

*email to Steve  
Handel*

**From:** Elaine Stewart  
**To:** handel@aesop.rutgers.edu  
**Date:** 10/30/02 2:34PM  
**Subject:** St. Johns Landfill project

Thanks for talking with me this afternoon. To recap, I'm working with the landfill closure and management staff on the St. Johns Landfill in Portland, Oregon. The site is approximately 240 acres and is surrounded by sloughs on 3 sides and wetland on the fourth. The larger area is industrial on 2 sides and wetland on 2 sides.

The landfill was closed in the early 1990s, capped with a membrane and soil (including sludge from sewage ponds) and seeded with perennial ryegrass. The ryegrass thrived in the rich soil (thanks to the sludge) and is just now beginning to appear less vigorous in some areas of the landfill. To my knowledge, no fertilizer has been applied. Other plants that have thrived on the landfill include thistles and mustard. On one or two very small and isolated spots, woody vegetation has been allowed to grow. Regular mowing keeps woody plant establishment down.

Soils on the landfill range from 1 to 6 ft deep (possibly deeper in spots). The microclimates on the landfill are extremely variable, and sites next door to each other can have radically different moistures. Much (most?) of the soil is very compacted also.

The landfill has an active methane gas recovery program, although one part of the landfill is largely complete and might be a good candidate for initial work. A network of hundreds of monitoring wells is also on site.

Please let me know if I can provide additional information for you. As we discussed, I am especially interested in expertise on landfills, and local expertise would be even better. Thanks for your help.

-Elaine Stewart

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