Department of Environmental Conservation

March 2017

FACT SHEET

Environmental Remediation Program

Receive Site Fact Sheets by *Email.* See "For More Information" to Learn How.

Site Name: Study Area
DEC Site #: 851046 Operable Units 01, 02, 03, and 05
Address: Corning Boulevard
Corning, NY 14830

Have questions? See "Whom to Contact" Below

DEC ANNOUNCES PROPOSED REMEDIAL DECISIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL AREAS ADJACENT TO CORNING-PAINTED POST HIGH SCHOOL

INCLUDING REMEDIATION AT CORNING MEMORIAL STADIUM, CORNING-PAINTED POST HIGH SCHOOL AND CORNING CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Based on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) and Corning Incorporated's ongoing investigation into contamination in the community around the Corning-Painted Post (CPP) High School, in the City of Corning, the following proposed remedial decisions are being made available for public comment. The Proposed Decision Documents outline the remediation activities proposed which will address layers of fill (target fill) containing ash, brick, or glass that contained contaminants, including lead, cadmium or arsenic, at levels above State Soil Cleanup Objectives (SCOs). These proposed remedial decisions include soil excavation as well as engineering and institutional controls to ensure the remedies are protective of public health and the environment.

How to Comment

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed remedial decisions through **April 10, 2017**. The proposed remedial decisions and additional information on the site are available for review at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information." Maps of the site proposed for remediation are below.

Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project Related Questions in the "Whom to Contact" area below.

Public Meeting and Availability Session

DEC, and the State Department of Health (DOH) will hold a public meeting and availability session to discuss the details of the proposed remedial decisions with residents and the community, as well as the next steps for cleanup of the impacted properties in the Study Area including the former Expansion Area. Corning Incorporated will also participate in the meeting.

Meeting place and time

Radisson Hotel, 125 Denison Parkway East, Corning, New York

- Wednesday, March 22, 2017 - Public Meeting: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.;
- Agency Staff and Corning Incorporated will also be available to answer any questions from the public concerning the Study Area at the Radisson from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m that day.

Elements of the Proposed Remedy

Two separate Proposed Decision Documents, prepared by DEC, in consultation with the DOH, describing the proposed remedial decisions for residential areas adjacent to the Corning-Painted Post High School,

**Operable Unit: An administrative term used to identify a portion of a project that can be addressed by a distinct investigation and/or cleanup approach. See Background section for further explanation.*

Corning Memorial Stadium, and Corning Christian Academy are available for review and comment. These Proposed Decision Documents will address soil that contains target fill outside of any previously installed cover systems. The remedial steps described in the Proposed Decision Documents include:

- Excavation and Off-Site Disposal - Contaminated soil in the top two feet (one foot at the Corning Painted Post High School) which exceed residential soil cleanup objectives and target fill will both be excavated and disposed at a facility permitted to accept the material;
- Soil covers which are installed will be placed over a demarcation layer, an identifiable barrier between cleaned and not cleaned areas, however where existing soil which meets the applicable soil cleanup objectives (SCOs) and has no target fill exists, there will not be the need to have a demarcation layer installed;
- Excavations will be backfilled with clean soil that meets residential use criteria;
- Environmental easements will be placed on the school properties and the Memorial stadium with long term site management being addressed in Site Management plans for the properties;
- Long term site management on residential properties will be addressed through local zoning and a Site Management Plan; and
- Provisions for management of contamination on properties until remediation is complete in Interim Site Management Plans (ISMPs) that will address handling of contaminated soils in the event that excavations must occur on those properties where contamination is present.

Summary of the Investigation

Environmental sampling performed by Corning Incorporated under a consent order with the state and by DEC confirmed the presence of contaminated soils at locations on some residential properties as well as on the Corning-Painted Post High School, Corning Memorial Stadium, and Corning Christian Academy properties. The data gathered through the investigations informed the development of the proposed remedial decisions.

Next Steps

NYSDEC will consider all public comments received, and revise the remedial decisions as necessary. Once finalized, DEC expects to begin the identified remediation activities in the summer of 2017 and will schedule work to ensure the actions do not impact school activities. DEC will be issuing letters to property owners documenting that no further action is required for properties that have been investigated with results indicating that soils are below residential SCOs. Additional sampling is planned to address data gaps in a portion of the Study Area where little if any contamination was found. The data generated from this sampling may allow DEC and DOH to make additional no further action determinations for properties without SCO exceedances.

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

Background

Location: The Study Area is located in the northeastern portion of the City of Corning. It is bounded by the Chemung River to the south, Post Creek to the east, I-86 to the north, and Pyrex Street to the west.

The project has been divided into five operable units as listed below. An operable unit (OU) 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. The original Study Area project being evaluated by Corning Incorporated under the 2014 Consent Order with NYSDEC consists of OU1 though OU4. The Expansion Area evaluated by NYSDEC under the State Superfund program is OU5.

- OU1 - Residential Area: The primary residential area including Houghton Park. It is bounded by school properties to the south, NYS Flood Control lands to the east, East Pulteney Street to the north, and Pyrex Street to the west.

- OU2 - Residential Area at the Eastern End of Corning Boulevard.
- OU3 - School/Community Use Areas: Properties owned by the Corning-Painted Post School District, Corning Christian Academy, and the City of Corning (Memorial Stadium)
- OU4 - Flood Control Areas: The southern and eastern most portions of the Study area including flood control structures, levies, and adjacent portions of the Chemung River and Post Creek.
- OU5 - Off-site Expansion Area: The residential areas immediately to the north and west of the boundaries of the Study Area. The Expansion Area is further bounded by I-86 to the north, Centerway (NYS Route 414) to the west, and the Guthrie Medical Center property to the south.

Site Features: The Study Area includes Corning-Painted Post High School, Corning Memorial Stadium, Corning Christian Academy, Houghton Park, and 216 residential parcels. The Expansion Area includes 109 residential parcels.

The (former) Corning-Painted Post East High School was expanded to accommodate the consolidation of two former high schools at this location. Excavation work began in 2012 and the reconfiguration of the new Corning-Painted Post High School was largely complete at the outset of the 2014-2015 school year. As part of these renovations, the school grounds were restored with cover soils placed on the majority of the property. Additional work will be done in limited areas at the schools and stadium to complete the soil cover systems according to the approved Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) work plans.

During construction work at the school in 2012, target fill was encountered in excavated soils. DEC determined that the presence of this material warranted additional investigation at the school property and in nearby properties within the Study Area. DEC secured a consent order with Corning Incorporated in 2014 and directed them to conduct an evaluation of the area.

Current Zoning and Land Use: Current property use and zoning in the area includes residential and community services.

Past Use: The Corning-Painted Post High School property and much of the surrounding neighborhood is a former low area along the river that has been extensively filled from the 1930s, or earlier, to the early 1960s when the school was constructed. Historic property deed records contain a condition that allowed Corning Glass Works to maintain ash dumps "as now located" in the Study Area in 1920.

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=851046

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

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

Southeast Steuben County Library
300 Nasser Civic Center Plaza
Suite 101
Corning, NY 14830
phone: (607) 936-3713

NYSDEC - Region 8 Office
Attn: Linda Vera
6274 East Avon-Lima Rd.
Avon, NY 14414
phone: (585) 226 - 5324
(Linda.Vera@dec.ny.gov)

Project documents are also available on the NYSDEC website at:
http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/97180.html

Whom to Contact

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

Project Related Questions
Kelly C. Cloyd, Ph.D..
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
6274 East Avon-Lima Road
Avon, NY 14414
(585) 226-5351
kelly.cloyd@dec.ny.gov

Site-Related Health Questions
Melissa Doroski, M.P.H.
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.

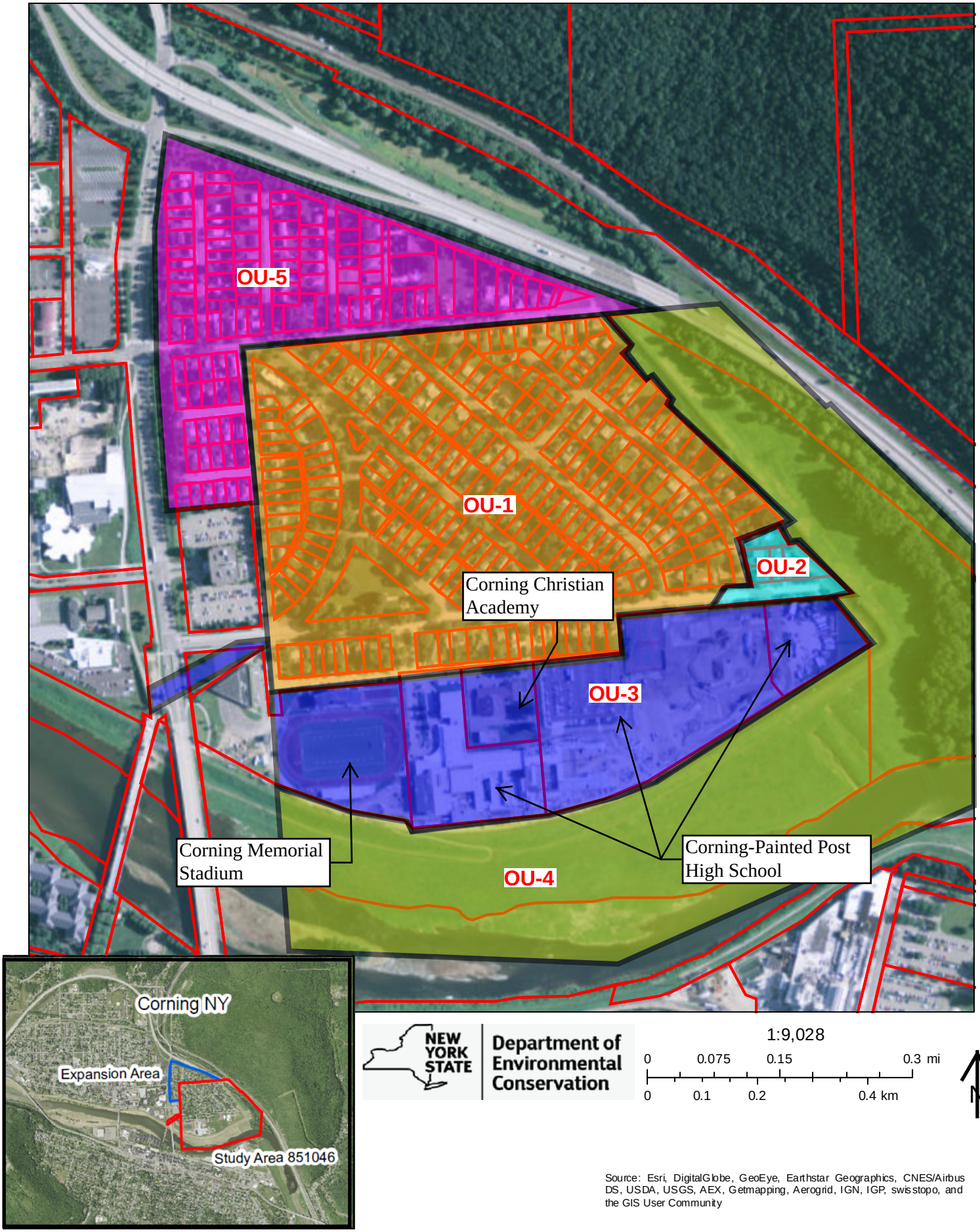
Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

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.

Study Area Operable Units



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