



FACT SHEET State Superfund Program

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Site Name: General Electric Co. Auburn
DEC Site #: 706006
Address: West Genesee Street
Auburn/Aurelius, NY 13021

Have questions? See "Who to Contact" Below

Remedy Proposed for State Superfund Site; Public Comment Period and Public Meeting Announced

Public Meeting, Wednesday, 1/27/2016 at 7:00 PM
Memorial City Hall, 1st Floor, 24 South Street, Auburn, NY 13021
NYSDEC invites you to a public meeting to discuss the remedy proposed for the site. You are encouraged to provide comments at the meeting, and during the 30-day comment period described in this fact sheet.

The public is invited to comment on a remedy proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) related to the General Electric Co. Auburn site ("site") located at West Genesee Street, Auburn/Aurelius, Cayuga 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 for 30 days, from January 13, 2016 through February 11, 2016. 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.

The site is listed as a Class "2" site in the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites (list of State Superfund sites). A Class 2 site represents a significant threat to public health or the environment; action is required.

Proposed Remedial Action Plan

The remedy proposed for the site includes:

The Treatment of Soil above Protection of Groundwater Soil Cleanup Objectives (SCOs), Treatment of Groundwater and a Site Management Plan Alternative would include in-situ (in place) enhanced biodegradation to treat volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in soils for areas that exceed the protection of groundwater SCOs; in-situ enhanced biodegradation to treat VOCs in the overburden and shallow groundwater and in-situ enhanced biotic/abiotic degradation to treat

VOCs in the deep groundwater at the primary source areas. The Surface Water Interim Action Enhancement system would continue to operate and be maintained and monitored. A Site Management Plan would be developed and implemented.

The treatment of soils will be performed in a phased approach due to the high groundwater table and the seasonal fluctuations at the site. If the soils were treated to the protection of groundwater standards but the groundwater was still contaminated, the fluctuating water table could cause recontamination of the treated soils. Therefore, in areas with this potential the first step of the soil remediation will be to treat soil to a level greater than the protection of groundwater SCOs but less than the industrial use SCOs. The exact levels will be determined during design of the remedy. Once the overburden and shallow groundwater remediation has sufficiently progressed the remaining soils above the groundwater protection SCOs will be treated to meet these goals.

In-situ bioremediation involves treating the contaminated material in place by injecting emulsified vegetable oil (EVO) into the soil or water to promote microbe growth which will breakdown the hazardous substances into less toxic or non-toxic substances. The enhanced biotic/abiotic remediation refers to the degradation processes that take place to break down the contaminants. The abiotic process introduces electron donors to enhance the reductive dechlorination of the VOCs and the biotic process relies on the microorganisms to continue breaking down the contaminants into non-toxic substances.

Summary of the Investigation

Sampling has confirmed high levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) indicating the likely presence of dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) in site soil and groundwater. The DNAPL contains a high percentage of liquid trichloroethene (TCE). Based upon investigations, the primary contaminants of concern include the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) TCE and its daughter products cis-1,2-dichloroethene (DCE), trans-1,2-dichloroethene (DCE), and vinyl chloride (VC).

Soils – TCE was the most commonly detected VOC in the subsurface soils with concentrations ranging from 0.001 to 14,000 parts per million (ppm) compared to the protection of groundwater Soil Cleanup Objective (SCO) of 0.47 ppm. Other contaminants exceeding the protection of groundwater SCOs are cis-1,2-DCE and VC. The contaminated soils exceeding the protection of groundwater SCOs are found to a depth of 16 feet or the top of bedrock. For the 55.4 acre site only 4.25 acres of surface soils exceed the protection of groundwater SCOs and these soils surround the building to the north, west and east. Less than half an acre of surface soils exceed the industrial use SCOs and are located in the Waste Solvent Tank Area, North Evaporation Pit and West Evaporation Pit, surrounding the building to the north and west. The remaining acreage of the site, mostly to the north and west, meet unrestricted use SCOs and the protection of groundwater SCOs for VOCs. Soils were analyzed for metals and results were below the residential use SCOs. Soil contamination does not extend off-site.

Soil Vapor – Soil vapor was not evaluated at the site because it is unoccupied. The potential for Soil Vapor Intrusion will be evaluated for any off-site buildings that may be impacted by the shallow groundwater contamination to the west of the site.

Groundwater – TCE, cis-1,2-DCE and vinyl chloride are the most commonly detected VOCs found in the overburden, shallow, and deep groundwater that exceed groundwater standards (5 parts per billion (ppb) for TCE and cis-1,2-DCE; and 2 ppb for VC). The overburden groundwater had detections of TCE, cis-1,2-DCE and VC at 1,900 ppm, 640 ppm and 36 ppm respectively. The VOC impacts in the overburden groundwater are in the North Evaporation Pit, West Evaporation Pit and Waste Solvent Tank. The overburden concentrations decrease rapidly with increasing distance from the primary source areas and migrated offsite. The overburden groundwater is

greatly influenced by seasonal fluctuations with ranges exceeding 11 feet in locations. The shallow groundwater had detections of TCE, cis-1,2-DCE and VC at 840 ppm, 340 ppm and 100 ppm respectively in the primary source areas. TCE concentrations decreased downgradient from the source areas and was not detected in shallow groundwater offsite. However, cis-1,2-DCE and VC have migrated offsite in the shallow groundwater to the northwest of the facility and are above the NYSDEC Class GW groundwater standard. The deep groundwater had detections of TCE, cis-1,2-DCE and VC at 646 ppm, .12 ppm and 5.5 ppm respectively. The deep groundwater has migrated offsite and is being addressed by EPA through an order issued to General Electric Company (GE) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Surface Water – Prior to the Surface Water Interim Action Enhancement system IRM, on-site surface water exceeded the SCGs for TCE (values up to 240 ppb compared to the SCG of 5 ppb), cis-1,2-DCE (values up to 100 ppb compared to the SCG of 5 ppb) and vinyl chloride (values up to 3.9 ppb compared to the SCG of 2 ppb). IRM system monitoring has demonstrated that the IRM has been effective; sampling results are non-detect for VOCs.

NYSDEC developed the proposed remedy after reviewing the detailed investigation of the site and evaluating the remedial options in the “feasibility study” submitted under New York’s State Superfund Program by GE.

Next Steps

NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the remedy for the site. The selected remedy will be described in a document called a "Record of Decision" that will explain why the remedy was selected and respond to public comments. A detailed design of the selected remedy will then be prepared, and the cleanup will be performed.

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

Background

Location: The General Electric former Powerex site is located in an urban commercial area. The site consists of 55.4 acres of land located on the boundary of the town of Aurelius and the City of Auburn. The site is on West Genesee Street approximately 1/4 mile west of Veterans Memorial Parkway.

Site Features: The main site feature is the inactive production facility surrounded by parking areas and fields. Since the plant closed all that remains is the unoccupied manufacturing building and the concrete slabs of small sheds.

Current Zoning and Land Use: The site is currently inactive and zoned for industrial use. The surrounding parcels are currently used for a combination of small businesses and residences. The nearest residential area is on the south side of West Genesee Street, across from the site.

Past Use of the Site: The facility was used for electronics manufacturing. Waste industrial solvents were disposed of in one or two unlined evaporation ponds located on the property. This disposal took place from approximately 1952 to 1970. Solvents were also disposed of in underground waste solvent storage tanks located on-site which may have leaked.

RCRA Status: The former Powerex site, in addition to being a class 2 in active hazardous waste disposal site, is also subject to the requirements of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as amended and its implementing regulations including New York State’s authorized hazardous waste program. The site does not presently have an operating permit but is subject to

“interim status” requirements. An underground storage tank, above ground storage tank and a container storage area have all been closed under RCRA. Pursuant to RCRA, the site has an obligation to address contamination pursuant to RCRA corrective action requirements as well as the State Superfund.

Site Geology and Hydrogeology: The geology of the area is characterized by unconsolidated glacial deposits (soils) underlain by bedrock. The uppermost unit is overburden material (site soils) consisting of glacial lacustrine clay, silts and glacial till ranging from approximately 5 to 25 feet thick. The upper portion of the bedrock is composed of limestones of the Onondaga Formation and represents the shallow bedrock unit. Below the Onondaga Formation lies the Manlius Formation, referred to in the site Reports and Documents as the intermediate unit. The deeper bedrock units encountered at the site are, in order of depth, limestones and dolomites of the Rondout, Cobleskill and the Bertie Formations. In general, the deep bedrock is more fractured and more transmissive than the shallow and intermediate bedrock. Within the Bertie Formation is an interval comprised primarily of gypsum which has an average thickness of 5 feet. This is referred to in the site Reports as the D3 zone. This gypsum rich interval is pitted and has occasional voids from dissolution. This interval transmits large amounts of water and represents an important pathway for significant offsite contaminant migration.

The overburden groundwater flows toward local surface water bodies such as Crane Brook and the Owasco River, and also provides recharge to the underlying units. The depth to the overburden groundwater ranges from six to eleven feet. However this unit is greatly influenced by seasonal fluctuations and during the late fall, winter and early spring the water table occurs very close to the ground surface. In some areas of the site the seasonal range in the water table exceeds 11 feet. The shallow groundwater generally flows northward. The shallow zones can become dewatered locally, indicating that vertical fracturing extends through the underlying zones. The deep groundwater flows to the south. The deep aquifer receives groundwater recharge through fractures or karst features connecting the units. The site features also include swallets which directly connect the shallow groundwater to the deep zone. The contaminated deep groundwater, at a depth of 150 feet, is moving laterally in a southwestern direction from the site towards Union Springs and Cayuga Lake. The site contains surface drainage features that carry storm water away from the site. During periods of high groundwater, contaminated groundwater from the site has the potential to infiltrate the drainage ditches and move off site.

Related Site: The deep groundwater plume leaving the site is known as the Cayuga County Groundwater Contamination Superfund (CCGC) site and was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) [NYS Registry ID No. 706012]. The off-site groundwater plume of contamination is being addressed by EPA pursuant to an EPA ROD issued in March 29, 2013. The CCGC ROD is being implemented through an order issued to GE under CERCLA. Remedial actions at the CCGC site are not the focus of this proposed decision document, however, the success of the remedy for the former GE Powerex site is important to the full realization of the benefits of the remedy selected by EPA for the CCGC site.

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=706006>

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.

Seymour Public Library
Attn: Ms. Danette Davis
176-178 Genesee Street
Auburn, NY 13021
phone: 315-252-2571
(seymourlibrary@seymourlib.org)

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions

Jessica Laclair
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7013
518-402-9821
jess.laclair@dec.ny.gov

Site-Related Health Questions

Christopher Doroski
New York State Department of Health
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.

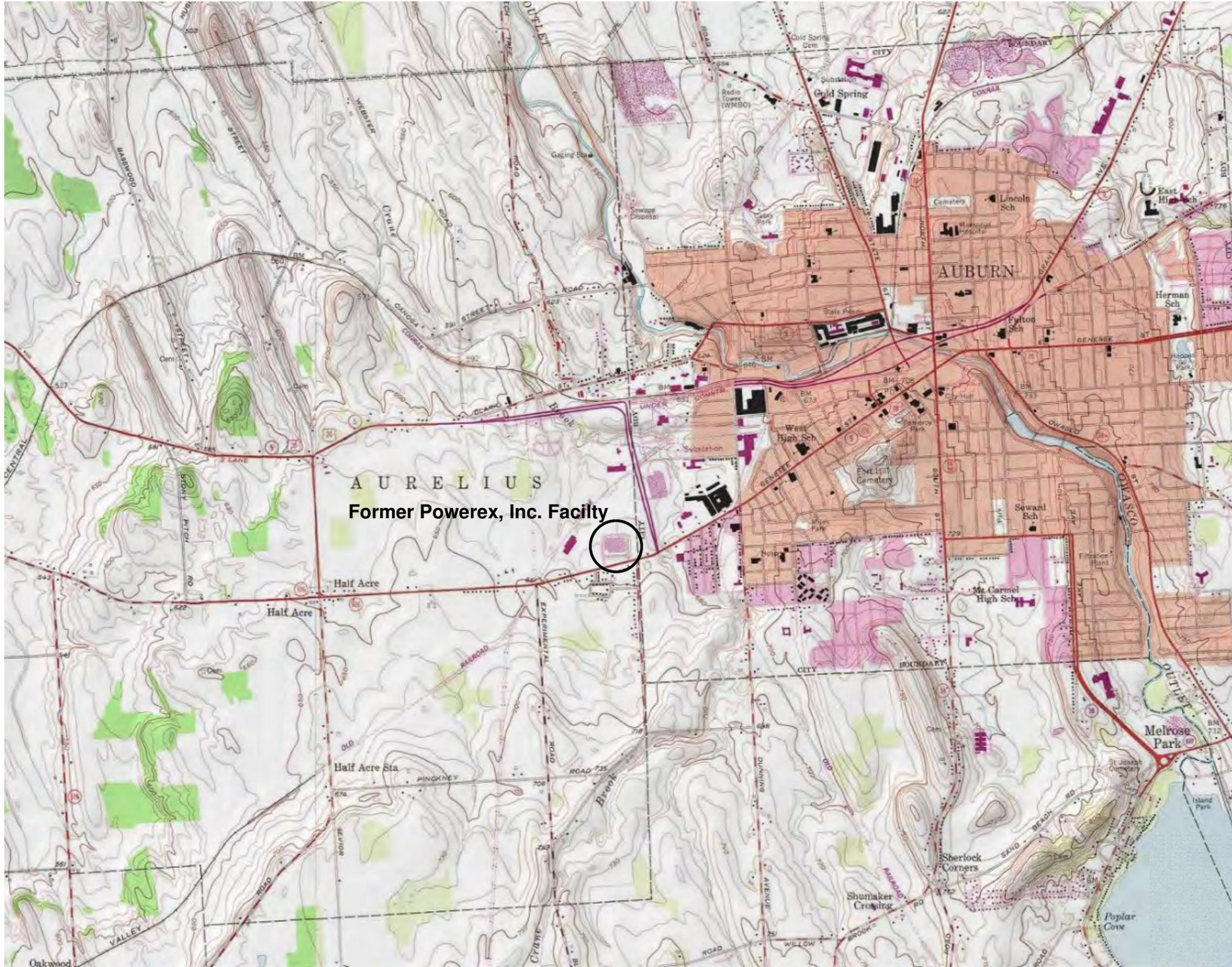


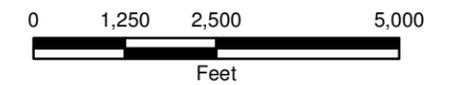
FIGURE 1



Former Powerex, Inc. Facility
Remedial Investigation Report

General Electric Company
Albany, New York

SITE LOCATION MAP



MARCH 2012
48217

Figure 2
Former Powerex Boundary
Site #706006

Areas of Concern

- 1 - West Evaporation Pit
- 2 - Former waste Solvent Tank
- 3 - North Evaporation Pit
- 4 - Fire Training Area
- 5 - Former Laboratory Solvent Tanks

