



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Bennett Landfill Fire Removal Site
Fact Sheet Update
Chester, Chester County, South Carolina

Number 1

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For more information or should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to phone, write or email one of the following points-of-contact:

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SITE DESCRIPTION

The Bennett Landfill Fire Site (“the Site”) located at 4399 Pinkney Road, Chester, South Carolina is approximately 16 acres in size. The Site was permitted as a Class II landfill for construction debris and was also approved to receive certain types of asbestos wastes. The landfill was issued a cease and desist order in 2014 based on improper management of asbestos wastes, repeated failures to regularly cover disposed waste, in addition to other maintenance and management issues.

RESPONSE ACTIONS TO DATE

On November 2, 2014, the landfill was found to be on fire by the local fire department. Several local and state agencies responded to the fire. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) requested assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA). On November 3, 2014, a Federal On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) and the EPA’s Superfund Technical Assistance, Response and Training (START) conducted a site investigation and began air monitoring activities. They observed heavy smoke from the fire and bags of asbestos waste around the landfill. The OSC determined that the conditions of the Site warranted an emergency removal action. The EPA’s Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor was mobilized to assist with firefighting operations. Consequently, the fire was mostly extinguished by November 7th.

On December 17, 2014, at the request of SCDHEC for additional monitoring of the smoldering area, the EPA’s START contractor was mobilized to both monitor particulate readings near residences and to collect air samples to analyze for asbestos. Air samples were analyzed using several methods and asbestos fibers were not found. Due to increasing smoke concentrations in January of 2015, SCDHEC requested that

the EPA conduct a Removal Site Evaluation (RSE). Since January, EPA has completed the RSE with several efforts including: 1) the deployment of air monitoring units throughout the nearby community of Lockhart, SC, 2) collecting samples from air, water, and soil at the Site, and 3) conducting surveys of current site conditions and distribution of asbestos wastes.

NEXT STEPS

The EPA has determined that the site meets the threshold for a time critical removal action and is evaluating strategies to address conditions at the Site. Primary objectives of the action would be to address the fire and the asbestos waste. The activities would be expected to take approximately three months.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community engagement and outreach are critical components to EPA’s involvement at the Site. The primary objective of community outreach is to promote meaningful communication between residents of the community, stakeholders and the EPA. Proactive community involvement is crucial to the success of any cleanup project. SCDHEC has played a pivotal role in establishing early and meaningful community engagement with residents and stakeholders. The EPA Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) will continue to do so by drafting the Community Involvement Plan (CIP) which will require your input. If you are interested in participating in an interview which will be included in the CIP, please contact Kerisa Coleman, CIC at (404) 562-8831 or coleman.kerisa@epa.gov.