INTRODUCTION:

The North Hollywood Dump Site (the Site) located in Memphis, Tennessee is a former municipal landfill operated by the City of Memphis. During operation from the mid 1930's until the mid 1960's, the Site primarily received municipal refuse; however, industrial waste was also disposed in the dump. Studies of the Site identified contamination in soil, sediments, fish and groundwater. Contaminants of concern include Chlordane, Aldrin, Heptachlor, total BHC, Heptachlor Epoxide, 4,4 DDT, Dieldrin, Endrin, Chromium, Arsenic, Nickel, Lead, Copper and Zinc.

The Site is divided by Hollywood Street into two separate areas of refuse disposal: the East and West Sectors. Combined, the East and West Sectors encompass an area of approximately 70 acres (See Figure 1) and have an average refuse layer of 26.5 feet. A two foot vegetated soil cover was placed over the Site in the early 1980s to prevent surface contaminant migration.
In 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed an extensive selection and evaluation process of viable alternatives for cleaning up contaminated soil, sediment, fish and groundwater at the Site. This process included a report known as a Feasibility Study (FS) which was conducted by two of the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs), Velsicol Chemical Corporation and Buckman Laboratories, under a Commissioner's Order from the State of Tennessee. The FS used information generated during the 1986-1990 Supplemental Remedial Investigation (RI), also conducted by these PRPs, to develop feasible cleanup alternatives. These alternatives were summarized in the previous North Hollywood Dump Fact Sheet issued in June 1990. Following a public comment period, EPA signed a Record of Decision (ROD) which presented the selected remedy for the Site in September 1990. The State of Tennessee concurred with the selected remedy. From October 1990 until March 1991, negotiations were conducted with PRPs to perform and pay for the remedial actions. The remedy selected included the installation of a 24 inch low-permeability soil cover over the landfill area, the monitoring of the shallow aquifer to insure contamination levels stay below health based standards, the installation of a 36 inch hydraulic cover over contaminated sediments, and the removal of contaminated fish from Oxbow Lake and the abandoned dredge pond (See Figure 1). The remedy is estimated to cost approximately 8 million dollars to implement. Velsicol Chemical Corporation and the City of Memphis signed a Consent Decree in March of 1991 to perform the work, and the Decree was lodged with the Federal Court in November of 1991 at which time the Remedial Design (RD) was initiated. This fact sheet discusses the activities having taken place since beginning the RD and outlines the next tasks in the design.

REMEDIAL DESIGN TASKS:

The RD for the Site includes the following main components:

1. Additional Field Investigations
2. Design Report
3. Plans and Technical Specifications

Related tasks include testing sampling equipment, data evaluation, locating cover material, development of a conceptual design approach, and community relations activities.

The primary RD steps are summarized below:

1. Field Investigations

To supplement the existing sediment and fish data gathered during the RI and to determine the exact areas of sediments that require containment, additional sampling is scheduled to start around June of 1992 after flood waters have receded from the Site. A sampling plan has been submitted to EPA and is currently being reviewed. Data from the fish and sediment samples will be used along with the cleanup standards established in the ROD to determine the exact areas of the surface water ponds that need to be remediated.

2. Design Report

The design report, which outlines the RD process for the Site, will include the following in addition to background information:

- Results of RD field investigations
- Design objectives
- Cleanup criteria
- Present extent of contamination
- Descriptions of Remedial Action (RA) Work
- Facility layout
- Cleanup verification
- Monitoring system performance
- Permits, site access, easements and rights of way
- Health and Safety requirements
- Estimated construction schedule and approximate costs.

A Work Plan for performing the Design has been completed, and the RD report will be available for public viewing at the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library after completion.

3. Plans and Technical Specifications

In the last step of the RD process, plans and technical specifications to be used by the PRP’s in procuring remedial action contractors will be developed. These include construction drawings, equipment specifications and other items needed to implement the design. Construction drawings may include an existing Site plan, water removal process flow diagrams, Site containment plan, work staging and control plan, excavation plan, a finished grade plan and other miscellaneous drawings that remedial contractors will use when performing the site cleanup. Detailed specifications will be used on standard design parts such as earth work and mechanical and structural components.

FUTURE SITE ACTIVITIES:

Following selections and procurement of a construction contractor by the PRPs, EPA will provide technical oversight on a regular basis while construction and operations and maintenance are occurring to ensure that the RA is carried out according to the approved design.

HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED:

An important part of the Superfund process is community involvement. EPA welcomes comments and questions from the public regarding the North Hollywood Dump Site. EPA will continue to inform and involve the community throughout the remedial design and remedial action phase of the cleanup process.

The Administrative Record containing the RI and FS reports, the ROD and other documents and previous fact sheets, is available to the public in the following information repository:

Memphis-Shelby County Public Library and Information Center
1850 Peabody Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee 38104
(901) 725-8821
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GLOSSARY

Administrative Record - A file which is maintained and contains all information used by the lead agency to make its decision on the selection of a response action under CERCLA. This file is required to be available for public review, and a copy is to be established at or near the site, usually at an information repository. A duplicate file is maintained in a central location, such as a regional EPA and/or state office.

Aquifer - An underground rock formation composed of materials such as sand, soil, or gravel, that can store and supply groundwater to wells and springs.

Cleanup Standards - Quantitative level developed for each contaminant to which a site must be cleaned up. Standards are based on results of the risk assessment.

Consent Decree - A legal agreement between USEPA and the PRPs where by the PRPs agree to perform work at the site. The agreement describes actions to be taken at the site.

Excavation - Physical removal with heavy equipment of soil and/or sediment. Excavated soils can either be treated and replaced or transported offsite for storage or disposal.
Feasibility Study - Conducted in conjunction with or following the remedial investigation, designed to pinpoint the nature and extent of contamination, establish cleanup criteria, identify, screen, and evaluate cleanup alternatives.

Groundwater - Water found beneath the earth’s surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel. In aquifers, groundwater occurs in sufficient amounts that it can be used for drinking water.

Potential Responsible Parties (PRPs) - This may be an individual, a company or a group of companies who may have contributed to the hazardous conditions at a site. These parties may be held liable for costs of the remedial activities by the EPA through CERCLA laws.

Record of Decision - A public document that explains which cleanup alternative(s) will be used at National Priorities List (NPL) sites. The ROD is based on information and technical analyses generated during the RI/FS and consideration of public comments and community concerns.

Remedial Action - The construction or implementation phase that follows design of the selected cleanup alternative.

Remedial Design - An engineering phase that follows the ROD, when technical drawings and specifications are developed for the subsequent remedial action.

Remedial Investigation - Investigative and analytical study designed to gather the data necessary to determine the type and extent of contamination at a Superfund site.

Sediments - Soil, sand, or mud found at the bottom and sides of bodies of water, such as creeks, rivers, streams, ponds, lakes and swamps. Sediments typically consist of soil, clay, silt, plant matter, and sometimes gravel.

Superfund - The common name used for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986. The Superfund program was established to help pay for cleanup of hazardous waste sites and to take legal action to force those responsible for the sites to remediate the problems associated with their actions.

If you have received this fact sheet in the mail, you are on the North Hollywood Dump Site’s mailing list. If you know of others who would like to receive future mail-outs, please have them complete this form and mail to:

Ms. Suzanne Durham
Community Relations Coordinator
USEPA, Region IV
345 Courtland Street, NE
Atlanta, GA 30365

Name: ___________________________________________  
Address: ___________________________________________  
Affiliation: ___________________________________________  
Telephone: ___________________________________________  