

Barceloneta Landfill

Puerto Rico

EPA ID#: PRD980509129

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 01

Florida

Florida Afuera

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 12/1/1982

Final Date: 9/1/1983

Site Description

The 20-acre Barceloneta Landfill site is an inactive landfill. About 300 tons of hazardous waste has been placed into the three sinkholes which comprise the landfill, some of these are 100 feet deep. No artificial or natural barrier exists to keep wastes from moving into the groundwater; the limestone formations underlying the site could promote the rapid transport of contaminants. Groundwater is the drinking source in the area and is also used for irrigation. No contamination has been found off site. The surrounding area is commercial, residential, and agricultural. Approximately 12,000 people live within a 3-mile radius of the site, and the nearest home is about 500 feet away. Area residents used the site for scavenging and for driving all-terrain vehicles. People swim and fish in Quebrada Cimarrona, a stream located on the site.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

Threat and Contaminants

The on-site sampling of groundwater identified various heavy metals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The area of the site is also a breeding ground for the Puerto Rican boa, designated as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in a single long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

Response Action Status

Entire Site: In 1988, EPA began an intensive study of pollution problems at the site. This investigation was completed in 1995.

Cleanup Progress

Current Status: The Operation & Maintenance, and Post Remediation Monitoring Manual dated March 2000, and approved on February 26, 2001 is being implemented and include a 30-year Groundwater wells monitoring program. The 1st five-year review report was signed on August 11, 2005. The assessment of this five-year review found that the remedy was constructed in accordance with the requirements of the Record of Decision (ROD). This five-year review found that the remedy is functioning as designed. The immediate threats have been addressed and the remedy is protective in the short-term. Also, in order for the remedy to be protective in the long-term, final institutional controls (deed restrictions), are being implemented by the PRP's.

Historical Notes: Two Notice Letters were sent to potentially responsible parties (PRPs) in 1983. In 1988, an additional search for PRPs identified several parties that have used the landfill. On September 28, 1990, an Administrative Order on Consent was signed by eight industries, a transporter, the municipality of Barceloneta, and EPA, in which the parties agreed to complete the site investigation.

The Remedial Investigation was completed in May 1995 and the Feasibility Study submitted in October 1995. EPA issued a Proposed Plan on December 27, 1995 which described a preferred alternative for capping the landfill and held a

public meeting on January 18, 1996 to describe the preferred alternative and answer questions. The public comment period closed on January 26, 1996. The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed July 6, 1996. The selected remedy required the capping of the three disposal areas by installing a low permeability cover system meeting the requirements of the RCRA subtitle D and Commonwealth of Puerto Rico regulations for landfill closure. EPA required the coordinated closure and remediation of all areas of the Site. A Consent Decree (CD) for Remedial Design and Remedial Action of the remedy selected in the ROD was signed on September 30, 1997.

The CD for implementation of EPA's selected remedy pursuant to the ROD was lodged by DOJ on January 8, 1998 with ten Settling Defendants. The Remedial Design Report was approved by EPA on September 17, 1999. Also, EPA approved early Remedial Actions that were carried-out before the approval of the final Remedial Design Report. These actions included the excavation and stockpiling of clay; and excavation and relocation of waste from latest discovered waste area. These activities were started on September 7, 1999. The Remedial Action Work Plan to implement the ROD, submitted by the Settling Defendants was approved on December 16, 1999. The on-site construction started in January 24, 2000 and it was completed on the August 31, 2000. On September 27, 2000, EPA signed the Preliminary Site Close Out Report.

Site Repositories

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