

**DOCUMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR DETERMINATION**

Interim Final 2/5/99

**RCRA Corrective Action**

**Environmental Indicator (EI) RCRIS code (CA725)**

**Current Human Exposures Under Control**

**Facility Name:** Vogel Disposal Services, Inc. (Seneca Landfill)  
**Facility Address:** Hazardous Waste Landfill Cells A and B, Harmony, PA 16046  
**Facility EPA ID #:** PAD 00 582 0691

1. Has **all** available relevant/significant information on known and reasonably suspected releases to soil, groundwater, surface water/sediments, and air, subject to RCRA Corrective Action (e.g., from Solid Waste Management Units (SWMU), Regulated Units (RU), and Areas of Concern (AOC)), been **considered** in this EI determination?

If yes - check here and continue with #2 below.

If no - re-evaluate existing data, or

If data are not available skip to #6 and enter "IN" (more information needed) status code.

**BACKGROUND**

**Definition of Environmental Indicators (for the RCRA Corrective Action)**

Environmental Indicators (EI) are measures being used by the RCRA Corrective Action program to go beyond programmatic activity measures (e.g., reports received and approved, etc.) to track changes in the quality of the environment. The two EI developed to-date indicate the quality of the environment in relation to current human exposures to contamination and the migration of contaminated groundwater. An EI for non-human (ecological) receptors is intended to be developed in the future.

**Definition of "Current Human Exposures Under Control" EI**

A positive "Current Human Exposures Under Control" EI determination ("YE" status code) indicates that there are no "unacceptable" human exposures to "contamination" (i.e., contaminants in concentrations in excess of appropriate risk-based levels) that can be reasonably expected under current land- and groundwater-use conditions (for all "contamination" subject to RCRA corrective action at or from the identified facility (i.e., site-wide)).

**Relationship of EI to Final Remedies**

While Final remedies remain the long-term objective of the RCRA Corrective Action program the EI are near-term objectives which are currently being used as Program measures for the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, GPRA). The "Current Human Exposures Under Control" EI are for reasonably expected human exposures under current land- and groundwater-use conditions ONLY, and do not consider potential future land- or groundwater-use conditions or ecological receptors. The RCRA Corrective Action program's overall mission to protect human health and the environment requires that Final remedies address these issues (i.e., potential future human exposure scenarios, future land and groundwater uses, and ecological receptors).

**Duration / Applicability of EI Determinations**

EI Determinations status codes should remain in RCRIS national database ONLY as long as they remain true (i.e., RCRIS status codes must be changed when the regulatory authorities become aware of contrary information).

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2. Are groundwater, soil, surface water, sediments, or air **media** known or reasonably suspected to be **“contaminated”**<sup>1</sup> above appropriately protective risk-based “levels” (applicable promulgated standards, as well as other appropriate standards, guidelines, guidance, or criteria) from releases subject to RCRA Corrective Action (from SWMUs, RUs or AOCs)?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>?</u>	<u>Rationale / Key Contaminants</u>
Groundwater	<b>X</b>			
Air (indoors) <sup>2</sup>		X		NO indoor air pathway associated with SWMUs.
Surface Soil (e.g., <2 ft)		X		
Surface Water		X		
Sediment		X		
Subsurf. Soil (e.g., >2 ft)		X		This is a NO.
Air (outdoors)		X		

\_\_\_\_\_ If no (for all media) - skip to #6, and enter “YE,” status code after providing or citing appropriate “levels,” and referencing sufficient supporting documentation demonstrating that these “levels” are not exceeded.

**X** If yes (for any media) - continue after identifying key contaminants in each “contaminated” medium, citing appropriate “levels” (or provide an explanation for the determination that the medium could pose an unacceptable risk), and referencing supporting documentation.

\_\_\_\_\_ If unknown (for any media) - skip to #6 and enter “IN” status code.

**Rationale and Reference(s):** Cells A and B of Seneca Landfill, formerly known as Vogel Disposal Services, Inc., have been both closed under the 25 PA Code 264.111 9o)(2) Hazardous Waste Regulations with a PVC synthetic cap. It was known in 1987 that K061, K064 and clarifier sludge waste from ARMCO, Inc. had been placed in isolated areas of the municipal waste landfill. It was determined about a year later that F019 waste-water treatment sludge from the chemical conversion coating of aluminum from NAPCO had been mixed with general plant refuse since 1982 and placed along with other waste received at the Vogel site as part of routine operations. The hazardous waste area comprised about 22 acres. It was argued by NAPCO, Inc. that the waste might be eligible to be delisted by EPA and PADEP, though no petition was pursued according to PADEP records. There is also recognition that additional listed wastes were placed in this site prior to the Module 1 procedure which required all residual wastes to be analyzed and specifically approved by the PADEP. Many waste streams were disapproved after implementation of th requirement.

In 1988 the site triggered statistics in the monitoring wells for TOX and Pb, Se, pH and sulfate. They were placed into assessment. Vogel argued that the elevation in parameters was result of past mining activities at the site and not the ARMCO or NAPCO waste. Appendix IX parameters were run and all results were negative.

A notation was required on the deed to notify any purchaser that the land had been used to manage hazardous waste. This notification was to list type, location, and quantity of waste disposed within each cell and was to be filed with municipality. It is questionable if this was ever done, as Vogel wished to resolve the hazardous nature of the ARMCO and NAPCO sludge first.

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**PADEP Bureau of Air Quality permitted a gas venting system with ground flares. Approximately 1/3 of the landfill was closed and capped in the fall of 1989, and the remainder was not completed until 1993 and vegetated in 1994.**

**PADEP internal memos indicate that there are concerns that the groundwater flow directions have not been clearly established for the site, and that the entire landfill monitoring system needs reevaluation. A redesign of the site monitoring in conjunction with a proposal to expand the operating landfill was submitted in 1996. This expansion was recently placed on hold by Vogel because it would require a longer review period than available before Seneca runs out of air space. A secondary proposal was made to excavate the closed area B (but not A) in order to obtain an increase in air space. This formal proposal is being prepared and should be submitted in late 1998 or early 1999. It will include excavation of the municipal and hazardous waste materials from cell B (primarily ARMCO waste) and their replacement into Subtitle D equivalent disposal cells. The construction is expected to take place in 1999-2000.**

**As Seneca is an operating municipal waste landfill, groundwater monitoring is performed quarterly on a series of regulatory monitoring wells.**

**Closure of Landfill Cells A and B containing some hazardous waste materials has been completed according to regulatory procedures for hazardous waste landfills, i.e., with a synthetic cap. It is the future intention of the permittee to excavate the entire contents of A and B and place the waste in a double lined, Subtitle D designed cells (or cell). This action is not required by regulation or as a corrective action, but would be preferable to the present cap in terms of limiting future exposure, and the concept is expected to be approved if the design meets all other regulatory requirements of PA Municipal Waste Regulations.**

Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> “Contamination” and “contaminated” describes media containing contaminants (in any form, NAPL and/or dissolved, vapors, or solids, that are subject to RCRA) in concentrations in excess of appropriately protective risk-based “levels” (for the media, that identify risks within the acceptable risk range).

<sup>2</sup> Recent evidence (from the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, and others) suggest that unacceptable indoor air concentrations are more common in structures above groundwater with volatile contaminants than previously believed. This is a rapidly developing field and reviewers are encouraged to look to the latest guidance for the appropriate methods and scale of demonstration necessary to be reasonably certain that indoor air (in structures located above (and adjacent to) groundwater with volatile contaminants) does not present unacceptable risks.

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3. Are there **complete pathways** between “contamination” and human receptors such that exposures can be reasonably expected under the current (land- and groundwater-use) conditions?

**Summary Exposure Pathway Evaluation Table**

Potential **Human Receptors** (Under Current Conditions)

<b><u>“Contaminated” Media</u></b>	Residents	Workers	Day-Care	Construction	Trespassers	Recreation	Food <sup>3</sup>
Groundwater	No	No	No	No			No
Air (indoors)	No	No	No				
Soil (surface, e.g., <2 ft)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Surface Water	No	No			No	No	No
Sediment	No	No			No	No	No
Soil (subsurface e.g., >2 ft)				No			No
Air (outdoors)	No	No	No	No	No		

Instructions for Summary Exposure Pathway Evaluation Table:

1. Strike-out specific Media including Human Receptors’ spaces for Media which are not “contaminated”) as identified in #2 above.
2. enter “yes” or “no” for potential “completeness” under each “Contaminated” Media -- Human Receptor combination (Pathway).

Note: In order to focus the evaluation to the most probable combinations some potential “Contaminated” Media - Human Receptor combinations (Pathways) do not have check spaces (“\_\_\_”). While these combinations may not be probable in most situations they may be possible in some settings and should be added as necessary.

**X** If no (pathways are not complete for any contaminated media-receptor combination) - skip to #6, and enter “YE” status code, after explaining and/or referencing condition(s) in-place, whether natural or man-made, preventing a complete exposure pathway from each contaminated medium (e.g., use optional Pathway Evaluation Work Sheet to analyze major pathways).

\_\_\_\_\_ If yes (pathways are complete for any “Contaminated” Media - Human Receptor combination) - continue after providing supporting explanation.

\_\_\_\_\_ If unknown (for any “Contaminated” Media - Human Receptor combination) - skip to #6 and enter “IN” status code

Rationale and Reference(s): \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>3</sup> Indirect Pathway/Receptor (e.g., vegetables, fruits, crops, meat and dairy products, fish, shellfish, etc.)

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4. Can the **exposures** from any of the complete pathways identified in #3 be reasonably expected to be **“significant”**<sup>4</sup> (i.e., potentially “unacceptable” because exposures can be reasonably expected to be: 1) greater in magnitude (intensity, frequency and/or duration) than assumed in the derivation of the acceptable “levels” (used to identify the “contamination”); or 2) the combination of exposure magnitude (perhaps even though low) and contaminant concentrations (which may be substantially above the acceptable “levels”) could result in greater than acceptable risks)?

\_\_\_\_\_ If no (exposures can not be reasonably expected to be significant (i.e., potentially “unacceptable”) for any complete exposure pathway) - skip to #6 and enter “YE” status code after explaining and/or referencing documentation justifying why the exposures (from each of the complete pathways) to “contamination” (identified in #3) are not expected to be “significant.”

\_\_\_\_\_ If yes (exposures could be reasonably expected to be “significant” (i.e., potentially “unacceptable”) for any complete exposure pathway) - continue after providing a description (of each potentially “unacceptable” exposure pathway) and explaining and/or referencing documentation justifying why the exposures (from each of the remaining complete pathways) to “contamination” (identified in #3) are not expected to be “significant.”

\_\_\_\_\_ If unknown (for any complete pathway) - skip to #6 and enter “IN” status code

Rationale and  
Reference(s): \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>4</sup> If there is any question on whether the identified exposures are “significant” (i.e., potentially “unacceptable”) consult a human health Risk Assessment specialist with appropriate education, training and experience.

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5. Can the “significant” **exposures** (identified in #4) be shown to be within **acceptable** limits?

\_\_\_\_\_ If yes (all “significant” exposures have been shown to be within acceptable limits) - continue and enter “YE” after summarizing and referencing documentation justifying why all “significant” exposures to “contamination” are within acceptable limits (e.g., a site-specific Human Health Risk Assessment).

\_\_\_\_\_ If no (there are current exposures that can be reasonably expected to be “unacceptable”)- continue and enter “NO” status code after providing a description of each potentially “unacceptable” exposure.

\_\_\_\_\_ If unknown (for any potentially “unacceptable” exposure) - continue and enter “IN” status code

Rationale and

Reference(s): \_\_\_\_\_

