

NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF



ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

**Lawrence Aviation
Industries Inactive
Hazardous Waste Site**

Document Repositories

Port Jefferson Free Library
100 Thompson Street
Port Jefferson, NY 11777
(631) 473-0022

Comsewogue Library
170 Terryville Road.
Pt. Jefferson Station, NY 11776
(631) 928-1212

Additional document
repositories, for more
information and to
submit written comments:

*USEPA Region 2
Emergency Response and
Remedial Division
290 Broadway, 20th Floor
New York NY 10007
Attn: Janet Cappelli
Project Manager
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*NYSDEC Central Office
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Attn: Steven M. Scharf, P.E.
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FACT SHEET

Lawrence Aviation Site
Sheep Pasture Road
Port Jefferson Station, New York

Lawrence Aviation Industries Site, Port Jefferson Station, New York Remedial Investigation Update

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is distributing this fact sheet in order to update the public on the status of the Remedial Investigation (RI) of the Lawrence Aviation Industries Site. A RI is a tool utilized by the DEC to determine what areas of a site need to be cleaned up or remediated. Copies of the DEC's finalized Preliminary Remedial Investigation Report can be found in the document repositories established for this site.

Based on the RI's initial findings, the DEC nominated the Lawrence Aviation Industries Site to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Priorities List (NPL). The EPA has accepted this site to the NPL and is now the project lead for completing the RI and Feasibility Study (FS). NPL designation means the site is now considered one of the nation's most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites. Sites on this list utilize federal Superfund monies in order to complete long-term remedial actions.

Site Location

The Lawrence Aviation facility is located in Port Jefferson Station, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York (see Figure 1). The Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) tracks and Old Sheep Pasture Road form the northern border. To the east and west are private homes and wooded areas, and to the south is a Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) easement.

Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study

Key goals of the RI/FS were to:

- Identify the nature and extent of contamination associated with the site (including private well contamination);
- Identify clean-up alternatives, and
- Recommend option(s) for implementation.

Legal issues associated with gaining site access have slowed progress with respect to completing the RI. Lawrence Aviation contested the DEC's right to access their property under the state's Environmental Conservation Law.

During this prolonged legal conflict, the court case, appearances and subsequent appeals wound their way through the New York State judicial system. Key points during this process included:

- **March 1997** - The DEC referred the site to the New York State Superfund Program in order to begin developing a RI/FS for the site utilizing funds made available from the 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act.
- **August 1997** - One week after the DEC held a public meeting to present the final RI/FS work plan to the public Lawrence Aviation denied the DEC and its consultants Camp, Dresser and McKee (CDM) access to the site for the purpose of implementing the RI fieldwork.
- **September 1997** - The DEC began the phased RI/FS approach (see below).
- **1998** - The DEC and attorneys from the New York State Attorney General's Office appeared at Suffolk County State Supreme Court in order to gain complete and unrestricted access to the Lawrence Aviation facility. The court, however, sided with Lawrence Aviation denying access to the DEC and its contractor.
- **1999** - The DEC appealed the Supreme Court's ruling through the New York State Court of Appeals. The Second Department of the New York State Appellate Court ruled in the DEC's favor, granting complete access to the site necessary to complete the RI/FS. This decision was later supported by the highest Court in New York State, the Court of Appeals, by refusing to hear the case.

Although work on the RI/FS was slowed due to legal restrictions, work did progress through the utilization of alternative investigative methods. To further its investigation of the hazards associated with the site, the DEC began a phased approach to the RI/FS work starting with the installation of groundwater monitoring wells around the perimeter of the Lawrence Aviation site on adjacent properties. All monitoring wells were installed with the permission of local landowners.

An analysis of monitoring well samples identified Lawrence Aviation as a source of groundwater contamination. In addition, a pond, located downgradient of the site in the Village of Port Jefferson, has elevated levels of trichloroethylene in the surface water. This pond is apparently a surface water discharge point of groundwater that passes beneath the Lawrence Aviation site.

Sampling of private wells downgradient of Lawrence Aviation identified several contaminated wells. The sampling conducted by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) has shown that 11 private wells, directly downgradient from the Lawrence site on or near Sheep Pasture Road, have been impacted or are threatened by contamination from the Lawrence site. In response, the New York State Department of Health requested, with the DEC approval, Environmental Quality Bond Act funding for waterline extensions and connection of private wells to public water supplies. In a large part due to the diligent efforts of the Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA), all these water main extensions and connections to the SCWA system have been installed.

National Priorities List (NPL)

While the appeals process was proceeding for site access, the DEC accomplished three main tasks:

- The Lawrence Aviation Industries Site was successfully referred to the EPA's National

Priorities List (NPL);

- The preliminary RI report was completed and is now on file at the document repositories below;
- The private wells threatened by contamination were connected to a municipal water supply. The EPA is now finalizing its RI/FS work plan, based on the DEC's work plan, and they expect field work to begin shortly. The EPA will conduct a public meeting prior to approving the RI/FS work plan. The RI will use information collected to establish remedial action objectives for this site. These remedial action objectives will be used to develop alternative treatment solutions. These solutions outline treatment efforts designed to remove, destroy, reduce, or prevent the spread of contamination from the site.

Citizen Participation

Throughout this process the interested or affected public is encouraged to remain informed and provide information to the DEC and the EPA so that progress can continue to be made in cleaning up this site. Citizen participation (CP) on this and other sites involves full, two-way communication with the public. CP measures completed to date include:

- A public meeting to discuss the DEC's draft final RI/FS work plan;
- Completion of the citizen participation plan, which includes a full contact list;
- Establishment of information repositories; and
- Continue to work with the EPA to insure CP objectives are met.

The purpose of the EPA's RI is to identify any environmental concerns existing at the site. Based on the information gained from the RI, the lateral and vertical extent of site contamination will be determined. A Feasibility Study will then be conducted to determine the best course of action to protect human health and the environment. The EPA will then issue a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for this site.

Document Repositories: The public is encouraged to review the documents related to the sites which are available for public review at the following locations:

Port Jefferson Free Library
100 Thompson Street
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

Comsewogue Library
170 Terryville Road
Pt. Jefferson Station, NY 11176

EPA Region 2 Headquarters
Emergency Response and
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DEC Central Office
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For more information and to submit written comments: Please contact:

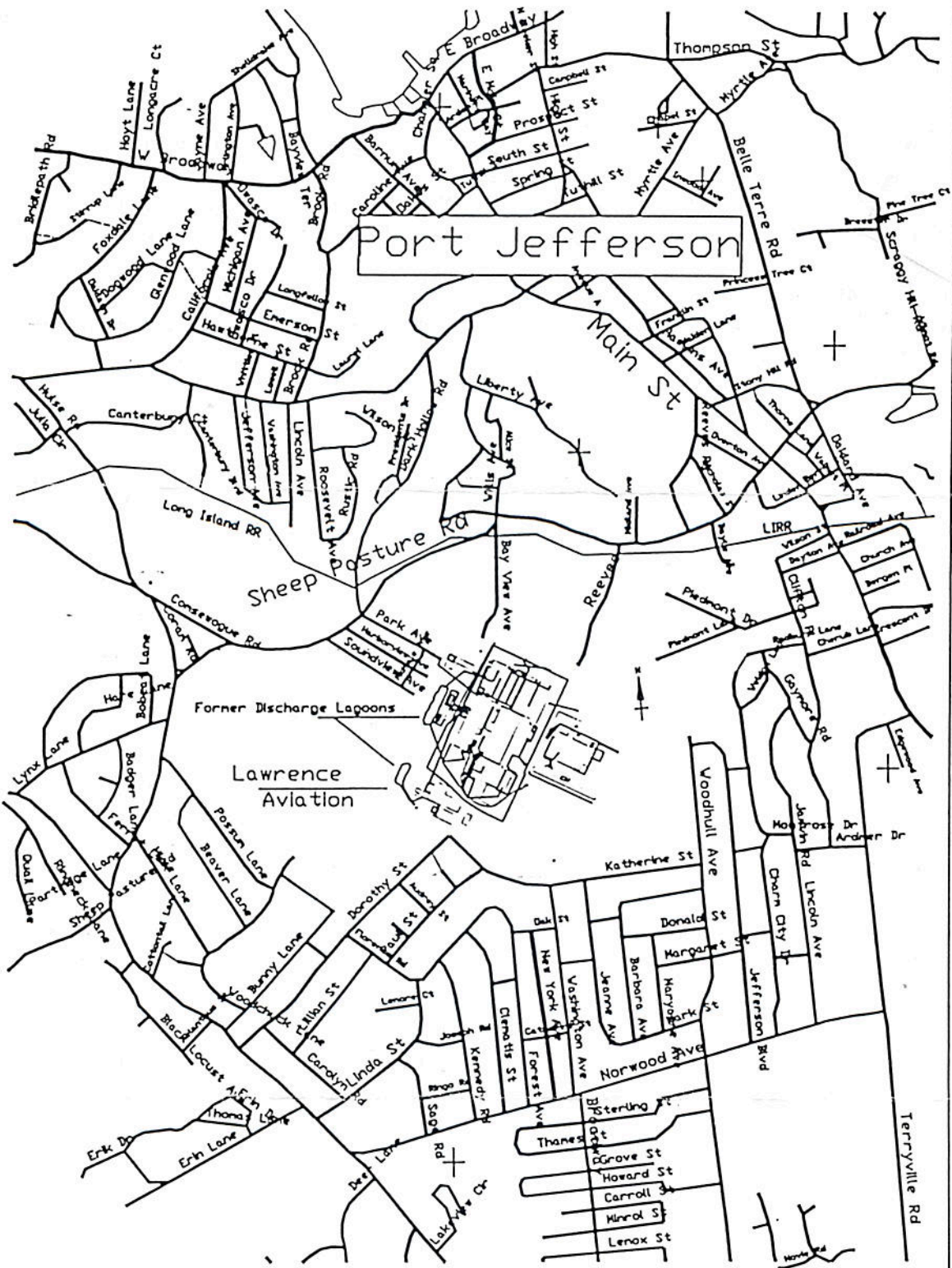
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LAWRENCE AVIATION SITE
 PORT JEFFERSON STATION, NY

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION

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MODIFIED BY:
 STEVEN M. SCHARF, P.E.



FIGURE 1