

### **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.

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 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 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. However, a significant amount of unauthorized items were also observed including 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. The owner was given notice in March of 1981 that "trash and garbage on your property constitutes an illegal landfill". Mr. Wurzelbacher was ordered to remove and/or bury all garbage and to secure and police the area to prevent further dumping. Continued illegal dumping was observed by Hamilton County in April 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. In September 1988, the owner was ordered to cease accepting materials, to cover the site with soil, and to grade and seed the site. After continued illegal dumping and failing to compact and cover waste as previously ordered, legal actions were taken against Mr. Wurzelbacher in April 1989.

On October 12, 1989, a Consent Order was agreed to and signed by the Attorney General's office and Mr. Wurzelbacher. The Consent Order required the owner to pay a fine of \$2,500.00 and to complete the following within 60 days:

- cease disposal of solid waste and C&DD
- cover all waste with 2 feet of compacted soil
- seed the site with grass
- grade all surfaces between 1% and 25%

- graded the site so as to promote drainage
- monitor the area for settling/erosion/cracking for 3 years and properly repair when identified

An inspection of the property in 1991 found that portions of the Wurzelbacher Dump had still not been correctly leveled, covered, and/or seeded. An inspection from 1994 indicates soil, rock, and brick continued to be accepted at the property. 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 a private residence and several barns. Currently, the old landfill area is fenced and being used as an open pasture area for horses.

