The Dixie Caverns County Landfill Superfund site has been cleaned up and returned to productive use. This former unlicensed municipal landfill is now home to the Roanoke County Police Department’s Laurel Mountain Driver Training Center.

Roanoke County operated an unlicensed municipal landfill on site from 1965 to 1976. During operation, the landfill accepted about 440,000 cubic yards of municipal and industrial wastes. The site also included three other disposal areas: a discarded drum area, an organic sludge pit and a fly ash pile. The sludge pit soils and the drum disposal area were found to be contaminated with volatile organic compounds. Runoff water from the fly ash pile contaminated the drainage area and sediments of a nearby stream with heavy metals.

In June 1983, EPA conducted a preliminary assessment and observed potential sources of contamination. EPA placed the site on the Superfund program’s National Priorities List (NPL) in 1989. EPA negotiated an agreement with the potentially responsible parties for the site’s cleanup. The remedy included removal and treatment of fly ash and the removal, treatment and disposal of contaminated stream sediments. After cleanup, EPA took the site off the NPL in 2001. In 2012, the potentially responsible parties put land use controls in place. The

September 2017
SITE HISTORY AND REDEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

1965-1976  Roanoke County operates an unlicensed municipal landfill on the site.

October 1989  EPA places the site on the NPL.

September 1991  EPA selects a remedy to address the fly ash pile at the site.

August 1992  EPA and the potentially responsible parties enter into a cleanup agreement.

1995  The potentially responsible parties complete the fly ash cleanup.

1997  The potentially responsible parties complete the sediment cleanup.

2000s  The Roanoke County Police Department builds training facilities and a driving course at the site.

September 2001  EPA takes the site off the NPL.

October 2012  The potentially responsible parties place land use controls on the site.

controls make sure that the stabilized waste left in the landfill is not disturbed.

Following cleanup, Roanoke County built several buildings on site, including a law enforcement training facility. The 30-acre Laurel Mountain Driver Training Center is approved by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services for the training of law enforcement officers. The center offers a range of training opportunities for law enforcement and specializes in training officers to safely handle vehicles in a variety of road conditions. Managed by the Roanoke County Police Department, its facilities include a paved roadway, skid pad, classroom, shooting range and vehicle maintenance garage.

In addition to serving Roanoke County, the training facility is available for day lease by regional law enforcement agencies. Conveniently located next to Interstate 81, the center is the only facility of its kind in western Virginia. To date, the site’s redevelopment has provided much-needed facilities for local and regional law enforcement officers. Looking forward, the Laurel Mountain Driver Training Center will continue to serve as a valuable community resource for law enforcement education and public safety.

A remediated stream bed at the site.  
(Source: EPA)

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