

NPL Site Narrative for Berks Sand Pit

BERKS SAND PIT

Longswamp Township, Pennsylvania

Conditions at listing (September 1983): The Berks Sand Pit covers 0.5 acre in Longswamp Township near the Village of Huffs Church in Berks County, Pennsylvania. The privately-owned sand pit was used for disposal of chemical waste before it was filled in and regraded. Nearby residential wells serving three homes have been severely contaminated with organic compounds such as trichloroethane and 1,2-dichloroethane, as well as some metals, according to tests conducted by EPA and the State. Contaminated ground water is discharging into the headwaters of the north branch of the Perkiomen Creek, which is a major public water source for the Philadelphia Suburban Water Co. and is also used for recreational fishing.

In April 1983, EPA allocated \$782,000 in CERCLA emergency funds to provide temporary drinking water to nearby residents, install a collection and treatment system, and remove contaminated material from the pit.

Status (June 1984): The State and EPA have signed a Cooperative Agreement for a remedial investigation/feasibility study to determine the type and extent of contamination at the site and identify alternatives for remedial action. Also, EPA will assess the site to determine if any additional immediate response is necessary.

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at [ATSDR - ToxFAQs](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.