

Newberry Landfill
County Road 337
Newberry, Florida
County: Alachua
District: Northeast
Site Lead: Bureau of Waste Cleanup
Approved for Cleanup: August 18, 1988
Delisted: August 29, 1991
HWC # 048

Site Description and History

The Newberry Airstrip is located approximately ¼ mile south of the southeastern corner of Newberry in Section 09, Township 10S, Range 17E at approximately 29° 38' 03" N, 82° 37' 22"W (approximately ½ mile from the landfill). Several businesses were in operation at the airstrip between the early 1970s and 1986, including a crop duster that disposed of empty pesticide cans in the landfill.

The Newberry Landfill is located one mile southwest of Newberry, Florida in Section 05, Township 10S, Range 17E at 29° 38' 24.0596" N, 82° 37' 45.0643" W. An abandoned, three acre limestone/phosphate mining pit was used as a dump site. The landfill contained a large number of empty 1 and 5 gallon pesticide containers that were placed in the landfill by a local crop dusting business that is now defunct. Municipal and domestic trash was also disposed, including automobile parts, appliances and construction debris. The Floridan Aquifer ranges from 10 to 60 feet below land surface and exists under water table conditions.

Threat

High concentrations of pesticides existed in soils at the airstrip. At the landfill, the Floridan Aquifer was contaminated with several pesticides and metals in levels that exceed Florida's drinking water standards. The site was delisted in August 1991, and no longer remains an environmental concern.

Response Strategy and Status

An investigation at the airstrip was performed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) in 1985. High concentrations of pesticides were discovered in soils on-site in areas that exhibited stressed vegetation. An investigation at the landfill was performed by a Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (FDER, now DEP) Operation Response Team in October 1985. The investigation indicated there were four main areas in the landfill that received waste; one of which contained mainly empty pesticide containers. The remaining three areas contained mostly municipal and domestic garbage, appliances and automobile parts. The four areas total approximately two acres.

Five monitor wells were installed around the landfill to determine the hydrogeology and water quality in the area. Groundwater analysis from one monitor well detected arsenic, chromium and mercury in concentrations that exceeded state drinking water standards.

The property owners at that time were not financially capable of conducting the required remedial activities; therefore the Water Quality Assurance Trust Fund was used to fund site activities.

In December 1988, Initial Remedial Measures were conducted by Hazards Environmental Services to remove approximately 15,000 pesticide cans and residual soils from the landfill. Also, four underground storage tanks were excavated and removed from the airstrip.

In March 1989, a Contamination Assessment (CA) was begun by Camp, Dresser and McKee (CDM) to determine the magnitude and extent of contamination at the Airstrip and Landfill. In August 1989, the CA report was completed and the presence of pesticide-contaminated soils was confirmed. In August 1989, approximately 1000 cubic yards of contaminated soils were removed from the airstrip and transported to a hazardous waste landfill. Subsequent sampling of the groundwater in the Floridan Aquifer indicated a decrease of metal and pesticide concentrations to below state drinking water standards and non-detection. In July 1991, the Newberry Site was evaluated for delisting from the State Action Sites List. As a result of the evaluation, it was concluded that the site no longer presents a human health or environmental risk. The delist package was approved in August 1991.