
U.S. EPA Begins Sampling at Historical Waste Sites

Eastern Sandusky County Assessment Project

Clyde, Ohio

February 2012

Call us

EPA has dedicated a toll-free hotline **855-838-1304** to gather tips about potentially contaminated sites and unsafe waste disposal practices in the region. All calls are kept confidential.

On the Web

EPA's webpage will provide updates about ongoing work: www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/easternsandusky

For more information

For questions, comments or for more information about the Eastern Sandusky County investigation you can contact these U.S. EPA team members:

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EPA Chicago office toll-free:

800-621-8431, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., weekdays

Read the documents

Two area libraries contain an information repository with official documents about the Eastern Sandusky County investigation:

Clyde Public Library

222 W. Buckeye

Birchard Public Library

423 Croghan St.
Fremont

Starting the week of Feb. 13, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and its contractors will collect soil, air and water samples at sites in Eastern Sandusky County. The Agency is looking for possible contamination, focusing on 14 sites identified by Ohio state agencies. EPA will conduct "geophysical" surveys, which use magnetic and radar sensing, to help identify possible waste burial areas at the 14 sites. EPA expects the field work to take at least three weeks.

Last August, EPA officials met with local families affected by childhood cancer. EPA is conducting this environmental assessment to help answer questions and respond to concerns raised by the affected families and county residents. The Agency is also taking a new look at the environmental data previously collected in the area.

Progress to-date

In January, EPA established a confidential hotline (*see box at left*) for local residents to call if they have information or concerns about local dumpsites. Nearly 50 calls and emails have come in so far and investigators are following up on every lead. EPA is interviewing residents and reviewing documents, historical data and aerial photographs of the locations.

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U.S. EPA investigators make a preliminary survey of a possible hazardous waste site in Eastern Sandusky County. Sampling is being conducted at locations like this one looking for evidence of contamination.

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The initial investigation will focus on 14 sites identified in a 2009 study prepared by Ohio state agencies:

- Amert Lagoon site.
- Bellevue City Dump.
- Clyde City Dump.
- Formulated Products site.
- Golembiowski Dump.
- Green Township Dump.
- Leach Dump.
- McGrath Dump.
- Meggitt Landfill.
- Riley Township Dump.
- Townsend Township Dump.
- Whirlpool Manufacturing site.
- Wickerham Drum.
- York Township Dump.

How is the sampling done?

EPA will collect several types of samples in “Summa Canisters” during this investigation. A special type of drilling rig called a “geoprobe” will be used to push a clear tube into the ground at several locations. The team will select these locations based on geophysical surveys and aerial photographs that show possible waste burial locations. EPA will also take samples at random locations where no specific information is available.

The team will test soil samples with field instruments to determine whether radiation or a family of hazardous chemicals called volatile organic compounds are present. Samples will be sent to a laboratory for more detailed analysis.

If the team encounters groundwater during soil sampling, a temporary well will be installed to collect water samples. “Groundwater” is a term for underground supplies of fresh water. The laboratory tests will be used to determine if the groundwater is contaminated.

If investigators find buried material at a site, they will also collect soil gas samples. Soil gas is created when fumes from waste materials are trapped between soil particles. Soil gas is collected by drilling a hole and inserting a tube that is connected to a Summa Canister. Samples will be analyzed to determine whether metals, volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, polychlorinated biphenyls, pesticides or herbicides are present.

When will the public see results?

EPA will provide a status update in late spring or early summer, after a complete laboratory analysis of the samples. The investigations will determine if further federal action is warranted at any location(s). Additional sampling with more sensitive equipment may also be necessary.

