

# Nubarashen POPs pesticides burial site in Armenia Emergency case

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OSCE's efforts to work towards a definitive  
solution

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# Armenia Emergency Burial Site

Designed in  
1976

Disposed in 80s

Many  
complaints  
since 2000

Maintenance  
works in 2004

2010 cover  
destroyed by  
unknown  
people

# Request for assistance 2009

- Late 2009 Armenian Ministry of Emergency Situations requested OSCE assistance to assess situation at Nubarashen landfill
- April 2010 OSCE confronted with a potentially catastrophic situation
- Emergency situation : cover of landfill removed with direct exposure for people and cattle and spread into environment

Concerned  
people  
living  
downstream



2006



**Concerned people living  
downstream**



**April  
2010**

**Environmental catastrophe?**

**What did we do?**

**We acted**

# What did we do?

- Alerted Armenian Government
- Government set up Emergency Working Group to take lead of actions
- President made available some 80,000 EUR for ad hoc closure
- Finalised Emergency Closure

**First step but only temporary solution**





# Status today –future plans

- Next step is feasibility study which will determine a plan for clean-up phase
- MFA of Armenia and OSCE approached many donors
- Donor coordination arranged - at present list of 10 interested donors
- UNDP will prepare GEF proposal (GEF financial mechanism of Stockholm Convention 1.5-2 MUSD)

# Future Problems?

- The Nubarashen emergency burial site is not the only POPs/Pesticides burial site in Armenia
- We need to work together towards a structural solution

# Future Role of the EU

- Create public awareness
- Make inventory for sites in Armenia and assess and prioritize the risks
- Secure sites with high risks
- Then make action plans for collection
- Centralization
- Final elimination

Goal: Work towards an environment  
free of obsolete pesticides