

## NOAA Hazardous Waste Site Report

Price Landfill (II-4)  
Pleasantville, New Jersey  
April 13, 1984

### Location and Nature of Site:

Price's Landfill is a 22-acre inactive landfill (site #1) which contains an estimated 4.8 million gallons of bulk liquid and solid hazardous wastes (Figure 1). During the period of site operations (1969-1976), the landfill accepted solid and liquid hazardous wastes (including benzene, chloroform, trichloroethylene, sludges, grease, and oil), and septic and sewer wastes. Some liquids were poured directly into the ground. Others were buried in 55-gallon drums. Since closure, areas of the landfill have been thinly covered with soil.

There is substantial and serious groundwater contamination from leachate seepage from the site. Nearby residential wells have been closed. The water intake wells of the Atlantic City water supply are one mile downgradient to the path of the groundwater plume of contamination. Further groundwater contamination is suspected. Field teams observed a pungent odor and detected high levels of organic vapors (greater than 1000 parts per million on the Century Organic Vapor Analyzer) emanating from the site.

Three other sites (Price's #2, #3, and #4) operated by the owners of Site #1 are being investigated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Site #2 is inactive and no discharge has been confirmed. Site #3 is a series of pits created by sand and gravel mining operations, some of which are still operating. Hazardous materials dumping has not been confirmed. Site #4 was used as a sanitary landfill from 1974 to 1981. It is suspected that hazardous wastes were accepted. It is now inactive and areas of the landfill have been thinly covered with soil.

### Proximity of Chemical Hazard to Marine Resources:

Chemical contamination in drinking water and in soil and air at the site has been well documented. Price's Landfill leachate flows down Jarrets Creek and into Absecon Creek less than one mile away. Absecon Creek is a wetland area approximately one mile from Absecon Bay. Absecon Bay is directly north of Atlantic City on the Atlantic Ocean coast.

### Marine Resources at Risk:

This site is located near Absecon Bay, a large lagoon on New Jersey's Atlantic coast. Absecon Bay and its estuaries provide

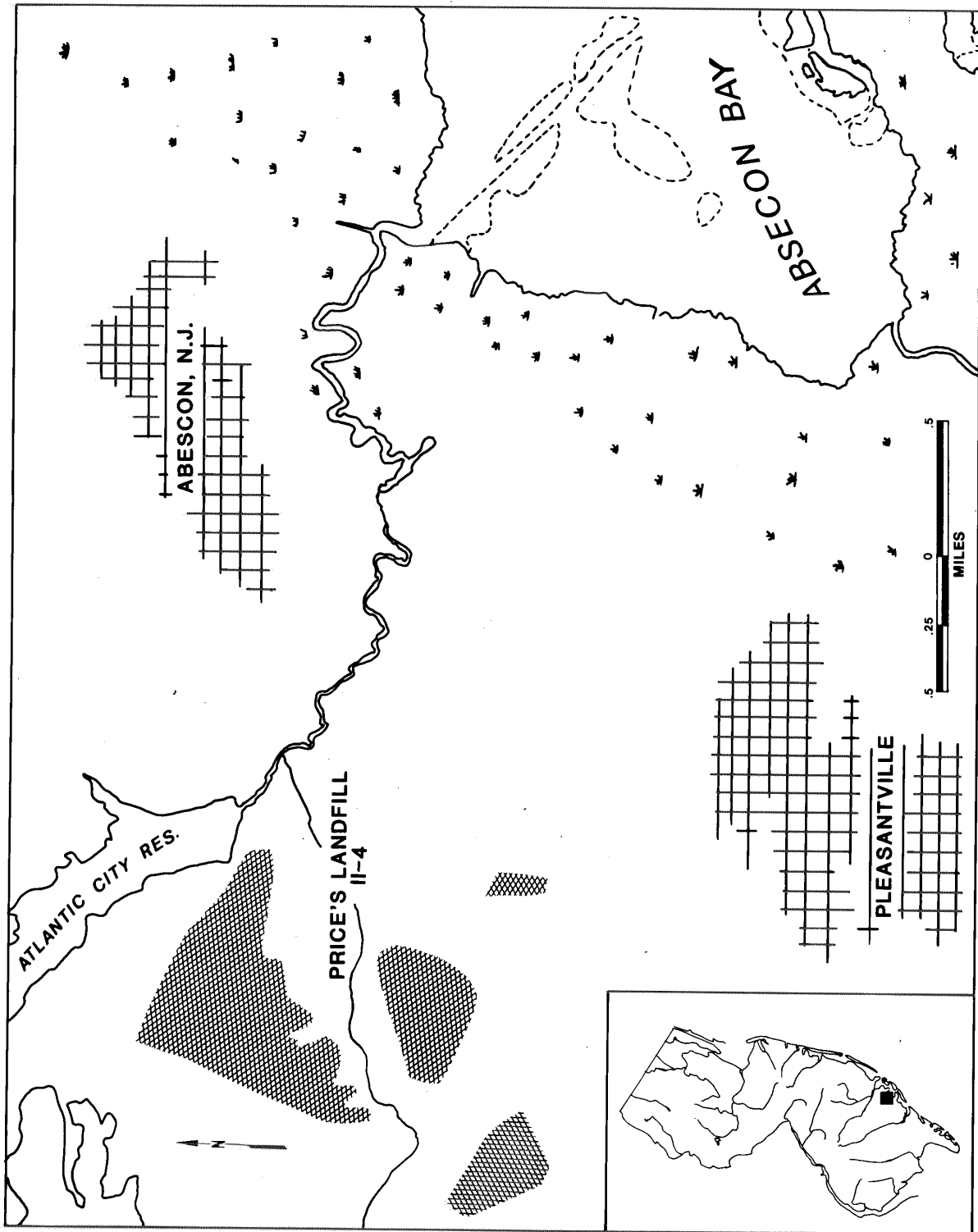


FIGURE 1. Site location.

significant habitat for a variety of finfish and shellfish resources (see Table 1).

Table 1. Fishery Resources of Absecon Bay (1,2,4)

Finfish Species	Adult Habitat	Spawning Area	Nursery Area	Comm. Fish.	Rec. Fish.	Migr. Route
<u>Anadromous</u>						
Alewife						x
Blueback herring						x
Shortnose sturgeon						x
Atlantic sturgeon						x
Striped bass						x
Gizzard shad						x
<u>Non-anadromous</u>						
White perch	x			x	x	
Flounder	x		x	x	x	
Bluefish	x			x	x	
Atlantic croaker	x		x			
Spotted seatrout	x	x			x	
Black drum		x			x	
Silver perch		x	x		x	
Bay anchovy	x	x				
Hake	x			x	x	
Spot	x				x	
<u>Shellfish</u>						
Blue crab	x	x	x	x	x	
Hard clam	x	x	x	x	x	
Eastern oyster	x	x	x	x	x	

Anadromous fish migrate through this area during the early spring on their way to freshwater spawning grounds. The adults return to the more saline estuarine and marine areas. Juvenile fish, hatched in the spring, remain in the freshwater areas of the rivers until the late summer and early fall when they also migrate back into the estuaries and ocean.

The Absecon Bay area is an important recreational and commercial fishery area for many finfish and shellfish species, and is a nursery area for shellfish and non-anadromous finfish. This area is also an important wintering area for many migratory waterfowl, and shorebirds and seabirds nest in the nearby marshlands and beaches. The least tern, a species of special state concern, nests at the southwest corner of Absecon Bay.

This site is located ten miles north of Forked River Game Farm and twelve miles from Island Beach State Park.

Summary of Site-Related Actions:

During 1980-1981 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed violation citations against 36 companies and individuals believed to be responsible for dumping at the site. EPA consultants Camp, Dresser & McKee devised, in 1982, an interim water supply plan for the area during peak water demand months. In 1982-1983, New Jersey DEP began a Winter Monitoring Program. In 1983, consultants presented Feasibility Study Alternatives to area residents.

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References:

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