



Memorandum

Date August 11, 1998

From Environmental Health Scientist

Subject Industrial Excess Landfill, Evaluation of March 1997 Groundwater Data

To Robert C. Williams, P.E., DEE
Director, DHAC
Through: Acting Branch Chief, SSAB

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The March 1997 groundwater samples were collected by Earth Sciences Consultants, Inc., and analyzed by Antech Ltd., consultants for the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs). They sampled most monitoring wells previously sampled by EPA but no residential wells. Several wells were reported in bad condition and could not be sampled. According to the report by Earth Sciences Consultants, Inc. "Most of the samples obtained during this sampling event were somewhat murky or discolored, even after filtration". Many contained very fine suspended materials that passed through the filters. The sediment problem may be the result of improperly purged wells. A slow method of purging is necessary to obtain good samples if sediment is a problem. ATSDR recommended that EPA address the sediment loading issue in our 1995 groundwater health consultation.

The 1997 data indicate elevated metals concentrations in most monitoring wells including those at the western limit of monitoring and in background monitoring well 12. Concentrations for antimony, cadmium, nickel, and thallium exceed MCLs in various monitoring wells.

ATSDR has not been part of the negotiations between EPA and the PRPs concerning remedial actions at the landfill. However, we have heard that the Record of Decision (ROD) may be reopened and that the groundwater remediation may be deferred.

Conclusions

Similar conclusions can be drawn from the March 1997 data as those presented in the 1995 health consultation: The metals concentrations in some of the wells are not indicative of contamination because of sediment loading and caution should be used when comparing such monitoring well data to drinking water standards. ATSDR could not use the March 1997 data to draw public health conclusions.

Recommendations

ATSDR should encourage residents to hook up to the municipal water system if they have not already done so.

ATSDR should support addition of a new monitoring well network, outside of the current monitoring well network especially to the west as well as installation of additional background monitoring wells. Slow purging of the water from wells to reduce suspended sediment should be part of the protocol particularly when sampling historical wells.

Future Actions

ATSDR plans to send a letter to Lake Township stating that residents should hook up to municipal water. We should encourage the township to distribute the letter to home/property buyers in the area.

Documents Reviewed:

Earth Sciences Consultants, Inc., Results of March 1997 Groundwater and Landfill Gas Sampling Event, Industrial Excess Landfill, Uniontown, Ohio, August 1, 1997.

Industrial Excess Landfill, Comparison of Groundwater Monitoring Surveys, Previous Results (1990-1993) vs. March 1997 Data, prepared by EPA Remedial Project Manager.

ATSDR Health Consultation on Groundwater: Industrial Excess Landfill, Uniontown, Ohio, August 1995.


Laura H. Frazier

cc:

L. Fabinski, Region V Rep.
Administrative file

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