



FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

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

Site Name: Al Tech Specialty Steel Corporation
DEC Site #: 907022 Operable Unit 02 (OU-2)
Willowbrook Pond and Tributary
Address: Willowbrook Avenue
Dunkirk, NY 14048

Have questions?
See
"Who to Contact"
Below

Additional Investigation Begins at State Superfund Site

Investigations are about to begin that will expand the effort to identify potential contamination related to Willowbrook Pond associated with the Al Tech Specialty Steel Corporation site ("site") located at Willowbrook Avenue, Dunkirk, Chautauqua County.

Documents related to this site can be found at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information." The investigation/cleanup activities will be performed by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

Next Steps

Now that the remedial actions at Willowbrook Pond are complete, NYSDEC will assess potential impacts from the Pond to an unnamed tributary of Crooked Brook. The tributary crosses Willowbrook Avenue, traverses a corner of the site within two, 36-inch diameter, tiled, culverts and then crosses Brigham Road to join Crooked Brook eventually emptying into Lake Erie.

Previous sampling efforts have identified low levels of PCBs and metals including nickel and chromium within sediments and near bank soils. In order to develop a remedial design to clean up impacts to the tributary, the next step for NYSDEC is to complete a comprehensive sampling of the tributary and Crooked Brook downstream of the tributary.

To collect this information NYSDEC will task a contractor to sample the stream every 175 feet, sampling sediment and soil from the center of the stream, from the top of each bank and then 20 feet from the top of each bank. Borings will be approximately 2 feet deep and samples will be collected from the surface and subsurface. Once this data is analyzed, a plan will be developed to address impacts to the stream. Details of the results of the investigation and a proposed cleanup plan will be shared, for comment, with the public in a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP).

Work is anticipated to commence in March 2017 and depending on conditions is anticipated to last approximately five weeks. This work follows up on the cleanup action for the Willowbrook Pond portion of OU-2 which included: excavation and off-site disposal of impacted pond sediment and soil and backfilling of the pond, construction of a final surface soil cover system and grading for proper surface drainage. Cleanup was completed January 2017.

**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.

Background

Location: The former AlTech Specialty Steel Corp. (AlTech) is an approximately 90 acre industrial site in the City of Dunkirk, Chautauqua County. Located north of Willowbrook Avenue, south of Lucas Avenue, east of Brigham Road the site is surrounded by mixed residential/commercial parcels including, single family residential, a lumber supply center, a municipal garage and the Dunkirk High School athletic fields.

Site Features: The main facilities contain a mixture of active and inactive buildings and open land. The active facilities are partially fenced and consist mainly of the Brigham Road Plant and the Bar Finish and Storage Facility. Located in the southwest corner of the main facilities was an approximately 1.65 acre man-made cooling pond known as Willowbrook Pond. A tributary to Crooked Brook flows southeast to northwest toward Lake Erie through the southwest corner of the site. Open land on and around the main facilities includes maintained lawn areas and unmaintained former fill and disposal areas that have vegetated with native grass, brush and tree species.

North of the active main facilities a rail line bisects the site beyond which was the former Lucas Avenue Plant (LAP.) The LAP was a one-story, approximately 178,000-square-foot former manufacturing facility located on the south side of the west end of Lucas Avenue. Situated on a rectangular parcel of land the LAP was formerly a part of the larger adjoining Al Tech site. The LAP facility was demolished in 2016.

A residential neighborhood and public school are located on the north side of Lucas Avenue.

Current Zoning and Land Use(s): Current zoning is industrial. Since 2002, Dunkirk Acquisition, LLC d.b.a. Dunkirk Specialty Steel, has operated a large portion of the site as a steel and stainless steel processing facility.

The current AlTech Specialty Steel hazardous waste site is located within the 90 acre parcel and is divided into three operable units.

OU1: Lucas Avenue Plant - this includes the building and the property owned by RealCo situated north of the railway parallel to Lucas Avenue. The LAP building was demolished in 2016 with additional site cleanup on-going

OU2: Willowbrook Pond – Willowbrook Pond and tributary to Crooked Brook.

OU3: AlTech Plant - This includes the remaining property within in the main facility area owned by Dunkirk Acquisition LLC.

Past Use of the Site: Industrial use of the site has included the manufacture of iron and steel dating back to 1908. Foundry operations gave way to forging and finishing of stainless steel rod and wire from supplied billets. Past operations at the facility leading to site contamination have included; pickling operations using molten sodium or barium salts, trichloroethylene pickle baths, metal-plating operations, solid waste disposal, spillages and discharges into the cooling pond.

Geology-Hydrology: The site is located on broad glacio-lacustrine sedimentary deposits. Soils are tight silty, clayey soils consisting of urban fill over silt loams. Groundwater is about ten feet below the ground surface and is limited due to the tight nature of the bedrock and soils, however localized ponding can occur. Any groundwater present flows generally to the north toward Lake Erie but is strongly influenced by topographic features and man-made pathways. Bedrock is the Upper Devonian Shales of the Canadaway Group.

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=907022>

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.

New York State Department of Conservation
Attn: Maurice Moore
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203-2915
phone: (716)851-7220
(maurice.moore@dec.ny.gov)

Dunkirk Free Library
Attn: Ms. Janice Dekoff
536 Central Avenue
Dunkirk, NY 14048
phone: (716)366-2511
(dunkirklibrary@gmail.com)

Project documents are also available on the NYSDEC website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37554.html>

Who to Contact

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

Site Related Questions

Maurice F. Moore
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203-2915
716-851-7220
maurice.moore@dec.ny.gov

Site-Related Health Questions

Matthew Forcucci
New York State Department of Health
584 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716)847-4385
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

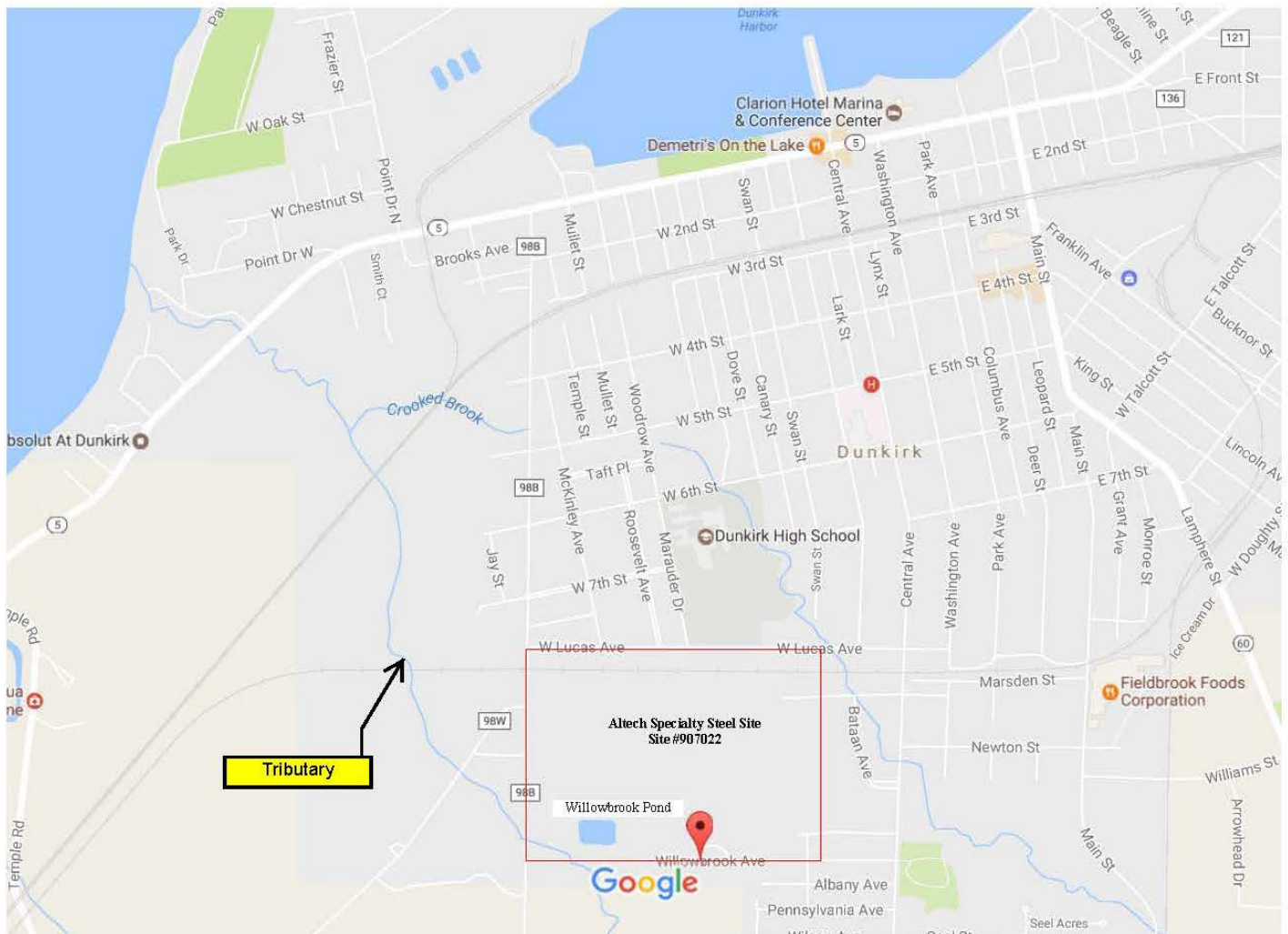
Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>. It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you *better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

Figure 1 - Site Location



Map data ©2017 Google 1000 ft