Surface water sampling
 - Sediment and soil sampling
 - Evaluation of water depth and sediment thickness in Nassau Lake
- Submission of Draft Site Characterization Summary Report for EPA review

Field Investigation and Sampling (Upcoming Work)

Landfill/Groundwater

- Continue installation of shallow monitoring wells inside and adjacent to the landfill
- Continue installation of deep bedrock wells as part of the evaluation of bedrock groundwater
- Characterization of bedrock conditions (i.e., profiling to better understand bedrock properties)
- Completion of site-wide groundwater sampling events
- Completion of vapor intrusion evaluation

Drainageways

- Finalize the draft report summarizing the results of the Phase 1 field investigation conducted in late 2015
- 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

Following the completion of the first phase of sampling activities for the drainageways, GE prepared a draft Site Characterization Summary Report (SCSR). The draft SCSR includes a summary of existing and newly collected data for the drainageways and identifies the remaining information that will be needed to complete the RI/FS for the drainageways. Following EPA review and approval of the SCSR, GE will submit a work plan detailing the field work to be conducted as part of the Phase 2 investigation of the drainageways.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Overview

Remedial Investigation (RI):

The goal of the RIs for the landfill, groundwater and drainageways is to determine where contaminants are present and at what concentrations. Data is being collected throughout the RIs and will be used in conjunction with existing data to refine EPA's understanding of the distribution of contaminants. The data will be used to conduct the human health and ecological risk assessments. These assessments will evaluate the risk of exposure to contaminants by both humans and ecological receptors (plants and animals).

The field investigation portion of the RIs is underway, which includes the collection of groundwater, surface water, soil 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. 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.

Feasibility Study (FS):

The data collected and analyzed during each RI will be used to develop a FS Report, which will evaluate different cleanup alternatives to reduce potential exposure risks to human health and wildlife.

Next Steps:

A RI/FS is underway for both the landfill/groundwater and the drainageways components of the Dewey Loeffel Landfill Superfund site. After the completion of each RI/FS, the EPA will release a Proposed Plan describing the EPA's preferred cleanup option, as well as other options considered. Following an opportunity for the public to provide comments on the Proposed Plan, the EPA will issue a Record of Decision selecting the cleanup action for each component of the site.

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)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
GOAL					

What is a Risk Assessment?

After the field investigations are complete, as part of each RI for the site, human health and ecological risk assessments will be conducted. The risk assessments will be performed to identify and characterize actual and potential risks to human health and the environment posed by the contamination based on the data collected during the two investigations. The risk assessments will be conducted separately for the landfill/groundwater and the drainageways. Collectively, these risk assessments will address all of the potential exposure pathways at the site.

Human Health Risk Assessments:

The primary purpose of the human health risk assessments is to provide risk managers and the community with an understanding of the potential human health risks posed by the site in the absence of any cleanup or institutional controls. The human health risk assessments will evaluate both the cancer risks and the non-cancer risks to human health associated with exposure to site contaminants present in the landfill, groundwater and drainageways.

Ecological Risk Assessments:

The ecological risk assessments will assess the risks to wildlife associated with exposure to site contaminants present in the landfill, groundwater and the drainageways. The ecological risk assessments will assess the risks to both land-based and water-based organisms.

The results of the human health and ecological risk assessments are then used by Superfund risk managers to determine whether there is a need to take a remedial action. The results of the risk assessments will be documented in the RI Report and will be made available to the community.

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



Annual Fish Sampling/NYSDOH Fish Advisories

Fish sampling has been conducted in the Valatie Kill and Nassau Lake for a number of years and is currently conducted annually by GE with oversight by the EPA and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The 2016 fish sampling was conducted by GE in June and July 2016. A report summarizing the results of the 2016 fish sampling will be submitted to EPA after the analytical results are received from the laboratory. The report summarizing the results of the 2015 fish sampling (*2015 Biological Monitoring Data Summary Report*) is available on the EPA's Dewey Loeffel webpage under "[Additional Reports and Documents](#)."

New York State has the following advice for eating fish you catch in Nassau Lake and the surrounding waterways:

Nassau Lake

Women under age 50 and children under age 15: Don't Eat Any Fish
Men over age 15 and women over age 50: Don't Eat Any Fish

Valatie Kill, between County Rt. 18 and Nassau Lake

Women under age 50 and children under age 15: Don't Eat Any Fish
Men over age 15 and women over age 50: Don't Eat Any Fish

Valatie Kill, between Nassau Lake and Kinderhook Lake

Women under age 50 and children under age 15: Don't Eat Any Fish
Men over age 15 and women over age 50: Eat up to 1 meal/month of American eel, bluegill sunfish, and redbreast sunfish. Eat up to 4 meals/month of all other fish.

Kinderhook Lake

Women under age 50 and children under age 15: Don't Eat Any Fish
Men over age 15 and women over age 50: Eat up to 1 meal/month of American eel. Eat up to 4 meals/month of all other fish.

For more information about the New York State Department of Health advisory:

- Call the New York State Department of Health at 518-402-7800 or toll-free at 1-800-458-1158
- E-mail BTSA@health.state.ny.us
- Visit their website: http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health_advisories/regional/ HUDSON_valley_and_capital_district.htm

