Department of Environmental Conservation

March 2015

FACT SHEET

Voluntary Cleanup Program

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

Site Name: Manhasset N10 (LIRR)
DEC Site #: V00396
Address: Virginia Drive & Tracks
Manhasset, NY 11030

Have questions? See "Who to Contact" Below

Remedy Proposed for Voluntary Cleanup Site Contamination; Public Comment Period Extended

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has released a proposed cleanup plan for the Manhasset N10 (LIRR) site ("site") located at Virginia Drive & Tracks, Manhasset, Nassau 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."

How to Comment
NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan from **January 23, 2015** through **April 10, 2015**. The proposed plan is available for public 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.

Draft Remedial Action Work Plan
The cleanup plan is described in a detailed "Remedial Action Work Plan". The proposed remedy consists of:

1) Excavating and disposing of about 2,000 cubic yards of mercury contaminated soil and sediment from 3 areas, totaling around 24,400 square feet, both on- and off-site, to achieve Soil Cleanup Objectives (SCOs). The SCO is 5.7 parts per million (ppm) within the fenced LIRR property, and 0.81 ppm for the unfenced areas, both on- and off-site. The cleanup objective for mercury in the sediments is the NYSDEC's TOGS 5.1.9 threshold value of 0.17 ppm for In-Water and Riparian Management of Sediment and Dredged Material.

2) Filing a deed restriction to limit the property's use as industrial property. This document is recorded with the county clerk and attached to the property deed.

This remedy will protect public health and the environment presented by the contaminants by removing it from the site and surrounding impacted areas.

The proposed remedy was developed by Long Island Rail Road ("volunteer(s)") after performing a detailed investigation of the site under New York's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP).

Summary of the Investigation
The contaminant of concern is mercury. Investigations show mercury contamination in the surface and subsurface soils as well as in drainage swale outfall sediments. The impacted soil is primarily within rectifier pits, drainage swale, and other subsurface features all located inside the fence line. Surface contamination is most commonly found near the rectifier buildings inside and outside the fence line, but still on LIRR property. The site contaminant did not adversely affect groundwater.

Mercury contamination exceeds the industrial SCO of 5.7 ppm with levels up to 1,700 ppm near the entrance of the substation building, and 9,800 ppm located on-site within the drainage swale. Subsurface soil in the area between the LIRR fence and the curb (immediately north of the drainage swale), had concentrations of mercury in excess of the restricted residential SCO of 0.81 ppm, with these samples exhibiting mercury concentrations ranging from 0.1 ppm to less than 10.0 ppm.

Contaminated sediment is located at the base of the drainage swale outfall to Manhasset Bay. Mercury contamination, at levels up to 4.3 ppm, exceeds the NYSDEC's Technical & Operational Guidance Series 5.1.9 threshold value of 0.17 ppm for In-Water and Riparian Management of Sediment and Dredged Material.

Next Steps
NYSDEC will consider public comments, revise the plan as necessary, and issue a final Decision Document. New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) must concur with the proposed remedy. After approval, the proposed remedy becomes the selected remedy. The draft Remedial Action Work Plan and Proposed Decision Document are revised as needed to describe the selected remedy, and will be made available to the public. The volunteer(s) may then design and perform the cleanup action to address the site contamination, with oversight by NYSDEC and NYSDOH.

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

Background
Location: The Long Island Railroad's Manhasset Substation site is located on Virginia Place and Thompson Shore Road, in a residential portion of Manhasset, Nassau County, NY. The adjoining railroad tracks are on the south side of the property.

Site Features: The main site features are the two-story rectifier building, transformer yard, dirt parking area, crushed stone, and vegetation on the rest of the property. There is a stormwater drainage system that begins upgradient of and crosses through the property which ends in Manhasset Bay after collecting drainage from part of the substation. On-site the swale is uncovered, however, it is covered off-site, including where it dives underground before surfacing at the outfall.

The site is fenced (including the open drainage swale), except for a 4 foot wide grass strip between the fence line and the road. Manhasset High School and Manhasset Middle School complex is located at a much higher elevation to the south of the substation across the tracks. A residential neighborhood lies to the north across Virginia Place.

Current Zoning/Use(s): The site is about 1 acre, currently zoned industrial and is used by the LIRR as a rectifying station to supply power to the railroad.

Past Use of the Site: Prior to 1979, mercury rectifiers were used at this substation to power the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) locomotive and electric passenger car fleet. It is believed that work practices surrounding the operation and maintenance of the rectifiers caused spills and other contaminating events. Mercury contamination remains although the rectifiers were removed and replaced with solid state equipment. In 2000, the LIRR conducted initial site assessments and submitted reports on findings, as well as conducted initial remedial measures, including but not limited to, excavation work consisting of the removal of six inches to a foot of soil and replacement with poly sheeting and crushed stone around the entrance. In 2004, the LIRR entered into the VCP program.

Site Geology and Hydrogeology: The shallow geology of the site consists of sands, with some silt and gravel. Based on available information, the approximate groundwater flow direction is to the northwest and the approximate depth to groundwater is 75 feet below grade.

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=V00396

Voluntary Cleanup Program: New York's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) was developed to encourage private sector volunteers to investigate and clean up contaminated properties and return these sites to productive use. Once cleaned up, the properties may be redeveloped for commercial, industrial, residential or public use.

For more information about the VCP, visit: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8442.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

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

Manhasset Public Library
Attn: Reference Librarian
30 Onderdonk Avenue
Manhasset, NY 11030
phone: (516) 627-2300

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

Project Related Questions
Tara Rutland
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7015
518-402-9621
tara.rutland@dec.ny.gov

Site-Related Health Questions
Charlotte Bethoney
New York State Department of Health
Empire State Plaza Corning Tower Room 1787
Albany, NY 12237
(518) 402-7860
BEEI@health.ny.gov

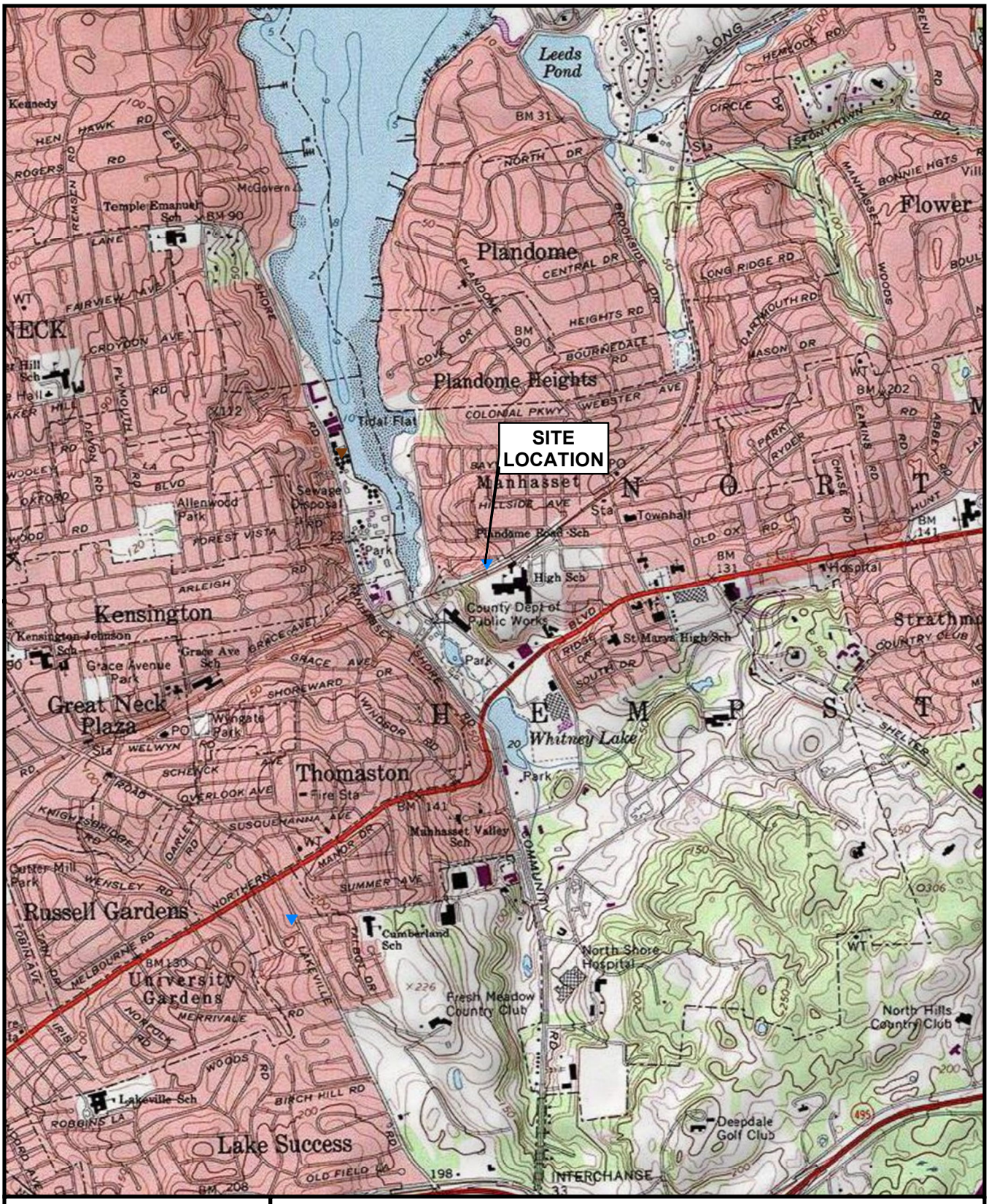
We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.

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.



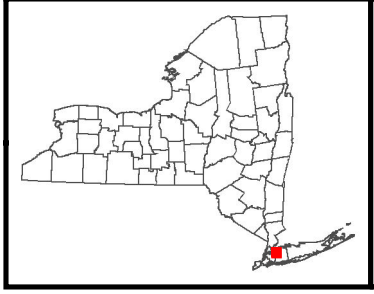


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Figure 1

Site Location Map

Manhasset N10 (LIRR)

Town of North Hempstead, Nassau County

Site No. V00396

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