

Health Information on Hazardous Waste Sites

Old Southington Landfill

The Old Southington Landfill site is one of fifteen Superfund hazardous waste sites in Connecticut. The Connecticut Department of Health Services, in cooperation with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, is investigating the possibility that contamination at this site might result in adverse human health effects in the neighboring community. The document containing this assessment is referred to as a public health assessment and has been produced from data provided by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other groups involved with the management of this site; community health data; and concerns of the community. If you have specific concerns about the health implications of this site, please write or call Kenny Foscue or Edith Pestana at the Connecticut Department of Health Services, Division of Environmental Epidemiology and Occupational Health, 150 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, (203) 566-8167.

SITE SUMMARY

The Old Southington Landfill (OSL) Superfund site, also referred to as the Old Turnpike Road Landfill, is in Southington (Hartford County), Connecticut. The 11.8 acre site is adjacent to Old Turnpike Road in the Plantsville section of town (See Site Map).

History

The landfill operated for approximately 47 years, from 1920 to 1967. Open dumping of liquid, solid, and hazardous wastes began in 1950. In 1967, the landfill was closed and the property was subdivided and developed into residential, industrial and commercial properties. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) placed this site on the National Priorities List in September 1984, qualifying the site for cleanup funds under the federal Superfund law.

Off-site groundwater contamination was detected in a public water supply well (well 5) in 1979. This well has been abandoned by the Southington Water Department and is no longer available for use.

CONTAMINATION

Various contaminants, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), metals, and pesticides have been found in groundwater and soils on the site. VOCs found at the site include trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, toluene, benzene, and others. Heavy metals -- lead, manganese, cadmium, and barium -- were detected at elevated concentrations at the site.

Groundwater contamination has been found on and off-site. Soil contamination has been found within the landfill site

boundaries. One public well (number 5) located northwest of OSL was found to be contaminated with VOCs. VOCs were identified above back-ground levels in 1976 and the public well was taken out of service in 1979.

Three of the eight commercial facilities on the site were found to have elevated levels of methane. Dangerously elevated levels of methane posing an explosive hazard were detected in one of the facilities. Plans are underway to lower methane below explosive levels at the site facilities.

Ambient air monitoring of the OSL site and neighboring properties indicated the presence of random elevated levels of VOCs, but these levels were not deemed significant.

HEALTH CONCERNS

Historically, the major source of exposure was the contaminated public water supply. However, these exposures have ceased, as wells 4, 5, and 6 were closed in 1979 and 1980. Currently, the Southington public water supply meets federal and state guidelines and standards.

Methane produced by the landfill has been detected at explosive levels in an industrial facility on the site. In addition, methane can act as a carrier for other toxic gases, such as VOCs.

Methane monitors have been installed in these facilities by the Southington Fire Department.

PCBs have been detected in soil and surface water samples from the site. Residents and workers

involved in excavation at the site should be concerned about the potential for exposures to contaminated soils.

Persons swimming and fishing in Black Pond could be exposed to contaminants from the site.

What You Should Know

* Local residents and workers on or near the site, as well as persons engaged in site-related activity, could be exposed to a variety of VOCs, methane gas, heavy metals, and PCBs. These exposures could occur from several sources -- surface water, groundwater, air, soil, and fish contamination.

* The Southington public water supply is safe to drink, according to state and federal guidelines and standards. Although public water supply pipes were installed in landfill material, there is no evidence that the tap water has been contaminated. Users of private wells in the area that have not been tested should be concerned about possible contamination and should regularly monitor these wells. If you suspect your water has been effected by contaminants at this site, call the Southington Health Department for assistance.

* Elevated levels of methane gas may continue to be a problem. As noted above, methane monitors have been installed in all industrial and commercial buildings at the site by the Southington Fire Department. Residents and employees at the site should cooperate with the Fire Department's monitoring program.

* Area residents should not swim or fish in Black Pond until the

CT Department of Health Services can assess whether or not the pond is contaminated. Warning signs about the potential risks of eating contaminated fish will be placed around the area if needed. Special care should be taken to prevent children from playing in this area. Plans are underway to test fish in Black Pond for contamination.

* Residents and employees have expressed concern regarding the fact that the workers conducting an EPA Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) wear protective clothing ("moon suits") and equipment on the landfill site. These workers are required by law to wear health and safety equipment while on the site. If EPA identifies a potential hazard, local residents will be notified and evacuated if necessary.

AGENCY ACTIVITY PLANS AND STATUS

1. The CT Department of Health Services (DHS) will periodically perform site visits of those facilities where methane has been detected until indoor air screening has shown that the levels are safe.
2. The CT DHS will issue a health advisory (if necessary) concerning recreation in Black Pond, after appropriate sampling has been completed.
3. By the end of 1992, the CT DHS will test the fish from Black Pond to assess potential contamination and possible health effects.
4. The CT DHS will provide environmental health education for local public health

officials, the local medical community, and local citizens. 5. The CT DHS, in conjunction with ATSDR, will evaluate appropriate follow-up health study activities pertaining to the site.

In addition, other state and federal agencies have agreed to do the following:

1. EPA will characterize the groundwater contamination plume to assess the migration pathways of contaminants from the site.
2. EPA will conduct a soil gas survey as part of the RI/FS to assess ambient air contamination. This gas study will be performed outside of the buildings to design an appropriate permanent remedy for gases released by the landfill.
3. EPA will conduct surface soil sampling as part of the RI/FS to assess exposure to contaminated soils.
4. EPA will characterize the extent and degree of contamination that exists on the site and delineate the site's boundaries as part of the RI/FS.
5. The Southington Fire Department is monitoring all industrial facilities and residential buildings on the landfill for methane on a regular basis to protect residents from fire and explosive hazards.

INFORMATION SOURCES

HEALTH: If you have health concerns related to the site, please contact your physician. Explain your situation and what you may have been exposed to.

Your physician may contact the Southington Health Department or the Connecticut Department of Health Services with any questions.

Southington Health Department
Town Hall
93 Main St.
Southington, CT 06489
276-6277

Southington Fire Department
310 N. Main St.
Southington, CT 06489
621-3202

State of Connecticut
Department of Health Services
Environmental Epidemiology and
Occupational Health Section
150 Washington St.
Hartford, CT 06106
566-8167

Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry
Region 1
60 Westview St.

Lexington, MA 02173
(617) 860-4619

WATER QUALITY: If you have concerns about the quality of water around the Old Southington Landfill site, contact the Southington Health Department or the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Management.

Bureau of Water Management
Groundwater Section
120 Washington St.
Hartford, CT 06106
(203) 566-3654

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY: If you are interested in connecting to a public water supply, contact the Southington Water Department.

Southington Water Department
65 High St.

Southington, CT 06489
628-5593

SUPERFUND: Information regarding the federal Superfund process may be obtained from:

Almerinda Silva
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency
JFK Federal Building (HEC-CANG)
Boston, MA 02203
(617) 573-9627

(Prepared by the State of Connecticut Department of Health Services, Environmental Epidemiology and Occupational Health. This factsheet is funded in part by funds from the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act trust fund through a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.)

(11/1992)