



Environmental Health Fact Sheet

South Andover Scrapyard Superfund Site

January, 1995

This fact sheet provides general information about the public health issues associated with a hazardous waste site—for people living near the site and members of the public. It does not provide a comprehensive discussion of all available technical information about the site, or of all health issues possibly related to the site. More detailed information can be found in reports for the site (April 1989; Sept. 1994), which are available from the Minnesota Department of Health.

Site description and history

The South Andover Scrapyard Superfund Site is located in Anoka County in the city of Andover, roughly 16 miles north-northwest of Minneapolis and three miles northeast of the city

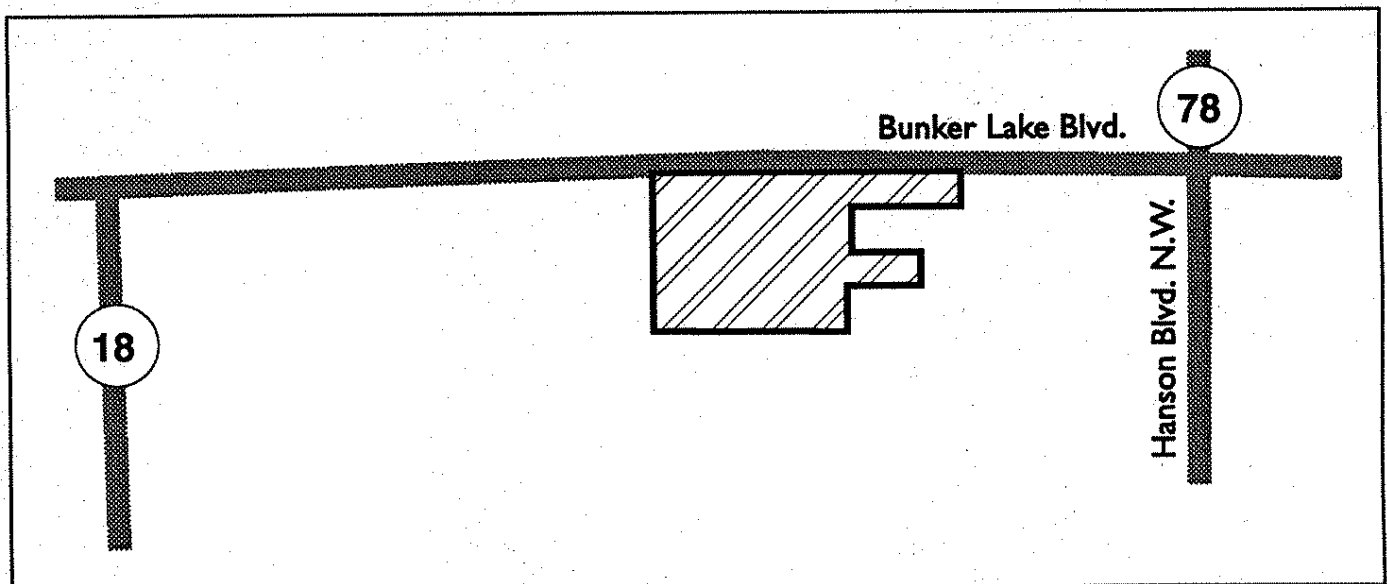
of Anoka. It is bordered on the west by Crooked Lake and Coon Creek, on the north by Bunker Lake Boulevard, and on the east by Hanson Boulevard. There is a residential neighborhood north of the site across Bunker Lake Boulevard, and extending to the west. Another large housing development is located south and southeast of the site. New homes are also being built directly to the southeast of the site.

Wastes were stored and deposited at the site from the mid-1950s to the late 1970s. These materials included ink, paint sludges, adhesives, solvents, scrap metal, junked automobiles, and large quantities of tires. The

site was also used for auto salvage and repair, waste incineration, metal smelting, open pit dumping, solvent recovery, and electric transformer salvage. Several auto salvage, repair, and sales businesses operate at the site today.

The site is located on the Anoka Sand Plain, a virtually continuous area of sandy terrain 20 to 60 feet in thickness, which covers several hundred square miles in east-central Minnesota. The groundwater is very shallow at the site, generally 6 inches to 15 feet below the surface.

Located about a half-mile north of the South Andover Scrapyard is another Superfund site, the



South Andover Scrapyard Site

WDE Landfill (also known as the Roth Landfill). The WDE site was a licensed landfill where hazardous wastes were placed in a lined pit. It was closed in 1983 and capped in 1993.

Site contamination

There are low-levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the soil and groundwater at the South Andover site. However, the individual concentrations found at the site do not pose significant health risks.

Low levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were found in most of the surface soil at the site, and are concentrated near the transformer salvaging areas. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and other semi-volatile compounds were also found in the soil at the site. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is concerned about PAHs mostly because of their cancer-causing potential.

Contamination related to the site was found in nearby wetlands, as well as in the groundwater. A tarry substance was found on the site near a wetland.

Are there health hazards associated with the site?

The concentrations of VOCs found in residential and commercial wells near the site are far below health-based standards and are not of immediate concern for human health. However, the effect of long-term exposure to low concentrations of many different VOCs is not known. MDH is concerned about possible adverse health

effects from such exposure.

The distribution of soil and groundwater contamination was concentrated in "hot spots" at the site. Contaminated soil posed a potential health risk to people regularly exposed to it, so it was removed from the site.

The wetlands at the site are not used for recreational purposes like fishing, boating or swimming, or for food production. However, children may be playing there periodically and that could expose them to contaminants in the water. The low level of contamination in the wetlands, though, should not pose a health risk as long as exposure is limited. The wetlands outside the fence line have not been contaminated.

There are also physical hazards on portions of the site, including scrap automobiles and other heavy equipment, unstable objects, and sharp objects. These items pose a threat of injury to trespassers, residents, and workers.

What is being done about the contamination?

Contamination at the site was handled in phases, with separate clean-up for the groundwater, surface water and surface soil. The final site clean-up was completed on November 14, 1994.

The original plan called for excavation and on-site biological treatment of contaminated soil, or excavation and removal of contamination to an approved

facility. This decision was amended to require removal of contaminated soil to an off-site location. Soil cleanup also reduced or eliminated future contamination of area groundwater.

MDH is investigating the possibility of issuing a "Well Drilling Advisory," which would regulate the location and depth of water wells in the area. Additional information is needed on the number of wells currently in use and the extent of contamination in the drinking water aquifer. Groundwater contamination is being monitored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

The MPCA distributed a fact sheet in April 1994 describing a proposed soil clean-up plan. MPCA continues to make regular efforts to update the community regarding the current status of the site and future activities at the site.

What does MDH recommend?

Holes have been found in the fence enclosing the property, and there has been evidence of trespassing. Therefore, in order to protect against future dumping on the site, access to the site property needs to be better controlled.

Monitoring wells and nearby private wells have been properly sealed according to the MDH Well Code. Additional information should be collected about the number of remaining private wells in use near the site to

better assess the extent of human exposure to contamination. MDH supports the planned groundwater monitoring effort.

Any private wells which remain on or near the site should be monitored regularly if they are used for drinking water or household water supplies. Future drilling of wells into contaminated aquifers should be prohibited. MDH will investigate the need for a Well Drilling

Advisory. If an advisory is needed, one will be issued.

Local residents need to be kept informed of potential risks at the site so they can protect themselves from potential health threats. Summaries of site activities should be prepared and distributed to the surrounding community whenever significant changes occur. The public should be encouraged to stay off the site.

As additional information on site activities or contamination problems becomes available, MDH will make appropriate changes in its conclusions and recommendations.

Public health reports for the South Andover Scrapyard site are available from MDH. To request copies, call Lisa Pogoff at 612/627-5415. For general information about Minnesota Pollution Control Agency activities related to the site, contact Emmy Reppe at 612/296-6706.

To request this document in another format, call 627-5100
TDD: Minn. Relay Service 297-5353 or Toll Free 1/800/627-3529

