



FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

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Site Name: Former Adirondack Steel
DEC Site #: 401039 Operable Unit 02 *
Address: 191 Watervliet-Shaker Road
Colonie, NY 12189

Have questions?
See
"Who to Contact"
Below

Remedy Proposed for State Superfund Site; Public Comment Period and Public Meeting Announced

Public Meeting, Tuesday, 3/8/2016 at 7:00 PM

Watervliet Senior Center, 501 Broadway, Watervliet, NY

NYSDEC invites you to a public meeting to discuss the remedy proposed for the site. You are encouraged to provide comments at the meeting, and during the 30-day comment period described in this fact sheet.

The public is invited to comment on a remedy proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) related to the Former Adirondack Steel site ("site") located at 191 Watervliet-Shaker Road, Colonie, Albany County. Please see the map for the site location.

Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information."

How to Comment

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan for 30 days, from **February 26, 2016** through **March 27, 2016**. The proposed plan is available for review at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information." Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area below.

The site is listed as a Class "2" site in the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites (list of State Superfund sites). A Class 2 site represents a significant threat to public health or the environment; action is required.

Proposed Remedial Action Plan

The remedy proposed for the site includes:

The proposed remedial alternative includes excavation of all PCB-contaminated soil and sediment that exceeds a concentration of 1 part per million (ppm) to meet residential use criteria as allowed by New York State regulations. Drainageway sediment will be excavated to achieve a concentration of 1 ppm or less. The contaminated soil and sediment will be excavated, stockpiled, characterized, and properly disposed of at an off-site, permitted facility. Material containing PCBs at

**Operable Unit:* An administrative term used to identify a portion of a site that can be addressed by a distinct investigation and/or cleanup approach. An operable unit can receive specific investigation, and a particular remedy may be proposed.

concentrations greater than or equal to 50 ppm are considered hazardous and will be disposed at a facility permitted to accept hazardous waste. Material with PCB concentrations less than 50 ppm is considered non-hazardous and will be disposed at a solid waste facility permitted to accept PCB-contaminated soil. The quantity of soil that contains up to 49 ppm of PCBs at non-hazardous concentrations is estimated to be 1,700 cubic yards. The quantity of soil containing greater than 1 ppm of PCBs at hazardous concentrations is estimated to be 400 cubic yards.

To the extent feasible, off-site PCB-contaminated soil will be excavated to achieve a maximum PCB concentration of 1 ppm.

Clean fill meeting New York State requirements for residential use will be imported to replace excavated material in off-site areas.

The estimated cost is \$1.6 Million. Implementation is planned for 2016 through 2018.

Summary of the Investigation

NYSDEC collected samples of soil, surface water, and sediment and analyzed the samples for potential contaminants.

Soil samples were collected from borings conducted over multiple phases during the investigation. Sediment samples were collected from grab samples and borings in the drainageway.

NYSDEC plotted data from laboratory analyses on a site map and using the data, NYSDEC evaluated various remedial alternatives to determine the most appropriate remedial action for the site.”

NYSDEC developed the proposed remedy after reviewing the detailed investigation of the site and evaluating the remedial options in the “feasibility study” submitted under New York’s State Superfund Program.

Next Steps

NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the remedy for the site. The selected remedy will be described in a document called a "Record of Decision" that will explain why the remedy was selected and respond to public comments. A detailed design of the selected remedy will then be prepared, and the cleanup will be performed.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

Background

Location:

The site is located in the Town of Colonie, Albany County, NY at 191 Watervliet-Shaker Road at the corner of Lincoln Ave and Watervliet-Shaker Road. It is the location of an abandoned steel mill called the “Adirondack Steel Casting Co. Inc.” The site is located within a mile of six other sites in a New York State remedial program. It is approximately 0.5 miles to the north of “Al Tech Steel” and the "Former Bearoff" property, 0.25 miles to the west of “Perfection Plating” and the “Watervliet Arsenal Siberia Area”; all current or former Class 2 Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites; 0.75 miles to the northwest of an Environmental Restoration Project site, “Schuyler Heights Fire District”; and is adjacent to a Class 3 site, “Passonno Corp. Roof Coating Facility,” situated immediately to the west.

Site Features:

The site currently occupies 4.2 acres of the 38.5 acre former industrial property. The property contains eight dilapidated unoccupied buildings, (two of which are located on the Class 2 site), foundation slabs of the original production buildings, deteriorating access roads and emerging tree growth. There are also drainageways bordering the east side of the property as well as to the north of the former main production area. The drainageway to the east (OU-02) is largely stagnant and is located between the site and an active rail line owned and operated by Canadian Pacific. The drainageway to the north of the former production area (OU-03) flows to the east between the site and an industrial landfill. The landfill (not a part of the Class 2 site or the subject of this remedy) is comprised largely of foundry sands originating from past operations of the steel plant.

Current Zoning/Use(s):

The area surrounding the property is mixed industrial-residential use. The property borders on undeveloped land to the west and an active rail line to the east. The site itself is zoned "Industrial" and has been recently acquired by a private party who is actively developing the property surrounding OU-03 into an industrial park. A composting facility has been constructed on the off-site, western portion of the property not impacted by PCBs.

Past Use of Site:

Adirondack Steel Casting Company produced steel castings for various industrial customers from the early 1900's until the 1980's. The Site contained transformers associated with the steel mill that were the source of the known PCB contamination. A variety of tenants also occupied the property while it was known as the Adirondack Industrial Park after the steel mill was shuttered. Those occupants included asphalt paving companies, auto body shops, and an aluminum smelter.

There are three likely scenarios for the PCBs to have reached the soils at the site; routine maintenance, poor handling of used fluids, and/or unauthorized scavenging. The electrical components generally required little maintenance but could become damaged or require service that would provide the opportunity for the fluids to leak from the components to the ground. Poor handling or on-site dumping of spent fluids may have contributed to the releases and subsequent contamination. These two scenarios may have taken place any time after the installation of the power stations, likely in the 1960's. Finally, the abandonment and poor security of the plant also led to the opportunity for unauthorized scavenging of the equipment for the copper contained in the transformers. Reportedly, the fluid would be drained from the transformers directly to the ground during scavenging. The scavenging took place at various times during the 1980's and 90's.

The USEPA responded to the spilled PCBs and soil contamination in 1993 by excavating soil and storing it in a secured building at the property. Due to a lack of cooperation by the then owner, this stored soil was unable to be removed and disposed of until 1999. Significant PCB soil contamination remained.

Operable Units:

The site has been divided into two on-site operable units Operable Unit 1 (OU-01) and OU-03. There is a third OU, OU-02 that is off-site. An operable unit represents a portion of a remedial program for a site that for technical or administrative reasons can be addressed separately to investigate, eliminate or mitigate a release, threat of release or exposure pathway resulting from the site contamination.

OU-01: The soil in the vicinity of the North Power Station and the South Power Station where electrical equipment containing fluid with PCBs and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) was maintained or damaged resulting in releases of the fluid to the ground surface. These releases resulted in contamination of the soil in three locations totaling less than 0.5 acres over a portion of the Adirondack Steel Property. OU-1 remedial work has been completed and a No Further Action Record of Decision was signed on March 31, 2010.

OU-02: The off-site drainageways to the east of the Adirondack Steel property extend north of the former Adirondack Steel Property. Sediment and soil along the banks of the drainageways are contaminated with PCBs originally released from OU-01. Extensive investigation into the full extent of the contamination in these drainageways has been performed. OU-02 is the subject this document.

OU-03: This OU is comprised of portions of the property that contain PCB contaminated soil not included in OU-01 as well as the on-site drainageway. A Record of Decision was issued in March of 2015 and the remedy is currently under design.

Site Geology:

Non-native soils and fill comprise a large area of the site and the property. The underlying native soil is primarily composed of grey and brown clays with some fine sand. Thickness of the overburden varies across the entire property from 28 feet to less than 1 foot. Bedrock at the site is Snakehill Shale and as such, it is typically grey or black and is highly fractured with a high density of folding and faults.

Two groundwater bearing zones were investigated. The overburden groundwater is shallow, generally within 5 feet of the ground surface. Bedrock groundwater is also shallow, within five feet below ground surface (bgs) down to 17 feet bgs. Flow direction for each bearing zone is to the east-northeast. Groundwater elevations appear to indicate that the groundwater in the bedrock flow regime is confined as the elevations are often above the top of bedrock. This is borne out through hydraulic testing which indicated a vertical gradient with groundwater flowing from bedrock to overburden in the western wells. Wells on the east of the study area indicated groundwater flowing from overburden to bedrock at slow rates.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=401039>

State Superfund Program: New York's State Superfund Program (SSF) identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and/or the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds.

For more information about the SSF, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed.

Watervliet Public Library
1501 Broadway
Watervliet, NY 12189
phone: (518) 274-4471

Project documents are also available on the NYSDEC website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37564.html>

Who to Contact

Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

Project Related Questions

Ian Beilby
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7016
518-402-9639
ian.beilby@dec.ny.gov

Site-Related Health Questions

Bridget Boyd
New York State Department of Health
Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, Room 1787
Albany, NY 12237
518-402-7860
BEEI@health.ny.gov

We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>. It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you *better informed*.



As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

