

Dummer Yard Landfill
Rt. 16 / Hutchins Street, Berlin



DES Site Number: 198704035
ONESTOP Master Id.: 15784
Date of update: February 7, 2012

Description: This site occupies an approximately 400-acre parcel. Approximately half of this land is undeveloped and the remaining half contains four closed landfills built on top of the historic Dummer Yard complex. Dummer Yard was used as a staging and disposal area for activities associated with the Former Brown Paper Company and subsequent Berlin Mill owners between 1856 and approximately 1995. The Property is currently fenced and unused. The property is currently owned by Pulp & Paper of America, LLC but is being managed in accordance with a Bankruptcy Court Order.

Potential Environmental Concerns: Potential concerns associated with this property include:

- Area I: Ash from bark boiler and lime mud (Avalon Risk Associates, Inc., 2/4/05)
- Area II: Paper mill waste treatment sludge and 20% ash (Avalon Risk Associates, Inc., 2/4/05)
- Area IIB: "Secure Landfill Expansion" Paper mill waste treatment sludge and 20% ash (Avalon Risk Associates, Inc., 2/4/05)
- Area III: originally a bark stockpile then sludge put on top (Avalon Risk Associates, Inc., 2/4/05)

- Area IV: originally a bark stockpile then sludge put on top with "general mill debris" on top of that (Avalon Risk Associates, Inc., 2/4/05)
- Surface solid waste debris noted across site (Nobis, 2/17/06)
- Potential landfill leachate flowing toward or through Hutchins Street residential area. (DES project files, resident complaints, site visit notes)
- Possible drums and USTs at service garage not accessed as part of Phase I ESA (Nobis, 2/17/06).
- Possible residential bedrock wells on Turcotte Street Extension (2/13/95 DES internal memo)

Previous Work: A Brownfields Phase I Environmental Site Assessment dated February 17, 2006 was completed on behalf of the North Country Council, Inc. This work was funded with an EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant awarded to North Country Council, Inc.

Current Work: NHDES authorized GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. (GZA) to prepare a work scope and budget estimate for completion of a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Update. This Phase I Update was completed in March 2011 and included a detailed review of historical information and information contained in the various program files at NHDES. The Phase I Update also included an historical resource evaluation of the site in compliance with Section 106 of the Historical Preservation Act.

NHDES authorized GZA to complete a Phase II Environmental Assessment of the site in August 2011. This Phase II assessment includes: (a) sampling and analysis of groundwater from existing groundwater monitoring wells; (b) the installation and sampling of new overburden and groundwater monitoring wells; (c) the completion of geophysical surveys to better refine the knowledge of hydrogeologic conditions around the landfill; and (d) analysis of soil samples. The majority of the field investigation program was completed by December 31, 2011. The Groundwater sampling program has been postponed until approximately April 2012 to avoid groundwater sampling during winter conditions.

NHDES anticipates receipt of a Phase II Environmental Assessment Report in June 2012.

Copies of all available Brownfields reports for this site can be accessed from NHDES' ONESTOP Database at: <http://www2.des.state.nh.us/DESONestop/BasicSearch.aspx>.

Scheduled Public Events: There are no public meetings currently scheduled for this site.

Cleanup Planning: Cleanup planning documents have not yet been prepared for this site. Cleanup planning documents will be prepared and released for public comment once the Phase II Environmental Assessment work and any necessary supplemental assessment work has been completed and sufficient funding is secured.

Section 106 of Historic Preservation Act: GZA submitted a Request For Project Review to the NH Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR) in September 2011. NHDHR issued a decision of “No Potential To Cause Effects” in September 2011.

Funding: The assessment work completed by NHDES to date was funded via our EPA Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant.