



Field Trip

Brookhaven Town Landfill

David Tonjes

Saturday June 19, 2010

9 AM to 1 PM

Every town on Long Island used to have a landfill (or two or three), and now there are only four left on Long Island. The Town of Brookhaven has conducted waste management activities at this site since 1974. The 534 acre site currently contains a recyclables processing facility, a transfer station, a waste drop-off area, a hazardous wastes collection facility, a construction and demolition debris processing area, a wood-chipping operation, and three kinds of landfills: closed, operating (which receives ~ 1 million tons of material a year), and under-construction. We will visit and discuss all of these operations and discuss what they are used for, and why we manage our wastes the way we do (and what alternatives exist or could be implemented). We will climb to the top of the 250 ft fills, and have an opportunity to see a cross-section of the top 40 feet of south shore outwash geology (if construction has not yet covered it up). We will also talk about the leachate plume in the Upper Glacial aquifer that extends from the site south and southeast in the direction of Great South Bay (where did it come from, what's in it, what are its human health and environmental impacts).

Directions: The landfill is at Horseblock Road, just north of Yaphank Ave. To get there take Exit 57 on Sunrise Hwy, go north 2 traffic lights. Or, take Exit 65 on 495 (Long Island Expressway) south approximately 3 mi. (past Woodside Ave).

There will be a line of people waiting to enter the landfill. Stay to the far right, right of the "Visitor Booth" line (try to arrive by 8:45) (we will be given special access through the employee gate). Follow the signs to the Materials Recycling Facility (do not go to the resident drop-off area). Park in the Materials Recycling Facility parking lot

Wear boots and field clothes. There will be lots of walking

Sunscreen/hats are recommended for nice weather, jackets if it is not nice (it is always breezy at the landfill). **Cameras are allowed.**

Four contact hours toward in-service credit for teachers or professional geologists.

Please let Gil Hanson know if you want a letter for in-service credit.

No Fee!

Please e-mail Gil Hanson, if you plan to attend. gilbert.hanson@sunysb.edu