

**Higgins Disposal Service
Kingston, New Jersey
Region 2
NJD053102232**

Site Exposure Potential

The Higgins Disposal Service site covers 15 hectares north of Kingston, New Jersey (Figure 1). From an unknown date, an unpermitted landfill and waste transfer facility operated on the site. The quantity of chemical wastes on-site was estimated at 1,730 m³ in 1974. In October 1982, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection issued an Administrative Order to cease the acceptance and disposal of solid waste and to remove waste already at the facility (EPA 1986). Another NPL site, Higgins Farm, is nearby.

A small pond is 180 meters downgradient from the landfill. The pond drains via a conduit into Dirty Brook 200 meters from the landfill (EPA 1986). Dirty Brook flows 600 meters, under the Delaware Raritan Canal via a culvert, and into the Millstone River (USGS 1981; Stuart 1989). The Millstone River flows for 22 km before it enters the Raritan River, which empties into Raritan Bay 35 km below the confluence with the Millstone (USFWS 1980).

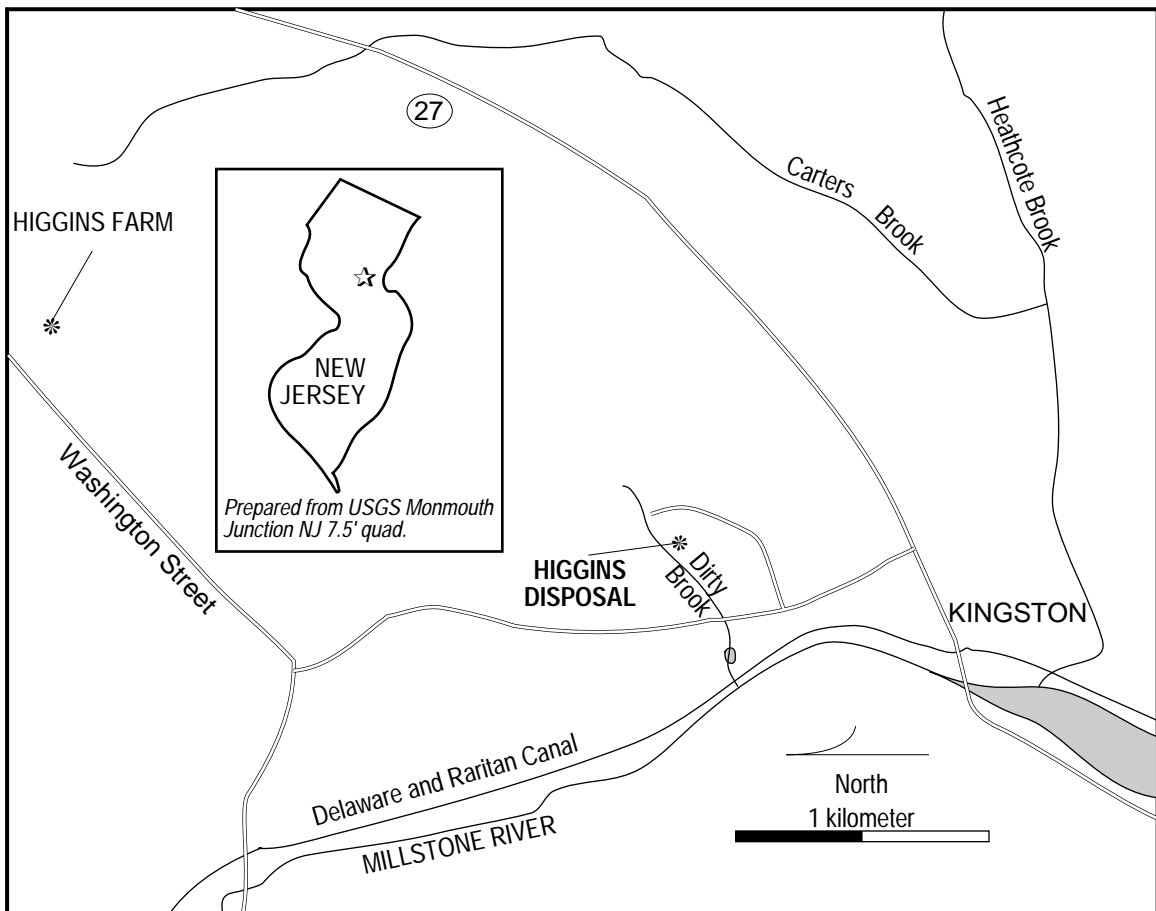


Figure 1. The Higgins Disposal site in Kingston, New Jersey.

Possible contaminant migratory pathways to NOAA trust resources are surface water runoff and groundwater flow to the Millstone River.

Site-Related Contamination

The contaminants of primary concern to NOAA at the site include PCBs, pesticides, and volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds. A PCB mixture, Aroclor 1248, was found in soil from the landfill and in sediment collected in the pond. Other contaminants found in soil and sediment collected at the site included 4,4'-DDD; tetrachloroethene; 1,2-dichlorobenzene; and bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate. Concentrations of these contaminants were not available in the document reviewed (EPA 1986).

NOAA Trust Habitats and Species in Site Vicinity

Dirty Brook is a small, continuously flowing, low-gradient stream. No additional information on the stream was available. The Millstone River is a slow, continuously flowing, low-gradient system that is 12 to 15 meters wide and 0.3 to 2 meters deep. The substrate consists of silt. Water quality is degraded in the stretch of the river at Kingston (Stuart 1989).

There are runs of blueback herring and alewife on the Millstone River, but they have not been documented in Dirty Brook and are not expected to use the stream due to the culvert under the Delaware and Raritan Canal. American eels have been documented in the river and are expected to be present in Dirty Brook (Table 1) (Stuart 1989).

Table 1. NOAA trust resource use of the Millstone River and Dirty Brook (Stuart 1989).

Species	Dirty Brook	Millstone River
alewife		S,N,M
American eel	A	A,M
blueback herring		S,N,M

S: Spawning area; N: Nursery; A: Adult area; M: Migratory route

Response Category: Federal Fund Lead

Current Stage of Site Action: RI/FS Workplan

EPA Site Manager

Jim Schmidtberger 212-264-6479

NOAA Coastal Resource Coordinator

John Lindsay 404-347-5231

References

EPA. 1986. Hazardous Ranking Score worksheets and documentation for Higgins Disposal Service, Kingston, New Jersey. Edison, New Jersey: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2.

Stuart, R., biologist, New Jersey Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries, Atlantic City, personal communication, January 12, 1989.

USFWS. 1980. Atlantic coast ecological inventory: Newark. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1:250,000 scale map.

USGS. 1981. Monmouth Junction, New Jersey. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Geological Survey. 7.5 minute series quadrangle.