



EPA DELETES THE LIPARI LANDFILL SUPERFUND SITE FROM THE NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST MANTUA TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has completed decades of work to address contamination and has deleted the Lipari Landfill Superfund site in Mantua Township, New Jersey from the National Priorities List, or NPL. The EPA transferred responsibility for the site to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in 2019. The NJDEP continues to operate a system that captures and treats contaminated groundwater from beneath the landfill. The NJDEP also routinely monitors water and groundwater near the site, and the EPA reviews the results to ensure the contamination from underneath the landfill is not spreading. The EPA and the NJDEP found that the work done at the site is protecting people and the environment, and no further work is needed except continued monitoring and operation of the system.

The NPL includes some of the nation's most serious uncontrolled or abandoned releases of contamination. The EPA deletes sites or parts of sites from the NPL when no further cleanup is required to protect people's health or the environment. Years, and sometimes decades, of complex investigation and cleanup work have gone into getting these sites to where they are today. The first NPL was issued in 1984 and Lipari landfill was the first site on that list.

Because the site was a landfill, contaminants remain underground at the Lipari Landfill Superfund site, and this means that the EPA must restrict how portions of the site can be used. In cases like this where restrictions are required, the EPA will review the conditions at the site every five years—even after NPL deletion—to ensure the cleanup continues to protect people from contaminants beneath the surface.

Cleanup and Past Activities

EPA first began work at the site in the 1980s by securing the site and installing wells to determine the extent of contamination in the groundwater underneath the landfill. The EPA also constructed an underground wall, called a slurry wall, to keep contamination in the groundwater from spreading. The EPA covered the landfill with a membrane to reduce the chance of rainwater spreading more contamination into the groundwater. The site was added to the NPL in 1984. In the early 1990s, the EPA installed a system to pump contaminated groundwater to the surface and treat it before re-injecting it into the ground. This system included wells to monitor the progress of the cleanup.

To tackle contamination outside of the landfill area, the EPA extracted contaminated groundwater, treated it, and discharged it to the local wastewater treatment plant. The EPA also dug up contaminated soil in Chestnut Branch Marsh, and dredged and treated contaminated sediment from Alcyon Lake, Chestnut Branch, and Rabbit Run. The EPA treated the sediment using a low temperature volatilization system that uses heat to remove contaminants from the sediment and monitored these areas to ensure the effectiveness of the on-site cleanup.

Over nearly four decades of extensive cleanup efforts have facilitated the restoration, expansion, and revitalization of the community's recreational resources, including the reopening of the Alcyon Park and Alcyon Lake in October 1995.

After finding some additional contamination outside of the original slurry wall, the EPA installed an additional slurry wall and put a new cap over the landfill in 2011. The NJDEP has operated and maintained the systems at the site since August 2019 and monitors groundwater, surface water, and vapors on a regular basis to ensure that the surrounding community and environment are not exposed to hazardous chemicals, and the EPA will continue to conduct formal reviews of the findings every five years.

THE SUPERFUND REMEDIAL PROCESS

ASSESSMENT



Discovery of Contamination



Preliminary Assessment



Site Inspection



**National Priorities List (NPL)
Site Listing**

CHARACTERIZATION



**Remedial Investigation/
Feasibility Study and Proposed
Plan**

SELECTION OF A CLEANUP PLAN



Record of Decision

CLEANUP



Remedial Design



Remedial Action

POST-CONSTRUCTION



Operation and Maintenance



NPL Deletion

Community involvement and planning for a site's redevelopment are integral to the entire process

Five-Year Reviews

Background

The 16-acre Lipari Landfill site includes a 6-acre inactive landfill that, between 1958 and 1971, accepted household waste, liquid and semi-solid chemical wastes, and other industrial materials. These wastes were disposed of in trenches originally excavated for sand and gravel.

Approximately 3,000,000 gallons of liquid wastes and 12,000 cubic yards of solid wastes were disposed of at the site. Some of the wastes included solvents, paints and thinners, formaldehyde, dust collector residues, resins, and solid press cakes from the industrial production of paints and solvents. Before the NJDEP closed the landfill in 1971, at least one explosion and two fires were reported at the site.

Contaminants seeped into the underlying aquifers and leached into nearby marshlands, Chestnut Branch, Rabbit Run, and Alcyon Lake. The lake was then closed for recreational use. Although approximately 11,000 people depend on groundwater for drinking water supplies within three miles of the site, drinking water supplies were not found to be contaminated. Fruit orchards, commercial businesses, and a technology park are located next to the site. Chestnut Branch is a tributary to the Delaware River.

The EPA placed the site on the Superfund program's National Priorities List in September 1983.

EPA Contact Information

Donette Samuel

Community Involvement Coordinator
212-637-3570
samuel.donette@epa.gov

Tanya Mitchell

Remedial Project Manager
212-637-4362
mitchell.tanya@epa.gov

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