

McCluskey Dump
State Road 29, 5.5 miles south of Labelle
Labelle, Florida
County: Hendry
District: South
Site Lead: Bureau of Waste Cleanup
Approved for Cleanup: February 14, 1989
Delisted: March 3, 1992
HWC # 059

Site Description and History

The McCluskey Dump was an unpermitted, open dump located on 10 acres of land in a rural area 5.5 miles south of Labelle in Section 09, Township 44S, Range 29E at 26° 39' 59.3038" N, 81° 26' 03.3759" W. Acting on a complaint from the Hendry County Health Department, the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (FDER, now DEP) conducted an inspection of the site in April 1985. The inspection revealed large amounts of junk, trash, car parts, abandoned mobile homes and other miscellaneous debris. As a result of this inspection, several certified letters were sent to the operator requesting removal of the solid waste from this property to an approved waste disposal facility. Subsequent FDER inspections revealed that the waste had not been removed from the site as requested.

Threat

Concern for contamination of the soil, surface water and groundwater exists at this site because of the illegal, unpermitted landfilling of solid waste. Potential sources of contamination found at the site include: used batteries, discarded paints, scrap metal, household trash, white goods, mobile homes, junk cars and buses. The used batteries and paint cans have been removed by the responsible party. The rural community, in the vicinity of this site, used the surficial aquifer as a source of potable water. The Hendry County Health Department analyzed samples from four wells on- and offsite in March 1989, but no contamination was found. The subsequent FDER contamination assessment, followed by two confirmation sampling events, has shown that no significant contamination exists. FDER has concluded that no public or environmental threat is posed by the site and delisted the site in March 1992.

Response Strategy and Status

In May 1989, the Hendry County Circuit Court granted a temporary injunction enjoining and restraining the owner/operator of the McCluskey Dump from depositing solid waste of any kind at the site. The court also ruled that the owner/operator must allow FDER access to the property for investigating soil, surface water and groundwater conditions. In March 1986, the FDER found the operator burying solid waste within 25 feet of a drinking water well and issued a certified letter of warning. In February 1988, FDER and the Hendry County Health Department inspected the McCluskey property and noted that, in addition to the continued unpermitted disposal of solid waste, hazardous waste, such as batteries and paints, was also being disposed of

on the property. Another certified letter was issued in February 1988, but was never responded to by the operator. In November 1988, the FDER South District Office requested that the site be placed on the State Action Sites List for cleanup. In February 1989, the McCluskey Dump was approved for state-funded cleanup.

A contamination assessment (CA) of the McCluskey Dump site was initiated in June 1989 by FDER. Field work was completed in October 1989, and a final CA report was submitted to FDER in February 1990. No significant concentrations of priority pollutant compounds were detected in soil, surface water or groundwater samples. Additional groundwater sampling and analysis was performed in October 1990 and a final report was received in November 1990. Laboratory analyses of groundwater samples indicated that organic compound concentrations were below detection limits. Concentrations of detected metals did not exceed Florida's primary and secondary drinking water standards.

In January 1991, the McCluskey Dump Site was evaluated for delisting from the State Action Sites List. From this evaluation, it was concluded that the site does not present a human health or environmental risk. A Decision Memo recommending delisting the site was signed in May 1991. The McCluskey Dump site was delisted in March 1992 and returned to the FDER South District Office for enforcement as an unpermitted solid waste landfill.