



Environmental Protection Agency, Region I
Waste Management Division

HDA-CAN

Boston, MA 02203

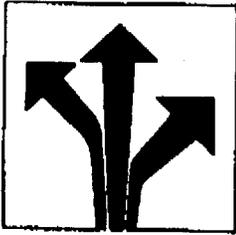
Facsimile Request

To: Duke Tenat
Office: RTSWMC
Fax No. 401-861-0830 Confirming No. ()

From: Jim Brown
Office: EPA
Phone: (617) 573-5779 Number of Pages (including cover page): 4

Comment(s): Duke - I hope you can read my remaining emendations. Thank you for allowing us to work with you on this newsletter
Jim Brown

Date Sent: 1/1
Time: _____
By: _____
Confirmed: _____ Yes _____ No _____



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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: JAMES M. BROWN
Remedial Project Manager
Rhode Island Superfund Section
US EPA Region I

FROM: Dante G. Ionata *Dante*

RE: Health Effects Newsletter

DATE: October 24, 1995

BY FAX

BY FAX

BY FAX

Attached for your review is a red-lined, strike-out version of the newsletter article as we discussed earlier today. The emendations are to my original draft.

Are we okay?

If your newsletter is issued after the RISUMC signs the Consent Decree currently being negotiated this will be a true statement. As of this date the RISUMC has not signed the Consent Decree, therefore, RISUMC has not agreed to implement the remedy.

EPA HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

EPA FINDS NO CURRENT ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS RISK FROM EXPOSURE TO CONTAMINATION FROM CENTRAL LANDFILL SUPERFUND SITE

A study completed by the Environmental Protection Agency last year to determine if Central Landfill poses a risk to public health indicates there is no evidence that anyone's health is endangered as a result of living near the Landfill. The study evaluated the potential for adverse health effects to occur if no cleanup actions were to take place at Central Landfill. The study showed there are no current adverse health effects due to exposures to contaminated groundwater, soils or air. The study also identified those actions that must be taken, which the corporation has agreed to implement, to ensure adverse health effects do not occur in the future.

The study, called a Human Health Risk Assessment, was based on seven years' worth of environmental and public health impact data pertaining to Central Landfill and cost approximately \$200,000. The environmental and health studies on which this Health Risk Assessment was based cost a total of nearly \$4 million to conduct.

The Health Risk Assessment was one of the many studies performed to identify the impacts caused by the Central Landfill Superfund Site and the programs cleanup actions that would be needed to address those impacts.

CENTRAL LANDFILL PROGRAMS PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT EPA APPROVED SUPERFUND CLEANUP ACTIONS FOR CENTRAL LANDFILL WILL PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

According to John P. Devillars, EPA New England Regional Administrator in Boston, the Superfund programs that EPA has approved at Central Landfill EPA approved cleanup actions selected to address the sources of contamination at the Central Landfill Superfund site are "protective of human health and the environment" and comply with all federal and state laws and regulations.

The Human Health Risk Assessment followed a four-step process:

1. Those hazardous substances at the Landfill that could cause human health problems were identified;

2. The means by which people could be exposed to these substances and the extent and nature of exposure were analysed;

3. The types and nature of adverse health effects that would be caused by exposure to these substances were analysed;

4. The potential and actual health risks caused by the landfill were summarized. ~~above exposures were characterized~~

The study analysed the health risks resulting from the public's exposure to soils, groundwater, surface water and sediments and air from Central Landfill and concluded that:

~~NO DANGER FROM SOIL, AIR, SURFACE WATER OR SEDIMENTS~~

~~• There is no evidence of health risks from air borne contamination because air quality on the landfill site meets OSHA standards and, in any event, air pollution is no higher downwind of the landfill than upwind;~~

~~• There is no significant risk to the public through exposure to landfill soils because the general public does not have access to the facility;~~

~~• With respect to surface water and sediments from the landfill, the Upper Simmons and Almy Reservoirs are "classified by the Department of Environmental Management for primary and secondary recreation such as swimming, fishing and boating . . ."~~

~~NO CURRENT RISK FROM INGESTING CONTAMINATED GROUNDWATER~~

~~• "There is no current risk associated with the ingestion of contaminated ground water" because "all residences and businesses surrounding the (Landfill) have been offered public water and almost all have accepted."~~

~~GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION PROBLEMS CAN BE PREVENTED~~

~~— The study identifies the single potential health risk associated with the landfill as "the possible exposure to and ingestion of contaminated groundwater." While there is no existing health problem caused by polluted groundwater under current conditions, the study reported that contaminated groundwater can be prevented from becoming a future problem by adopting programs to minimize and treat contamination, and rigidly controlling groundwater flow.~~

~~According to the EPA's official decision concerning the Central Landfill Superfund site, the program to be implemented by the Corporation with EPA approval "is protective of human health and the environment" and "will permanently reduce the risks posed to~~

we did not look at the groundwater under the landfill. Our risk assessment looked at groundwater which has flowed from the landfill.

~~human health and the environment by controlling exposures to human and (the environment) through treatment, engineering controls and institutional controls.~~

~~THERE IS NO HEALTH HAZARD FROM LIVING NEAR THE LANDFILL~~

~~The results of the EPA study were summarized by James M. Brown, EPA's Superfund Remedial Project Manager, who said, "As long as people do not drink the groundwater from the site, there is no reason to be concerned about health hazards from living near the Central Landfill."~~

GROUNDWATER

The EPA study indicates adverse health effects might possibly occur if someone drank groundwater from under Central Landfill. However, it is believed no one is, in fact, drinking groundwater from under the landfill because all residences and businesses have been offered public water. The study identifies the corrective actions the Corporation will take to ensure that contaminated groundwater is controlled, treated and prevented from becoming a future health problem.

needed

SOILS ON THE LANDFILL

see comment on page 1

Because the public does not have access to the landfill, exposure to contaminated soils on the landfill are not expected and therefore there are no known adverse effects from exposure to soils.

AIR

Air quality on the landfill site meets OSHA standards and by contamination was no higher downwind of the landfill than upwind.

HEALTH STUDIES TO CONTINUE

Mr. Brown also reported that EPA has initiated a second phase of the Human Health Risk Assessment, currently underway, which will study the affects on human health of swimming in Upper Simmons Reservoir, eating fish caught in Upper Simmons, ingesting the reservoir's water and touching its sediments. This will be a two-year study and will cost approximately \$250,000.

Two studies of fish from Upper Simmons have already been completed under DEM supervision; these studies indicate that levels of contamination in fish from Upper Simmons are lower than the average level of contamination found in fresh water fish from around the State.

STRICT MONITORING WILL BE MAINTAINED

In the meantime, the Corporation will continue to carefully monitor

potential contamination from Central Landfill under strict supervision by DEM: Four different air pollution monitoring devices will continue to be maintained and sampled quarterly. Groundwater will be monitored by taking samples every three months from 45 different monitoring wells that surround the Landfill. Moreover, surface water is sampled and tested on a quarterly basis from five different designated points around the Landfill.

as reviewed by: tew, dennis; with comments by j. brown
incorporated