

FACT SHEET



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Clayborn Open Dump Site

Office of Land Quality – Federal Programs – Site Investigation Program

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100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

Background Information:

- The Clayborn Open Dump (the Site) is located at 200 Garner St., New Castle, Henry County, Ind. The Site consists of a single, privately owned, vacant, heavily wooded, triangular parcel approximately 2.5 acres in size. The Site is bound to the south by Garner Street, to the northeast by an agricultural field, and to the northwest by the Big Blue River. The Site is located within the New Castle municipal wellhead protection area.
- IDEM received a complaint about unregulated, open dumping on the Site in 2012. IDEM staff inspected the Site and verified that open dumping of solid waste had occurred.
- Solid waste found on the Site included: tires, construction/demolition debris, household waste, automobile batteries, and multiple 55-gallon drums with unknown liquid and solid contents. The drums were old, rusty and in various states of disrepair, with the contents of several spilled onto the ground.
- IDEM required the property owner clean up the dumped solid waste and it was removed by 2015.
- A subsequent Site re-evaluation was conducted, leading to a 2020 Preliminary Assessment by IDEM's Site Investigation Program where municipal well water and riverbed sediment samples were collected.

Environmental and Health Impacts:

- Although the solid wastes were removed from the Site, if the spilled drum contents contained hazardous substances, it is possible that soil and groundwater may have become contaminated.
- If present, contamination may affect the adjacent Big Blue River through surface soil runoff or migration through the groundwater.
- The Site is within the municipal drinking water wellhead protection area. Groundwater contamination has the potential to impact the municipal drinking water source.
- If present and left unaddressed, soil and groundwater impacts may spread and pose a more significant concern moving forward.

Next Steps:

- IDEM has obtained property owner permission to collect Site soil and groundwater samples.
- In August 2021, IDEM's Site Investigation Program is collecting samples to determine if contamination is present from waste previously dumped on the Site.
- IDEM's Site Investigation Program will also collect sediment samples from the nearby Big Blue River to determine if contaminated surface soil run-off has entered the public waterway.
- If contamination is identified, additional investigations may be warranted.
- Alternatively, if no contamination is identified, the investigation will be closed.

Additional Information:

- The public may direct questions and concerns regarding IDEM's environmental investigation at the Clayborn Open Dump Site, including information on sampling results and potential environmental impacts to Justin Hodgson, IDEM Project Manager, at 317-232-3220; toll free at 800-451-6027; or by email at jhodgson@idem.IN.gov.
- The news media may contact IDEM's media office at 317-232-8596; toll free at 800-451-6027; or by email at media@idem.IN.gov.