

Estes Landfill Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund Site - September 2009

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has published this fact sheet to inform the community near the Estes Landfill Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site of current site status. The ADEQ WQARF Program, which is also known as the State Superfund Program, investigates and cleans up contaminated groundwater and soil sites throughout the state. The Estes Landfill Site is bounded approximately by the Salt River to the north, the 153 Expressway to the east, Magnolia Street to the south, and 40th Street to the west. Groundwater contamination from the landfill extends in an oval shape for approximately one-half mile to the west and north of the landfill.

WHAT ARE THE CONTAMINANTS AT THE SITE?

Arsenic, chromium, cis-1,2-dichloroethene (cis-1,2-DCE), trichloroethene (TCE) and vinyl chloride are currently known to be present in the groundwater under the Estes Landfill Site. TCE is used as a solvent, metal degreasing agent, and in other industrial applications. DCE is used to make certain plastics, packaging materials, and flame retardant coatings. Vinyl chloride is often an end product when PCE and TCE chemically decompose in the environment. Contaminants of concern for soil include arsenic, lead and thallium. The contaminants of concern at the site may change as new data become available.

HEALTH/WATER QUALITY

Methane gas is a hazard generally associated with landfills; however, there are no structures at the site in which methane could accumulate. Any risks associated with exposure to contaminated groundwater are principally through drinking the contaminated water. The groundwater under this site is not used in the public drinking water system. If you are connected to a public drinking water system, your public water provider is required by law to provide water that meets all state and federal drinking water standards. The City of Phoenix

(COP) conducts regular testing of your drinking water to ensure the standards are met and to ensure safe drinking water is delivered to the community. For more information on your water quality, contact the COP Water Services Department at (602) 262-6251. If you have a private well near the site, please contact Danita Hardy, ADEQ Project Manager, at (602) 771-4191.

SITE HISTORY

The Estes Landfill was privately owned and operated by Garbage Service Company from the early 1950s until 1972 when it was permanently closed. The landfill, which was unregulated during its operational life, is reported to have accepted industrial, commercial, residential, and liquid wastes. The COP condemned the property to construct flood control levees and excavate the river channel. This required moving a portion of the landfill from the area of the river channel to its current location. During the move, the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADEQ's predecessor), and the COP tested some of the materials being moved. After careful analysis some materials were classified as hazardous waste and sent to a hazardous waste disposal site in California. Non-hazardous wastes were moved and placed on the southeast portion of the landfill south of the river channel. The COP submitted a Draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Report for ADEQ's review in September 1997. The site was placed on the WQARF Registry in April 1998. In March 1999, ADEQ took over responsibility for completing the RI, feasibility study (FS) and other site activities.

INVESTIGATION/CLEANUP ACTIONS

ADEQ completed the Final RI Report in 2002, which defines the extent of soil and groundwater contamination emanating from the landfill. The RI Report also establishes remedial objectives for current and reasonably foreseeable uses of land and water at the Estes Landfill Site. These uses include the following for land use: trail linkage between the

Tempe Town Lake and the Phoenix Rio Salado Project, redevelopment for commercial or recreational use, or surface parking, material storage and material processing. The uses for groundwater include industrial use of the Bradley Well and potential municipal use of groundwater by the COP, the area water provider.

The FS Report was completed on July 3, 2002, and its purpose was to select a proposed remedy that meets the remedial objectives. The Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) was issued for public comment on June 30, 2002. In September 2003, ADEQ reached settlements with five businesses to resolve their liability for releases of hazardous substances at the Estes Landfill in Phoenix.

WHAT ARE ADEQ'S FUTURE PLANS AT THIS SITE?

ADEQ continues to monitor groundwater at the site. ADEQ is finalizing the responsiveness summary addressing the comments received regarding the PRAP.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

A community advisory board (CAB) was formed for the site but is not currently meeting on a regular basis. All site information including past CAB meeting agendas and minutes can be viewed at ADEQ. With 24-hour notice, an appointment to review related documentation is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the ADEQ Records Management Center, 1110 W. Washington Street in Phoenix, Arizona. Please contact (602) 771-4380, (800) 234-5677 ext. 7714380 or TDD line (602) 771- 4829 to schedule an appointment to review these documents.

Technical Information:

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Hearing-impaired individuals may call our TDD line at (602) 771-4829.

For more information on this WQARF site or others sites in Arizona, please visit the ADEQ Web site at: www.azdeq.gov. In the left hand column, click on Waste Programs, then Superfund/WQARF. Look for Site Information and Maps link.

Para información en español sobre este sitio, comuníquese con Felicia Calderon al (602) 771-4167.