



# FACT SHEET

## State Superfund Program

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**Site Name:** Niagara Sanitation Company  
**DEC Site #:** 932054  
**Address:** Nash Road  
Wheatfield, NY 14120

Have questions?  
See  
"Who to Contact"  
Below

### Investigation to Begin at State Superfund Site

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) will begin a detailed environmental study at the Niagara Sanitation Company site ("site") located at Nash Road, in the Town of Wheatfield, Niagara County. Please see the map for the site location. Documents related to the investigation of this site can be found at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information."

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

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/external/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=932054>

#### Introduction

Following the completion of an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) in 2015 to remove the Love Canal wastes that were disposed of as part of the LaSalle Expressway construction, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reclassified the Niagara Sanitation Landfill site to a Class 2 from a Class 3 site on the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste sites. The DEC reclassified the site due to recently identified elevated surface soil contaminants in several locations and the presence of hazardous waste in the subsurface on the site. Once a site has a Class 2 designation, DEC is authorized to seek out responsible parties who operated and/or disposed of hazardous substances and/or hazardous waste at the landfill to compel them to complete a comprehensive investigation and remediation of the landfill. Since no responsible parties agreed to do this investigation, DEC will spend State Superfund money to complete the investigation. DEC will then take legal action to recover all costs from the parties that are responsible for the site.

#### Investigation Work Plan

The investigation work plan, called the "Remedial Investigation Work Plan/Scope of Work," was developed under New York's State Superfund Program. DEC will perform the investigation which will include the installation of monitoring wells and test pits to assess conditions on the site and, determine if any contaminants may be moving off-site into the residential neighborhood.

#### Highlights of the Site Investigation

The purpose of the investigation is to define the nature and extent of contamination in soil, surface water, groundwater and any other parts of the environment that may be affected. The site investigation will fully characterize all contamination at the site.

Phase I of the Remedial Investigation will include the collection and analysis of surface soil/near surface soil, surface water and sediment. The clearing of vegetation around the perimeter of the landfill will also be completed to facilitate the Phase II Remedial Investigation field activities. These activities, anticipated to take place later this year, will include the completion of test pits and soil borings and the installation of monitoring wells to further assess groundwater contamination.

### **Next Steps**

The information collected during the investigation will be summarized in a report. After the site investigation has been completed, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation will conduct a "Feasibility Study". This study uses information obtained during the site investigation to develop and evaluate potential ways to address contamination related to the site.

NYSDEC will then develop a draft remediation plan, called a "Proposed Remedial Action Plan". This plan describes the alternatives evaluated and the remedy preferred by NYSDEC. The draft remediation plan explains the decision that led to the preferred remedy by discussing each alternative and the reasons for choosing or rejecting it. The goal of the plan will be to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. NYSDEC will announce the draft remediation plan in a future fact sheet, and will present it to the public for its review and comment during a 30-day comment period and at a public meeting.

### **Background**

#### Location:

The Niagara Sanitation Company Site, also known as the Nash Road Landfill, is an inactive landfill located on Nash Road in the Town of Wheatfield, Niagara County, New York. The property is owned by the Town of Wheatfield, and is adjacent to the boundary that separates the Town of Wheatfield from the City of North Tonawanda. The landfill is located approximately 1,400 feet east of Nash Road. The portion of the property that was the landfill is rectangular in shape and consists of approximately 18.7 acres of the 20.8 acre parcel.

The site is bordered by the Holy Infant Shrine to the north; a cemetery and property that contains a motel and livery service to the east; a utility right-of-way (both overhead electric and underground natural gas and brine lines) and residences to the south; and Nash Road and residences to the west.

#### Site Features:

The property is vacant and overgrown with mature trees, dense brush, and patches of phragmites in wet areas. The site is poorly drained and contains several ponds and areas of standing water. The access road to the site is roped-off, but access to the site is generally unrestricted, and the property has historically been accessed by trespassers on foot and on off road vehicles. The Town of Wheatfield is planning to fence the site.

Historic landfilling activities have resulted in irregular ground surface topography. Numerous mounds can be observed throughout the site, with waste protruding in some locations. During a site reconnaissance completed for the 2013 NYSDEC Site Characterization Study, evidence of partially buried waste was observed across the site, including tires, drums, battery casings, metal and plastic debris, and mounds of fill material.

#### Current Zoning and Land Use:

The New York State property class code for this site is 852 - Landfills and Dumps, and the property is zoned for Public Service use. Surrounding land use includes residential properties to the south and west, and commercial properties to the north and east.

#### Past Use of the Site:

The town-owned landfill was operated by the Niagara Sanitation Company from approximately 1955 to 1968. The landfill accepted both municipal and industrial solid wastes, including caustic materials, plating tank sludge and municipal wastes. NYSDEC records indicate that the Bell Aerospace, Carborundum, Graphite Specialties and others may have disposed of waste at the site.

Records also indicate that approximately 1,600 cubic yards of waste, which was generated during construction of the LaSalle Expressway in Niagara Falls, near what was later to become the Love Canal Site, was landfilled in a trench at this site between June 6 and July 15, 1968. The disposal trench reportedly measured 100 feet by 30 feet, and was 27 feet in depth. The waste debris was placed in the bottom 15 feet of the trench and covered with 12 feet of fill.

#### Remedial History:

The NYSDEC completed a Phase I Investigation (historical records review and site walk over) of the site in 1983, a Phase II Investigation (on-site data collection) in 1985, and an expanded Phase II Investigation in 1989. In association with these investigations, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) completed surface soil sampling in 1991 to evaluate potential exposure risks. At that time it was determined that the site did not pose a significant threat to public health or the environment because the exposure was limited; the materials were buried, contained or covered sufficiently to avoid significant exposure to the public or environment. Groundwater as a potential exposure path was determined to be limited because the area was served by public water and the closest private well was approximately one mile away. As a result, the site was designated as Class 3 (action can be deferred) in the NYSDEC Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites (Registry).

In 2013, the NYSDEC completed a Site Characterization Study to re-evaluate the Class 3 designation for the site and to re-evaluate the potential for direct contact exposures based on current site conditions. Also in 2013, Glenn Spring Holdings, an affiliate of the Occidental Chemical Corporation, began an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) to characterize and remove the Love Canal wastes that were disposed of as part of the LaSalle Expressway construction. This waste was excavated from the site during the Fall/Winter of 2014, and the Winter/Spring of 2015 and sent out of state for incineration.

In 2014, the NYSDEC conducted a Supplemental Site Characterization Study to characterize the municipal and industrial waste in the remainder of the landfill. While the majority of the site contained contaminant concentrations typical of non-hazardous municipal/industrial waste, three areas were identified that contained hazardous concentrations of lead and PCBs. Several surface soil samples exceeded residential soil cleanup objectives (SCOs) for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and metals. Groundwater within the footprint of the landfill contained elevated concentrations of volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, pesticides and metals that exceeded groundwater standards or guidance values.

### Site Geology and Hydrogeology:

There are seven stratigraphic units underlying the site described as follows: (1) a mixture of fine sand, clay and fill material (glass, refuse, etc.) that ranges in thickness from 0 to 16 feet; (2) an upper gray sand lens that ranges in thickness from 0 to 8 feet. This deposit is thickest in the southwest portion of the site and is absent in the northeast; (3) a gray-brown silty clay that ranges in thickness from 3 to 7 feet; (4) a red-gray layered clay containing thin sand seams. This deposit ranges in thickness from 17 to 32 feet; (5) a lower red/brown sand lens that ranges in thickness from 3 to 6 feet. This deposit is thickest in the northern portion of the site, and thins to the south, east and west; (6) a pink, very dense till that ranges in thickness from 22 to 42 feet; and (7) dolostone bedrock. Depth to bedrock ranges from 65 to 71 feet below ground surface.

Monitoring wells installed at the site screen all six overburden zones. Groundwater contour maps, however, have only been constructed for the combined fill/upper sand deposit, which shows groundwater flow to the north. Groundwater elevations for the glacial till deposit indicate that the water table of this deposit is essentially flat. Groundwater flow directions have not been determined for the other overburden deposits. Monitoring wells have not been installed in bedrock underlying the site.

**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.

North Tonawanda Public Library  
Attn: Kevin Wall  
505 Meadow Drive  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
phone: (716) 693-4132  
(ntw@nioga.org)

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:

Project Related Questions:

Glenn May  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Environmental Remediation  
270 Michigan Ave  
Buffalo, NY 14203-2915  
716-851-7220  
glenn.may@dec.ny.gov

Site-Related Health Questions:

Matthew Forcucci  
New York State Department of Health  
584 Delaware Ave  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716-847-4501  
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.





# Niagara Sanitation Landfill Property Map



### Legend

Parcels

@SeZ DaSV

0 598.99 1,198.0 Feet

WGS\_1984\_Web\_Mercator\_Auxiliary\_Sphere  
THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

**NIAGARA COUNTY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF REAL PROPERTY SERVICES**

This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.

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