United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Solid Waste and
Emergency Response
(5502G)

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Fall 1992

EPA

Superfund At Work

Hazardous Waste Cleanup Efforts Nationwide

Krysowaty Site Profile

Site Description:
Hazardous waste dump in rural Hillsborough Township, New Jersey

Site Size: 1 acre

Primary Contaminants:
Volatile organic compounds (VOCs), pesticides, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)

Potential Range of Health Risks Without EPA Cleanup:
Skin irritation; increased risk of cancer

Nearby Population:
1,200 within one mile

Ecological Concerns:
Raritan River

Year Listed on NPL: 1982

Year Deleted from NPL: 1989

EPA Region: II

State: New Jersey

Congressional District: 12

Success In Brief

Krysowaty Farm...Cleaned Up

The one-acre dump at Krysowaty Farm was small in size compared to some other Superfund sites. But five years of dumping proved to be a challenge when designing an appropriate cleanup. Nevertheless, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) quickly and efficiently alleviated immediate and potential dangers to the community of Hillsborough, New Jersey. In less than five months, Superfund staff:

- Worked closely with community members and Hillsborough Township officials to ensure an effective solution;
- Funded a permanent alternate water supply for residents threatened by contaminated well water; and
- Completed a permanent cleanup of hazardous wastes at the site.

Krysowaty Farm is a good example of how an active community, coupled with EPA responsiveness and expertise, can eliminate the dangers posed by the unauthorized dumping of hazardous substances.

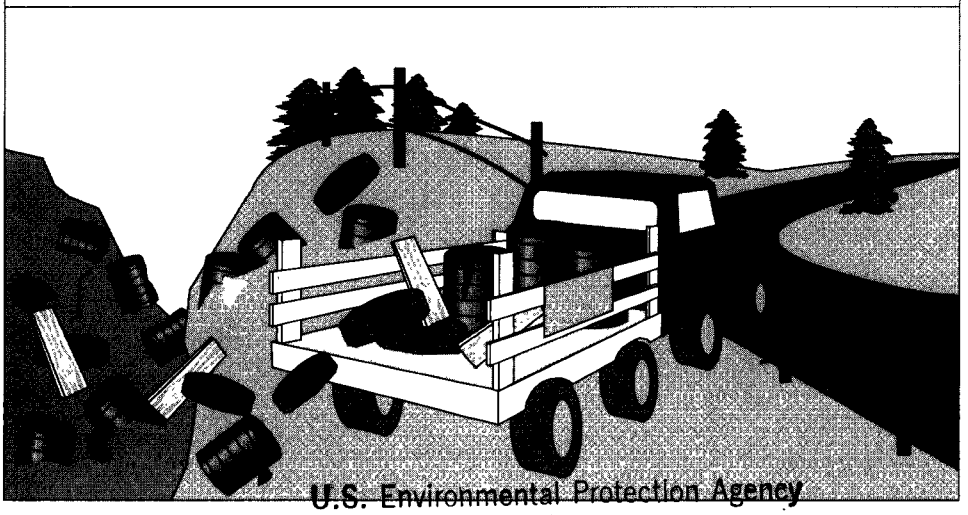
The Site Today

Krysowaty Farm was once considered one of the worst uncontrolled hazardous waste sites in the United States. It was deleted from the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1989, after all known contaminants were removed. The cleanup effort meets established safety standards and no further actions are required at the site. A local health official said, "(I) couldn't be more pleased" with the "state-of-the-art" cleanup of Krysowaty Farm.

Superfund financed and conducted the site cleanup because the owner of the Krysowaty property was deceased, and the identity of other contributing parties was unknown.

Five Years of Uncontrolled Dumping

The Krysowaty Farm site had hazardous material strewn over a one-acre area of a ravine. Tires, demolition debris, and many corroded drums of paint, pesticides and dye wastes were illegally dumped.



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A Site Snapshot

Krysowaty Farm was a one-acre hazardous waste dump in Hillsborough Township, N.J. Five hundred drums of paint, dye wastes, and pesticides were dumped, crushed, and buried in a ravine on the 42-acre property, contaminating 13,700 cubic yards of soil.

> 500 drums of paint, dye wastes and pesticides were dumped, crushed & buried near 1,200 people

The pulverized drums released volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) which contaminated the ground water, soil, and environs.

In addition to drums, other wastes disposed on this property included demolition debris, tires, automobiles, bulk wastes, solvents, and waste sludge.

The site gained recognition because of its negative impact on nearby drinking wells and the threat of migrating contamination from the site to the south branch of the Raritan River. Potential health effects from direct contact with these pollutants and/or consumption of contaminated ground water range from skin irritation to an increased risk of cancer.

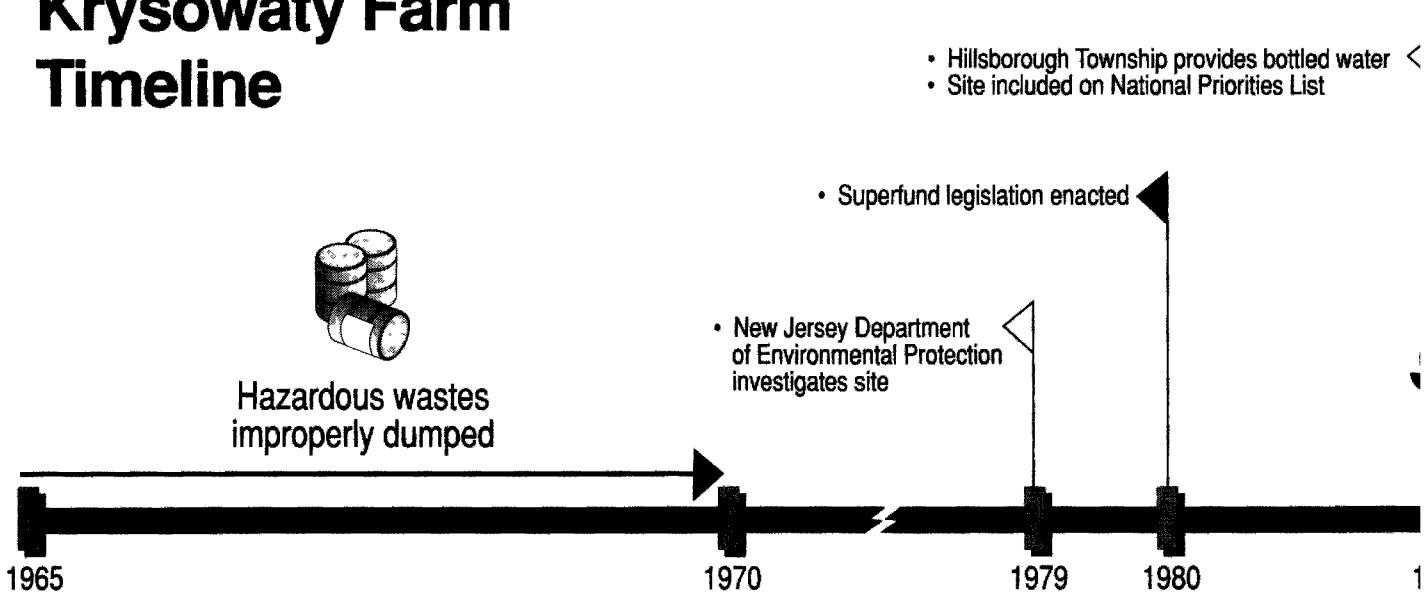
Krysowaty Farm is located in a rural area with approximately 1,200 people living within a one-mile radius; the closest inhabitants reside 900 feet from the farm.

Hazardous Wast

EPA Responds to Dangers of Contaminated Ground Water

Between 1965 and 1970, a on acre portion of Krysowaty Farm was used as an unauthorized dump site for hazardous materi Starting in 1977, medical complaints were registered with the Hillsborough Township Health Department. It was not until 19 that the New Jersey Departmen Environmental Protection (NJD became aware of the site and conducted an investigation whi revealed VOCs in the ground water. Superfund was enacted 1980, and, in 1982, the site was proposed for listing on the NPL. EPA also investigated local clai of skin rashes and miscarriages allegedly due to ground water contamination; however, no sci

Krysowaty Farm Timeline



)umped In Krysowaty Farm Ravine

tific data was found to substantiate these claims. Hillsborough Township provided bottled water to affected residents in 1982 as a temporary measure while EPA and NJDEP conducted joint site investigations to verify whether the site should be on the final NPL. The findings of the site investigation led to Krysowaty Farm being included on the final NPL in December 1982.

In addition to the cleanup of the contaminated soil, a permanent alternate water supply system servicing 29 homes was installed in 1985, further reducing the threat to the community.

Hillsborough Township's financial burden was eased when the Elizabethtown Water Company contributed part of the funds needed for the alternate water supply.

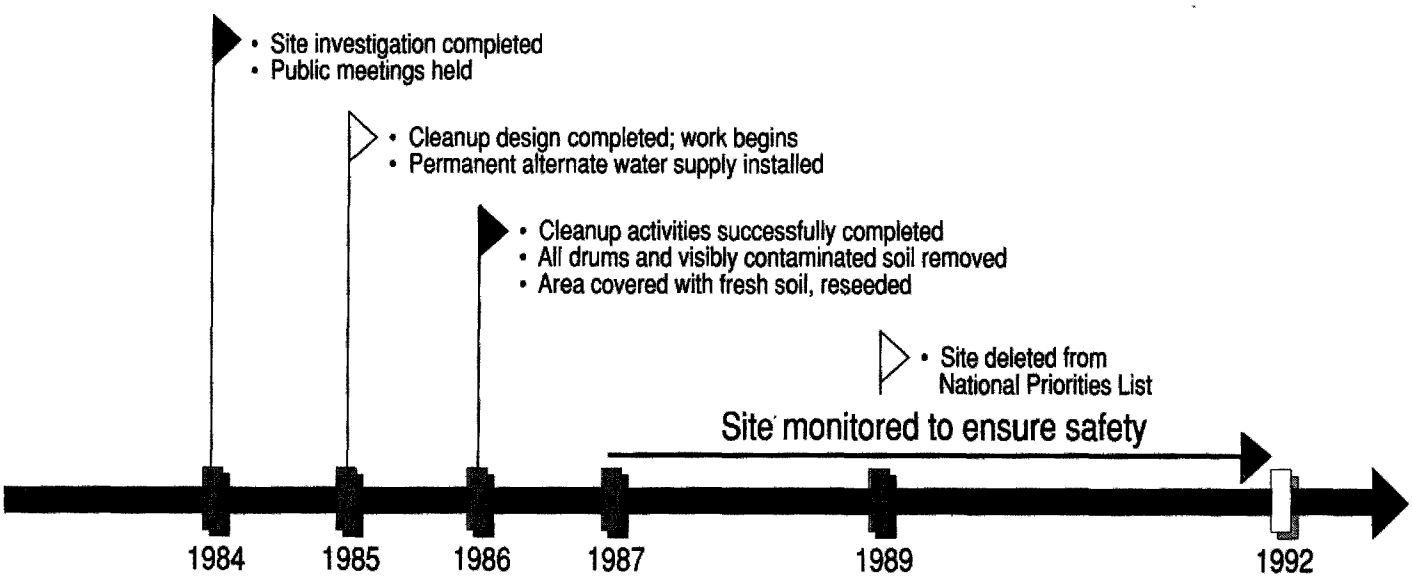
Krysowaty Contaminants Removed, Site Restored

Developing a cleanup plan for Krysowaty Farm proved to be a problematic undertaking, as many of the corroded drums needed to be contained before removing them from the site.

An accidental release of the contaminated materials from the drums could have caused further endangerment to the environment. Consequently, EPA spent almost one year examining alternatives for the site before finalizing the cleanup plan in July 1985.

EPA undertook a variety of measures to ensure the safety of nearby residents. In August 1985 cleanup teams began preparing the area and the surrounding community for permanent cleanup activity. EPA fenced the area surrounding the site to protect trespassers from coming into contact with the contamination while cleanup was ongoing.

EPA then chose the least-traveled roads for the trucks to use when transporting the hazardous substances. Maps of these routes were distributed to the community in advance, informing them of the exact



times the shipments of contaminated material would take place. EPA teams then removed and transported 13,700 cubic yards of contaminated soil and wastes to an approved hazardous waste disposal facility. The excavated area was filled with clean soil and seeded for grass.

By January 1986, fences were removed to signify the successful completion of site cleanup efforts. EPA conducted air monitoring tests throughout the cleanup to ensure the safety of the community. In 1989, Krysowaty Farm was deleted from the NPL. NJDEP continues to ensure the effectiveness of cleanup activities by monitoring the ground water semi-annually through 1992.

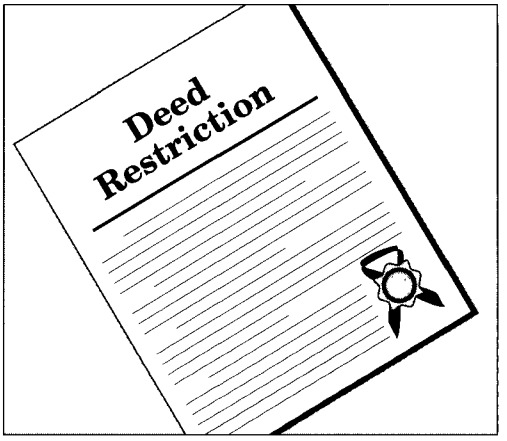
One Scoop At A Time As heavy construction equipment removes contaminated soil at the Krysowaty Farm site, progress is made one scoop at a time. EPA cleanup teams removed and transported 13,700 cubic yards of contaminated soil and wastes from the site, placing them in an approved hazardous waste facility. The excavated area was filled with clean soil, then reseeded for grass.

EPA Continues To Protect Citizens After Cleanup Is Complete

The Superfund program not only contributes to the successful cleanup of existing hazardous waste sites, but ensures that measures are taken to prevent future endangerment to the environment.

To that end, EPA obtained a deed restriction for Krysowaty Farm prohibiting the installation of drinking wells and future development of the portion of the property where the cleanup occurred.

Although this site is considered clean, these precautionary measures were taken to ensure the future protection of the residents from any previously undetectable or residual contamination.



A Perspective of Scale Members of an EPA cleanup team, clothed in protective gear, survey progress during the cleanup activities. The Krysowaty Farm ravine was filled with 500 drums of hazardous waste, many of which ruptured and leaked contamination into the surrounding area. Other debris and rubble are visible in the photo's foreground.

Community and State Contribute to Cleanup at Krysowaty Farm Site

An essential component of a successful Superfund program is community participation in EPA site activities. The dangers of Krysowaty Farm were brought to EPA's attention through the persistent efforts of Hillsborough Township residents. Public meetings held throughout the process provided the community with a mechanism for expressing their concerns regarding the cleanup. The Township and EPA designed plans and undertook cleanup activities based on input from the citizens of Hillsborough. The Township was also responsive in acknowledging the problem's severity, lowering property taxes for 68 homes near the hazardous waste dump.

EPA's Superfund program financed the site cleanup because the original landowner of the Krysowaty property was deceased, and other potential

continued on back page

Excavating the Contamination EPA teams removed and transported 13,700 cubic yards of contaminated soil and wastes from the Krysowaty Farm site. The excavated area was then filled with new soil and reseeded.

Community and State Contribute to Cleanup

continued from page 5

contributing polluters could not be found. A leader for the Coalition for Clean Water underscored the benefit of positive, coordinated efforts like those at Krysowaty Farm: "I believe you can change anything if you work at it," she said.

Residents, township officials, and EPA certainly did work at it, and their efforts yielded impressive results: *The threat of contamination has been abated and the Krysowaty Farm property has been largely restored.*

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Success at Krysowaty Farm

The cleanup of Krysowaty Farm clearly demonstrates Superfund's commitment to cleanup the nation's most dangerous hazardous waste sites. Superfund provided Hillsborough residents with the financing and expertise needed to alleviate the threat to their community.

The fear of contamination of well water has subsided and neighboring properties have returned to full market value. With the dangers and repercussions of site contamination eliminated, residents can share in the comments of a local real estate agent who said, "The fear of this property is completely gone."

For additional copies of this or other *Superfund At Work* updates, contact the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161, telephone (703) 487-4650.

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