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FACT SHEET

March 2008
Site # 1-52-123

BB&S LUMBER SITE

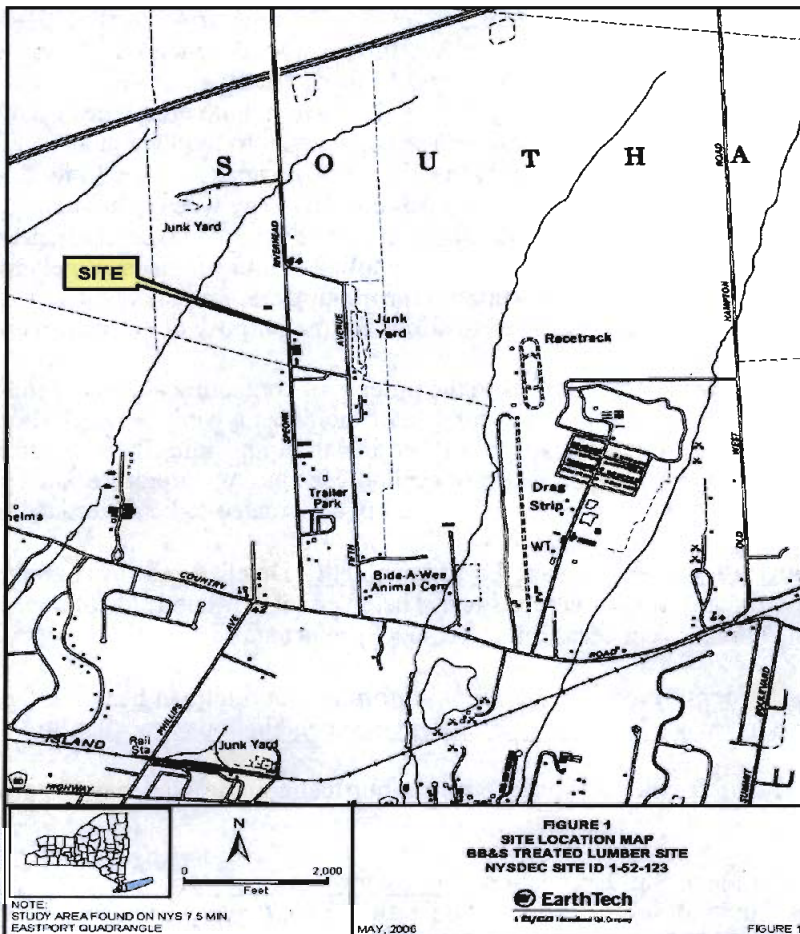
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Design of Cleanup Begins at the BB&S Lumber Site

Introduction: The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), working with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is announcing that design of the cleanup has begun at the Best Building & Supply (BB&S) Treated Lumber Corporation inactive hazardous waste disposal site. NYSDEC is conducting activities as part of its ongoing program to investigate and remediate inactive hazardous waste disposal sites throughout New York State. The remedial action addresses the on-site contaminated soil and groundwater.

Background Site Information: The BB&S Site is a 10-acre former pressure-treated wood manufacturing facility located at 1338 Speonk-Riverhead Road, north of the hamlet of Speonk, in the Town of Southampton, Suffolk County (Figure 1). The site is found in a rural area considered part of the Central Pine Barrens Preserve of eastern Long Island. The site is surrounded by residences and light industry on the south and east. Public water supply is available to the homes and businesses from the Suffolk County Water Authority. Most residential and business properties also have pre-existing private supply wells. Groundwater at the BB&S Site flows in a southerly direction.

The site operated as a lumber treatment and storage facility starting in the early 1980s. On-site lumber treatment has resulted in the disposal of hazardous waste, including copper-chromate-arsenate (CCA), a wood preservative. Some CCA was released or has migrated from the site into surrounding areas, including the groundwater and soils in the adjacent pine barrens. BB&S ceased pressure treatment of the wood in 1996. The BB&S Site is currently occupied and operated by Best Building and Supply as a wholesale lumber distribution yard.



Investigation Background: In 1985 site contamination first came to the attention of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) when elevated concentrations of chrome and arsenic were found within the on-site water supply well. BB&S conducted its own environmental study between 1985 and 1987. In 1987 BB&S Treated Lumber Corporation installed a network of on-site and off-site groundwater monitoring wells and three extraction wells and began operating a groundwater collection and treatment system. In 1993 the NYSDEC designated the site as a Class 2 site (site poses significant threat to human health and the environment) on the NYS Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites. The treatment system operated until 1995.

To evaluate the contamination present at the BB&S site and to evaluate alternatives to address the significant threat to human health and the environment posed by the presence of hazardous waste, the NYSDEC conducted a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The NYSDEC completed the state funded RI/FS in 1999. A proposed cleanup plan was presented to the public in September 1999 and, after all public comments were considered, a final selection of the remedial action was made by the NYSDEC and documented in a February 2000 Record of Decision (ROD).

Cleanup Plans: Major components of the ROD remedy selected to eliminate or mitigate environmental and public health threats include the following:

- Installation of extraction wells on and off site to capture the plume of contaminated groundwater. All collected groundwater will be piped back to the BB&S Site, where a treatment system in a new building will be constructed.
- Excavation of soil on-site and off-site within the drainage swale extending southwest of Speonk-Riverhead Road contaminated above limits protective of groundwater. All excavated soil will be brought into the lumberyard and treated on-site in a temporary plant by solidification/ stabilization. Treated residues will be placed on-site and covered with clean soil and/or the new building or pavement. All excavated areas will be backfilled with clean soil and re-seeded.
- A long-term monitoring program will be instituted. This program will consist chiefly of periodic sampling of existing on-site monitoring wells and new off-site sentinel wells. The new off-site wells include sentinel groundwater monitoring wells between the contaminant plume or recovery wells and downgradient water supply wells.
- As a contingency plan, any existing household or business in the vicinity of the site whose water supply becomes impacted by chromium or other contaminants shown to have originated from this site will have treatment installed at the point of use.

A pre-design investigation was performed by the NYSDEC from April 2001 thru April 2003. In general, the investigation was completed in order to further delineate the volume of contaminated soil on site and in the drainage swale extending southwest of Speonk-Riverhead Road, and to further define the vertical and lateral extent of the groundwater plume of chromium. In the summer of 2003, the work was put on hold while the NYSDEC negotiated with the property owner who expressed an interest in working with its own consultant to implement a remedy at the site. The negotiations turned out to be unsuccessful, and in February 2005 the NYSDEC resumed its plan to fund, design and implement the remedy at the site. Additional pre-design investigation work was completed between September 2005 and February 2006. The remedial design was initiated by the NYSDEC in December 2007 and include an assessment of the existing groundwater treatment system installed by BB&S in 1987, installation and sampling of four off-site sentinel groundwater monitoring wells, literature review to identify available technologies suitable for treating contaminated soils on-site, bench scale testing of the contaminated soils, development of plans and specifications for the purpose of competitively bidding the clean-up remedy.

What Happens Next: NYSDEC is in the process of contacting adjacent property owners located south of the site in order to install the new off-site sentinel groundwater monitoring wells between the contaminant plume and downgradient water supply wells. The wells are expected to be installed and initially sampled in April 2008. Assessment of the existing groundwater treatment system, review of available technology literature, and bench scale testing is expected to be completed in the Summer of 2008. The project is currently anticipated to be advertised for bid during the Winter of 2008-2009.

Your Opportunity to be Informed and Involved: Detailed information on past site investigations and the cleanup plan are available for your review at repositories listed on the left-hand side of the front page of this fact sheet. In addition, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact project staff.

Additional Information: For additional information on human health and exposure issues, please visit the NYSDOH's website at: <http://www.health.state.ny.us/environmental/about/exposure.htm>

For additional information on some of the cleanup technologies that may be potentially used at this site, please visit the EPA's website at:

A Citizen's Guide to Soil Excavation: <http://www.clu-in.org/download/citizens/excavation.pdf>

A Citizen's Guide to Solidification/Stabilization: <http://www.cluin.org/download/citizens/s-s.pdf>

A Citizen's Guide to Pump and Treat: http://www.epa.gov/tio/download/citizens/pump_and_treat.pdf

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