

Update on Landfill Activities; Cleanup Measures Working

Mallard Lake Landfill Site
Hanover Park, Illinois

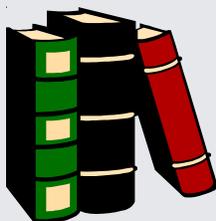
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Information repositories

You may review site documents at:

Sonya Crawshaw Branch
Poplar Creek Public Library District
4300 Audrey Lane
Hanover Park

Poplar Creek Public Library
Main Library
1405 S. Park Ave.
Streamwood



Check out these Web sites:

www.epa.gov/region5/sites/mallard

www.epaosc.net/mallardlake

www.epaosc.net/MallardNorth

www.atsdr.cdc.gov

www.epa.gov/iaq/voc.html



Over the past few months, seven new gas extraction wells were installed west of the Mallard Lake Landfill to remove underground methane that escaped from the landfill's property. Methane from all but one of these extraction wells is being destroyed by thermal oxidizing units strategically placed near the wells (see photo). One unit is located in Hawk Hollow Forest Preserve and two in neighborhoods to the west. Because one gas recovery well is near the landfill, methane from this well is being piped to the facility and used to create energy by a private company on the landfill's property. All the thermal oxidizing units are secured by locked fencing, have automatic fire suppression equipment for safety and are monitored regularly. Each thermal oxidizing unit also has screens around it to reduce noise. The extraction wells and thermal oxidizing units will continue to operate until the level of underground methane gas that has left the landfill's property has reached a level considered to be safe. However, these locations will continue to be monitored until it is determined that elevated levels will not return. All work and testing at the Mallard Lake site is being done under the oversight of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois EPA.



Thermal oxidizing units like the one pictured here are being used to burn and destroy methane being removed by the extraction wells.

Landfill improvements

Steps continue to be taken to keep methane generated by the landfill within the facility's boundaries. Five gas extraction wells installed right outside the landfill, plus 20 new wells installed on the landfill itself, are working with more than 200 existing on-site wells to remove methane. Methane from all of these wells is sent to the plant on site that creates energy, which is then sold to power companies. Also, enhancements and repairs continue to be made at the landfill to ensure the gas-extraction system is performing effectively. Many wells have been repaired or replaced and improvements have been made to the landfill's cover. The objective is to make sure methane does not escape the facility's property. Testing indicates this effort has been successful. Methane is no longer present in several off-landfill monitoring locations and results show that in many other places methane levels have dropped.

Investigation northeast of the landfill

Last fall, methane was discovered underground northeast of the landfill near Greenbrook Elementary School. As a result, an investigation was undertaken to discover the source. Initial results indicate that it will be difficult to determine if the source is Mallard Lake Landfill or an older site called Mallard North Landfill. Sampling has been conducted around the school. Methane has been found in one monitoring well 16-21 feet underground on the school property, but none has been found in the school. A gas extraction well and thermal oxidizing unit have been installed in this area to remove and destroy the methane. Both the monitoring of the school and the investigation of the Mallard North Landfill will continue.

For more information

For more information about the site you may contact:

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**MALLARD LAKE LANDFILL SITE:
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