



FACT SHEET

Environmental Restoration Program

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

Site Name: Former Geneva Foundry
DEC Site #: B00019
Address: 43 Jackson Street
Geneva, NY 14456

Have questions?
See
"Who to Contact"
Below

RESULTS OF SOIL TESTS IN NEIGHBORHOODS ADJACENT TO FORMER GENEVA FOUNDRY SITE RELEASED; CLEANUP PLAN PROPOSED

DEC and DOH to Hold Public Meeting and Availability Sessions

Results of surface soil tested in the neighborhoods adjacent to the Former Geneva Foundry have identified elevated levels of lead and arsenic above State Soil Cleanup Objectives (SCOs) at many of the properties sampled. SCOs are soil concentrations that are protective of public health and the environment for specified uses of a property (e.g., residential or commercial).

Residential Soil Test Findings

Owners of properties which had soil sampled were recently provided their individual testing results. Property owners and residents will have an opportunity to meet with representatives of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Department of Health (DOH) to discuss the sampling results at the upcoming availability sessions (see sidebar).

Proposed Cleanup Plan

DEC proposes to address the contamination at the former foundry and impacted properties nearby by removing and properly disposing the contaminated soils. The attached map shows the approximate extent of the proposed cleanup area. Representatives from DEC and DOH will also hold a public meeting to present the proposed cleanup plan, answer questions and receive public input on the plan (see sidebar).

PUBLIC MEETING

DEC Presents Proposed Cleanup Plan

October 18, 2016

Time: 6:30 p.m.

AVAILABILITY SESSIONS

DEC and DOH Discuss Individual Test Results with Owners and Residents

October 25, 2016

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

LOCATION

Parish Center of St. Francis de Sales Church

130 Exchange Street, City of Geneva
(Located behind the church on Center Street)

The public is invited to comment on the proposed remedy. DEC is accepting written comments from **October 11, 2016 to November 25, 2016**. Comments can be sent to the project manager:

Frank Sowers, P.E.
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
6274 East Avon - Lima Road
Avon, NY 14414
frank.sowers@dec.ny.gov

Potential Exposure Pathways and Recommendations

The residential SCOs were developed based on the assumption that people are exposed to chemicals in soil through activities that typically occur on residential properties (e.g., working and playing in the yard, gardening). SCOs are set at a level at which health effects are unlikely to occur and are used, along with other considerations, to guide decisions about the need to reduce exposure to environmental contaminants.

Property owners should be aware that, in its current condition, contact with contaminated soil at these properties is possible in areas not covered with grass or pavement, especially if there is visible soil. DOH and DEC are proposing remediation of these areas to reduce the potential for exposure in the longer term. Prior to completion of the remedy, DOH recommends that residents follow the best practices described below to reduce any potential for exposure, including:

- Wash with soap and water after gardening or any time before you eat;
- Minimize children's direct contact with bare soil by laying down wood chips or maintaining grass cover, especially if soil contains visible fill material containing ash, cinders, brick or slag;
- Plant vegetable gardens in raised beds with clean soil (at least 10 inches deep). Use untreated wood to make the beds. Pressure-treated wood and railroad ties contain added chemicals; and
- Brush off soil from clothes and remove shoes and gloves before entering a home. Additional information about healthy gardening is available at: <http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/1301/>

For more information on exposure, visit the DOH website at:
<http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/about/exposure>

Site Background: The foundry operated on Jackson Street for more than 100 years (1868-1988). To melt and cast iron objects, the foundry burned processed coal (coke) mixed in layers with scrap and unrefined iron. Ash particles emitted from the foundry stack settled on areas around the foundry. These "fly ash" particles, in some cases, contain metals, of which, lead and arsenic are the contaminants of concern. The distribution of these contaminants is highly variable, even within a single backyard, due to changes in foundry feedstock and operations, weather/atmospheric conditions, ash fallout and redistribution on land surfaces over time. Also, localized contamination unrelated to the foundry, such as historic impacts from other foundries, industries and land uses, is considered likely.

Site Features: The former foundry buildings were demolished and removed in 2005; only the slabs and foundations remain. A railroad and commercial property border the site to the south and west; residential properties and an automotive repair garage are to the north and east.

Current Zoning and Land Use: The foundry site is currently inactive and is zoned commercial/industrial.

Environmental History: The City of Geneva acquired the property in 1998 and entered the Environmental Restoration Program. The investigation of foundry impacts was conducted in several phases and the scope of the investigation expanded several times. Sampling was concluded in late 2015.

Environmental Restoration Program: New York's Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) reimburses municipalities for their costs to investigate and clean up municipality owned contaminated properties. Once cleaned up, the properties may be redeveloped for commercial, industrial, residential or public use.

A brownfield is any real property that is difficult to reuse or redevelop because of the presence or potential presence of contamination. For more information about the ERP, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8444.html>

Next Steps

DEC will evaluate comments received on the proposed cleanup plan and issue a Record of Decision, including a responsiveness summary (i.e., a response to comments received).

Additional Site Details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on DEC's website at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37556.html>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information:

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

Geneva Free Library
244 Main Street
Geneva, New York 14456
Phone: 315-789-5303

NYSDEC Region 8 Office
6274 East Avon-Lima Road
Avon, New York 14414
Phone: 585-226-5353
Please call for an appointment.

Who to Contact

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

Environmental Related Questions

Frank Sowers
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
6274 East Avon-Lima Road
Avon, New York 14414
585-226-5357
frank.sowers@dec.ny.gov

Site-Related Health Questions

Anthony Perretta
New York State Department of Health - BEEI
Corning Tower, Rm 1787
Albany, New York 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. DEC 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.

Site Map - Former Foundry in Center

