New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

Munsey Cleaners and Plaza Cleaners Sites **November 2009**
Site Nos. 130081 and 130108
Town of North Hempstead, NY

Public Availability Session
Vapor Intrusion Sampling and Information Update

The public is invited to a public availability session (details in the box on the right) to discuss the vapor intrusion sampling conducted at off-site properties and the proposed vapor intrusion sampling to be conducted in January-February 2010. The availability session will also update the ongoing remedial investigations (RIs) conducted at the Munsey and Plaza Cleaners Sites. These sites are located in Port Washington, Nassau County. The Munsey site is located at the intersection of Port Washington Boulevard and Main Street whereas the Plaza site is located at the intersection of Port Washington Boulevard and Maple Street. (See map for site location)

Public Availability Session
Tuesday, December 08, 2009
1:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Port Washington Public Library
1 Library Drive
Port Washington, NY 11050

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) invites you to a public availability session to discuss the vapor intrusion sampling being conducted on properties located nearby. The project personnel will be available during this poster session to discuss the vapor intrusion sampling results and the on-going investigation at these sites. You can attend this session anytime between 1 PM and 7 PM.

Highlights of Remedial Investigation

The Munsey site remediation was divided into two operable units (OU) to address on and off-site issues. OU1 consists of on-site soil and groundwater. OU2 consists of off-site groundwater contamination and a soil vapor intrusion study. The RI for OU1 was completed in 2005 and the Record of Decision was signed on November 23, 2005. The remedy implemented at the site is currently being operated and maintained periodically. The groundwater contamination at the site has decreased significantly after the implementation of the remedy and is currently monitored periodically.

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 the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

NYSDEC generally attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds.

For more information about the SSF, visit: **www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html**

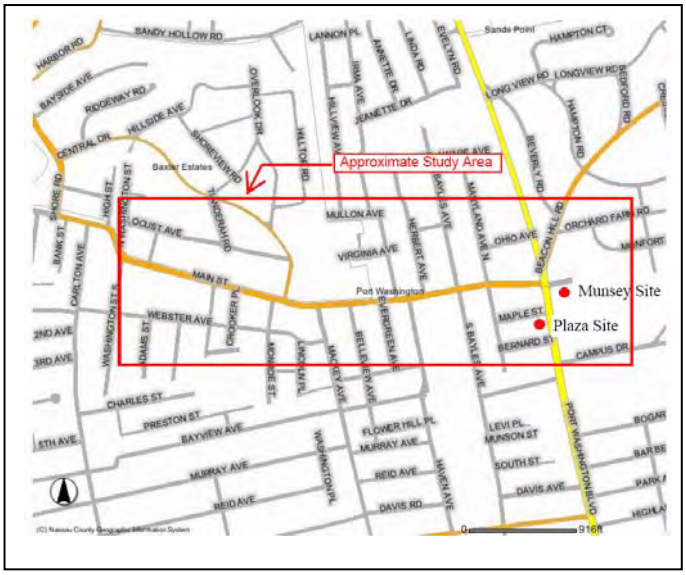
The RI for the OU2 component of the Munsey site began in January 2008. The field activities include the sampling of groundwater, surface water and vapor intrusion sampling. Based on the vapor intrusion sampling results, vapor mitigation systems such as subslab depressurization system (SSDS) were installed. To better define the extent of groundwater contamination, additional wells are required and the

installation is currently in progress. The soil vapor intrusion study is being expanded and is the subject of this availability session.

The RI for the Plaza site is underway. The RI field activities include the installation of soil borings to obtain soil and groundwater samples, the installation of monitoring wells to obtain groundwater samples and sampling of surface water. Due to the close proximity of the Munsey and Plaza sites and similar nature of the contamination, the RI investigation activities for the Plaza site will focus on defining the extent of groundwater contamination in the downgradient area of these sites.

Highlights of Vapor Intrusion Study

Soil Vapor Intrusion (SVI) is a process by which volatile chemicals move from a subsurface (underground) source into the indoor air of overlying buildings through cracks or other openings. Soil vapor or soil gas is the air found between the pore spaces of soil particles and can become contaminated when chemicals evaporate from underground sources (e.g., contaminated soil or groundwater) and enter the soil vapor. This intrusion is similar to how radon gas seeps into buildings. If soil vapor is contaminated and enters a building as described above, the indoor air quality of the building may be affected.



As part of the RI, the potential for contaminated soil vapor to affect indoor air quality in buildings on and adjacent to the site via SVI is being evaluated. The following are the chronological order of the sampling events conducted by the NYSDEC:

February 2008 – Using passive organic vapor monitoring badges indoor air and ambient air samples were collected at properties located around and on the first block of Main Street west of Port Washington Boulevard. Four out of fifteen properties sampled had detectable levels of tetrachloroethene (PCE), a common dry-cleaning solvent. However, the detected levels were lower than the NYS Department of Health (DOH) guideline for PCE in indoor air.

March 2008 – Samples were collected using canisters to draw air from the sub-slab, indoor air and ambient air at properties located around and on the first two blocks of Main Street west of Port Washington Boulevard. Four out of twelve properties sampled had concentrations of PCE in subslab vapor but the PCE in indoor air was below the DOH guideline. Since there is a potential for future exposures related to soil vapor intrusion, the NYSDEC offered to install the SSDS at the four properties. SSDSs are like radon systems where a fan draws vapors through pipes from the soil beneath the building's slab creating a vacuum (negative pressure) beneath the slab and discharges the vapors to the atmosphere. Three property owners agreed to have the systems installed.

February 2009 – This sampling event included the properties located around and on the first two blocks of Main Street (which was included in the March 2008 sampling) and the third block of Main Street west of Port Washington Boulevard. Letters were mailed to approximately seventy-five

property owners with NYSDEC offering to sample the properties. Thirteen property owners volunteered to have the sampling done. Six properties out of thirteen properties had levels of PCE in subslab vapor but the PCE in indoor air was below the DOH guideline. The NYSDEC installed SSDSs at the six properties.

In general, the vapor intrusion sampling results indicate that actions to reduce the potential for vapor intrusion to affect the indoor air quality of properties located on Main Street are recommended. The properties sampled off of Main Street did not detect PCE contamination above DOH guideline in indoor air samples and no further actions are recommended for this area.

NEXT STEPS

Additional investigations at the Munsey site (OU2) and the RI at the Plaza site are in progress and are expected to be completed by March 2010. The next round of vapor intrusion sampling will be done this winter (e.g., January – February 2010). This sampling event will include properties further west on Main Street and provides another opportunity for those home owners previously contacted to have their homes sampled. If you are a property owner in this area or were previously contacted and wish to have your property sampled, please call the Project Managers listed below.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed about significant project milestones with fact sheets similar to this one.

LOCATIONS TO VIEW PROJECT RELATED DOCUMENTS

To keep you informed, DEC has established a number of locations at which you can view site-related project documents. You may review these documents at the locations listed below.

NYSDEC Central Office	NYSDEC Region 1 Office	Port Washington Public Library
625 Broadway	SUNY at Stony Brook	1 Library Drive
Albany, NY 12233	50 Circle Road	Port Washington, NY 11050
(518) 402-9814	Stony Brook, NY 11790	(516) 883-4400
	(631) 444-0240	

(Please call DEC offices for appointments.)

WHO SHOULD YOU CALL IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SITE?

For Munsey Site	For Plaza Site	Site-Related Health Questions
Mr. Vivek Nattanmai	Ms. Melissa Sweet	Ms. Renata Ockerby
NYSDEC	NYSDEC	NYSDOH
625 Broadway	625 Broadway	547 River Street
Albany, NY 12233-7017	Albany, NY 12233-7015	Troy, NY 12180-2216
Toll Free:1-888-459-8667	(518) 402-9620	Toll Free: 1-888-458-1158
		Ext. 7880

If you know someone who would like to be added to the site contact list, have them contact the NYSDEC project manager above. 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.

The public is encouraged to use the following web links to obtain more information about the SVI:

http://www.epa.gov/tio/download/citizens/citsve.pdf - Guide to Soil Vapor Extracting and Air Sparging and
http://www.health.state.ny.us/environmental/about/exposure.htm - DOH guide to exposure.