

Beulah Landfill
Jamesville Road, north of US Highway 90
Pensacola, Florida
County: Escambia
District: Northwest
Site Lead: EPA
Placed on National Priorities List: March 23, 1990
Delisted: June 22, 1998
ERIC ID # 3854
HWC # 082

Site Description and History

The Beulah Landfill site is located about ten miles northwest of Pensacola, north on Jamesville Road from US Highway 90 at a point, five miles southeast of its intersection with Nine Mile Road (US Highway 90A) in Section 15, Township 01S, Range 31W at 30° 30' 59.4656" N, 87° 20' 41.4937" W. Escambia County operated this municipal, unlined landfill from 1966 until all operations ceased in June 1984. The site covers approximately 101 acres. It was thickly vegetated with small trees and understory, and surrounded by mostly undeveloped, heavily wooded terrain. Coffee Creek divides the site into two sections. The southern section received municipal solid waste, domestic septic tank waste, demolition debris and municipal sludges from 1966 until 1984. The northern section accepted only municipal solid waste and operated from 1969 to the late 1970s. Soil cover was placed upon the northern section after operations ceased, but the sludge pits in the southern section were left uncovered. The landfill operated under Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (FDER, now DEP) Consent Order from 1980 to 1984.

Threat

Benzene, naphthalene and PCP were located in groundwater downgradient of the sludge pits in the southern section and upgradient of Eleven Mile Creek. The primary contaminants of concern identified in soils and sludges are: polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), pesticides, pentachlorophenol (PCP) and metals including aluminum, iron, lead, chromium, nickel and zinc. Currently, the site is uninhabited. In 1993, the Escambia County Comprehensive Plan designated the area as "Conservation," prohibiting development "for any purpose." Thus, exposure to onsite contamination is limited to trespassers or inhabitant species via ingestion or dermal contact with onsite surface waters and soils.

Groundwater tables in the surficial Sand-and-Gravel aquifer, the area's drinking water source, are higher than adjacent streams, indicating that offsite discharge flows into adjoining tributaries. Coffee Creek discharges directly into Eleven Mile Creek which is located along the eastern edge of the landfill. It is used for recreational purposes including swimming and wading. Although surrounding tributaries presently are free of contamination from the landfill, the groundwater contaminants detected in the downgradient monitor well could eventually leach into Eleven Mile Creek. The EPA and DEP agreed that post closure monitoring of the groundwater as required in the closure permit would provide sufficient warning of groundwater contaminant mitigation and the site was delisted in June 1998.

Response Strategy and Status

The EPA performed a Preliminary Assessment of the landfill in 1984. This assessment consequently led to the facility being placed on the National Priorities List in March 1990. In May 1991, EPA entered into negotiations with the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) to perform a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The EPA and the PRPs signed a Remedial Investigation Administrative Order on Consent in September 1991.

The RI was completed by Engineering Science, Inc., the PRPs contractor, and received final approval in July 1993. The RI reported low levels of organic and inorganic contamination in on-site soils and sludges in the landfill. Groundwater contamination exceeding maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) was limited to benzene detected in one downgradient on-site well, and naphthalene and PCP detected in one downgradient off-site well, indicating the improbability of a contamination plume. Surface water in an on-site swale area revealed slightly elevated levels of inorganic constituents. Surrounding tributaries were free of contamination from the landfill.

In 1993, Roy F. Weston, Inc. completed the Baseline Risk Assessment (BRA) for the EPA. The BRA risk level and the designation of the area as conservation indicate the site does not pose an immediate threat to human health. DEP concerns regarding the BRA were that onsite surface water contamination could potentially cause an ecological impact on terrestrial species, and that contaminants detected in the offsite well could leach into Eleven Mile Creek.

The EPA and DEP met in 1993 to discuss the BRA, and agreed that groundwater monitoring will provide the necessary level of protection at this site. The EPA Record of Decision was signed in September 1993 and selected the "No Action with Monitoring" alternative as the Superfund remedy. Landfill closure would be conducted separately under State enforcement. The DEP Letter of Concurrence was signed in June 1994.

The EPA proposed delisting the site from the NPL in January 1998. The site was officially delisted from the NPL with DEP concurrence in June 1998.

Closure of the landfill including capping has been completed per 62-701, F.A.C, under the supervision of the DEP Northwest District office. Post-closure monitoring of the landfill continues.