United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard (P-19J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Illinois • Indiana
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Ohio • Wisconsin

Garland Road Landfill Site

Miami County, Ohio **April 2001**

Information Repository

EPA has established an information repository that contains sampling results, work plans and other documents relevant to the contamination investigation and cleanup of the site.

The repository is in the:

Milton Union Public Library
560 S. Main
West Milton, OH

Site Description and History

The Garland Road Landfill Site (Site) is located on the west bank of the Stillwater River, just south of Frederick-Garland Road in West Milton, Miami County, Ohio (see Figure). The Site is approximately 15 acres in size and was in operation from the early 1960s through 1970. The Site was used for the disposal of domestic, commercial, and industrial wastes.

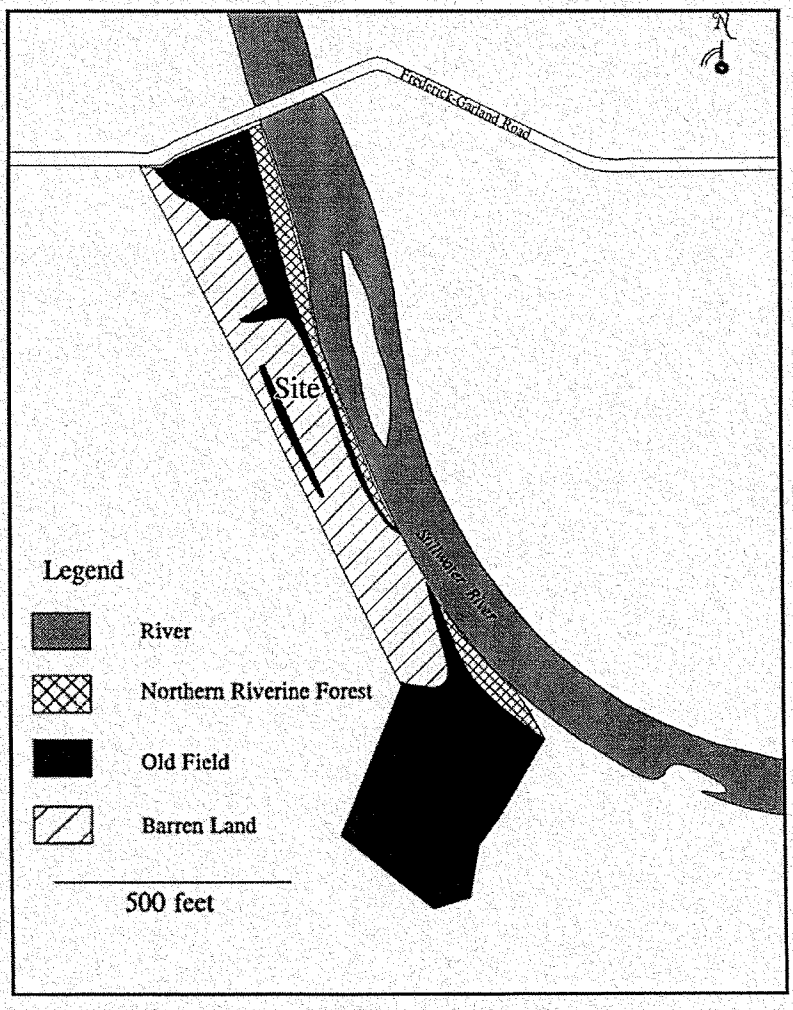
In March 1991, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) conducted an inspection of the Site, which revealed many exposed drums. Drums and other wastes were also seen protruding from the bank of the Stillwater River. In July 1992, Ohio EPA collected soil and drum samples from the Site. These samples were found to be contaminated with poly-aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), pesticides, and heavy metals.

In January 1993, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) conducted a site assessment of the property and in March 1993, U.S. EPA collected additional samples. Based on a visual assessment as well as the sampling results, which indicated elevated levels of PAHs, VOCs, PCBs, and pesticides, it was determined that a removal action would be required to mitigate a threat from exposed drums at the Site.

U.S. EPA identified General Motors Corporation (GM) and Mr. Don Theis as potentially responsible parties (PRPs) for the Site. On November 8, 1993, U.S. EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) to GM and Don Theis for conducting a time-critical removal action for the Site. GM has been conducting all work activities in conjunction with U.S. EPA oversight.

The response activities required by the UAO include the following:

- Installing a 6-foot chain link fence along the eastern boundary of the Site (This fence was installed in October 1993).



- Conducting a survey of the Site to determine the lateral and vertical extent of buried drums and containers at the Site
- Excavating, staging, sampling, and disposing of all surface and buried drums found onsite
- Installing groundwater monitoring wells to determine if contaminants at the Site may be contaminating groundwater

Between September 1994 and September 1997, removal action activities were conducted at the Site. Over 13,000 drums of waste were excavated and removed. In addition, over 14,000 tons of contaminated soil was treated onsite by thermal desorption, stabilized, and stockpiled onsite.

In 1995, U.S. EPA and GM signed a Consent Order requiring the development of an engineering evaluation and cost analysis (EE/CA). The EE/CA, risk evaluation, and other documents provide the basis for determining the recommended non-time critical removal action. On-site work conducted during the EE/CA included sampling of soil, groundwater, sediment, and surface water. On-site sources of contamination were also characterized through reviewing historical records, a well survey, and evaluating historical aerial photographs. Post-removal surface soil samples collected from soil borings and monitoring well borings indicated that residual surface soil contamination exists at the Site. Contaminants detected in the surface soil include metals, PAHs, PCBs, pesticides, and VOCs.

In October 1998, a draft EE/CA report was submitted to U.S. EPA analyzing the need and options for further cleanup activity at the Site. During a review of the draft EE/CA report, Ohio EPA and U.S. EPA raised concerns about shallow groundwater contamination migrating into the deep overburden aquifer and potentially offsite under the Stillwater River where the downgradient water supply of Union, Ohio, could be threatened. To alleviate these concerns, GM conducted further groundwater investigations at the Site and east of the Stillwater River in 1999 and 2000. These investigations showed that groundwater contamination at the Site had not migrated east of the Stillwater River.

Next Steps

In Spring 2001, the last phase of the groundwater investigation will be completed south of the Stillwater River. Once this investigation is completed, the EE/CA report can be finalized and the remedy for Site cleanup can be selected.

For More Information

If you have any questions about the Garland Road Landfill site, please contact the following:

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Or call U.S. EPA's toll-free hotline at (800) 621-8431