

Brick Township Landfill

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJD980505176

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 04

Ocean

Brick Township

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 12/1/1982

Final Date: 9/1/1983

Site Description

The 42-acre Brick Township Landfill operated for more than 30 years, accepting sewage, septage, solids, bulk liquids, and other wastes. Chemical wastes were reportedly disposed of at the landfill in 1971, although this has never been fully documented. The landfill was privately owned until 1973, when it was acquired and operated by Brick Township until it was closed in 1979. Although the site partially is fenced, trespassers frequently enter. Contaminants appear to be migrating from the landfill with the groundwater in a southeasterly direction. Approximately 3,000 people live within a 1-mile radius of the site. Residential areas are nearby, and new development has started. Groundwater is the source of public and private drinking supplies for the 58,000 people living within a 3-mile radius of the site, and sampling indicates no contamination of either private or municipal wells used as drinking water sources.

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

Threat and Contaminants

Sampling in 1987 showed elevated levels of cadmium and a low-level presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in some groundwater monitoring wells in and around the site. Sediments and leachate are contaminated with various heavy metals. VOCs were found in soil from a test pit, and pesticides were found in the septage pits. The landfill has been covered by two feet of clean fill, and area residences are connected to the municipal water supply. However, some private wells not used for drinking water are being used for industrial purposes and for lawn and garden maintenance. Several of these wells were found to be contaminated with VOCs in 1999 and subsequently closed. A drum investigation in 1992 did not detect any drums in the landfill.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in two stages: an immediate action and a long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Immediate Action: In 1982, Brick Township, under State monitoring, conducted a surface cleanup at the site, including the removal of about 150 above ground drums and filling and venting of three septage pits.

Entire Site: The Brick Township Landfill Action Committee is investigating the contamination at the site. Several rounds of groundwater samples were collected from 23 monitoring wells. Results showed that 67 substances exceeded Groundwater Quality Standards. The sampling also showed that additional wells were necessary to delineate the extent of the plume. Therefore additional samples were collected using push sampling technology in 1998 and 1999. The results from these sampling events revealed that the plume was more extensive than expected and, while not impacting any potable wells, several irrigation wells were impacted. In 1999, Brick Township placed restrictions on the use of irrigation wells in the most highly contaminated areas. Since July 1999, a Groundwater Usage Restriction Area (GURA) has been established thereby eliminating the potential exposure of contaminated groundwater to the public, the GURA was revised in 2004. Groundwater sampling events have been conducted at the site in Fall 2000, Fall 2001, Fall 2002, Fall 2003 and Fall 2004, and 2005. In November 2007, the site's responsible parties submitted a revised FS. EPA provided comments on the document in December 2007. In January 2008, the site's potentially responsible parties submitted a draft comprehensive RI. A revised RI and a revised FS were approved by EPA in August 2008. A Record of Decision for the Site was issued in September 2008.

Site Facts: In 1982, the State and Brick Township entered into a Consent Order that required the Township to conduct a surface cleanup of the site. In 1985, the Order was amended to establish a Brick Township Landfill Action Committee, composed of State and Township officials, to perform a long-term study and remediation of the site. Based on the ground water investigations and feasibilities studies, EPA and NJDEP selected a remedy for the Site which includes an impermeable cap and long term groundwater monitoring.

Cleanup Progress

The removal of drums and filling and venting of septage pits as well as the clean fill cover have greatly reduced the potential for exposure to contaminated materials at the Brick Township Landfill. The landfill property is surrounded by a fence. Restrictions on the use of contaminated irrigation wells have been put in place by the municipality of Brick. A classification exemption area has been designated to prevent exposure to site contaminated groundwater. Further remedial activities will include installation of an impermeable cap and long term groundwater monitoring.

Site Repositories

All documents regarding this site are located at: The USEPA Region 2 Record Center, 290 Broadway, 18 th Floor, New York, New York, 10007-1866.

Brick Branch of the Ocean County Library, 301 Chambers Bridge Rd, Brick, NJ 08723 (732) 477-4513 Hours: Monday-Thurs 9am to 9pm, Friday-Saturday 9am-5pm