NPL Site Narrative for Ellenville Scrap Iron and Metal

ELLENVILLE SCRAP IRON AND METAL
Ellenville, New York

Conditions at Proposal (September 13, 2001): The Ellenville Scrap Iron and Metal facility is a 24-acre, inactive scrap iron and metal reclamation facility located at 34 Cape Road in the rural Village of Ellenville, Ulster County, New York. Approximately 10 acres of the facility were used for the scrap metal operations. The facility is bound to the north by Cape Road; to the south and west by Beer Kill; and to the east by residential homes, one of which was formerly part of the property, used for the storage of heavy equipment and automobile batteries. The facility consists of an office building, truck scale, hydraulic baling machine used for metal cans and other small parts, scrap metal piles, a landfill embankment composed of construction and demolition debris, and automobile battery and brush piles. Deteriorated drums are found scattered throughout the property, the majority of which are found on the lower portion adjacent to Beer Kill. The landfill embankment, approximately 40 feet in height, runs in a crescent along a northwesterly to southeasterly axis bisecting and dividing the site into upper and lower portions.

The Ellenville facility, in operation since 1950, was used for the recycling of automobile batteries. The facility was purchased in late 1997 and used as a landfill and tire dump. A New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) permit was never obtained to operate a solid waste management facility or to store tires at the site. From 1987 to 1998 NYSDEC inspected the Ellenville facility on numerous occasions and directed the owners to remediate conditions at the site. In March 1987, Ellenville Scrap proposed a Settlement of Claim with NYSDEC, which was accepted on January 15, 1988. As part of that Settlement of Claim, Ellenville Scrap acknowledged that it was operating a solid waste management facility without a NYSDEC permit and that it had improperly disposed of industrial waste. In connection with this settlement, Ellenville Scrap agreed to close and cover the area where construction and demolition debris had been disposed. Subsequent Consent Orders entered into by Ellenville Scrap and C. Bruno Demolition with the NYSDEC called for an evaluation of site conditions and the removal of all construction and demolition debris at the facility that did not meet exemption criteria of state environmental law. As of June 2000, construction and demolition debris had not been removed from the site.

Two sources have been identified for the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) evaluation of the site: contaminated soil in the facility disposal area, and the landfill embankment. There are other areas of environmental concern, such as piles of scrap metal, miscellaneous waste, waste tires, railroad ties, and automobile batteries, as well as leachate that has been observed discharging from the embankment, ponding at its base, and flowing to and disappearing beneath a pile of brush.

There is an observed release of bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate to a surface water/sediment sampling location in Beer Kill. Beer Kill is a fishery and is designated for recreational use. Seven residential properties are located in a neighborhood adjacent to the site. There is documented contamination above regulatory levels at two of these residences with polychorinated biphenyls (PCBs); one of these residences was formerly part of the facility and was used for the storage of heavy equipment and automobile batteries.

Status (September 2002): EPA is considering various alternatives for this site.

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/toxfaqs/index.asp) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.