



FACT SHEET

ONALASKA MUNICIPAL LANDFILL REMEDIAL DESIGN UPDATE

JANUARY 1992

INTRODUCTION

A Superfund cleanup plan must be designed before it can be put into action. The cleanup plan for the Onalaska Municipal Landfill is in the "remedial design" phase which includes drawing up blueprints for building the water treatment plant and the landfill cap. Throughout 1991, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) conducted design activities such as conducting a pump test; testing sediment in Dodge Chute; sampling soil to test the bioremediation technology in the laboratory; and surveying the area to determine land contours for cap design. In addition, U.S. EPA and WDNR have discussed the discharge location of treated water into the Black River.

These activities, paid for by U.S. EPA and WDNR, are preliminary steps which need to be taken before blueprints are drawn up.

In addition, U.S. EPA has suggested that the Onalaska Town Board purchase property around the perimeter of the landfill (see site map) to help U.S. EPA complete its work in the quickest possible timeframe. The Town Board's purchasing process is not as cumbersome as the Federal Government's, therefore, work can be expedited in a cost-effective manner.

This fact sheet gives an overview of the design activities to date, a revised schedule of upcoming activities, and sources to contact for further information.

DESIGN ACTIVITIES

A variety of design activities took place in 1991 which will enable the cleanup to begin as scheduled:

- Pump Test - The pump test, done in April, put pressure on the contaminated aquifer by pumping out as much water as possible to determine how much water withdrawal the aquifer can handle. Preliminary pump test information indicated that water must be pumped at 800 gallons per minute to stop the area of contamination (the contaminant "plume") from leaving the landfill. To be conservative, U.S. EPA will design the water treatment plant to handle 1,000 gallons per minute.

- Sediment from Dodge Chute - U.S. EPA is hoping to use material for part of the landfill cap from nearby Dodge Chute if WDNR's LaCrosse district office arranges to have Dodge Chute dredged in Spring 1992. WDNR test results have already determined that the sediment may be used as a fill layer on the landfill. Money could be saved by using this dredged material because a smaller amount of soil will need to be brought in from an outside source to complete the cap. Because less soil may be transported, the neighborhood around the landfill may experience less truck traffic and noise.
- Soil Sampling - U.S. EPA is using soil samples from the landfill in laboratory testing to determine the effectiveness of the bioremediation technology selected to clean up contaminated soil around the landfill. (Certain technologies, while effective at many Superfund sites, do not always work because conditions may not be conducive for success. For example, certain types of chemicals may not be consumed by microorganisms. Or, sufficient oxygen may not be available in the soil to help the bacteria utilize the organic chemicals as food.) The laboratory testing will continue through February 1992.
- Surveys - U.S. EPA surveyed the landfill last Fall to determine the construction boundaries and land contours. This information will tell the Agency how much fill will be needed to build the cap, and what private property will be impacted by its construction. U.S. EPA will obtain the necessary easements as proposed on the site map, or the Town could purchase some of the affected property to make it legally accessible for cleanup purposes.
- U.S. EPA/WDNR Discussions - Continuous discussions between U.S. EPA and WDNR have taken place to determine the location of water discharged into the Black River after it is treated, or cleansed, in the on-site water treatment plant. Such communication between the Agencies is necessary because WDNR is determining the discharge limits for the cleansed water and U.S. EPA needs to know those limits to properly design the cleansing process.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Several activities concerning the cap, water treatment plant, and bioremediation are scheduled to begin in 1992:

<u>CAP</u>	<u>EST. COMPLETION TIME</u>
Finish blueprints	Spring 1992
Accept bids on cap construction	Spring 1992
Start cap construction	Fall 1992
Finish cap construction	Spring/Summer 1993

Water Treatment Plant

Finish blueprints	Summer 1992
Accept bids on plant construction	Summer 1992
Start plant construction	Fall 1992
Finish plant construction	Summer 1993
Start pumping and treating water	Summer 1993
Finish pumping and treating water	Indefinite

Bioremediation

Finish lab tests	Winter (Jan.) 1992
Finish blueprints	Spring 1992
Accept bids on bioremediation work	Summer 1992
Start bioremediation work	Spring 1993
Finish bioremediation work	Fall 1994

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

Anyone desiring additional information about the Superfund process or the activities being conducted at the Onalaska Municipal Landfill are encouraged to review the documents that have been prepared for the site. Copies of work plans, test results, the Record of Decision, and other site-related documents are available for review at:

Holmen Public Library
103 State St.
Onalaska, WI

LaCrosse County Library, Onalaska Branch
741 Oak Ave., South
Onalaska, WI

As site-related documents are completed, they are placed in the information repositories listed above. For further information, or to be added to U.S. EPA's mailing list for the Onalaska Municipal Landfill, contact:

Susan Pastor, 5P-19J
Community Relations Coordinator
(312) 353-1325

Kevin Adler, 5HSRW-6J
Remedial Project Manager
(312) 886-7078

Toll Free: 1-800-621-8431
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., weekdays

U.S. EPA
Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

U.S. EPA and WDNR representatives will attend a Town-sponsored meeting to answer questions regarding the Agencies' suggestion that the Town purchase land around the perimeter of the landfill. The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 15, 1992, at the Onalaska Town Hall. The Town may be contacted for further information.

