

Community Update

Kenilworth Park Landfill Site

CERCLA Actions

National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior

National Capital Parks – East
Washington, D.C.



December 2022

A SITE HISTORY

The Kenilworth Park Landfill Site (Site) is located within the Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens portions of Anacostia Park, a unit of National Capital Parks – East (NACE), on the eastern bank of the Anacostia River. The Site includes two areas, Kenilworth Park North (KPN) and Kenilworth Park South (KPS). The areas are separated by Watts Branch, a stream that flows into the Anacostia River.

From 1942 until 1970, the District of Columbia (District) used the Site for municipal solid waste disposal. Open burning of municipal waste, incinerator ash disposal, and landfilling of unburned municipal solid waste occurred at the Site. By the 1970s, the entire landfill (KPN and KPS) had ceased operations, was covered with soil, revegetated, and reclaimed for recreational purposes. KPN currently contains athletic fields, which are actively used for recreation. KPS is currently undeveloped and not used for active recreation.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

In 1998, NPS began conducting environmental investigations pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to determine the nature and extent of contamination and assess what risks, if any, the former landfill may pose to human health or the environment. Under CERCLA, these activities are referred to as remedial investigations (RIs). In 2007, NPS completed an RI Report for KPN and in 2008, an RI Report for KPS was completed. Based on results of the RIs completed at the Site, NPS identified polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), pesticides, lead, and methane gas as contaminants of concern.



CLEANUP OPTIONS

Under CERCLA, the RI process is followed by a “feasibility study” or FS. Feasibility studies take the information collected during the RI including the determination of risk posed by the Site, and develops, considers, and evaluates a range of cleanup alternatives, including a “no action” alternative. NPS completed an FS for the Site in April 2012 and in 2013 released a “Proposed Plan” for cleaning up the Site. The Proposed Plan included placement of a 24-inch thick soil cap over both the north and south landfill areas. After receiving public comments and determining that additional groundwater sampling was required to fully evaluate the Site’s impact on underlying groundwater and surface water, NPS decided to defer implementation of the 2013 Proposed Plan until the results of additional investigations could be considered.

From 2013 through 2018, NPS conducted additional sampling investigations at the Site. The results of these investigations were summarized in a RI Addendum Report that was completed in 2019. The 2019 RI Addendum also provides an updated human health risk assessment that uses the additional data collected from 2013 to 2018 and revised risk assessment guidance for certain chemicals. The updated risk assessments concluded there was unacceptable risk to active

recreational users posed by certain PAHs, PCBs, dieldrin (a pesticide), and lead in surface soil. The updated assessment also indicated unacceptable risk posed to workers involved with activities that may disturb the subsurface due to lead present in waste or subsurface soil. Using information provided by the RI Addendum Report, NPS completed a FS Addendum Report in September 2020. This report identifies and evaluates five cleanup alternatives to address unacceptable risk documented in the RI Addendum Report.

NPS reviewed the cleanup alternative evaluations documented in the 2020 FS Addendum Report and chose Alternative 3 as the preferred alternative. Alternative 3 included selective placement of clean fill barriers and institutional controls. This alternative addresses risks posed to human health and the environment and will allow the site to be enjoyed for recreational use. On November 12, 2020, NPS released a Proposed Cleanup Plan for the Site which explains NPS's preferred alternative, Alternative 3 and the rationale used to choose this alternative. After releasing the 2020 Proposed Plan, NPS held a public meeting to review the investigation findings, alternatives considered, and the basis for choosing the preferred Alternative 3. NPS also released a memorandum in December 2020 providing interim response to public comments on the Proposed Plan and released an updated version of the memo in February 2020.

RECORD OF DECISION

The KPL Site ROD describes the Selected Remedy (final cleanup plan), NPS chose in consultation with the District's Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), acting as the support agency, and after reviewing and considering comments and input submitted during the public comment period. The Selected Remedy is a modified version of the Alternative 3 that was described in the Proposed Plan released in November 2020 and includes placement of a one-foot-thick, clean soil layer on areas of KPN where the District intends to redevelop for high-intensity, high-frequency recreational uses including, but not limited to athletic fields for organized sports. NPS modified Alternative 3 by reducing the area to be covered by a clean soil layer because the District informed NPS that portions of KPN will be reserved as natural resource areas such as tidal wetlands and meadows. Any areas of KPN that will not be developed for active recreational uses will not be covered with the clean soil barrier.

NEXT STEPS

The remedial design phase is the next step of the CERCLA response action to be completed. In this phase, more detailed plans and construction specifications will be prepared. This phase will also include completion of a pre-design investigation that will provide data that will be used to inform the final construction plans. The final boundaries for the clean soil barrier to be placed at KPN will be detailed on the construction plans and will be based on the District's final land use plans for KPN. The District has notified NPS that it will host public meetings in 2023 to accept public input on the District's redevelopment plans for KPN. It is estimated that this phase will take approximately one year to complete, but that timeline may change based on developments in the field or other factors. The implementation phase of the CERCLA response action will follow the remedial design phase. During this phase the construction or implementation of the Selected Remedy described in the ROD and specified in the remedial design documents will be completed (i.e., placement of the clean soil barrier, and other related site work and activities). It is estimated that this phase will take approximately one year to complete.

All of the key Site-related documents are included in the Site Administrative Record. The Site Administrative Record includes all documents that formed the basis for selection of the cleanup alternative. Compact disks that contain the most updated Administrative Record have been provided to the Benning (Dorothy I. Heights) Neighborhood Library at the address provided below. The public may view the disks on computer available for public use at the Benning library. Electronic copies of the administrative record may also be requested by contacting the NPS Kenilworth Park Landfill CERCLA project manager, Donna Davies, at donna_davies@nps.gov or (202) 359-3234. Key Site documents are also available for download on the NPS Kenilworth Park Landfill webpage which can be accessed at:

<https://www.nps.gov/anac/learn/management/kpls.htm>.

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