Yellow Water Road Dump

aka – American Environmental Energy Corporation
1190 Yellow Water Road
Baldwin, Florida
County: Duval
District: Northeast
Site Lead: EPA
Placed on National Priorities List: September 18, 1985
Delisted: May 18, 1999
HWC # 038
ERIC ID # 3811

Site Description and History

The Yellow Water Road Dump site is located one mile south of Baldwin, on SR 217 (Yellow Water Road) in Section 35, Township 02S, Range 23E at 30° 16′ 52.6080″ N, 81° 58′ 09.6005″ W. The 15-acre site was a storage facility for polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) liquids, contaminated transformers, drums and other items. From November 1981 to November 1983, approximately 150,000 gallons of PCBs were accepted for future incineration. The materials were indiscriminately deposited at the site, and leaking and deteriorating drums and transformers contaminated soils.

Duval County cited the facility for violations of county ordinances, and ordered the owner to remove contaminated items in the fall of 1984. The owner refused and, in December 1984, EPA initiated actions to abate the threat at the site.

Threat

Soils and groundwater were contaminated with PCBs. Approximately 150 people within a ⅓ mile radius rely on private wells as their sole source of drinking water. Spread of the contamination to an adjacent marsh by surface runoff was also a concern. The remedy consists of partial removal of contaminated soils & debris with onsite stabilization/solidification of remaining soils and monitoring of groundwater. The site was delisted in May 1999.

Response Strategy and Status

EPA took action to abate the threat and stabilize the site from December 1984 to February 1985. Over 100,000 gallons of PCB liquids were combined and stored in on-site storage tanks. Over 700 transformers were emptied and stored on-site, and 3,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil were excavated and stored on a concrete pad with a protective covering. EPA proposed burning the contaminated material in an on-site mobile incinerator but the Jacksonville City Council was unwilling to waive a local ordinance prohibiting the burning of PCBs.

EPA and a group of potentially responsible parties (PRPs) signed a Consent Order in September 1987 for a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS). In October 1987, the PRPs submitted

a RI/FS Work Plan which required extensive redevelopment. In October 1988, the PRPs submitted the final RI/FS Work Plan and field work took place from November 1988 to January 1989. In October 1989, a draft RI report was submitted for review. Additional field work to supplement the RI performed in February 1990. The RI was completed in April 1990 and indicated that elevated levels of PCBs are present in soils in the former operations area and in both the shallow sand aquifers and underlying Floridan aquifer. Groundwater contamination appears limited to the site. The FS was completed in September 1990. A public meeting was held in September 1990 to present the proposed remedial action for the contaminated soils.

Solidification/stabilization of soils with PCB concentrations exceeding 10 mg/kg was selected as the soil remedy. The Record of Decision (ROD) to document the selected soil cleanup action was signed by EPA in September with Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (FDER, now DEP) concurrence in October 1990. A Remedial Design Work Plan for soils remediation was submitted by the PRPs contractor in June 1991 and resubmitted in September 1991 in response to EPA/FDER review comments. The 100% remedial design report was approved in September 1992.

Additional groundwater assessment field work was completed by the PRPs in February 1991 and the Draft Supplemental Groundwater RI and FS reports were submitted in April 1991. EPA conducted additional laboratory treatability studies to evaluate an innovative groundwater recovery and treatment alternative prior to selection of the remedy. The results indicated that surfactant flushing could be effective in accelerating groundwater cleanup but that additional testing was required to support design.

A revised RI was submitted in January 1992 and followed by a revised FS in February 1992. The revised Supplemental Groundwater RI was submitted in January 1992, followed by a revised FS in February. EPA approved the RI/FS in April 1992.

A public meeting was held in May 1992 to present the proposed plan addressing ground water at the site. The ROD for ground water remediation was signed by EPA in June 1992. FDER concurred in October 1992. The selected remedy includes ground water monitoring with a contingency plan for groundwater recovery and treatment if PCB contamination exceeding 0.5 ppb is observed at compliance monitoring wells.

A Consent Decree was entered into between EPA and private party PRPs in May 1995 for the completion of remedial activities as determined in the ROD. Concurrently, a Consent Agreement was entered into between EPA and the United States Defense Logistics Agency in June 1995 obligating the federal agency to participate in the implementation of the ROD and private party PRP Consent Decree.

In accordance with the Consent Decree, a Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) was submitted by the PRPs in November 1995 for the implementation of the September 1992 Remedial Design including a contingent groundwater treatment remedy, if necessary. The Final RAWP was approved by EPA in April 1996.

Remedial Action was initiated in May 1996, which included excavation and solidification of contaminated soils and the installation of groundwater monitoring wells. Soil remediation was completed in September 1996. Two years of groundwater monitoring have been performed since completion of the soil remedy which have confirmed the effectiveness of the "no action with monitoring" groundwater remedy and demonstrated that site related contaminants now meet the groundwater cleanup criteria.

Regularly scheduled inspections and maintenance of the monolith are ongoing as required by the EPA approved Operation and Maintenance Plan to confirm the continued effectiveness of the remedy.

The site was delisted from the National Priorities List in May 1999.