



## SPECIAL EDITION

**HAZARDOUS WASTE LANDFILL 7 PHASE I APPLICATION****Sharing answers and clarifications as review continues.**

More than four years ago, MAX held our first voluntary public information meeting at the Yukon Fire Hall to discuss our plans for Landfill 7.



From the front of the hall, we shared information, listened to concerns, and answered questions. Our role during last month's Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) official public meeting and hearing, however, was served from the other side of the hall. We sat in the audience and listened as community residents and others asked questions of DEP and registered their official comments.

The comments and questions at the meeting were critical, and technical issues were raised that deserve in-depth responses. We welcome this thorough and critical review of our plans, and we will continue to address questions and concerns openly. We will also work to clarify information that may have been misunderstood or misrelated, because all participants in the process deserve to be fully and factually informed. To that end, the enclosed questions and answers are offered for consideration as the application review continues. As always, MAX remains open to comments and questions, irrespective of public comment periods. Please feel free to reach out to me or Carl Spadaro, Environmental Manager, at any time.

**Bob Shawer**

President  
MAX Environmental Technologies, Inc.

**Answers to Questions on the Phase I Application****SUBSURFACE MINES AND GROUNDWATER****Are there mine voids under the site?**

Yes. Underground mine conditions on MAX's property have been documented over a number of years as part of environmental studies and remediation work, including the Landfill 7 Phase I environmental assessment.

**Can you construct overtop of mine voids?**

Yes. To do this, you must first confirm the location and size of the mine voids and then confirm that the land can be stabilized. MAX has successfully grouted mine voids to allow construction in other areas of the property.

**How would groundwater be protected from leaks?**

Leak protection for modern landfills requires a minimum of four feet between the landfill bottom and the seasonally high groundwater table, and a double liner with a leak detection system in between layers. In addition, continuous groundwater monitoring is required around the landfill perimeter.

**AIR QUALITY****Do air monitoring results reported by Mountain Watershed Association show violations?**

No. Results from residential air monitors such as PurpleAir devices are not used by regulatory agencies for health or environmental compliance due to:

- Uncertainty and variation of the quality of data
- Influence from both regional and local sources
- Challenges distinguishing between natural, residential, commercial, and industrial sources
- Unproven, experimental use of some features, such as measurement of volatile organic compounds or VOCs.

**How does MAX monitor air at the facility?**

MAX monitors dust from the site that could include dirt from access roads and parking areas as well as dust from waste handling areas. Dust is monitored at stations near MAX's property boundaries upwind and downwind of Landfill 6. The results are reported quarterly to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

**Is the air quality checked by DEP?**

In addition to reviewing dustfall data, DEP inspects the site for compliance with the air quality permit. In September 2020, DEP installed two supplemental, temporary dustfall monitors in the

(Continued on Page 2)

# THE 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

## What is a 100-Year Floodplain?

Areas along a stream that have a one-percent chance of being inundated by a flood in any given year.

## Why is it important?

Landfills must be located outside 100-year floodplain boundaries and other areas that have flooded.

## How did boundaries change on MAX's property?

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved engineering studies showing that some boundaries of the floodplain were inaccurately estimated on the National Flood Rate Insurance Program (FIRM) map. The new boundaries are now part of the official FIRM map record.

## Where did it change?

Some boundaries of the floodplain were adjusted inside MAX's property. These are shown below on Figure 1.

## Did the study consider that Creek Road (SR 3012) flooded a few years ago?

Yes. MAX's property lies across Sewickley Creek at a higher elevation than Creek Road.

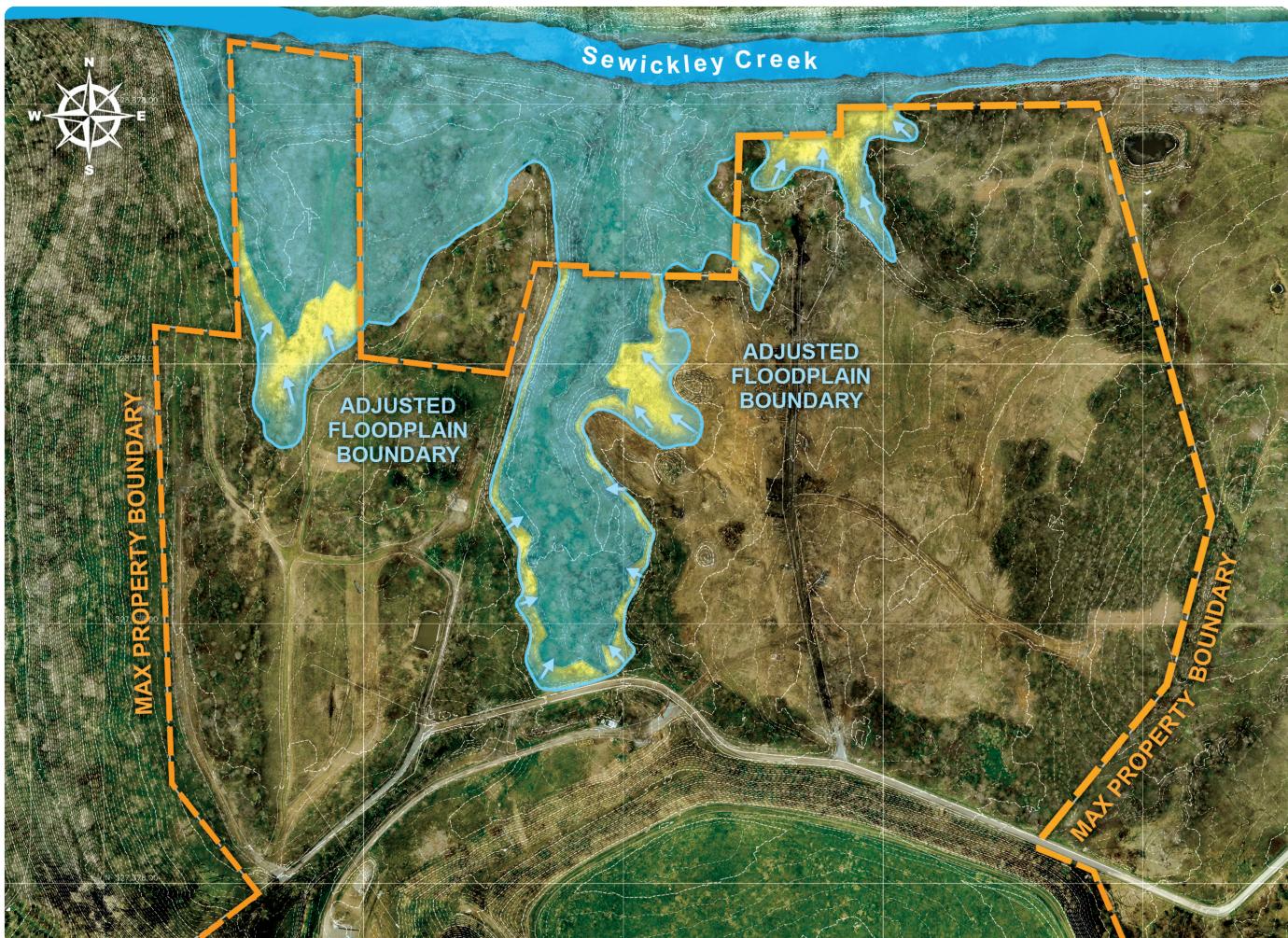


Figure 1. The yellow highlights show where edges of the floodplain on MAX's property were adjusted after engineering studies found them to be outside the 100-year floodplain.

(Continued from Page 1)

vicinity of Millbell Road to test for both dustfall and chemicals in the dust. Results of this testing showed compliance with air quality standards.

## How will air be monitored at proposed Landfill 7?

MAX will be proposing a new air monitoring network as part of the Hazardous Waste Landfill 7 Phase 2 permit application.

As with all other aspects of the application, the air monitoring network, equipment and data plan will be subject to public comment during DEP review.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

### Would hazardous waste be treated before being disposed of in Landfill No. 7?

Yes. As shown in Figure 2, hazardous waste must meet EPA treatment standards, called land disposal restrictions, or LDRs, before disposal in either a residual or hazardous waste landfill.

### How would potential radiation from waste be monitored?

The radiation screening and waste volume restrictions in place for existing facility operations would continue with Landfill 7. These standards are applied across all PA landfills as required by guidance last updated in June 2022.

### What does the Toxic Release Inventory show about lead emissions?

The Toxic Release Inventory, or TRI, provides annual data on chemicals in products and waste materials handled at facilities across the U.S. Specifically, facilities must report on quantities of chemicals that could be emitted into air or water or disposed of on land.

TRI reports provide volume estimates, not exposure data or actual measurements. Thus, the values in these reports reflect the fact that lead-contaminated wastes, such as sandblasting residues,

are among the higher volumes of wastes managed at the Yukon facility.

The TRI estimates do not consider controls such as spraying water to reduce dust and covering waste daily.

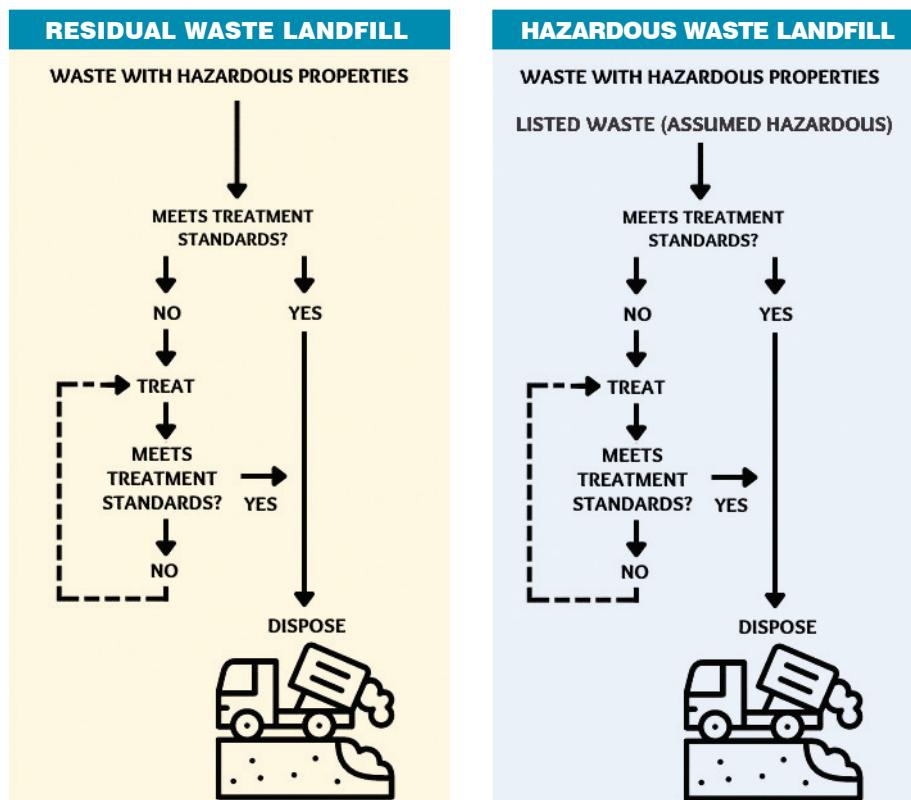


Figure 2. Only hazardous waste landfills can accept "listed" wastes, that is, wastes assumed to be hazardous by law. Regardless of the type of landfill, however, all hazardous wastes must meet the same treatment standards before disposal.

## WATER QUALITY

### Will the proposed landfill be covered under the same discharge permit that the facility holds now?

Yes, but only after approval of any necessary modifications. MAX would need to submit a permit application for adding wastewater and stormwater from the proposed landfill to the facility's discharge (NPDES) permit. The application would be subject to public comment during DEP review.

### How does MAX's permit compare with other discharge permits?

While each facility is unique, they all undergo the same process with DEP in setting discharge limits. DEP evaluated the quality of MAX's discharges for compliance with all aquatic life, human health, and recreation standards for Sewickley Creek. On top of that, DEP also applied technology standards for wastewater treatment facilities.

The agency further added monitoring requirements in response to public comments.

### Are arsenic concentrations in MAX's discharge high?

No. MAX has been monitoring this compound as part of new permit requirements since January 2022. Concentrations have been less than half the limit. Independent testing by DEP prior to approving the permit also showed concentrations to be within water quality limits.



## For More Information:

**MAX Environmental Technologies, Inc.**

[www.maxenvironmental.com](http://www.maxenvironmental.com)

**Bob Shawver**

President

(410) 404-5333

[bshawver@maxenvironmental.com](mailto:bshawver@maxenvironmental.com)

**Carl Spadaro**

Environmental General Manager

(412) 445-9789

[cspadaro@maxenvironmental.com](mailto:cspadaro@maxenvironmental.com)

## GENERAL

### What is a Phase I Application?

A Phase I application is the first step in determining if a location is suitable for a hazardous waste landfill.

Applicants submit information about the following features within and near the proposed construction site:

- Wetlands
- National natural landmarks
- Protected agricultural areas
- Underground gas wells
- Watersheds
- Protected streams

- Geology/underground conditions
- Floodplains
- Waterways
- Water supplies

### What is the status of the Phase I Application?

DEP is continuing its review of the application and is considering public comments accepted through January 20, 2023.

DEP will make public its response to the public comments and its decision on the application.

### How does Township Ordinance No. 26 requiring a setback of 900 feet from residences affect MAX's Landfill 7 proposal?

Pennsylvania laws prevent this ordinance from being imposed. Specifically, the Township lacks the authority to impose the setback because zoning ordinances have not been adopted and also because the authority to regulate waste disposal facilities lies with the Commonwealth.