

118th Avenue Landfill
Between 118th Avenue, North Ulmerton Road, 34th Street North & 40th Street North
Clearwater/Pinellas Park, Florida
County: Pinellas
District: Southwest
Site Lead: Waste Cleanup Program
Accepted for Cleanup: June 13, 2013
ERIC ID # 3965

Site Description and History

The 118th Avenue Landfill is an abandoned municipal landfill that operated between approximately 1963 and 1975. The landfill property was subsequently subdivided and sold as commercial real estate. The files for the site describe it as a 160-acre property, however, the limits specified by the Southwest District (SWD) in the referral memo to the Waste Cleanup Program includes approximately 300 acres. Therefore, the site location/area is approximate at this time, but lies within Township 30S, Range 16E, Section 10 at 27° 53' 11.2859" N, 82° 41' 02.1457" W. Part of the site is in the city of Pinellas Park and part of the site is in the city of Clearwater. The land use in the vicinity of the site is mostly commercial/industrial with the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport to the north; the 40th Street Landfill, a District-lead cleanup site, to the west; the Reliable Circuits State-funded cleanup site a few blocks further to the west; and property owned by Pinellas County (mosquito control, public works and solid waste management facilities) to the south of the site.

Threat

Widespread landfilling was conducted throughout a 160-acre area located north of 118th Ave. and between 34th and 40th Sts. Miscellaneous contaminants, largely comprised of petroleum-related compounds and metals, were detected in soils and groundwater within or near the former landfill areas located along 118th Ave. However, no schools, residences, sensitive environments, or significant surface water bodies were identified in the vicinity of the site.

Response Strategy and Status (December 2020)

The site was reviewed for the CERCLA program in September 2003 and again in May 2013, but was not referred to the US EPA for addition to the Superfund program, due to the low HRS score assigned to the site. The site was proposed for State-funded cleanup on March 28, 2013, and accepted for cleanup on June 13, 2013, with a low priority for State-funded cleanup.

In January 2014, the site was assigned to AMEC, an environmental consulting firm contracted with DEP's state cleanup program. Preliminary discussions between DEP and AMEC resulted in a risk exposure type of approach to assessing the site since current land use (many parcels, industrial area, etc.) would make remediation problematic at best.

In September 2014, additional monitoring wells were installed on the site. Surface water samples were also collected from a canal that runs through the site. All samples collected from groundwater and surface water were below GCTLs for site contaminants of concern.

The Department's contractor summarized this information in a limited exposure pathway evaluation report in late November 2014. DEP reviewed this report and requested additional assessment. An additional limited exposure pathway evaluation report was submitted in February 2015, which showed detections of contaminants in groundwater, but levels were below GCTLs. Surface water sampling detected some contaminants of concern above the method detection limits, but nothing above surface water quality standards. Annual groundwater sampling was recommended.

Groundwater sampling completed in 2018 indicated concentrations of benzene and cumene in several monitoring wells exceeded their GCTLs. Methane vapor samples collected from select monitoring wells were elevated.

On June 11th through 13th, 2019, further assessment was completed to monitor wells onsite for methane through air sampling and micro-well GW sampling. Methane was detected in groundwater in the site area at concentrations above the laboratory method detection limit. Air sampling from three microwells showed methane concentrations ranging from 116 parts per million by volume (ppmv) to 11,700 ppmv or 77.4 milligrams per cubic meter (mg/m³) to 7,800 mg/m³. The highest concentrations of methane were detected in micro-wells (MW-2 & MW-2 [Dup]) located near the southern end of the site area on the Preferred Concrete property. Fixed Laboratory analytical results for groundwater samples collected from micro-wells MW-2I and MW-7I were analyzed for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The results indicated that one of the 16 constituents was detected at concentrations above the USEPA Health Advisory of 0.07 µg/L. Methane and PFAS in June 2019 indicates no significant potential for exposure to humans or aquatic biota. Based on the data, it does not appear that the former landfill is impacting groundwater or surface water in the site area. Methane could potentially be an issue, however there is no regulatory limit to determine if the samples exceed and are negatively impacting the site.

Schedule

The site is included in a pilot study focusing on PFAS potentially linked with landfills. The Department has requested a file review, revised conceptual site model, and path forward recommendation for site management. The report is due March 5, 2021.