NEW YORK STATE | 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: Valley Stream S04 (LIRR)
DEC Site #: V00404
Address: Rockaway Avenue & Sunrise Highway
Valley Stream, NY 11580

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 Valley Stream S04 (LIRR) site ("site") located at Rockaway Avenue & Sunrise Highway, Valley Stream, 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 450 cubic yards of mercury (on- and off-site) and arsenic (on-site) contaminated soil from about a 2,500 square foot area, to achieve Soil Cleanup Objectives (SCO). The SCO for mercury is 5.7 parts per million (ppm) within the fenced LIRR property, and 0.81 ppm for the unfenced areas. The SCO for arsenic is 16 ppm.

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 contaminants of concern are mercury and arsenic. Investigations show contamination in

on-site surface and subsurface soils. Contaminated soil is primarily within rectifier pits and other subsurface features. Mercury and arsenic surface contamination is most commonly found near the rectifier buildings. These contaminants did not adversely affect groundwater.

Mercury contamination that exceeds the industrial SCO of 5.7 ppm inside the fenced area, ranges from about 6 ppm to about 26 ppm. Mercury contamination that exceeds the residential SCO of 0.81 ppm outside the fenced area, ranges from about 1 to about 198 ppm. Arsenic contamination that exceeds the industrial and residential SCO of 16 ppm both inside and outside the fenced area, ranges from about 19 to about 72 ppm.

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 Valley Stream site is located in a mixed commercial, residential, and industrial portion of Valley Stream, Nassau County, NY. It is located on Sunrise Highway and the elevated railroad tracks are north and west of the property.

Site Features: The main site features are the two-story rectifier building, transformer yard, and parking areas surrounding the property. There are commercial buildings on the east side of the substation. Only the transformer yard is fenced.

Current Zoning/Use(s): The 0.1 acre site is currently zoned industrial and was formerly 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. Mercury contamination remains although the rectifiers were removed and replaced with solid state equipment. It is believed that work practices surrounding the operation and maintenance of the rectifiers caused spills and other contaminating events. 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. Depth to groundwater is roughly 10 feet below ground surface and groundwater flows approximately in a southerly direction.

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=V00404

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.

Valley Stream Public Library
Attn: Reference Librarian
60 Verona Place
Valley Stream, NY 11582
phone: (516) 825-6422

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
Anthony Perretta
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.

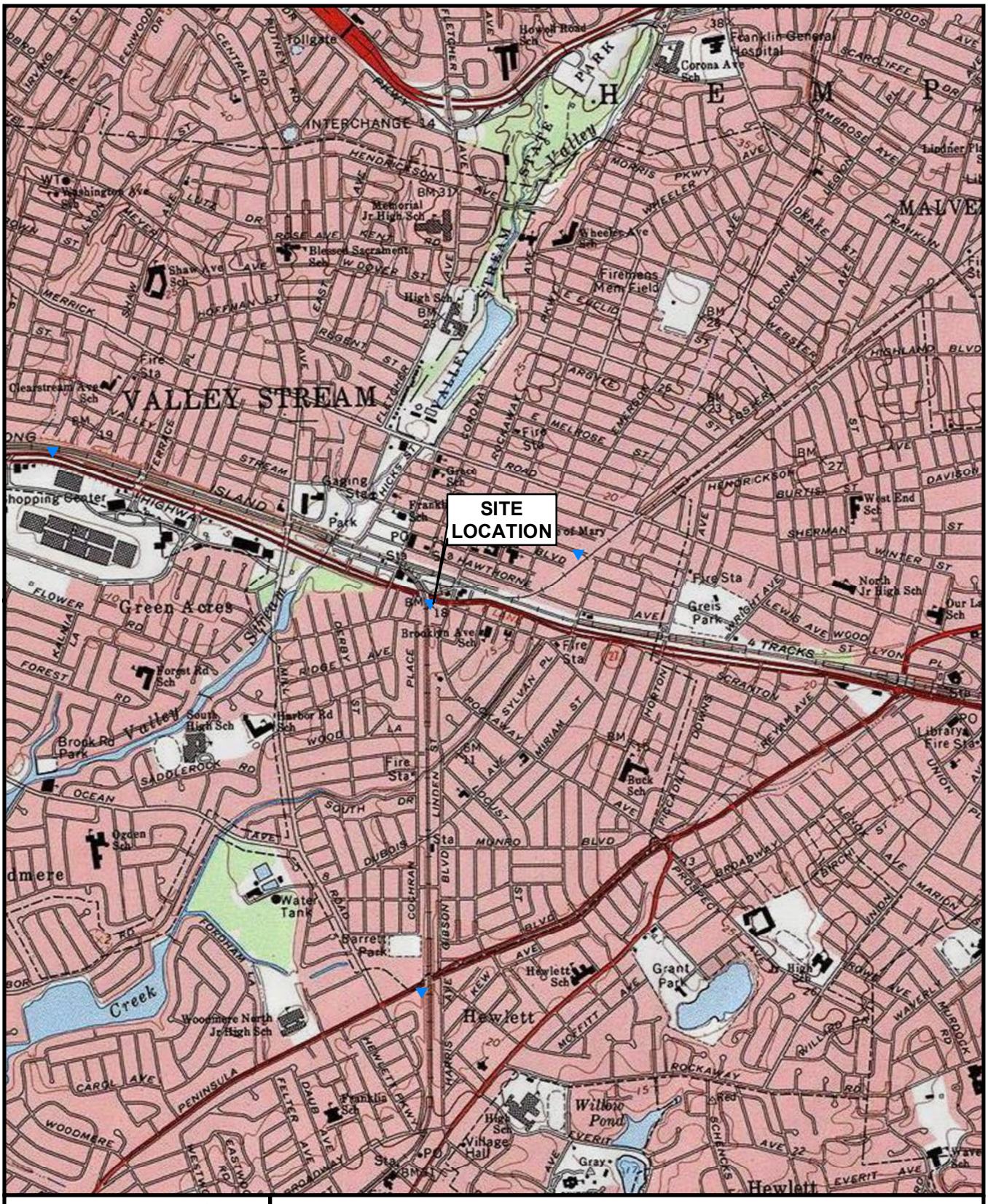

Figure 1

Site Location Map

Valley Stream S04 (LIRR)

Town of Hempstead, Nassau County

Site No. V00404

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