

Health Information on Hazardous Waste Sites

BEACON HEIGHTS LANDFILL

The Beacon Heights Landfill site is one of fifteen Superfund hazardous waste sites in Connecticut. The Connecticut Department of Public Health and Addiction Services, in cooperation with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, is investigating the possibility that contamination at this site might result in adverse human health effects in the neighboring community. The documents containing this assessment are referred to as a health assessment, the addendum, and the subsequent site review and update (SRU). These documents have been produced from data provided by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other groups involved with the management of this site; community health data; and concerns of the community. If you have specific concerns about the health implications of this site, please write or call Brian Toal or Kenny Foscue at the Connecticut Department of Public Health and Addiction Services, Division of Environmental Epidemiology and Occupational Health, 150 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, (203) 566-8167. For more information about clean-up activities, please contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the address and phone number on page 4 of this factsheet.

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**SITE SUMMARY**

The 83-acre Beacon Heights Landfill NPL Site is atop a ridge within the lower Naugatuck Valley. The landfill site is approximately two miles east of the intersection of Connecticut Routes 8 and 2 in Beacon Falls, Connecticut. Hockanum Brook, located one-half mile northwest of the landfill, flows into the Naugatuck River two miles to the west of the site (see site map).

**History**

The Beacon Heights Landfill received municipal and industrial wastes from the 1920's to 1979. From the 1920's to 1970, the original six-acre "Betkoski Dump" accepted a

variety of wastes: municipal, rubber, plastic, and industrial chemicals and sludges. Some of the waste material was burned during this time. In 1970, the landfill area was expanded to approximately 30 acres. The waste material was no longer burned, and cover material was placed over the waste. A preliminary investigation conducted by EPA in 1982 found groundwater impact from the landfill. EPA added the site to its Superfund (NPL) list in 1983. In 1984, benzene was detected in two residential wells. Bottled water was provided to these residences at that time. Subsequently, most local residences have been hooked up to public water. A Record of Decision (ROD) was signed by the EPA in 1985, with a supplemental ROD signed in 1990. The ROD is the official EPA record of the cleanup remedy decided on for the site. The ROD plans are in the "Site Activities and Plans" section on page 3 of this factsheet. In 1989 an ATSDR health assessment was completed for the site. An addendum to the 1989 health assessment was produced in 1991. The Site Review and Update was released in 1993. Cleanup of the site began in 1993.

### **CONTAMINATION**

Leachate from the landfill contaminated local groundwater, including two residential wells. This leachate contained benzene, chlorobenzene,

chloroethane, and methylene chloride. Other wells in the area have been sampled, but have not been found to be contaminated.

### **HEALTH CONCERNS**

- Two households with contaminated wells were exposed to benzene and other contaminants above safe levels.
- Benzene is a known carcinogen. Residents who drank contaminated water for a long period of time may have a moderate increased risk for leukemia. However, we do not have information on how long the wells were contaminated before bottle water was provided.
- Contaminated groundwater could migrate to other residential wells.
- Residents, including children at play, may be exposed to site contamination by contact with the tributary of Hockanum Brook.

### **What You Should Know**

- ATSDR has concluded that this site is a potential public health hazard. This means there was not enough available data about exposures to contaminants to fully assess the health implications.

- Residents not connected should hook up to the public water supply.
- Area residents should avoid contact with the tributary of Hockanum Brook.

6. Treatment of the leachate at the Beacon Heights wastewater treatment facility.

7. Installation of a groundwater monitoring system.

■ The CT DPHAS will conduct environmental health education programs for local public health officials, the local medical community and local residents. This will include a specific program on the risks of drinking water contaminated with benzene for the two homes with past benzene contamination.

**SITE ACTIVITY STATUS AND PLANS**

■ A Record of Decision was completed for the Beacon Heights Landfill to clean up the site and work has begun. The activities include:

1. Construction of a cap on the landfill.
2. Installation of gas vents in the landfill cap with air pollution controls as needed. The gas vents have been installed.
3. Installation of a leachate collection system around the perimeter of the landfill, with an additional pipeline to the sanitary sewer system.
4. Enclosing the site with security fencing. This has been completed.
5. Inspection, repair, and/or replacement of defective parts of the sewer system that carries landfill leachate to the treatment facility (completed).

**INFORMATION SOURCES**

**HEALTH:** If you have health concerns related to the site, please contact your physician. Explain your situation. Please let your doctor know the substances to which you may have been exposed. Area physicians and nurses have or will be provided information about the site contaminants and their potential health effects. Your physician may contact the Naugatuck Valley Health District or the Connecticut Department of Public Health and Addiction Services with any questions.

Naugatuck Valley Health  
 District  
 470 Howe St  
 Shelton, CT 06484  
 924-9548

State of Connecticut  
Department of Public Health  
and Addiction Services  
Environmental Epidemiology and  
Occupational Health Section  
150 Washington St.  
Hartford, CT 06106  
566-8167

Agency for Toxic Substances and  
Disease Registry  
Region 1  
60 Westview St.  
Lexington, MA 02173  
(617) 860-4619

**WATER QUALITY:** If you have  
concerns about the quality of  
water around the Beacon Heights  
Landfill site, contact the  
Naugatuck Valley Health  
District or the Department of  
Environmental Protection,  
Bureau of Water Management.

CT Dept. of Environmental  
Protection  
Bureau of Water Management  
Groundwater Section  
79 Elm St.  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
(203) 566-3654

**PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY:** If you are  
interested in connecting to a  
public water supply, contact the  
Bridgeport Hydraulics Company.

Bridgeport Hydraulics  
70 New Haven Road  
Seymour, CT 06483  
853-4650

**SUPERFUND:** Information  
regarding the federal Superfund  
process may be obtained from:

U.S. Environmental Protection  
Agency  
JFK Federal Building (HEC-CAN6)  
Boston, MA 02203  
(617) 573-5726

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