



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

Morse Industrial Corporation
620 South Aurora Street
Ithaca, NY 14850

SITE No. 755010
Operable Unit 02C*
NYSDEC REGION 7

May 2018

Where to Find Information:

Project documents are available at the following locations to help the public stay informed.

Tompkins County Public Library
101 East Green Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
phone: (607) 272-4557

NYSDEC Region 7
Attn: Karen Cahill
615 Erie Blvd West
Syracuse, NY 13204
phone: (315) 426-7551

Who to Contact:

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

Project-Related Questions
Karen Cahill, Project Manager
NYSDEC Region 7
615 Erie Blvd W
Syracuse, NY 13204
315-426-7551
karen.cahill@dec.ny.gov

Health-Related Questions
Steve Karpinski
NYSDOH
Empire State Plaza
Corning Tower, Room 1787
Albany, NY 12237
518-402-7860
BEEI@health.ny.gov

For more information about New York's
State Superfund Program, visit:
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html

Interim Remedial Measure Proposed; Public Comment Period

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is proposing an expedited cleanup of contamination at the Morse Industrial Corporation site ("site") located at 620 South Aurora Street (Rt. 96B), Tompkins County. Please see the map for the site location. Documents related to the cleanup of this site including the draft Interim Remedial Measure Work Plan, can be found at the location(s) identified to the left under "Where to Find Information." NYSDEC is conducting a public comment period because this Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) is likely to represent a significant part of the cleanup for the site. The expedited cleanup activities are expected to begin in August 2018 and last about three months. The activities will be performed by Emerson Electric Company ("remedial party") with oversight provided by NYSDEC.

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.

How to Comment: NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan for 30 days, from **May 2 through June 1, 2018**. The proposed plan is available for public review at the locations identified at left under "Where to Find Information." Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project-Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area at left.

Draft Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) Work Plan: An IRM is a planned cleanup activity that efficiently and effectively addresses sources of contamination or exposure pathways (the way in which a person may contact contamination). Based on extensive investigations of soils and groundwater at the site, 16 Areas of Concern (AOCs) have been identified that contain contaminants in soil above NYSDEC standards. Portions of the sanitary sewer line that serviced the former manufacturing facility were also extensively investigated. Residual solids present in 17 manholes were tested and subsequently removed and properly disposed.

The draft work plan describes proposed IRM cleanup activities that include:

- Excavation and proper off-site disposal of approximately 3,600 cubic yards of contaminated soils from 15 of 16 AOCs (see Figure 1); and
- Excavation of test pits and collection of samples along portions of the sanitary sewer beneath the buildings to determine if additional remediation is appropriate.

*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.

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Most soil excavations will be less than 3 feet in depth. Five areas will be excavated to bedrock, which is expected to be less than 3 feet below ground surface. Most of the excavations are 1,500 square feet (SF) in size or less except AOC 32 (Former Spray Pond/Drainage Ditch Area), AOC 26 (Building 24 Area), and AOC 28 (Former Oil Shed Area). These excavations are approximately 13,000 SF, 7,900 SF, and 4,400 SF in size, respectively.

The following additional measures will be conducted after soil excavations are complete:

- Testing the remaining soil to verify the effectiveness of the IRM cleanup;
- Filling the excavation with clean soil;
- Placement of cover across the Former Propane Storage Tank Area (AOC 29) to eliminate potential of direct contact with soil that will remain; and
- Construction of a low-permeability cap in the Former Degreaser Area (AOC 1) to minimize rainfall infiltration.

The applicant's proposed future use of the site is for industrial use in one area and commercial / restricted residential in the other areas. As such, soil cleanup levels were selected that are protective of human health and the environment for these proposed future uses.

Next Steps: NYSDEC will consider public comments, revise the plan as necessary, and approve the IRM work plan in consultation with the New York State Department of Health. The approved work plan will be made available to the public (see "Where to Find Information" on front page).

Upon completion of the expedited cleanup activities, a Construction Completion Report will be prepared that documents the activities that were performed.

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

Site Description: The Morse Industrial Corporation site is located at 620 South Aurora Street along the west side of South Aurora Street/Danby Road (Route 96B) in the South Hill portion of the Town of Ithaca, Tompkins County, New York. The northern one third of the site (approximately 29 acres) resides in the City of Ithaca, with the remaining portion (approximately 67 acres) residing in the Town of Ithaca. The site's surface elevation ranges from 450 to 720 feet above

mean sea level (amsl), resulting in a very hilly topography, with the plant buildings situated on the bedrock slope. The site is bounded by Aurora Street to the east; undeveloped, steep woodlands to the south and southwest; and residential neighborhoods to the north and northwest.

An approximate 60-acre former manufacturing plant complex is located on the northern half of the site. This area is referred to as Operable unit 02 Former Manufacturing Complex (OU2). The former Fire Water Reservoir located immediately west of the main plant is designated as Operable Unit 01 (OU1); and the surrounding South Hill neighborhood to the north is designated as Operable Unit 03 (OU3).

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the Site ID, 755010) at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3>

Summary of the Investigation: A Phase II Supplemental Remedial Investigation was completed in 2016 to collect additional soil, sediment, stormwater and groundwater data to support the completion of a feasibility study for the approximate 60-acre former manufacturing complex referred to as Operable Unit 2 (OU2). Based on the investigations conducted to date within OU2, the primary contaminants of concern include chlorinated volatile organic compounds, including trichloroethene (TCE), tetrachloroethene (PCE), cis-1,2-dichloroethen (DCE), and vinyl chloride; petroleum hydrocarbons; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs); and metals, including barium; and cyanide.

State Superfund Program Overview: 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>

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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 at:

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.

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Site Location Map



