



FACT SHEET

Final Phase of Cleanup to Begin At Former Roblin Steel Site



Environmental Restoration Program

March 2010

Site No. B00173

Introduction

Chautauqua County will begin work to complete the final phase of an environmental cleanup of the former Roblin Steel site that began in 2006. Cleanup work is being performed under New York's Environmental Restoration Program (ERP). The ERP provides financial assistance to local governments for the cleanup and restoration of brownfield sites. Brownfields are properties that are difficult to reuse or redevelop because of the presence or potential presence of contamination.

What Will the Cleanup Work Include?

The upcoming environmental cleanup will include:

- Removing asbestos-containing materials;
- Demolishing most of the large industrial building on-site; and
- Covering the site with a 12-inch layer of clean soil.

Additionally, a site management plan (SMP) that details future maintenance of the site will be finalized. The SMP will require periodic certifications to the NYSDEC that restrictions on the use of the property are maintained.

Next Steps

Cleanup actions will begin in March 2010 and are expected to be completed by the end of the year. A final engineering report will then be developed and made available to the public. Once the cleanup is complete, the property will be available for commercial purposes.

Site Background

The Former Roblin Steel Site is located at 320 South Roberts Road in the City of Dunkirk. It was initially part of a larger industrial complex operated by the American Locomotive Company in the early 1900s. The 12-acre site was most recently occupied by a rolling mill that was closed and partially dismantled in the late 1980s. Since that time the Roblin Steel Site has been vacant.

An environmental investigation of the site was performed and documented in a report dated May 2003. The investigation found fill material consisting of slag, foundry sand, soil, gravel, brick and concrete across the project site. Contaminants detected in the soil fill included cadmium, copper, lead, silver, zinc, chlorinated hydrocarbons, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and some polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The groundwater contained volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as trichloroethylene (TCE). Surface water from the nearby Hyde Creek was also sampled, but no contamination originating from the site was detected.



Former Roblin Steel building, looking west. The former Alumax facility, now demolished, stood adjacent to Roblin.

Environmental cleanup activities at the site first began in January 2006. That phase of completed work involved:

- Disposing of surface debris and surface soil/fill that exceeded acceptable levels of contaminants;
- Excavating the outfall pipe to Hyde Creek;
- Cleaning and filling drainage features, such as sumps;
- Treating groundwater containing VOCs; and
- Closing in-ground storage tanks.

Who Should I Contact If I Have Questions About the Site?

You are welcome to contact the following agency staff if you would like more information:

Project Questions

Cheryl Ruth
Chautauqua County DPF
454 North Work Street
Falconer, NY 14733
(716) 661-8400

Environmental Questions

David Locey
NYSDEC
270 Michigan Ave
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 851-7220

Health Questions

Matthew J. Forcucci
NYS Department of Health
584 Delaware Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 847-4385

Locations to View Project Documents

Public understanding and involvement are important to the success of New York's environmental cleanup programs. To keep you informed, Chautauqua County and NYSDEC have established the following locations where you can view project documents:

Dunkirk Free Library
536 Central Avenue
Dunkirk, NY 14048
(716) 366-2511

Dunkirk City Hall
342 Central Avenue
Dunkirk, NY 14048
(716) 366-0452

NYSDEC
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 851-7220 (Please call for appointment)

You may also view documents on the DEC website. Go to the Region 9 Remediation Project Information page at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37554.html> and look for the Roblin Steel entry under the Chautauqua County heading.



Aerial view of the Former Roblin Steel Site. The former Alamax facility (now demolished) sits to the South and Edgewood Warehouse to the West.