



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

MAY 2000

Document Availability, Public Comment Period

EPA Proposes Monitoring, Maintenance, and Other Actions for Midway Landfill

This Fact Sheet summarizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Proposed Plan for Midway Landfill and invites your comments. The Midway Landfill is located between I-5 and Highway 99, and between S. 252nd and S. 246th Streets in Kent, Washington.

Past cleanup work at the Midway Landfill has successfully reduced risks from the site. However, EPA believes that some limited additional actions are needed to ensure that earlier cleanup activities will protect the public and the environment over the long-term. Under EPA's Proposed Plan, the City of Seattle would be required to continue to operate, maintain, and monitor environmental systems already in place at the landfill. The City also would be required to sample groundwater from the site until groundwater cleanup standards have been met. Additionally, county records must show that the site had been a landfill and that future use is restricted. The City also would be required every year to warn water districts and others that the groundwater near the landfill is not to be used for drinking water. A more detailed summary follows.

While EPA is the lead agency for this proposal, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has been the lead agency overseeing the cleanup. EPA has consulted with Ecology on this proposed plan. Ecology will continue to oversee the cleanup.

COMMENTS DUE JUNE 16, 2000

The public is encouraged to participate in the decision-making process by commenting on the Proposed Plan. The 30-day public comment period runs from May 18 to June 16, 2000. During this time, EPA will accept written comments and offer an opportunity for a public meeting. After considering public comments, EPA will make final decisions and provide a written response to comments in a document called a Responsiveness Summary. Please send written comments to:

Judi Schwarz
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue, ECL-117
Seattle, WA 98101
email: schwarz.judi@epa.gov

PUBLIC MEETING OPPORTUNITY

EPA will host a public meeting if sufficient interest is expressed. To request a public meeting, send a written request to the address above or call Judi Schwarz at 206/553-2684 before May 31, 2000.

Where Can The Proposed Plan Be Found?

To request a copy of the full Proposed Plan, call Andrea Lindsay at 206/553-1896 or email lindsay.andrea@epa.gov. The Plan is also on EPA's web site at www.epa.gov/r10earth; click on "index" at the bottom, click on "m" for Midway Landfill. The Proposed Plan is also available for review at the Kent Regional Library, 212 Second Avenue N, Kent, and at the EPA Records Center, 7th Floor, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle (206/553-4494). Both locations maintain an Administrative Record, which is available for viewing or copying during business hours. The Administrative Record is a collection of all of the documents, including the remedial investigation and feasibility studies, which EPA relies on for making site decisions.

For More Information

For information, contact Judi Schwarz, EPA Project Manager, at 206/553-2684 or 1-800-424-4372 x2684, or email schwarz.judi@epa.gov. Or, call Andrea Lindsay, Community Involvement Coordinator, at 206/553-1896 or 1-800-424-4372 x1896, or email lindsay.andrea@epa.gov.

Summary of Proposed Plan

Following is a brief summary of the Proposed Plan for the Midway Landfill Superfund Site.

Site Background

The Midway Landfill is a 60-acre site located within the City of Kent. The City of Seattle operated the landfill between 1966 and 1983. About three million cubic yards of solid waste were deposited there. When the City of Seattle closed the landfill in 1983, it began extensive testing of groundwater and gas in and near the landfill. Sampling indicated the presence of contaminants outside the landfill boundary. In 1985, a combustible gas called methane was found in nearby residences. That same year, the City of Seattle put in wells to control the underground movement of gas. The City also worked with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to begin an extensive public involvement program.

In 1986, EPA placed the site on the Superfund National Priorities List, or NPL. The NPL is a list of the nation's most contaminated hazardous waste sites. Under the guidance of Ecology, the City began an investigation to determine the

nature and extent of contamination at the site. They studied groundwater, surface water, seeps, soils, landfill gas, and air.

In 1990, the City and Ecology entered into a legal agreement called a Consent Decree. The Consent Decree spelled out actions to protect the public and the environment. These actions included building a landfill cover, completing the landfill gas control system, completing the system to manage surface water, and preparing an operation and maintenance manual. All of these actions have been completed.

The Site Today

Now that the cleanup actions have been completed, environmental conditions at Midway Landfill have greatly improved. Methane gas no longer leaves the property. Clean rainwater is collected from the landfill surface and released into McSorley Creek. The groundwater under the site is cleaner than it was. The site is fenced and regularly inspected to make sure the landfill cover stays in good condition, and the gas collection system and stormwater systems are functioning properly. Groundwater is monitored

twice a year, and methane concentrations in soil are monitored at least quarterly.

There are no current unacceptable risks to human health from the landfill. There is some groundwater contamination above federal drinking water standards in two monitoring wells east of the landfill and I-5, and there may still be groundwater contamination on the west side of the landfill. However, no one is known to be drinking the groundwater from any underground water source within a mile of the landfill, and there are no current plans to use the groundwater near the landfill for drinking water.

No ecological risks to plants or animals are expected now or in the future because there will be no exposure to contaminants from the site.

What Does This Proposed Plan Seek To Do?

Because risks have been eliminated or reduced through containment, EPA proposes that no further construction is needed for the Midway Landfill. However, some actions are necessary to ensure that the site's cleanup will be protective in the long-term. The goals of the activities outlined in the Proposed Plan are to:

- ensure containment is working
- ensure containment will be maintained
- ensure there will be no residential exposure to groundwater until groundwater cleanup standards have been met.

The Proposed Plan lays out two "remedial alternatives." They are summarized below.

No Action: If the No Action alternative is chosen, EPA would not require any action at the Midway Landfill site. The City of Seattle would still have to fulfill its responsibilities under the Consent Decree, and any other state or local regulations for closed landfills. Monitoring could be required. EPA would not set cleanup levels under this alternative.

Limited Action: The Limited Action alternative is EPA's preferred alternative. This alternative would require the City to maintain and monitor the gas collection system, the cap that was constructed over the landfill, and the stormwater collection system to make sure they continue to be protective. This alternative would also require the City to sample the groundwater until groundwater cleanup standards have been met. Groundwater cleanup levels outside the landfill would be set and more groundwater monitoring wells could be required. This alternative would also require that a legal notice be placed in the county's records that future use of the site is restricted. The City also would be required every year to notify the Public Health Department, nearby water districts, Ecology, and local licensed well drillers, to warn that the groundwater near the landfill is not to be used for drinking water.

The preferred alternative was evaluated against the criteria used by EPA to assess remedies under the Superfund Program. These evaluations are described in the Proposed Plan. This alternative was found to provide the best long-term protectiveness for human health and the environment. EPA encourages you to comment on both alternatives.



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