



Update on Efforts Being Made to Address Landfill Problems

Countywide Recycling and Disposal Facility Site
East Sparta, Ohio

July 2008

You are invited...

EPA and Ohio EPA will be hosting two "open house" sessions about the Countywide Recycling Facility on July 31. At these sessions, EPA and Ohio EPA will first give a short presentation explaining the status of site activities. This will be followed by an open house during which residents and any interested parties will have an opportunity to speak one-on-one with representatives of the various local, state and federal agencies involved. The opening presentations will be the same at both sessions. We hope you will be able to attend one of them.

Date: Thursday, July 31

Times: Noon and 6 p.m.

Place: Tuscarawas Valley
High School
2637 Tuscarawas Valley
Road N.E.
Zoarville

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

Check out these Web sites for more information:

www.epa.gov/region5/sites/countywide

<http://epaossc.net/countywide>

www.epa.state.oh.us/pic/countywide.html

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is in the process of approving plans for work to be done at the Countywide Recycling and Disposal Facility. The plans were developed in response to a legal agreement between Republic Services of Ohio II LLC, the operator of the facility, and EPA. The work will include designing a cover for the landfill; addressing gas extraction and monitoring; conducting air monitoring; and providing for the health and safety of the workers and area residents while the work is being done. Republic will carry out the plans under the oversight of EPA. Many of EPA's activities complement ongoing measures already being required by Ohio EPA, such as maintaining a network of air monitors in the community. The facility is a solid waste municipal landfill located at 3619 Gracemont St. S.W. in East Sparta, Ohio.

Several affected areas of the landfill already have a flexible liner, resembling a large black tarp, placed on the surface of the landfill. This liner serves to stop air and water from getting into the landfill and also prevents gases and odors from escaping and affecting the community. With EPA oversight, additional plastic liner is being placed over all affected areas of the landfill.

Gas extraction and monitoring

Additional gas extraction wells and temperature monitoring probes are being installed on the border of the affected areas of the landfill. The gas wells will serve as a barrier to control the movement of gases below the surface. The probes will closely monitor temperatures at various depths so that prompt action can be taken to isolate and prevent a reaction from affecting other areas of the landfill. (The landfill accepted aluminum process waste that when mixed with water-based liquids results in a reaction that generates excessive heat.) In addition, monthly aerial photos continue to be taken that help identify elevated temperatures throughout the landfill.

Air monitoring

Air monitoring is being conducted to find out whether or not high levels of volatile organic chemicals (known as VOCs) are present above the surface of the liner or in the surrounding community. VOCs are chemicals that can evaporate easily and release hazardous vapors into the air. The compounds are common industrial waste and often found in landfills.

During the months of May and June, EPA conducted its own monitoring. This sampling found extremely low levels of targeted VOCs (benzene, p-xylene and toluene) present in the air. EPA remains concerned about gas emissions and odors. For this reason, an expanded air monitoring system will be installed to help EPA determine how well the air pollution control methods are working at the site as well as the effectiveness of cleanup methods.

Additionally, EPA continues to work to identify sources of odors in both leachate (liquid which moves through the site and becomes contaminated) and landfill gas. Once identified, if these sources are determined to be of potential concern to human health, additional measures may be taken.

For more information

For more information about the investigation, you may contact:

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