

# **SLURFUND**

## **Fact Sheet**

### **TULALIP LANDFILL SITE** *Marysville, Washington*



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

JUNE 2002

*The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites your comments on its proposal to delete the Tulalip Landfill Superfund site from the National Priorities List. Removing the site from this list is a major milestone in the cleanup process.*

### **What Is the Basis for the Deletion?**

After periodically inspecting the landfill and reviewing sampling data, EPA and the Tulalip Tribes have determined that cleanup activities at the site have been successfully completed. EPA has also determined that no further cleanup is needed at the landfill to protect human health and the environment. Deleting the site would not prevent EPA from taking actions at the landfill if unforeseen problems arose in the future.

### **Where Can I Get More Information?**

EPA published a notice of intent to delete the Tulalip Landfill from the National Priorities List in the Federal Register on June 7, 2002. The notice and additional information about the Tulalip Landfill is available for review at the locations listed at the end of this fact sheet.

If you have questions about the proposed deletion, please contact Beverly Gaines by e-mail at [gaines.beverly@epa.gov](mailto:gaines.beverly@epa.gov), or by phone at 206-553-1066 (toll-free at 1-800-424-4372).

### **Comment Period**

Comments on the proposal must be submitted by **July 8, 2002**, and should be sent to the EPA point of contact:

**Beverly Gaines**  
**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
**1200 Sixth Avenue, ECL-110**  
**Seattle, Washington 98101**

### **How Will Continuing Safety of the Landfill Be Ensured?**

A locked gate will prevent unauthorized persons and equipment from gaining access to the landfill. Signs warn people of the potential dangers of eating fish and shellfish from Ebey and Steamboat Sloughs adjacent to the landfill.

Because hazardous substances remaining at the landfill restrict use of the area, EPA is required by law to review the cleanup five years after it began. The review, which will take place in 2003, will ensure that the cleanup continues to protect human health and the environment.

The seven-layer cover system constructed for the landfill will be maintained for a minimum of thirty years, the first four by Waste Management, Inc. and the following twenty-six by the Tulalip Tribes.

Currently the Tulalip Tribes have no plans for future use of the landfill site. However, they have signed a legal agreement and adopted deed restrictions that prohibit activities that might disturb the landfill cover.

*Maintenance of the landfill includes regular mowing.*

*Photo by Mathis Support Services, Inc.*



## Background

The Tulalip Landfill is located on North Ebey Island within the Tulalip Indian Reservation. The site lies between Ebey and Steamboat Sloughs and is surrounded by wetlands. Under a lease from the Tulalip Tribes, Seattle Disposal Company operated the landfill from 1964 until 1979. During those years, three to four million tons of mixed commercial and industrial waste was deposited in the landfill.

After the landfill closed, the surface was graded and soils were added as a cover. However, insufficient grading of the cover allowed rainwater to collect and penetrate the landfill surface. As a result, a pool of contaminated groundwater, called leachate, formed within the landfill. Additional rainwater forced the leachate to seep out of the landfill into the wetlands surrounding Ebey Island and the sloughs leading to the Snohomish River.

Sampling indicated that leachate leaving the site failed to meet marine water quality standards for heavy metals and other

contaminants. In addition, wetland soils and sediments near the landfill seeps contained many of the same contaminants.

Because of concerns for human health and the environment, EPA proposed the Tulalip Landfill to its National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites in July 1991 and added the landfill to the list in April 1995. EPA published cleanup decisions for the site in an Interim Record of Decision (ROD) in March 1996 and a final ROD in September 1998.

The cleanup selected for the 147-acre landfill was a cover system, which consists of seven layers. From bottom to top, the layers are regraded waste and clean fill, sand, heavy plastic sheeting, plastic netting, a fabric layer, topsoil, and vegetation. The cover system also includes a surface water drainage system to direct rainwater off the cover and a gas collection system to allow future addition of an active gas treatment system, if necessary. Workers constructed the cover system from June 1998 through September 2000.

## More Information

For more information about the Tulalip Landfill, please contact one of the following EPA representatives:

Cindy Colgate  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
206-553-1815 or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372

Loren McPhillips  
Project Manager  
206-553-4903 or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372

The notice of intent to delete the landfill from the National Priorities List, as well as other written information about the site, is available for review at the following locations:

EPA Region 10 Superfund Records Center  
1200 Sixth Avenue, ECL-076  
Seattle, Washington  
206-553-4494 or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372

Marysville Public Library  
6120 Grove  
Marysville, Washington  
360-658-5000

*For people with disabilities: Please contact Cindy Colgate at 206-553-1815 (toll-free at 1-800-424-4372) if you have any special requests for reasonable accommodations. For TTY users: Please call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and give the operator Cindy Colgate's phone number.*