

3.23.3 WURZELBACHER LANDFILL

Facility Name: Wurzelbacher Dump

A.K.A.: N/A

Location: 11260 Old Colerain Avenue. Situated east of Old Colerain Avenue, approximately 500 feet north of the Elbow Drive intersection in Colerain Township, Ohio.

Parcel(s): 51001600104

Lat, Long: 39.286287 -84.614469

Region: Colerain Township, OH 45252

Owner: Richard & Kathie L Smith

Operation (yrs): 1976 – 1994 (based on aerials and records)



FACILITY OVERVIEW

Wurzelbacher Dump is located in Colerain Township, Hamilton County, Ohio, situated east of Old Colerain Avenue, approximately 500 feet north of the Elbow Drive intersection. Hamilton County Auditor records address the property as 11260 Colerain Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45252.

Joseph Wurzelbacher unofficially operated a landfill at the site from approximately the 1970's to 1994. Review of aerials indicates filling of the property may have begun as early as 1976. Prior to this and currently, the property appears to have consisted of livestock and horse pasture. Records indicate the site was used to dispose

of construction & demolition debris (C&DD), household trash, office equipment, paint buckets, household appliances, tires, furniture, mattresses, tree debris, and a large quantity of limestone sludge. Information also indicates that the site was often not monitored or secured and was readily accessible for unknown dumping.

Following a complaint from a neighbor, an inspection was performed by Hamilton County at the Wurzelbacher Dump on April 5, 1979. The inspection found that the property was receiving a large amount of fill material, which was primarily authorized C&DD. The observed unauthorized items included old furniture, washers, stoves, etc. Information indicated that these materials were being covered daily.

During 1981, Hamilton County observed large quantities of trash, garbage, and various other materials being illegally dumped in a ravine located on the southern portion of the property and in areas along Old Colerain Avenue. All materials were ordered to be removed and/or buried. The owner indicated that all dumping would immediately cease, any exposed areas would be covered, and a fence would be constructed to enclose the dumping areas. Continued illegal dumping was observed by Hamilton County in 1984. Observed items included a refrigerator, mattresses, kitchen appliances, and small quantities of household garbage.

Figure 3.23.3-A ODOT



Various complaints of illegal dumping were reported for the property during 1988 and 1989. Large quantities of unauthorized materials were observed during inspections performed by both Hamilton County and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The owner was ordered to immediately close the fill and legal actions were taken against Mr. Wurzelbacher, consequently resulting in a fine.

On October 12, 1989, a Consent Order was issued by the Attorney General's office for the unauthorized dumping on the property. Key items in the order included the dump to be covered with 2 feet of compacted soil, the site to be seeded with grass, all surfaces to be graded 1% to 25%, the site to be graded as to not allow ponding, and any settling/erosion/cracking issues would be properly repaired.

An inspection of the property in 1991 found that portions of the Wurzelbacher Dump had still not been correctly leveled, covered, and/or seeded. Records indicate that soil, rock and brick continued to be accepted at the property in 1994. No information was available for the property after that date. Based on aerials filling with clean hard fill continued until at least 1996.

SITE PRESENT DAY

The property contains the private residence and several barns. Currently, the old landfill area is fenced and being used as open pasture area for horses.