



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

FACT SHEET RECORD OF DECISION

**Spectrum Finishing Corporation Site
Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site
Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, New York
Site No. 1-52-029
May 2003**

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is pleased to inform you that the record of decision (ROD) for the Spectrum Finishing Corporation (Spectrum) inactive hazardous waste disposal site has been finalized. The ROD, signed on March 20, 2003, documents the remedial action plan selected by NYSDEC and NYSDOH. The agencies selected the remedial action plan from the alternatives available after consideration of all public comments. The ROD includes a responsiveness summary, which answers questions raised as part of the public review process. The selected remedy for the site presented in the ROD is the same as the preferred remedy in the proposed remedial action plan (PRAP). The remedy consists of excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil, coupled with groundwater monitoring.

BACKGROUND

Spectrum is located in the Pinelawn Industrial area in the Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, New York. The Pinelawn Industrial area is a high density industrial area bounded by cemeteries and open land on the north, south, and west side, and a residential area lies to the east. The Spectrum site is about 0.67 acre in size and consists of a concrete block building and the parking lot north of the Spectrum building. The Spectrum site is situated between Cabot Street on the west side and Dale Street on the east side. To the north is the property located at 60 Dale Street, a former Class 2a inactive hazardous waste disposal site known as the NTU Circuits site. Since the NTU Circuits site and the Spectrum site have the same owner, the parking lot between the two sites was added to the Spectrum site when the NTU Circuits site was delisted. Spectrum owned and conducted metal finishing operations at the site from 1968 to 1994. The metal finishing operations included electroplating of high strength alloys for the aerospace industry, chromium conversion coating, chemical cleaning and painting.

REMEDIAL HISTORY

Site inspections and sampling by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) performed between 1970 and 1975 revealed discharges of industrial waste into on-site cesspools and drainage structures, leaks from holding tanks, and high levels of heavy metals in sediment samples collected from drainage structures and site run-off.

The NYSDEC performed Phase 1 (1984) and Phase 2 (1988) investigations to review past data and conduct limited sampling. These investigations indicated that the soil was contaminated with metals and that the groundwater was contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and metals. NYSDEC confirmed that hazardous waste had been disposed at the site and added the Spectrum site to the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites as a Class 2 site in 1990. Class 2 sites are those that pose a significant, but not immediate, threat to human health and/or the environment and require action.

In 1994, Spectrum Finishing Corporation filed for bankruptcy and ceased operations at the site. The NYSDEC requested that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) perform a time critical removal action in November 1997 to address the presence of drums, vats, sumps and other waste containers left on the site. The EPA completed removal of these containers and bulk waste stored in aboveground storage tanks in April 1998. A subsequent EPA investigation indicated that a remedial investigation was necessary.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

NYSDEC conducted a remedial investigation from June 1999 to May 2001. This remedial investigation was funded by the State Hazardous Waste Remedial Fund (Superfund). The purpose of the remedial investigation was to define the nature and extent of contamination and the risks that it may pose to human health and the environment. Soil sampling during the investigation revealed elevated concentrations of metals in soil located beneath the factory floor and in the alleyway on the south side of the factory building. The groundwater has been contaminated by metals and VOCs, and both plumes are migrating off-site in a southeasterly direction. The VOC with the highest concentration in the groundwater was tetrachloroethylene (PCE) detected at 560 parts per billion (ppb) in an off-site intermediate depth monitoring well. The highest metals concentration in the groundwater was cadmium reported at 1,940 ppb in an off-site shallow monitoring well.

The NYSDEC conducted an interim remedial measure in 2000 to remove sediments from eleven cesspools and drainage structures. An interim remedial measure is an activity that may be carried out to remove or isolate environmental contamination without further investigation. Confirmatory sediment samples collected from the bottom of the cesspools and drainage structures show that VOCs, semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and pesticides were removed; however, residual metal concentrations exceed cleanup objectives.

Groundwater beyond the boundaries of the Spectrum site has been contaminated by trichloroethane and trichloroethene, however, homes with private wells have been provided with public water due to contamination associated with the nearby Babylon Landfill. Public water is regularly tested and must meet strict federal, state and county standards. The Suffolk County water authority Tenth Avenue well field is located approximately 2500 yards downgradient from the site. No contaminants related to the Spectrum site have been detected in this well field.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SELECTED REMEDY

Based on the results of the remedial investigation and feasibility study for the Spectrum Finishing Corporation site and the criteria identified for evaluation of alternatives, the NYSDEC has selected soil excavation and off-site disposal and groundwater monitoring. The components of the remedy are as follows:

- Shallow soil excavation within the alleyways and hot-spot areas inside the building. Clean and

properly close all cesspools and drainage structures. Seal excavated areas with asphalt or concrete to prevent surface soil exposure.

- Since the metals- and tetrachloroethene- contaminated groundwater plumes have migrated off the site, a monitoring program will be instituted. Samples will be analyzed for metals and volatile organic compounds. The sampling frequency and monitoring duration will be determined by the remedial design.

THE NEXT STEP

The next step in the remedial process is for the NYSDEC to negotiate with the potentially responsible parties to implement the remedial action plan chosen for the site.

DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES

Public understanding and involvement are crucial to the success of New York's hazardous waste remedial program. The NYSDEC has established document repositories for the Spectrum site at:

Attn: Ms. Nancy Garry, Project Engineer
NYSDEC
625 Broadway, 11th floor
Albany, NY 12233-7015
M-F 8:30 AM to 4:45 PM
Phone: (518) 402-9621

West Babylon Library
Reference Desk
211 Route 109
West Babylon, NY 11735
M-Th 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Fri - Sat 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Phone: (631) 669-5445

Attn: Mr. Mark Lowery
Citizen Participation Specialist
NYSDEC, Region 1 Office
SUNY Bldg. 40
Stony Brook, NY 11790-2356
M-F 8:30 AM - 4:45 PM
Phone: (631) 444-0350

Any questions or concerns regarding the remedial investigation, record of decision or environmental aspects of the site can be addressed by contacting Ms. Nancy Garry, at (518) 402-9621 or by calling, toll free, 1-800-342-9296 and leaving your name, address, and request. For site related health concerns feel free to contact the New York State Department of Health's Ms. Jacquelyn Nealon, Public Health Specialist II at (518) 402-7880 or toll free at 1-800-458-1158, Ext. 27880.

Division of Environmental Remediation, 11th floor
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7015

Attn: Nancy Garry