

September 2009

Countywide Landfill Update

Countywide Recycling and Disposal Facility Site East Sparta, Ohio

Background

In 2006, Ohio EPA ordered Republic Services of Ohio II, LLC, to take immediate steps to control odors coming from the Countywide Landfill. Ohio EPA determined that aluminum production wastes disposed of at Countywide were reacting with liquids inside the landfill, resulting in a sub-surface, smoldering fire. In March 2007, Ohio EPA issued orders requiring specific actions to control both the odors and the subsurface reaction/fire.

In February 2008, Ohio EPA formally requested assistance from U.S. EPA, and in April 2008, Republic signed an agreement with U.S. EPA requiring additional activities aimed at addressing ongoing problems.

In cooperation with Ohio EPA, U.S. EPA oversaw the construction of an isolation break to contain the reaction/fire and prevent it from spreading north into the expansion area of the facility. In addition, a temporary plastic cover was placed over impacted areas of the landfill. Finally, extensive enhancements to the gas extraction and leachate collection systems were made to control gases, odors and liquids being generated by the reaction/fire. Real-time, continuous air monitoring was conducted during all construction activities.

Though this work is now completed, Ohio EPA continues to work in partnership with federal, state and local partners to ensure proper management of the site.

In addition, Ohio EPA continues to require compliance with all orders issued by the agency.

Isolation Break

The goal of the isolation break was to effectively cut off the reaction/fire and prevent it from impacting additional waste buried in the 170-acre expansion unit of the landfill. Gas extraction wells, leachate drains and a temporary plastic cover were installed in the large, v-shaped trench to control liquids and gas generated by the reaction. The isolation break was successful in isolating and containing the subsurface reaction/fire to Cells 1-6 of the landfill, an 88-acre area now defined as the "remediation unit."

Operation and Maintenance Plan

U.S. EPA, in conjunction with Ohio EPA and local government agencies, worked with representatives of the facility to develop a detailed, comprehensive Operation, Monitoring and Maintenance (OM&M) Plan for the remediation unit. U.S. EPA approved the OM&M Plan on September 14, 2009. This plan will ensure that all engineering controls such as gas extraction wells, leachate drains, pumps, temporary plastic liner and flares will continue to control leachate, gas and odors generated by the reaction/fire. The plan will remain in place until the reaction/fire has run its course and the entire remediation unit is able to have a composite cap put in place. There are currently no estimates for how long it may be before a composite cap can be constructed.

Community Update Meeting

Ohio EPA and U.S. EPA will host a community update meeting about the Countywide Landfill on October 1, 2009. An update will be provided on site activities and representatives from Ohio EPA, U.S. EPA, Stark County Health Department and Canton City Health Department will be on hand to answer questions during an informal open house.

Date: Thursday, October 1, 2009

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Tuscarawas Valley
High School
2637 Tuscarawas Valley
Rd. N.E.
Zoarville, OH 44656

Air Monitoring/Odors

Overall, odor complaints are down and reaction odors have lessened. Countywide has adopted a plan to notify the public in advance if any necessary maintenance or construction work in the remediation unit is going to be conducted that may generate odors.

Air monitoring continues to show no exceedances of regulatory or health-based levels for the target pollutants being measured. While operation of stationary air monitors on the immediate perimeter of the remediation unit is no longer required by U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA continues to require and oversee air monitoring at four sites in the community.



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Ground Water Monitoring

Ohio EPA is concerned that the liner under the remediation unit may have been compromised by the reaction/fire. A network of ground water monitoring wells located immediately around the landfill will alert regulators should any contaminants be released to ground water. Additional ground water monitoring wells have been and will be installed as required and as necessary to ensure adequate detection and assessment of any releases, especially in the vicinity of the south slope of the landfill.

In 2007, the south slope experienced a failure, resulting in waste sliding beyond the limits of the underlying plastic liner. When it is safe to do so, this waste will be excavated and moved back within the limits of the remediation unit. Any contaminated soil will be removed and this area will continue to be monitored for any potential ground water impacts. If a release to ground water is detected that requires corrective measures, Ohio EPA will address any such release under its ground water monitoring program.

Future Site Management

Ohio EPA will continue to inspect and oversee management of the 88-acre remediation unit, and the Stark County Health Department will inspect and oversee the 170-acre current operational unit of the landfill. Ohio EPA and Stark County Health Department will establish a Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate the regulatory oversight efforts at Countywide.

Community Benefit Fund

Ohio EPA is working toward an agreement with Countywide to place additional money into the previously established Community Benefit Fund. The intent of the fund is to provide support to organizations or initiatives that promote the welfare of the community as a whole and benefit the greatest number of people in the area surrounding the site. Specific details on the disbursement of these funds will be released in the near future.

Contact Information

For additional information, please contact:

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Information Repositories

You may review site documents and other site information at:

Bolivar Branch Library
455 W. Water St., Bolivar

Sandy Valley Branch Library
9754 Cleveland Ave. S.E., Magnolia

For Additional Information

www.epa.gov/region5/sites/countywide

<http://epaossc.net/countywide>

www.epa.ohio.gov/pic/countywide.aspx
