

Fact Sheet - Former Town of Oneida Dump

The former Town of Oneida Dump (Dump) was operated by the Town of Oneida from at least 1959 until closed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) in February 1983.

The Dump has a long history of use. There are no official records of when this site began to be used as a dump. During its early operation, there were very few rules in place that controlled where dumps were located, how they were constructed, what went into them, and how they were managed.

Formal regulation of landfills started in 1965 with the passage of the “Solid Waste Disposal Act”. This law was later strengthened with supporting laws and amendments. Later, some of the responsibilities for implementation were given to States under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The result was that many older landfills failed to meet newly established standards and were the subject of enforcement action by EPA and the States.

This dump was cited for numerous violations during its operation which resulted in it being ordered to close. Since its closure, concerns remain about potential environmental and public health threats. These concerns have been shared with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Responding to these concerns, EPA evaluated the Dump for placement on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1994. This list is used by the EPA to rank sites for cleanup using federal funds. The evaluation resulted in a score of 15.7 which is below the score of 28.5 needed for inclusion on the list.

Based on concerns of EHSD and questions raised by community members, the groundwater, surface water, and soil was sampled in the fall of 2004. In 2005 and 2006, surrounding drinking water wells were sampled. Both sampling events showed low levels of contamination. The levels recorded are not an “immediate” threat to human health or the environment and are below actionable levels established by the federal government.

If you would like more information, please contact Victoria Flowers, Environmental Specialist at 496-5328 or Jeff Mears, Environmental Area Manager at 496-5342.

