

NPL Factsheets for Michigan:

K & L AVENUE LANDFILL

EPA REGION 5

Kalamazoo County

Oshtemo Township

7 miles west of downtown Kalamazoo

EPA ID# MID980506463

Other Names:

West KL Avenue Landfill

Kalamazoo KL Landfill

Kalamazoo County Landfill

Oshtemo Township Landfill

Last Update: February 2002

6th Congressional District

Site Description

The K & L Avenue Landfill is a former sanitary landfill covering 87 acres in Oshtemo Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. The site served as a local garbage dump for the Township from the 1960's until 1968, when it became the county sanitary landfill. Approximately five million cubic yards of solid waste were disposed at the site. The landfill was closed in 1979, after contaminants were found in residential wells. Approximately 11,000 people live within three miles of the landfill. The area surrounding the site is rural residential. The nearest residence is adjacent to the site. The landfill is located about 200 feet southwest of Bonnie Castle Lake and one mile east of Dustin Lake. Both bodies of water are used for recreation, including fishing.

Site Responsibility: The site is being addressed through Federal, State, county, and potentially responsible parties' actions.

NPL Listing History: Proposed Date: 12/30/82
Final Date: 09/08/83

Threats and Contaminants

Groundwater is contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs), phenols, and heavy metals. Soil in isolated areas shows low levels of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination. All affected water wells have been replaced with deeper wells that draw from the lower, uncontaminated aquifer or with city water lines. Therefore, the groundwater presently poses little or no threat to public health.

Cleanup Progress

Initial Actions: In 1980 and 1981, the County of Kalamazoo either installed new wells or provided connections to a public water supply for residences affected by contaminants from the landfill.

In 1990, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) completed an investigation to determine the type and extent of contamination at the site, and selected cleanup remedies. These remedies include: continued monitoring of groundwater, surface water, and air; deed restrictions on the use of the shallow aquifer as a drinking water source; groundwater extraction and treatment; fencing of the site; deed restrictions on the construction of buildings on the site or adjacent to the site; installation of a landfill cap; and installation and monitoring of gas vents throughout the landfill. Currently, the remedy selected in 1990 is on hold, while the site is being investigated by the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) under a Consent Decree (CD) to determine the feasibility of bioremediation at the site. These studies are evaluating whether bioremediation, which would use naturally occurring organisms to address groundwater

contamination, would be a more effective alternative. Field work for this re-evaluation began in 1993. In 1999 additional homes were placed on municipal water supply by the PRPs after several wells in a subdivision near the site were found to be contaminated. All affected wells were hooked up to municipal water and a comprehensive groundwater monitoring program was begun to detect any future contamination of wells. A Record of Decision (ROD) Amendment is expected in 2002. The Remedial Design (RD) will be completed in December 2003, and the Remedial Action (RA) is expected to start in that same year.

Contacts

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