



February 25, 2015 - Prepared by Environmental Stewardship Concepts, LLC

LCP Chemicals Superfund Site Boundaries

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is responsible for determining how far away harmful chemicals have spread at a Superfund site. Because contaminants can travel through air, water, and soil, the site boundaries set by the EPA are not always correct, and may not include all of the contamination. Also, many chemicals do not break down, or break down very slowly in the environment. For example, a chemical compound known as Aroclor 1268, a specific polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) mixture, has been found 25 miles away from Brunswick in sediments and in the blood of Sapelo Island residents and dolphins (Backer and Mellard 2014).

The spread of contamination beyond the salt marsh at the Brunswick LCP site proves that the site boundaries established by the EPA are not accurate. Currently, the site boundaries cover three main parts of the LCP site: the marsh, groundwater, and dry-land soils. However, the site boundaries do not include additional areas where the chemical contamination has spread, such as Sapelo Island. Even if the pollution inside the salt marsh is cleaned up, there will still be contamination outside of the marsh area that will continue to spread and travel. The areas outside the marsh will remain unsafe for residents and for eating fish even after part of the marsh is cleaned up.



LCP Chemical Site, Brunswick, Georgia

Source: Environ International Corp., Anchor QEA, LLC

There is enough scientific information to indicate that the boundaries should be increased to include Sapelo Island and any other areas around the site where contamination has spread. The EPA must do more testing of soils, water, and animal tissue beyond the marsh at the LCP site to determine where and how far the chemical contamination has gone and clean these additional areas. This way, residents can be assured that the EPA and responsible parties are taking every step to clean up the entire area and make it safe for residents and animals again.

References

Backer, Lorraine C., Mellard, David. September 3, 2014. Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in Georgia Coastal Environments and Populations. [Powerpoint slides].