

April 20, 2006

CDD Leachate Memo Mischaracterized In Recent News Articles

An Associated Press article appearing early April in several newspapers mischaracterized an Ohio EPA memo. The Ohio EPA memo dated September 26, 2005, titled [Preliminary Evaluation of Leachate Analytical Results](#) from Ohio C&DD Landfills summarizes leachate data from nine Ohio C&DD landfills. This memo was provided to the statutorily established Construction & Demolition Debris Facility Study Committee in 2005 for informational purposes. This Committee consisting of legislators and representatives from Ohio EPA, local health districts, the C&DD industry, and environmental consultants ultimately developed recommendations for legislative change. House Bill 397 incorporated these recommendations and the new law became effective December 22, 2005.

The AP article incorrectly stated that “A subsequent study by the state EPA found high levels of lead, arsenic and cyanide leaking from other sites as rain fell.” It is important to note that the Ohio EPA memo does not speak to any issues regarding ground water monitoring data or observed ground water impacts. Rather, the memo simply summarizes those chemicals that had been identified in “leachate” at nine Ohio C&DD facilities.

The memo refers to “leachate” which is a solution that forms when any water, including rainfall, comes in contact with debris or waste. This “leaching” of chemicals from the debris or waste into the water creates “leachate”. The Ohio EPA memo examines the chemicals found in C&DD “leachate” and does not refer to any leaking from the sites.

The issue of what may be leaking from a site is most directly evaluated by evaluation of ground water sampling data in the immediate proximity of the site. House Bill 397 directs Ohio EPA to establish regulations to ensure that ground water monitoring be capable of determining impacts resulting from the operation of the C&DD facility.