

DATE: February 12, 2024

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TO: John Fagiolo – U.S. EPA – Region V
Remedial Project Manager

FROM: Cindy Koepke – Wisconsin DNR *CKK*

SUBJECT: 2023 Annual Report for Refuse Hideaway Landfill, WID980610604

This is the annual Refuse Hideaway Landfill report to EPA from the State of Wisconsin, the Settling Performing Party, as required by the consent decree signed August 29, 2001.

Because of the age of the landfill's contaminant control systems, there were numerous operational issues in keeping the systems operating. In 2020-2021, DNR hired a contractor to repair and upgrade the landfill and contaminant control systems and address other physical problems (such as drainage, vegetative cover, etc.). The electrical system to the landfill equipment failed in summer 2022; DNR worked with our operation & maintenance contractor and an electrician to get the system repaired and operational by September 2023.

Section X. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

29(a): During 2023, DNR performed the following work in compliance with the consent decree:

Landfill gas collection and perimeter gas monitoring: During the 2023 reporting period, perimeter gas probes were monitored monthly. Methane was detected in several probe nests in the southeastern and western/southwestern parts of the property, similar to the patterns of detections in previous years. The methane levels ranged from non-detect to 75.4% by volume before the gas collection system was restarted on September 6, 2023; after the gas system was operational, methane levels ranged from non-detect to 22.7%. Landfill gas is detected in a small subset of the perimeter gas probes and continues to show seasonal variations, with very few low-level detections in the late fall to early spring months.

Leachate collection system: In 2023, 34,860 gallons of leachate were collected and hauled to the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District plant for treatment. Repair of the leachate collection system was completed in 2021, but the leachate system went off-line when the electrical system failed in summer 2021. The new compressor has not operated satisfactorily in an open-air environment, a situation we expect to resolve in spring 2024.

Landfill cover: The landfill surface has been mowed twice. Vegetation was removed around the gas/leachate well cages, the blower/compressor skid enclosure, the leachate tank enclosure, the solar panels, and paths to some monitoring wells (to improve access for sampling).

Groundwater monitoring: DNR hired Cedar Corporation to do semi-annual groundwater sampling of the site's monitoring well network and 14 private wells. VOC results in 2023 for monitoring and private wells are consistent with past sampling events and show that groundwater quality has improved around the landfill over the years.

Continuing obligations: DNR issued a remedial actions approval with continuing obligations on December 16, 2013. As authorized in s. 292.12, Wis. Stats., the approval imposes obligations with which current and future property owners must comply. These obligations include landfill cap maintenance, gas and leachate collection, environmental monitoring, potable well water treatment, and access restrictions. For the 2023 reporting period, the continuing obligations have been adequately maintained.

29(b): Attached to this email transmitting this report are:

- An Excel spreadsheet listing volatile organic compounds detected in 2023
- Water table map with well locations marked

29(c): This annual progress report serves as the one required by the consent decree to be sent by the Settling Performing Party to EPA.

29(d): Planned work for 2024 includes: groundwater monitoring and perimeter gas probe monitoring, mailing water sample results to private well owners, resolving the compressor operational issues, and operation and maintenance of leachate and landfill gas systems. DNR will respond to information requests and perform appropriate community involvement as needed.

29(e): In 2023, landfill gas monitoring, leachate treatment and disposal, landfill cover inspections, stormwater management features inspections, and groundwater monitoring were conducted. Operation and maintenance work for source control systems has been conducted since summer 2021 with a focus on upgrading cold-weather protection features and troubleshooting/repairing the electrical system.

29(f): No modifications to any materials submitted to EPA are planned for 2023.

29(g): Public relations activities in 2023 were routine.

CERTIFICATION

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources certifies that for the coming year, the State of Wisconsin shall meet its financial obligations under the August 29, 2001 Consent Decree for the Refuse Hideaway Superfund Site in Middleton, Wisconsin. For the coming year, the State of Wisconsin's Environmental Fund, as appropriated by the Wisconsin Legislature, has included budget items and/or appropriations for performing the work at the Refuse Hideaway Landfill Superfund Site in Middleton, Wisconsin.

Date: _____ *February 12, 2024* _____



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