

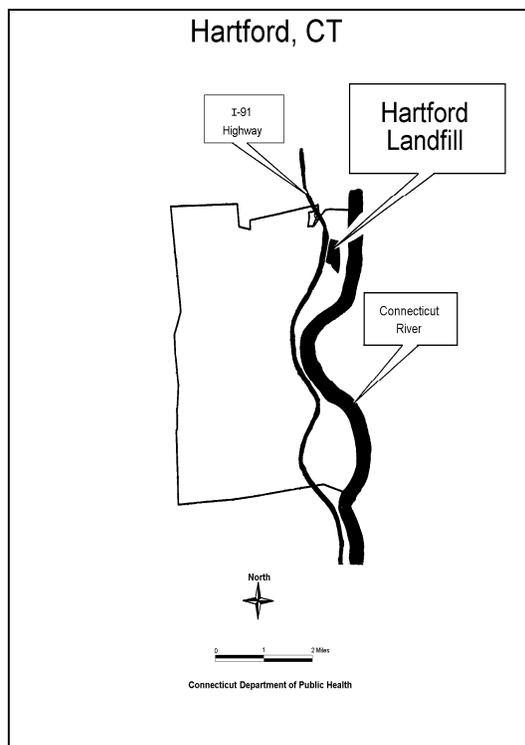
Health Information on Hazardous Waste Sites

HARTFORD LANDFILL

The Hartford Landfill, also known as the North Meadows Landfill, is a city-owned facility, and is leased to the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority. The Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH), in cooperation with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, was asked to investigate whether contamination at this site may cause health problems in the neighboring community. A document has been produced from that investigation, and is referred to as a Health Consultation. It was produced from data provided by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) and other groups involved with the management of this site, and concerns of the community. If you have any health questions about this site, please write or call Gary Perlman or Kenny Foscue at the Connecticut Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Epidemiology and Occupational Health, 410 Capitol Ave, Hartford, CT 06134-0308, (860) 509-7742.

Site Summary

The Hartford Landfill is in the northeastern section of Hartford, Connecticut (See Map). The landfill is bordered by Interstate Highway I-91, commercial businesses, and residences to the west and northwest, the Connecticut River to the east, and 30 acres directly north that are proposed for incinerator ash burial. The nearest residences are about ½ mile from the landfill. Other business and municipal operations are also located to the south of the landfill. From around 1940 through 1988, this landfill operated as a typical city solid waste landfill. Since 1982, the landfill has been leased to the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA). Currently, the landfill accepts only these waste items: bulky waste (old appliances, etc.), special wastes, and incinerator ash from



the Mid-Connecticut Resource Recovery Facility. The CTDEP examined and approved a permit application for an expansion of the landfill. The residents living near the landfill were concerned

about potential health impacts of the expansion, and about past and present exposures from the site.

Are Hazardous Substances From The Landfill In Our Neighborhood?

In response to citizens' health concerns, the CT DEP conducted air sampling one half mile from the Landfill. Some of this data was obtained directly by sampling near the Windsor Avenue neighborhood. The rest of the data was estimated, using weather data and landfill gas measurements to predict contaminant levels in the air. These contaminants include:

- Hydrogen Sulfide: the gas that smells like rotten eggs
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) - solvents such as benzene, trichloroethylene, methylene chloride and many others
- Metals, such as lead, cadmium, and arsenic

None of these contaminants were found at levels that could cause short-term or long-term health problems to neighborhood residents nearest the site.

The air in the neighborhood nearest the Landfill contained low levels of contaminants. These levels are similar to levels measured in other Connecticut urban centers.

Are Health Problems In Our Community Caused By The Landfill?

Community members have expressed concern about specific health problems such as lead poisoning and lung disease. The levels of contaminants that were measured in the neighborhood are very unlikely to cause any of these health problems. Levels of contaminants in the air may have been higher before the flare (the flame used to destroy landfill gases). However, we are not able to determine the levels before the flare was installed.



Lead Poisoning Is A Problem In Our Community - Is This Caused By The Landfill?

Lead was measured in the air in the community one half mile from the Landfill at levels similar to Bridgeport and Milford. The levels found were not high enough to cause children to have high blood lead levels from this source alone. **In fact, the levels in the air would not cause any increase in the**

level of lead in a child's blood.

Lead Exposure is a big problem in Hartford. Some data shows that almost 1 out of every 10 children in Hartford have high blood lead levels. Higher rates of lead poisoning are often related to older housing. Many homes in Hartford, including those nearest the Landfill, were built before 1950 and are more likely to have lead paint.

The state health department recommends that all Connecticut children at 1 and at 2 years of age be tested for blood lead levels, and all children 3 - 6 years old who have not been previously screened. Contact your health provider or the Hartford Health Department (543-8817) for more information.

Are There Greater Numbers of Lung Diseases Such As Emphysema And Asthma In Our Community? Are They Caused By The Landfill?

Contaminants in the air samples recently obtained in the neighborhood one half mile from the Landfill were not at levels that would cause lung disease. Unfortunately, we do not have an accurate way of looking at emphysema and other lung diseases to determine whether or not these problems are more common among people living near the landfill. The main reason is because data on these diseases is not available in a form that will allow analysis. Again, the levels of contamination in the air are currently not high enough to cause these problems. Hydrogen sulfide gas comes

from the Landfill and may sometimes reach the residential area. However, hydrogen sulfide does not cause asthma.

What About The Bad Odor and Gases From The Landfill?

People near the landfill may smell a "rotten egg" odor. This is caused by hydrogen sulfide gas from the landfill. The highest levels determined in the air were below levels that could cause health problems. Since 1994, the landfill flare system has been collecting and burning off most contaminants, including methane gas, that escape from the landfill. Nearly all of the contaminants that enter the flare are destroyed. The gases escaping from the landfill surfaces have been evaluated and were found to be below levels of health concern.



Toxic Ash Is Being Dumped In The Landfill - Is This A Threat To The Neighborhood?

Air in the community was sampled for lead, cadmium and arsenic, which are metals that are found in the incinerator ash. The levels found in the air would not cause health problems.

What Is Being Done To Improve The Landfill Site?

The CT Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA) has been testing and making improvements to the landfill to control the odor and dust. The drainage system is being improved to prevent runoff (leachate) from escaping and water from collecting in large pools. These drainage system improvements can help reduce the bad odors. Using crushed stone, planting grass seeds, watering the road and washing truck wheels will help control dust from the landfill. In addition, the CTDEP is working to improve the methane gas removal system.

Where Can I Get More Information?

CT Department of Public Health
Environmental Epidemiology and
Occupational Health Division
410 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06134-0308
(860) 509-7742

Hartford Health Department
80 Coventry Street
Hartford, CT 06112
(860) 543-8800

CT Department of Environmental
Protection
Bureau of Air Management
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 424-3026

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1 Congress St. Suite 1100
Boston, MA 02114-2023
(617) 918-1064

CT Resources Recovery Authority
179 Allyn Street, Suite 603
Hartford, CT 06103
(860) 549-1751 (24 hour number for complaints)



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