



<b>FACT SHEET</b>	<b>Brownfield Cleanup Program</b>
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**Receive Site Fact Sheets by *Email*.** See "For More Information" to Learn How.

**Site Name:** Alcoa Continuous Mill Furnace Hydraulic Cyl. Area  
**DEC Site #:** C645030  
**Address:** 45 County Route 42  
Massena, NY 13662

Have questions?  
See  
"Who to Contact"  
Below

### **Draft Investigation Work Plan for Brownfield Site Available for Public Comment**

The public is invited to comment on a draft work plan being reviewed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to investigate the Alcoa Continuous Mill Furnace Hydraulic Cyl. Area site ("site") located at 45 County Route 42, Massena, St. Lawrence 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."

#### **Draft Investigation Work Plan**

The draft investigation work plan, called a "Remedial Investigation Work Plan," was submitted to NYSDEC under New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program. The investigation will be performed by Alcoa Inc. ("applicant(s)") with oversight by NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

#### **How to Comment**

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the draft investigation work plan for 30 days, from **October 6, 2014** through **November 5, 2014**. 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.

#### **Highlights of the Proposed Site Investigation**

The investigation will define the nature and extent of contamination in soil, surface water, groundwater and any other parts of the environment that may be affected.

The purpose of this investigation is to evaluate the extent of contamination in the vicinity of the former hydraulic cylinders located inside Building 140 of the Alcoa Massena West facility. The potential mobility of the contamination will also be evaluated to determine if there are any impacts to sensitive receptors.

The Remedial Investigation (RI) will consist the following activities:

- Soil borings to collect soil samples to evaluate the horizontal and vertical extent of soil contamination;
- Installation of additional wells to evaluate groundwater quality on the northwest side of the

- site to assess contaminant mobility in groundwater;
- Collection and analysis of groundwater samples from each monitoring well; and
- Periodic water level and product (i.e. hydraulic fluids/oils) thickness monitoring.

After the RI field work is completed the results will be summarized in a Remedial Investigation Report. Based on the findings a course of further remedial action will be determined.

### **Next Steps**

NYSDEC will consider public comments, revise the plan as necessary, and approve the work plan. NYSDOH must concur with the plan. The approved work plan will be made available to the public (see “Where to Find Information” below). After the work plan is approved, the activities detailed in the work plan will be implemented.

When the investigation is completed, a report will be prepared and submitted to the NYSDEC that summarizes the results. NYSDEC will review the report, make any necessary revisions and, if appropriate, approve the report.

After the investigation, a cleanup plan, called a “Remedial Work Plan” will be developed and a Decision Document will be proposed. The cleanup plan will include an evaluation of the proposed site remedy, or recommend a no action or no further action alternative. The goal of the cleanup plan is to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. NYSDEC will present the proposed cleanup plan to the public for its review and comment during a 45-day comment period. NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

### **Background**

**Location:** The Former Continuous Mill site is located within Building 140 on the Alcoa Massena West Plant facility in the Town of Massena. The Alcoa facility is bordered to the north by the St. Lawrence River, to the east by private properties, to the south by the Grasse River, and to the west by the Massena Power Canal.

**Site Features:** The Continuous Mill Site is located almost entirely inside Building 140. Machinery on the site floor has been either decommissioned or removed by Alcoa. The building floor is almost completely concrete with two rows of steel support girders (row C and row B) running east-west through the center of the site. A fence currently restricts access to the site from employees in active production areas.

**Current Zoning/Uses:** The site is currently zoned for industrial use. While there are no currently operating processes on the site other portions of Building 140 maintain manufacturing operations. It is anticipated that the zoning will remain industrial.

**Site History:** The Continuous Mill area was used to produce milled aluminum products from 1942 to 2000, when operations were closed in favor of more efficient processes. Historically the mill area housed furnaces, hydraulic lifts, oil storage tanks, and related process machinery, but much has been removed since 2000. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were used in the hydraulic systems from 1954 until 1972, and were not completely removed until 1984.

In 2000 two hydraulic lift pits were decommissioned and their hydraulic cylinders were removed. At this time PCBs were detected in the surrounding soils and concrete. This was reported to the DEC as Spill #0009126. Initial test pits were excavated around the cylinders, but excavations were stopped due to structural concerns. Sampling conducted in the pits showed soil PCB concentrations ranging from 16 to 9602 part per million (ppm). The pits were backfilled with furnace bricks and a piezometer (similar to a monitoring well) was installed in each pit (referred as P1 and P2). In April 2001 the site was designated as a potential hazardous waste site by the NYSDEC (designated as site #645030).

Site Geology and Hydrogeology: Knowledge of the subsurface is fairly limited. Based on information obtained to date regarding this site and on other areas on the Alcoa facility the site appears to be underlain by till, which is underlain by dense silt and clay.

An east-west groundwater divide appears to run below Building 140 with groundwater to the south flowing in a southerly direction. Groundwater to the north appears to infiltrate the facility's storm sewers where collection and treatment occur prior to discharge. The high density of buildings and paved areas across the site is expected to limit groundwater recharge from precipitation events.

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=C645030>

**Brownfield Cleanup Program:** New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) encourages the voluntary cleanup of contaminated properties known as "brownfields" so that they can be reused and redeveloped. These uses may include recreation, housing, business or other uses.

A **brownfield** is any real property that is difficult to reuse or redevelop because of the presence or potential presence of contamination.

For more information about the BCP, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html>

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Where to Find Information

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

Massena Public Library  
Attn: Elaine Dunne-Thayer  
41 Glenn Street  
Massena, NY 13662  
phone: 315-769-9914  
(edunnethayer@ncls.org)

### Who to Contact

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

#### Project Related Questions

Benjamin McPherson  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Environmental Remediation  
317 Washington St  
Watertown, NY 13601-3787  
315-785-2516  
benjamin.mcpherson@dec.ny.gov

#### Site-Related Health Questions

Ian Ushe  
New York State Department of Health  
Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation  
Albany, NY  
518-402-7850  
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

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REFERENCED FROM: MASSENA AND RAQUETTE RIVER, USGS QUADRANGLE

ALCOA INC.  
 CONTINUOUS MILL FURNACE  
 HYDRAULIC CYLINDER SPILL SITE  
 MASSENA, NY



MAP LOCATION

SITE LOCATION

