



## Washington County Landfill Reconstruction Project: Progress Updates

This page provides information on the status of the Washington County Landfill reconstruction project. The MPCA's Remedy Decision Document was signed in June 2008. Check this page for future updates. The MPCA's site manager during the project is Pat Hanson, 651-757-2409 or [pat.hanson@state.mn.us](mailto:pat.hanson@state.mn.us).

### Progress Updates

#### April 21, 2011

The waste relocation will be completed this week. Buffer soil is going over the waste in preparation for the top liner which is scheduled to begin the week of May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The liner work should be completed by mid-summer. The contractor will place soil over the top plastic liner as each remaining section is completed. All gas wells have been installed and the lateral/ header gas pipes to the flare are currently being installed. The flare system has been installed and phone line connected in preparation for startup after the gas piping is completed. Trees are scheduled to be planted along Jamaca Avenue in May.

#### Winter 2011

Contractor has decided to run a partial crew and continue to haul waste throughout the winter when the weather permits safe operation of equipment. The last waste to relocate onto the landfill is located in the northeast corner of the site. Contractor expects to have all remaining waste relocated onto the new lined landfill by March 18<sup>th</sup>. He will cover the waste with buffer soil in preparation for final top liner which should start around mid-April.

#### September 29, 2010

Contractor has placed the clay barrier liner in the bottom of the last cell to be constructed and is installing the first layer of plastic

liner. Contractor has begun to excavate the waste stockpile on the north side of the site. Two cells (A & D) are completed with final cover and vegetation growing. The contractor will complete the plastic liner in the last cell and will continue to haul waste into the lined cells that have been completed until winter shutdown.

Photo below shows the first two completed cells with final cover and vegetation growing.



**September 1, 2010**

c-pfc1-08

Contractor has covered the first new cell with topsoil, seeded the soil, and installed erosion control blanket. Temporary water-supply system with sprinklers was installed on the new cover to make sure the grass survives the hot weather and anticipated dry soil conditions this fall. The seventh cell has the liner installed and is ready to be filled with waste which can be seen in the back of the photo below. The eighth and final cell is being graded in preparation for liner installation which can be seen in the foreground. In the next month the contractor will be concentrating on moving the remaining waste material onto the new cells and installing the liner system in the last cell.



August 9, 2010

The contractor has completed six of the eight new waste cells. Contractor has completed the excavation for the seventh cell and is installing the clay base liner prior to the plastic liner system. He has begun to excavate waste to build the final cell in the northwest corner of the site. Two cells now have the final cover over the top of the waste and the contractor will be covering the cells with top soil and seeding the area this month. Contractor will continue to place waste in the other cells and complete the final cover as they are constructed to grade. All waste should be moved and covered by November of this year. Contractor will be hauling in additional topsoil to complete each cell as needed.

Photos below show contractor excavating waste, installing clay liner on the north side of the site. The area he is working is where the last two cells will be located.



**June 21, 2010**

Wet weather has slowed progress at the site for the last ten days. Contractor has completed the liner system in the fifth new cell and the liner system passed quality-control testing requirements. Contractor is in the process of placing two feet of sand over new liner system in preparation of filling cell with waste. The sand layer acts as a cushion to protect the liner system when the contractor fills the first lift of the new cell with waste. Contractor will start filling the cell with waste this week and will start hauling in material to construct the next cell.

Photo below shows contractor placing two feet of sand over liner prior to placing garbage.



**May 28, 2010**

Contractor has completed the clay and plastic liner in the next waste cell and is planning to start filling the new cell with waste next week. So far this year most of the work has been below street level as the liner was being installed. With waste excavation starting next week there will be significant number of trucks and backhoes operating continuously for the next two weeks hauling waste. Dust and litter control will be used as needed.

c-pfc1-08

**May 13, 2010**

Wet weather has slowed the contractor this week. When weather permits, contractor has continued to install plastic liner in cell B and clay liner in cell C. Contractor has also started to shape cell A to finished grade elevation in preparation for installing the top cover system.

Photo below shows plastic liner installed on cell B and clay layer being installed on cell C.



Photo below shows contractor testing clay liner in cell C.



**April 24, 2010**

The dry, warm spring has accelerated construction activities at the site. Construction of Cell B clay liner is almost complete as of 4/23/10. Garbage continues to be excavated from Cells C and G and placed on the new lined area. Plastic liner construction in Cell B is scheduled to begin the week of April 26. Photo below shows various operations required to get proper moisture content and compaction of the clay.



**April 12, 2010**

Contractor has started construction activities for 2010. Contractor spent last week grading site and screening on-site soil in preparation for start of liner construction in cell B this week. Contractor will also begin installing leachate recirculation piping in the cells that were completed last year. Photo below shows contractor grading cell B.





**November 19, 2009**

The liner on cell E has been completed and tested. Contractor started hauling waste onto the new liner today and will place about six feet of waste on top of the liner before shutting down for the winter. Contractor has installed the 30,000-gallon liquid storage tank. Cell B will be the next cell to be completed (spring 2010). The waste material has been removed and clay stockpiled in preparation for this next phase of work. Contractor will continue to haul clay onto site for the next several weeks and will continue to place waste

in cell E. Construction activities will shut down in early December and will start up again in March.

**November 9, 2009**

Contractor has completed the bottom liner in cell E and is waiting for test results before placing waste onto the new liner. He will then place six to eight feet of waste onto the liner and shut down for the winter. Picture below shows the site with the news cells outlined for reference. The car on the road is headed south on Jamaca Avenue.



**October 30, 2009**

Wet weather slowed progress at the site over the last week. When the contractor has been able to work he has continued to install the clay and plastic liner in the third cell (cell E). With the short daylight hours and wet conditions preventing efficient operations, the contractor is starting to demobilize equipment from the site in preparation for shutting the project down until next spring. At the weekly construction meeting the contractor indicated his plans are to complete the clay and plastic liner in Cell E and place 6 to 10 feet on top of it to protect the integrity of the liner. This work should be completed by mid-November, after which he will shut down the site unless the weather changes to unseasonably warm and dry conditions.



*Contractor moving waste (~10/5/09)*

**October 16, 2009**

Work at the site was very slow the past week due to rain and snow. Contractor hauled in clay when the weather permitted but had difficulties with the trucks getting stuck as they unloaded. He also continued relocating waste onto the new cells. There are eight new cells planned for the site. A map of the cell layout has been added to the project Web page for ease of reference. The contractor has started on the south half of the site and has completed two cells (A and D), and is working on the next two cells B and E. He will continue to work on the next two cells until winter weather conditions makes construction operations inefficient. He will continue to haul waste onto the completed cells this winter and will resume the construction of the remaining cell next spring.

**October 2, 2009**

Contractor completed sand drainage placement in cell D and started filling new cell with waste immediately. Contractor is excavating waste from the next two cell location and has starting installing the clay liner in cell B. Construction activity has increased greatly over the week as the contractor is pushing to complete the two remaining cells planned for this year by November 1. High wind on Monday caused some litter to blow around the site which was policed up on Tuesday by the contractor. Rain on Thursday and Friday shut down the site and will take some time to dry out before work will resume.

**September 28, 2009**

Contractor has completed the installation of the composite liner in cell D and has starting placing the sand buffer on top of the liner system. Once completed he will immediately start filling the new cell with waste material. Contractor is continuing to excavate the area where the next two cells will be built. Next week the level of construction activity will increase as he brings in extra staff and equipment to place the waste in the new cell.

**September 21, 2009**

With the good weather conditions last week the contractor made excellent progress. All of the waste material has been removed from second new cell and the contractor has started installing the plastic liner. The liner crew should have the new liner installed in the second cell by the middle of the week and the contractor will immediately start filling the new cell with waste. As the liner is being installed in the second cell the contractor is starting to excavate the area for the third new cell which will be located in the southeast corner of the site. Heavy construction activity will continue next week as this stage of the project proceeds.

Photo below shows the new liner being installed in the second cell.



**September 9, 2009**

Waste from Cell E and Cell B continued to be moved to the completed Cell A. Cell D, the second cell to be lined, began having clay placed on the west side slope and bottom. Plastic liner is expected to begin deployment the week of 9/14/09. Photo below shows the clay in Cell D and a significant amount of waste removed from Cell E.



**September 4, 2009**

Contractor made excellent progress this week. Approximately 125,000 yards of waste was relocated onto the first new lined cell. Waste is now being placed above the existing ground elevation in the new cell which increases the noise level in that area. Contractor has begun hauling in clay for the first layer of liner in the next new cell. Increased truck traffic will incur as the clay is delivered to the site over the next several weeks.

**August 25, 2009**

Rain has slowed progress again. The contractor continues to remove waste from the next cell location and relocate it in the newly constructed cell. There are currently seven off-road trucks and four scrapers hauling waste material. Most of the activity is confined to the south side of the site. The contractor hopes to have most of the waste removed from the next cell location by the end of next week. As work progresses, more trucks will be visible as the new cell grows in elevation. The photo below shows waste being removed and relocated to the new cell.



**August 21, 2009**

Rain and wet site conditions slowed the contractor for much of this week. When they were able to work they moved waste material from the basin of the next cell to be constructed, cell B, onto the new liner in cell A. They will continue this operation over the next 7 to 10 days. Most construction activity will be occurring below surface elevation, which should reduce the amount of construction noise. The contractor is planning to resume hauling clay onto the site next week, which will increase truck traffic on Jamaca Avenue.

**August 17, 2009**

The liner construction of the first cell was completed August 12. Sand drainage layer was placed afterward, and was completed last Friday. The contractor began excavating and moving waste the same day from the next cell north of the new cell. This waste move should continue for the next three weeks.

The photos below show the sand drainage layer being spread over the liner system, and the side-slope riser and cleanout pipes that will be used to remove leachate from the landfill.



**August 7, 2009**

The contractor has finished excavating waste from the first new cell basin. The liner crew is continuing to install liner in the new cell, with the consultant leak-testing as it is installed. The majority of the waste stockpile has been covered with soil and seeded, and has had an erosion-control blanket placed on it. The entire waste stockpile is expected to be covered and seeded by the end of the week. Truck traffic and heavy-equipment activity has been minimal over the past week as the major activity has been liner placement and testing. Construction activities next week will include completing the liner installation; after that, the contractor will immediately start hauling sand from the stockpile on the south end of the site to be placed over the finished liner in the new cell. After sand placement is done the contractor will begin filling waste into the new cell.

The photos below show the waste stockpile being covered/seeded and the liner crew working on the first cell.





**July 30, 2009**

The contractor is 95 percent done with hauling waste material from first new cell basin. The waste stockpile is being covered with soil and seeded. The major effort last week was hauling in and compacting clay in the new cell basin. There was lots of truck traffic coming into the site as the material was delivered. Additional clay will not be needed at the site for the next several weeks. The liner subcontractor is 75 percent done with installing the first two layers of plastic liner. Testing of the liner for leaks has begun and should be completed by Friday. The liner contractor will immediately begin installing the next layer of liner as testing is completed. Next week's construction activities will consist of liner installation and testing. The contractor will excavate and haul the remaining waste from the first basin and complete the closure of the waste stockpile. The number of trucks and heavy equipment operating at the site will be reduced greatly as the first waste move is completed.



Panorama of first two layers of plastic liner installed and in the process of being tested for leak.



Contractor is completing waste move from first cell.



Waste stockpile is covered with soil on the north side of site.

**July 22, 2009**

About 230,000 yards of waste have been excavated to accommodate the first new cell. The contractor is stockpiling waste material on the north side of site. In response to an odor complaint, the contractor is covering the pile with dirt, which should take care of odors shortly. The Department of Health has talked with the resident who had the complaint. The contractor has begun installing the bottom layer of clay in the new cell and started installing the first layer of synthetic liner over the clay on Monday. Leak testing of the synthetic liner will begin tomorrow. Rolls of liner are being delivered and stored on-site each day. Staff from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency visited the site last week with MPCA staff from the Superfund program.



In this photo the contractor has removed all the waste and is down to the final grade elevation in the first new cell. He is now placing the clay layer over the native soil. The clay liner is the first layer of protection. The clay comes to the site in a loose form which the contractor here is spreading out with bulldozer. It is then compacted with a sheepfoot (spiked roller) to the required density, then rolled out smooth with a drum roller. The end result is seen on the finished side slope to the right of the picture. The next layer will be plastic liner over the smoothed-out clay, followed by more plastic liner.



Liner rolls stockpiled on site.



Excavation.

**July 6, 2009**



Cell A excavation looking east. South portion at final bottom elevation (not in groundwater). Contractor is excavating waste in north portion.



Northeast corner of landfill looking east. Waste stockpile located on top of existing landfill cover. Grey color is a spray-on product to seal surface, to reduce blowing litter and odor.

**July 2, 2009**

Contractor started moving waste at the site last week. Earlier this week they were about 50 percent done with digging out the first cell. Photos below show recent progress. The whitish residue covering exposed wastes is a spray-on solution consisting of clay, water, and cement, applied to control odors and litter (Posi-Shell Cover System).



**June 22, 2009**

The project contractor has been stripping soil off the existing cover on top of the landfill in preparation for excavating wastes, which will start later this week or next. The contractor also removed old storage tanks and sealed some monitoring wells and gas probes. The big push at present is to strip the cover soils where the first new cell is going to be installed.



Cover soils have been removed, exposing the synthetic membrane that forms part of the landfill's existing cover system.



Old storage tanks unearthed from the landfill will be taken off-site for recycling and/or disposal if possible.

**June 18, 2009**

Northwest corner of landfill. The clean soil stockpile is from excavations of Cell A and existing cover.

c-pfc1-08



**June 16, 2009**

Looking east from southwest corner of landfill. Clean soil being excavated from what will be new Cell A.



**June 9, 2009**

Looking southwest from the northeast corner of landfill. Reconstruction of first new waste cell is just beginning.

c-pfc1-08



**June 6, 2009**

Looking southwest from the northeast corner of landfill. Reconstruction of first new cell just beginning.



---

This page was last updated September 11, 2009

If you have suggestions on how we can improve this site, or if you have questions or problems, please [contact us](#).  
If you have questions or problems with this Web site, contact [webmaster@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:webmaster@pca.state.mn.us)  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4194  
Phone: 651-296-6300, 800-657-3864; 24-hour emergency number: 651-649-5451 or 800-422-0798; TTY: 651-282-5332,  
TTY 24-hour emergency number: 651-297-5353 or 800-627-3529  
[MPCA Web Site Policies](#)

c-pfc1-08