



Community Update

Site Background

The Haverhill Municipal Landfill comprises approximately 71-acres of land and is located adjacent to the Merrimack River, southeast of downtown Haverhill and near the Groveland town line. Old Groveland Road runs along the southern border of the site. (See Figure 1). The landfill initially operated in the 1940s as an industrial landfill, began accepting municipal waste in the 1960s and continued to do so until the landfill was closed in 1981. From 1978 to 1996, sludge generated by the Haverhill Wastewater Treatment Plant and by-products from the paper manufacturing process at the Haverhill Paperboard Company were also disposed of at the landfill. In 1996, the landfill was covered with a temporary soil cover. A permanent cap will be designed and installed as part of the final closure activities.

The site is included on EPA's Superfund list and also on the MassDEP 21E Site list due to the potential for environmental impacts resulting from the burial of industrial and hazardous waste at the Landfill during the 1960s and 1970s. Numerous subsurface investigations and sampling activities have been conducted over the years at the site. Groundwater, surface water, sediment and air monitoring continue in order to determine the levels and extent of contamination at the site and to evaluate if there are unacceptable risk(s) to either the public (human health) and/or the environment.

Because the landfill is no longer active, it needs to be properly closed in accordance with an agreement, known as an Administrative Consent Order, between the site owners (Haverhill and Aggregate), and MassDEP through MassDEP's Business Compliance Division, Bureau of Waste Prevention. Before landfill capping and final closure can occur, the remaining buried drums which may contain hazardous materials must be removed and properly disposed of at an off-site location. Prior to capping and closure, additional soil is needed to properly shape and grade the

Haverhill Municipal Landfill

Superfund Site Haverhill, MA

FINAL CAPPING and CLOSURE PROGRESSING

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) are continuing to work cooperatively with the City of Haverhill (Haverhill) and Aggregate Industries, Inc. (Aggregate) to properly grade and place the final cover on the Haverhill Municipal Landfill (site). On behalf of the community, the Haverhill Environmental League is working with the City to keep the public informed about the Landfill closure project. Camp Dresser & McKee (CDM) is the environmental consultant in charge of overseeing the final capping and closure of the landfill for Haverhill and Aggregate. Both Haverhill and Aggregate own most of the land that comprises the site and are funding this project. This is the third fact sheet prepared for the public and local residents in order to provide interested parties with an update on the current and upcoming activities at the Landfill.

Previous Subsurface Investigations

To address concerns about potential buried hazardous materials or “hot spots” at the Landfill, a series of subsurface investigations were conducted in December of 2002. CDM located potential hot spots by conducting electromagnetic surveys (similar to using a metal detector to locate objects on a beach) to identify buried metal objects and/or highly contaminated areas. After these hot spot areas were identified, CDM then performed a series of test pits which involved digging/excavating in these hot spot areas to visually confirm what was buried below. The Phase I hot spot work was conducted from June to September 2003 and included the removal and proper disposal of approximately 130 buried drums. It also confirmed the presence of two significant drum disposal areas, known as Area G and I. (See Figure 1). A laboratory analysis of the drum contents revealed the presence of paints, paint thinners, mercury, arsenic, solvents, and pesticides. The Phase I drum removal operation was halted so that a revised plan could be developed to address the removal and proper disposal of the large number of buried drums remaining in Areas G & I. (See Figure 1).

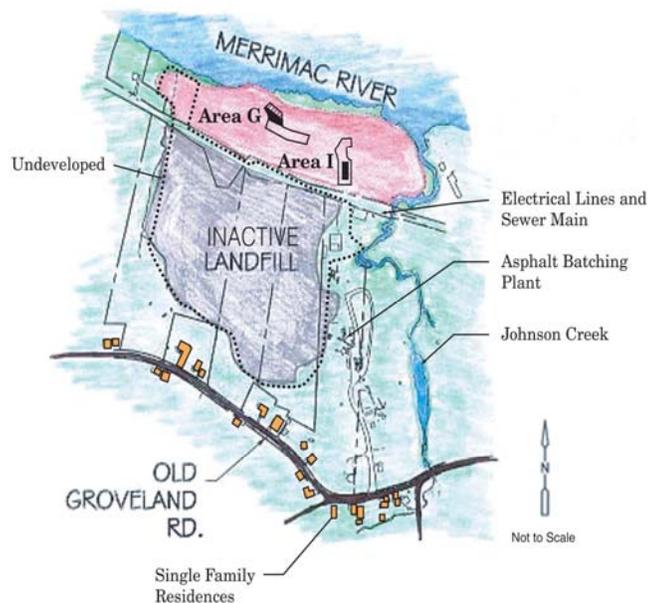


Figure 1

During 2003 and 2004, CDM prepared engineering plans, specifications and bid documents for the Phase II drum removal project for Areas G & I. Due to funding constraints, the Phase II project was further separated into two subparts: Phase II A and Phase II B. Phase II A addressed the drums in Area G, which is located the closest to the Merrimack River. The Phase II B work will address the buried drums located in Area I. (See Figure 2).



Figure 2

The Phase II A work began in October 2004 and was completed by the end of April 2005. Approximately 1,787 drums of waste and 545 yards of contaminated soil were removed and properly disposed of. This corresponds to approximately 87% of the buried drums in Area G being removed and properly disposed of while the remaining drums (approximately 13%) in Area G are scheduled to be removed during the upcoming Phase II B work as described below.

Phase IIB Drum Removal and Disposal Work Continues...

Funding constraints did not allow Phase II B drum removal and disposal to proceed in 2005, as originally planned. However, during 2005, funding was sought and obtained to enable the work to begin in mid-May of 2006. The drum removal will include the removal of buried drums in Area I and the removal of the remaining buried drums in Area G.



Figure 3

Soil Grading and Shaping Project

Many communities in Massachusetts have used MassDEP approved grading soils to facilitate the final construction of landfill caps. The soil grading and shaping project at the landfill will provide monies to help fund the closure project. The grading soil will also help facilitate the potential for future reuse/redevelopment of the landfill. The soil grading and shaping project is for the southern portion of the landfill. (See Figures 1 & 3). Delivery of the soil began in the spring of 2005 and will continue through March 2007. To date, approximately 226,146 tons of soil material have been delivered and graded. It is expected that a total of approximately 500,000 tons of soil will have been used to grade the

Landfill in preparation for construction of the final cover. (See Figure 3).

Landfill Closure—Next Steps

EPA has been involved with the project to insure that the final closure of the landfill meets the requirements of the federal Superfund program. Once the drum removal and soil grading and shaping projects are completed, closure preparations for construction of the final cap may then begin. Haverhill and Aggregate estimate that once all permits are in place, final closure construction will take several years to complete. Preparations for landfill closure requires several sequential steps. First, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be completed in accordance with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), which includes opportunities for public comment. Next, the landfill capping design must be prepared and then approved by MassDEP. The project also requires permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, MassDEP, EPA, Massachusetts Department of Fish & Wildlife, and the Haverhill Conservation Commission. Once all of these above mentioned steps are completed, the actual landfill closure construction activities will begin.

For Further Information Contact:

Janet Waldron, Project Manager
Mass DEP
waldron.janet@mass.gov
617-556-1156

Derrick Golden, Project Manager
U.S. EPA
golden.derrick@epa.gov
617-918-1448

Brent Baeslack
Haverhill Environmental League
info@haverhillenvironmental.org
978-374-6529