

PRELIMINARY Public Health Assessment for

BEACON HEIGHTS LANDFILL SITE
BEACON FALLS, NEW HAVEN COUNTY, CONNECTICUT
CERCLIS NO. CTD072122062
JANUARY 26, 1989
ADDENDUM
JUNE 20, 1991

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry



THE ATSDR PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT: A NOTE OF EXPLANATION

This public health assessment was prepared by ATSDR pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund) section 104 (i)(6) (42 U.S.C. 9604 (i)(6)), and in accordance with our implementing regulations (42 C.F.R. Part 90). In preparing this document, ATSDR has collected relevant health data, environmental data, and community health concerns from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), state and local health and environmental agencies, the community, and potentially responsible parties, where appropriate.

In addition, this document has previously been provided to EPA and the affected states in an initial release, as required by CERCLA section 104 (i)(6)(H), for their information and review. The revised document was released for a 30-day public comment period. Subsequent to the public comment period, ATSDR addressed all public comments and revised or appended the document as appropriate. The public health assessment has now been reissued. This concludes the public health assessment process for this site, unless additional information is obtained by ATSDR which, in the agency's opinion, indicates a need to revise or append the conclusions previously issued.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D., Administrator
Barry L. Johnson, Ph.D., Assistant Administrator

Division of Health Assessment and Consultation Robert C. Williams, P.E., DEE, Director

Exposure Investigations and Consultation Branch John E. Abraham., Ph.D., Chief

Federal Facilities Assessment Branch Sandra G. Isaacs, Chief

Petitions Response Branch Acting Chief

Superfund Site Assessment Branch Sharon Williams-Fleetwood, Ph.D., Chief

Program Evaluation, Records, and Information Services Branch Max M. Howie, Jr., M.S., Chief

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National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia
(703) 487-4650

SUMMARY

The Beacon Heights Landfill National Priorities List (NPL) Site is located in Beacon Falls, Connecticut. From the 1920's to 1979, municipal and industrial wastes were disposed of at the landfill. Leachate from the landfill has migrated into the local groundwater aquifers. Two residential wells to the northwest of the site have been contaminated with site-related contaminants. This site is of potential public health concern because of the risk to human health resulting from possible exposure to hazardous substances at concentrations that may result in adverse health effects. As noted in Human Exposure Pathways Section below, human exposure to benzene, chlorobenzene, chloroethane, and methylene chloride may have occurred via ingestion, inhalation, and direct dermal contact with contaminated groundwater. No health study follow-up is indicated at this time.

BACKGROUND

The 83-acre Beacon Heights Landfill NPL Site is atop a ridge within the lower Naugatuck Valley. The landfill site is approximately two miles east of the intersection of Connecticut Routes 8 and 2 in Beacon Falls, Connecticut; see Appendix Figure I. Hockanum Brook, located one-half mile northwest of the landfill, flows into the Naugatuck River two miles to the west of the site. A steep downward slope, approximately 200 feet high, is to the west and north of the site. An apple orchard is located approximately 600 feet northwest of the NPL site.

The Beacon Heights Landfill received municipal and industrial wastes from the 1920's to 1979. From the 1920's to 1970, the original six-acre "Betkoski Dump" accepted a variety of wastes: municipal, rubber, plastic, and industrial chemicals and sludges. In 1970, the landfill area was expanded to approximately 30 acres. The waste material was no longer burned, and cover material was placed over the waste. A planned cell-lift procedure was started at the landfill in 1973. Daily and final cover material was placed over the waste.

The Beacon Heights Landfill was listed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) NPL on December 21, 1983. An EPA-approved Remedial Investigation (RI) was begun in February of 1984 and finished in April 1985.

In 1984, benzene was detected in two residential wells. The Connecticut Department of Health Services notified the occupants of the two residences that their well water was unfit for human consumption. Bottled water has been provided to these residences by the Connecticut Department of Health Services since 1985.

A Record of Decision (ROD) was signed by the EPA Regional Administrator for Region I on September 23, 1985. The ROD requires the excavation of the Betkoski Dump and other contaminated soils for consolidation with the main landfill prior to closure. A cap will be placed over the main landfill to meet Resource Conservation and Recovery Act requirements, including: gas venting (with air pollution controls if determined necessary during design), fencing of the site, more extensive groundwater monitoring, and stormwater management controls. The ROD also requires the installation of a perimeter leachate collection system and a means of treating the leachate before being discharged. In addition, the local public drinking water supply has been extended to residents near the site as a requirement of the ROD.

All of the residential wells were resampled in 1986. No additional residential wells were shown to be contaminated.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION AND PHYSICAL HAZARDS

A. ON-SITE CONTAMINATION

Table I lists the contaminants of concern on-site at the Beacon Heights Landfill NPL Site. The concentrations at which the contaminants were found in each of the environmental media are presented. The sampling of the environmental media was conducted from 1984 through 1985.

B. OFF-SITE CONTAMINATION

Table II lists the contaminants of concern found off-site of the Beacon Heights Landfill NPL Site. The concentrations at which the contaminants were found in each environmental media are presented. The sampling of the environmental media was conducted from 1984 through 1985.

C. PHYSICAL HAZARDS

A steep grade exits to the north and west of the site. This grade could be a physical hazard to anyone at the site.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Approximately 44 homes are within a half mile of the site along Skokorat and Blackberry Hill Road, see Appendix Figure II. The nearest residences are approximately 1,000 feet to the north and west of the site. All of these local residences use groundwater as the drinking water supply source.

TABLE I
 CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN ON-SITE
 BEACON HEIGHTS LANDFILL NPL SITE
 BEACON FALLS, CONNECTICUT

<u>Contaminant</u>	<u>Range in ppb</u>
Leachate Seeps	
Benzene	<5-25,100
Chlorobenzene	<5-5310
Chloroethane	<10-1420
Methyl ethyl ketone	<10-6090
Bis (2-chloroethyl) ether	<10-4680
Lead	<1.8-22
Groundwater	
Benzene	<5-850
Chlorobenzene	<5-797
Chloroethane	<10-131
Bis (2-chloroethyl) ether	<10-4360
Methylene chloride	<5-380
Surface Water	
Benzene	<5-49
Bis (2-chloroethyl) ether	<10-420

ppb: Parts Per Billion

TABLE II
CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN OFF-SITE
BEACON HEIGHTS LANDFILL NPL SITE
BEACON FALLS, CONNECTICUT

<u>Contaminant</u>	<u>Range in ppb</u>
	Groundwater
Benzene	<5-480
Chlorobenzene	<5-340
Chloroethane	<10-49
Methylene chloride	<5-500

ppb: Parts Per Billion

The Beacon Heights Landfill NPL Site is located within the Town of Beacon Falls. The population of Beacon Falls was 1,500 in 1980. Most of the residents in Beacon Falls rely upon the public drinking water system for potable water.

EVALUATION

A. SITE CHARACTERIZATION (DATA NEEDS AND EVALUATION)

1. Environmental Media

The groundwater under and near the site appears to flow towards the north-northwest. However, insufficient groundwater monitoring was conducted during the RI to adequately determine the groundwater flow pattern in the area. Monitoring wells were not placed completely around the site. The major strike and dip of the bedrock is to the southeast. Only one monitoring well cluster was placed in that direction.

2. Land Use and Demographics

Sufficient general information has been provided to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) concerning the effected population at the NPL Site. Information on the local residential population, age, sex, socioeconomic status, and ethnic background would have been advantageous in determining the presence of any sensitive subpopulations.

Information on the recreational use of the Hockanum Brook near the site would have been advantageous. This type of information is used to evaluate the potential for human exposure.

3. Quality Control and Quality Assurance

ATSDR was not provided with Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) information for the Beacon Heights Landfill NPL Site. The sampling data provided to ATSDR were footnoted with QA/QC indicators (u, j, b). This would tend to indicate that QA/QC was performed for samples taken at this site.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL PATHWAYS

In order to better understand how the contaminants of concern seem to have migrated, the environmental setting will be discussed first. The contamination in each environmental media will then be discussed.

The Beacon Heights Landfill NPL Site is atop a hill near Beacon Falls, Connecticut. The soils on-site have been disturbed during landfill operations. It is believed that the waste was placed on or near the bedrock and covered with the excavated soil. Soil at the top of hills in

the Beacon Falls area are normally thin, less than 60 inches, and classified as a very stony to extremely stony fine sandy loam or gravelly sandy loam. This permits the rapid infiltration of any leachate into the underlying bedrock. A water table aquifer does exist in the soil media, but it is limited to areas in the valley where the soil is much thicker. Some residents in the valley obtain their potable water from the water table aquifer. The water table aquifer discharges to the Hockanum Brook.

The bedrock that underlies the NPL Site is the undifferentiated Hartland Formation. This formation is predominately a schist with localized gneissic zones. The Hartland Formation is faulted and jointed. Mapping of the joint faces depicted two dominant joint sets. The average strike for each set of joints is N30°E and N25°W with near vertical dips.

The Hartland Aquifer is semi-confined and flows through the fractures and joints in the Hartland Formation. Groundwater monitoring data indicate that the groundwater in the Hartland Aquifer flows towards the north and northwest at the northern boundaries of the NPL Site and recharges the water table aquifer in the valley. The Hartland Aquifer is used by most of the local residents for their source of potable water. Insufficient groundwater monitoring was conducted to the south and east of the NPL Site in order to determine if all the groundwater beneath the NPL Site flows towards the north and northwest. The mapping of the joints indicate that it is possible for the groundwater to flow to the south and east of the Beacon Heights Landfill.

Analyses of samples taken of the leachate generated by the landfill and groundwater seem to show that contaminants from the landfill have migrated into both the water table and Hartland Aquifer; see Table I. This contamination has moved towards the north and northwest of the site and entered two residential bedrock aquifer wells. Benzene has been detected in both residential wells at levels of 48 and 131 parts per billion (ppb). Methylene chloride was also detected in one of these residential wells at 500 ppb. The total extent of groundwater contamination has not been delineated since an insufficient number of monitoring wells were installed towards the south and east of the site. Contamination from the landfill could be migrating in that direction along the dominant joint sets of the Hartland Formation. The known groundwater contamination towards the north and northwest of the site could contaminate other residential wells in the area.

Some leachate has seeped into the small tributary of Hockanum Brook which drains the site. Analyses of surface water samples show that the contaminant concentrations fall below the detection limits by the time the tributary flows into the Hockanum Brook. Analyses of sediment samples taken in the tributary and Hockanum Brook did not detect any contamination of a health concern.

Analyses of soil samples taken on-site and at the leachate seep areas, off-site, did not detect any contamination of a health concern. It is not

anticipated that there is significant off-site soil contamination, because the boundaries of the NPL Site incorporates all of the landfills and some buffer area. Also, no contamination of a health concern was detected in the sediment just off-site. No soil contamination of a health concern was detected in the buffer area.

Analytical results for the quantitative air sampling conducted on-site indicate that there are no airborne organic or particulate contaminants of a health concern.

No crops or livestock are grown at the Beacon Heights Landfill NPL Site. Access to the landfill is restricted; therefore, it is not likely that the general public would wander onto the landfill and consume wild plants. The contaminants of concern detected in the surface water and groundwater are not known to bioaccumulate in fish or plants; therefore, it is not anticipated that fish taken in the Hockanum Brook or apples taken from the orchard would contain contaminants of concern.

C. HUMAN EXPOSURE PATHWAYS

It is not possible to determine when the exposure to groundwater contamination began, since groundwater monitoring data are not available prior to 1984. Groundwater samples of residential wells in 1984 detected benzene in two wells. These findings prompted the Connecticut Department of Health Services to notify the occupants of the two residences that their well water was unfit for human consumption. These residences have been provided with bottled water by the Department since 1985.

The well water is the primary exposure pathway at the Beacon Heights Landfill NPL Site. The local population used the groundwater for drinking and cooking purposes until the contamination was discovered. Bottled water has been used by the impacted residences since the discovery of contamination. Untreated water continues to be used for sanitation purposes. As a result of this pathway, the public near the NPL Site may have been exposed to the contaminants of concern, see Table II, via ingestion, dermal contact, and inhalation of volatilized contaminants.

The groundwater contamination could migrate into other residential wells. However, actions of the September 1985 ROD should prevent future human exposure to groundwater contamination for most residents to the north and west of the Beacon Heights Landfill NPL Site. The municipal water distribution system has been extended, and most residences to the north and west of the site have been connected to the waterline. A few residents have refused to be hooked up to the municipal waterline and will continue to use their private wells. These private wells are currently not contaminated. Therefore, the residents who have refused municipal water are presently not at risk via the groundwater exposure pathway. In the future, the unconnected homes could be hooked up to municipal water if the homeowners change their minds.

Trespassers onto the NPL Site would not likely be exposed to significant amount of contaminants because their visits would usually be of a short duration and infrequent.

Children at play or residents who come into contact with the tributary of Hockanum Brook could accidentally ingest small quantities of benzene or bis (2-chloroethyl) ether contaminated water. However, this exposure pathway would not be expected to present a significant health risk because of the small quantities of water ingested and because of the infrequency of occurrence.

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

To date only benzene, chlorobenzene, chloroethane, and methylene chloride have been detected in off-site groundwater, see Table II. Benzene and methylene chloride have been detected in two residential wells. It is these four compounds that the general public near the Beacon Heights Landfill NPL Site may have been exposed to.

The concentrations of benzene in contaminated drinking water wells in the area are such that inhalation or ingestion exposures via drinking, cooking, or bathing would be of public health concern. Although information is inadequate to estimate the health effects from dermal exposure to benzene, skin penetration is known to occur. There is no evidence from animal studies that different routes of administration (exposures) of benzene qualitatively alter its toxicity (Klaassen et al., 1986).

In humans, the adverse effects of benzene include blood dyscrasias, aplastic anemia, and leukemia. It is likely in both cases that benzene metabolites initiate the disease process (Klaassen et al., 1986). Benzene damages bone marrow and results in a decrease in circulating erythrocytes, thrombocytes, and leucocytes. When all three types of cells have been reduced and there is an absence of functional bone marrow, the disorder is termed aplastic anemia (Klaassen et al., 1986). Leukemias are acute or chronic diseases that are classified according to the cell type involved. They are characterized by increased leukocyte production in hemopoietic tissues, other organs, and usually in the blood. The leukemia most commonly associated with benzene exposure is acute myelogenous leukemia. This kind of leukemia is characterized by an increased number of cells morphologically similar to the myeloblast (Klaassen et al., 1986).

Long-term exposure to chlorobenzene in potable water could impact the liver and kidneys of the exposed human population. The observed hepatotoxicity is probably caused by metabolic conversions of chlorobenzene to an epoxide and subsequent reaction with cellular macromolecules. Studies conducted by the National Toxicology Program

(NTP) indicate that there is a weak dose-related incidence of hepatic neoplastic nodules in male rats. The NTP concluded that this provided "some, but not clear evidence of carcinogenic activity in male rats." Adequate epidemiological evidence is not available concerning the carcinogenicity of chlorobenzene in humans (National Academy of Sciences, 1977 and 1983).

Long-term exposure to methylene chloride has also been associated with mild liver toxicity, as evidenced by cytoplasmic vacuolation, increased fat content, and multinucleated hepatocytes. Acute exposure to methylene chloride has been associated with impairment in function of the central nervous system and liver and kidney effects. Based on the weight of evidence from animal studies, methylene chloride was classified by EPA as a probable human carcinogen. However, metabolic data indicates that there are species differences and that risks to humans are probably lower than those determined for laboratory animals (ATSDR, 1987).

Chloroethane has not been associated with any human health effects as a result of chronic oral exposure. Animal studies, however, have reported possible renal damage as a result of chloroethane exposure in potable water. Inhalation of chloroethane can produce headache, dizziness, incoordination, stomach cramps, and eventual loss of consciousness. In high concentrations, not found at this site, cardiac arrest could occur (Sittig, 1985).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This site is of potential public health concern because of the risk to human health resulting from possible exposure to hazardous substances at concentrations that may result in adverse health effects. As noted in Human Exposure Pathways Section above, human exposure to benzene, chlorobenzene, chloroethane, and methylene chloride may have occurred via ingestion, inhalation, and direct dermal contact with contaminated groundwater. Actions of the September 1985 ROD should prevent future human exposure to groundwater contamination for most residents to the north and west of the Beacon Heights Landfill NPL Site.

In order to protect the public health, ATSDR recommends the following:

1. A complete study of the groundwater quality, flow characteristics, and usage should be conducted to the south and east of Beacon Heights Landfill NPL Site. Specific off-site groundwater flow pathways, such as bedding plane fractures, faults, and lithology boundary flows, should be evaluated. Monitoring wells should be placed appropriately to determine off-site contaminant flow.
2. A well survey should be conducted to the south and east of the Beacon Heights Landfill NPL Site to confirm that there are no wells in the path of off-site contaminant migration.

3. Consideration should be given to adopting institutional controls to prevent future installation and use of potable water supply wells in the contaminated portion of the aquifer.

4. The few residents who have refused to be hooked up to municipal water should have their private wells tested periodically for site related contaminants.

In accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, Liability Act of 1980, as amended, the Beacon Heights Landfill NPL Site has been evaluated for appropriate follow-up with respect to health effects studies. Although there are indications that human exposure to off-site contaminants may have occurred in the past, this site is not being considered for follow-up health studies at this time because no current exposure is occurring and no test is available to evaluate past exposures

PREPARERS OF REPORT

Environmental Reviewer: Sven E. Rodenbeck, P.E.
Environmental Engineer
Environmental Engineering Branch

Typist: Charlotta V. Gavin
Clerk Typist
Environmental Engineering Branch

ATSDR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Regional Representative: Marilyn R. DiSirio
Public Health Advisor
Field Operations Branch
Region I

REFERENCES

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APPENDIX



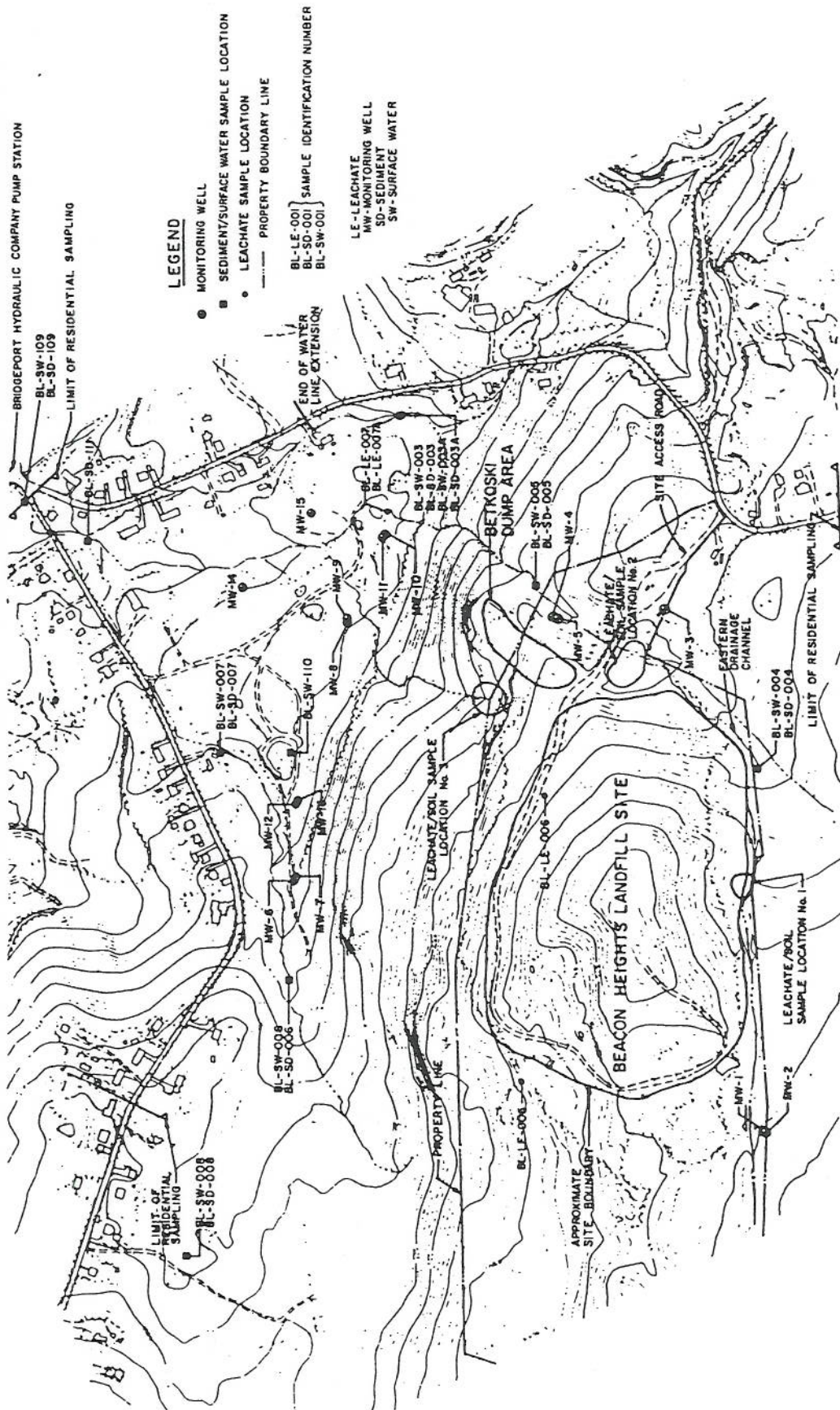
BASE MAP IS A PORTION OF U.S.G.S. NAUGATUCK, CONN. QUADRANGLE (7.5 MINUTE SERIES, 1964, PHOTO REVISSED 1972)
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10'

LOCATION MAP BEACON HEIGHTS LANDFILL SITE, BEACON FALLS, CT

SCALE: 1" : 2000'
Appendix Figure I
Source: RI Report, 1985



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Appendix II

SITE PLAN
BEACON HEIGHTS LANDFILL SITE, BEACON FALLS, CT

Source: RI Report, 1985 SCALE: 1" = 400'



HEALTH ASSESSMENT ADDENDUM
BEACON HEIGHTS LANDFILL
CERCLIS NO. CTD07212262
BEACON FALLS, CONNECTICUT

PREPARED BY:

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

PREPARED FOR:

AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

The following statements supplement or change the respective sections in the Beacon Heights Landfill Health Assessment of January 26, 1989:

BACKGROUND

Page 1, paragraphs 4 and 5, should read:

The Beacon Heights Landfill was listed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) NPL on September 8, 1983. An EPA-approved Remedial Investigation (RI) was begun in February of 1984 and finished in April 1985. A ROD was signed in September 1985 for Operable Unit 1 of this site. A Pre-Design (Feasibility Study) was finished in March 1990, which is being used to draft a supplemental ROD for Operable Unit 2 of the site (leachate collection and treatment).

In 1984, benzene was detected in two residential wells on Skokorat Road. The Connecticut Department of Health Services notified the occupants of the two residences that their well water should not be used for drinking. Bottled water has been provided to these residences by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection since November 1984.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Insert after paragraph 2, Page 2:

In order to access current community concerns, the Connecticut Department of Health Services contacted the Naugatuck Valley Health District. They were not aware of any active citizens groups associated with site. In addition, the local health department has not received any concerns about the site. A public notice was placed in local newspapers announcing the availability of this addendum for public comment at the Beacon Falls Library. No citizens concerns were received during the 30-day comment period.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION AND PHYSICAL HAZARDS

Page 2, paragraph 4, should read:

A. ON-SITE CONTAMINATION

Table II lists the contaminants of concern found off-site of the Beacon Heights Landfill NPL Site. The concentrations at which the contaminants were found in each environmental media are presented. The sampling of the groundwater was conducted from 1984 through 1985. The air sampling data was collected in 1989 as part of the pre-design study.

TABLE II
 CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN OFF-SITE
 BEACON HEIGHTS LANDFILL NPL SITE
 BEACON FALL, CONNECTICUT

Contaminant

A. Groundwater - Monitoring Wells - range in ppb

Benzene	5 - 480
Chlorobenzene	5 - 340
Chloroethane	10 - 49
Methylene chloride	5 - 500

B. Groundwater - Private Wells - range in ppb

Benzene	ND - 131
Methylene Chloride	ND - 500 BJ
Trichloroethane	ND - 9
1,1 Dichloroethane	ND - 9
Dieldrin	ND - 0.015

C. Perimeter Ambient Air Concentration
 - Range in ug/m³

Benzene	ND - 57
Chloromethane (methyl chloride)	ND - 1901
Methylene Chloride	ND - 205

Notes:

J - approximate value

B - also found in blank, view with caution. Other methylene chloride analyses levels up to 380 ppb did not have blank contamination.

ND - not detected

ppb - parts per billion

DEMOGRAPHICS

Page 2, paragraph 6, should read:

Approximately 44 homes are within a half mile of the site along Skokorat Road and Blackberry Hill Road, see Appendix Figure II. The nearest residences are approximately 1,000 feet to the north and west of the site. All of these local residences used groundwater as a water supply source until water lines were extended to the area in 1989. However, some homeowners have refused to be hooked up to public water.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL PATHWAYS

Page 6, paragraph 5, should read:

Some leachate has seeped into the small tributary of Hockanum Brook which drains the site. Analyses of surface water samples show that the contaminate concentrations fall below the detection limits by the time the tributary flows into the Hockanum Brook. Analyses of sediment samples taken in the tributary and Hockanum Brook did not detect any contamination of a health concern. However since fish can bioconcentrate many contaminants, they could present an additional exposure pathway. Although most of Hockanum Brook is too small for fishing, there is a small pool at the corner of Blackberry and Skokorat Roads and a pond about 1/2 mile downstream that could support light fishing activities.

Page 7, paragraph 2 should read:

Analytic results from the Pre-Design Study air sampling conducted on site and at the perimeter of the site indicate transport of various volatile organic compounds from the site to the surrounding neighborhood. Qualitative air sampling at gas vents in the landfill found identifiable quantities of

1,1 dichloroethane
1,1,1, trichloroethane
tetrachloroethane
chlorobenzene
styrene
chloromethane
methylene chloride
acetone

1,1 dichloroethene
benzene
toluene
ethyl benzene
xylenes
vinyl chloride
chloroethane
carbon disulfide

Analytical results of quantitative air sampling analysis at the perimeter of the site are shown in Table II-C. In addition, quantitative air sampling conducted on site during the RI found low part per billion levels of similar compounds including:

benzene	chlorobenzene
ethylbenzene	tetrachloroethylene
toluene	trichloroethylene
xylenes	carbon disulfide

The Pre-Design Study estimated that the landfill will produce methane gas in the range of 75,000 to 265,000 scf. However due to the location of nearby residences the methane should not present an explosive hazard in homes.

The levels of contaminants measured at the perimeter fall below the Hazard Limiting Values (HLVs) promulgated by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for air toxics. However, these HLVs are not health based standards and therefore the levels found may still pose a risk to nearby residents. The 205 ppb methylene chloride and 1901 ppb chloromethane are two levels which appear unusually high. These perimeter air samples were 8 hour samples and therefore represent a time weighted average. Peak exposures could have been much higher. Since the sampling plan for perimeter air samples (i.e. upwind or downwind) was not detailed in the Pre-Design study, it is difficult to interpret the significance of these results.

Page 7, paragraph 3, should read:

No crops or livestock are grown at the Beacon Heights Landfill NPL Site. Most of the contaminants of concern detected in the surface water and groundwater are not known to bioaccumulate to significant degrees in fish or plants; therefore, it is not anticipated that fish taken in the Hockanum Brook or apples taken from the nearby orchard would contain high levels of these contaminants. However, there are no sampling data on these potential food sources to support this conclusion. In addition, one of the identified contaminants (dieldrin) is known to bioaccumulate and could pose a risk via food chain exposure.

Page 7, add to end of paragraph 5.

In addition, contaminated groundwater could contaminate the indoor air of nearby residences via direct entry into the basement followed by volatilization. Those basements which are subject to high level groundwater could intercept contaminated groundwater in the upper, unconfined aquifer.

C. HUMAN EXPOSURE PATHWAYS

Page 7, paragraph 5, should include:

Five or six homes in the area have not hooked up to public water and are receiving bottled water for drinking. However, other water uses such as bathing and showering might continue to expose residents through dermal contact and via inhalation.

Page 8, paragraph 1, should read:

Part of the 1985 ROD called for enclosure of the site with security fencing. However, as of February 1990, this step has not been taken. DEP and EPA staff have reported evidence of recreational use of the site including: used shotgun shells, beer cans, cigarette packs, dog tracks, and horse tracks. Therefore it appears the exposure may be currently occurring to trespassers at the site. These trespassers may be exposed via inhalation, dermal contact, contamination of clothing or shoes, and ingestion of food brought onto the site. Nearby residents have also reported children playing and swimming in ponds near the apple orchard directly downgradient from the landfill. The children have also been reported to take some of the apples from the orchard.

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Page 8, paragraph 3 should read:

Although many compounds have been identified in off-site groundwater, to date only benzene, chlorobenzene, chloroethane and methylene chloride have been detected at high enough levels to be considered "contaminants of concern", see Table II. Benzene and methylene chloride have been found in private wells along with some other compounds at lower levels. Perimeter air sampling also found methylene chloride and chloromethane at elevated levels around the site. It is these air and groundwater contaminants that are of primary concern when assessing the risks to the general public near the Beacon Heights Landfill NPL site. Many other compounds were identified in air samples on or near the site. Since there were very few air analyses, some of these compounds could become contaminants of concern if more detailed air sampling is done.

Page 9, add new paragraph 4:

Methyl chloride (chloromethane) exposure predominantly affects the nervous system and acts as a nervous system depressant. Subacute exposures in humans have caused ataxia, weakness, tremors, personality changes, vision impairment, and other central nervous system symptoms (Patty's, 1981). Higher level exposures can affect the gastrointestinal tract. Repeated exposures to lower concentrations can cause fatigue, headache, and dizziness. The new OSHA PEL for methyl chloride is 50 ppm.

Chronic exposure to methyl chloride in animals at levels as low as 500 ppm have caused neuromuscular damage. Rats exposed to 116 ppm for 4 hr/day over six months suffered damage to the liver, kidney, and nervous system. There are inadequate data available on the carcinogenicity of methyl chloride to allow its classification. There are also no reports or studies on the teratogenic potential of methyl chloride. It is unlikely that metabolites in blood or urine will be useful in monitoring exposure to methyl chloride. Methyl chloride has no odor warning or threshold.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Page 9, add to the end of paragraph 4:

However, exposures may continue to occur due to air emissions from the site and free public access to the site.

Page 10, change recommendations 4 to read:

4. The few residents who have refused to be hooked up to municipal water should have their private wells tested periodically for site related compounds to prevent exposure by ingestion or by inhalation and dermal contact.

Page 10, add new recommendations #5, 6, 7, 8, and 9:

5. A security fence should be installed around the entire site as soon as possible to prevent public access.
6. A complete study of air emissions from the site should be conducted after the cap has been placed on the landfill. An assessment of the risks posed by these emissions should be conducted and the need for air pollution control equipment considered.
7. A well survey should be conducted at the residences on both nearby roads not included in the RI (Munson Road and Bethany Road). Sampling of any active wells within 1/4 mile should be conducted.
8. When indicated by public health needs, and as resources permit, the evaluation of additional relevant health outcome data and community concerns, if available, is recommended.
9. In accordance with CERCLA, as amended, the Beacon Heights Landfill site, Beacon Falls, Connecticut, has been reviewed for appropriate follow-up with respect to health activities. At this time, the site is being considered for inclusion in the benzene exposure subregistry.

CERTIFICATION

This Health Assessment Addendum was prepared by the Connecticut Department of Health Services under a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). It is in accordance with approved methodology and procedures existing at the time the health assessment was initiated.



Technical Project Officer, SPS, RPB, DHAC

The Division of Health Assessment and Consultation (DHAC), ATSDR, has reviewed this Health Assessment and concurs with its findings.



Division Director, DHAC, ATSDR

PREPARERS OF ADDENDUM

Environmental and
Health Assessor:

Brian Toal
Epidemiologist IV
Division of Environmental Epidemiology
and Occupational Health
Connecticut Department of Health
Services

ATSDR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Louise House
Senior Region 1 Representative
Regional Operations
Office of the Assistant Administrator

ATSDR TECHNICAL PROJECT OFFICER

Gregory V. Ulirsch
Environmental Health Engineer
Remedial Programs Branch
Division of Health Assessment and Consultation

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Page 10, add new references:

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