



# Mohonk Road Industrial Plant Superfund Site *High Falls, New York*

## Fact Sheet June 1999

### Introduction

This fact sheet provides some history of the Mohonk Road Industrial Plant (MRIP) Superfund Site and will update the community on the current and next steps for cleanup. EPA would also like to invite the public and community members from High Falls and Rosendale to an information session we are hosting to answer any questions you may have about the Site.

### What is the Mohonk Road Industrial Plant (MRIP) Superfund Site?

The MRIP Site is located at 186 Mohonk Road, approximately 1 mile south of the Hamlet of High Falls, New York, in Ulster County. The MRIP Property consists of approximately 14.5 acres of mostly undeveloped land except for a building of approximately 43,000 square feet in its southern corner. From the early 1960s to the early 1990s, various industrial businesses operated at the Site, some of which used solvents and hazardous chemicals in their operations, which included metal finishing and wet spray painting. Some of these chemicals have reached the groundwater under the Site and have contaminated the local aquifer. Sampling has indicated that a groundwater plume containing elevated levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) extends a distance of approximately 1.0 mile from the Site and covers an area of roughly 170 acres. The principal contaminant found on the site and in the groundwater is 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA).

### Previous and Current Cleanup Activities

Cleanup at the Site is currently being addressed with 3 actions:

- New York State's interim response actions,
- EPA's removal action,
- and the long-term plan for cleanup.

These actions are described below.

In 1994, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) took immediate action to install filtration systems in homes and businesses whose well water contained contaminants at levels that exceeded the State's drinking water standards. To date, wells in 70 homes and/or businesses have been found to contain VOCs above State and/or Federal standards. In 1996, NYSDEC began a soil and groundwater investigation at the Site and identified an underground tank on the property that contained highly contaminated sludge. NYSDEC removed the tank and contaminated soils under the tank to prevent additional contamination from entering the groundwater. NYSDEC expanded its testing and began a remedial investigation (RI) to determine the extent of the VOC groundwater plume and the levels of contaminants in soils on the MRIP property. This included drilling eleven monitoring wells beyond the MRIP property - adding to the test wells already placed on the property.

NYSDEC requested that EPA address the most contaminated portion of the contaminant groundwater plume in order to prevent it from spreading and contaminating more of the local drinking water resource. Under the Superfund Removal Program, EPA began its own investigation and used NYSDEC's data to prepare an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) to determine the most effective way to

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**June 17, 1999 from 2:00 to 6:30 PM:**

**An Availability Session**

**at the High Falls Firehouse**

An opportunity to discuss the Site investigations and next steps for cleanup.

accomplish this interim action. In March 1999 EPA met with the community to present three removal alternatives and to propose its preferred option. EPA proposed to pump the groundwater and treat it with an air stripping unit on the MRIP property. The cleaned water would then be discharged into the Coxing Kill or Roundout Creek. EPA is investigating both discharge options, and anticipates selecting one option by June with construction to start this summer.

**Future and Long-Term Cleanup**

The RI conducted by NYSDEC resulted in a comprehensive analysis of the extent of groundwater and soil contamination at the MRIP Site. Based on the RI, NYSDEC prepared a feasibility study (FS) to identify and evaluate potential alternatives for the remediation, or long-term cleanup, of the Site. A draft of the FS, was completed and placed in the document repositories for public review in March 1999.

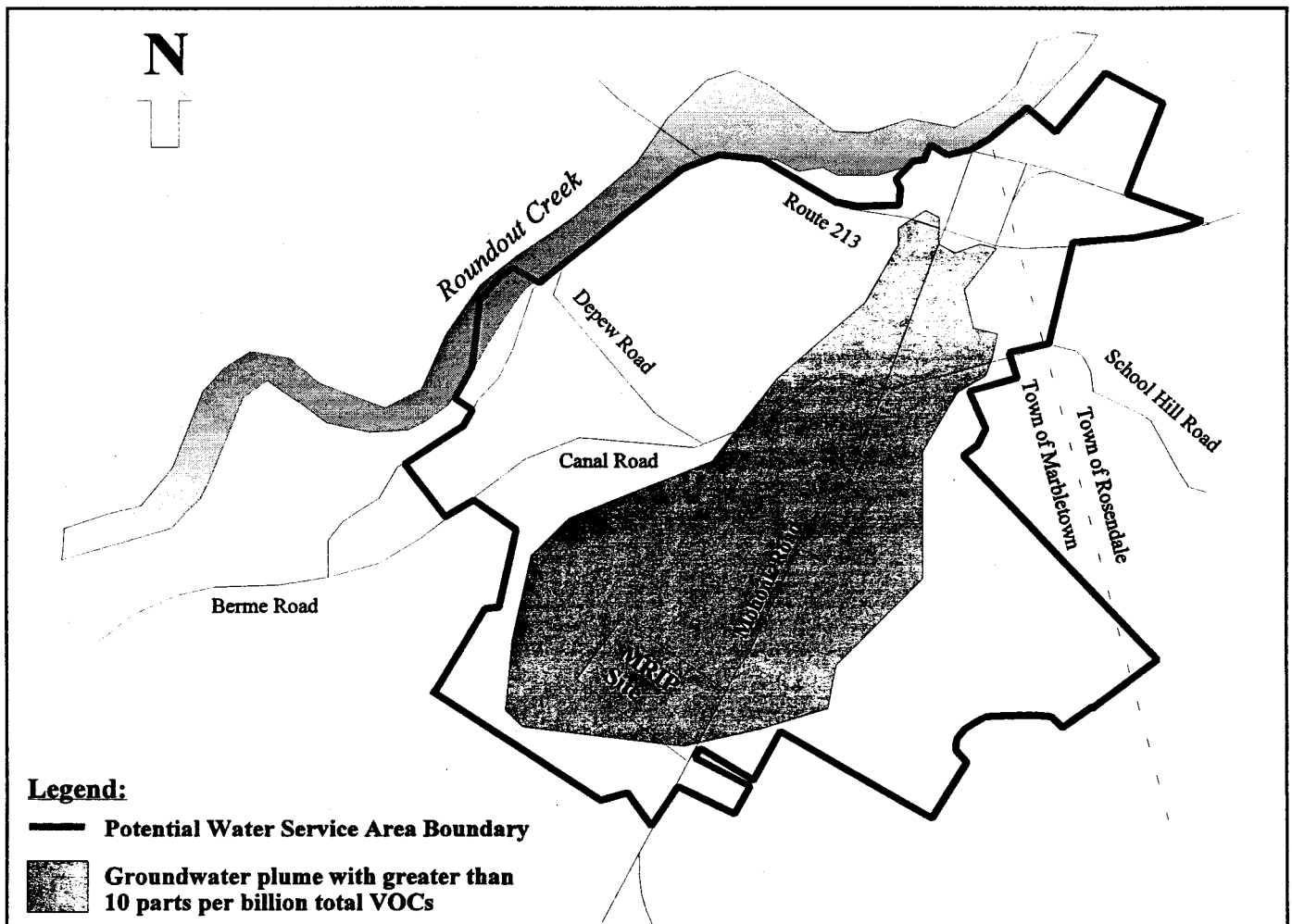
The FS discusses and evaluates several remedial alternatives to address the following:

- A long-term solution for supplying safe

- drinking water to residential and commercial properties that have been impacted or are threatened by the contaminants,
- the cleanup of the entire contaminated groundwater plume, and
- the remediation of on-site subsurface contaminated soils.

***Potential Water District Formation***

The FS alternatives evaluated for providing a water supply to businesses and residences include no further action other than maintaining the existing carbon filters, installing and maintaining additional carbon filters, and providing an alternate public water supply from a new well field or the Catskill Aqueduct. If the well field or Catskill Aqueduct are selected, a potential water service area and water district would have to be formed; the proposed water district is shown below. This proposed service area includes properties impacted or threatened by the groundwater plume, and may be modified during design of the system, if future data indicate that additional wells are threatened. Representatives from Marbletown or Rosendale or the EPA or NYSDEC



project managers may be contacted to obtain more information about which properties are included in this proposed water service area.

The FS also considers alternatives for cleanup of contaminated soils on the Site, and the remediation of the Site-wide groundwater VOC plume. Alternatives considered for soil cleanup include no further action, excavation and treatment on-site, and excavation and treatment off-site. Alternatives considered for the remediation of the entire groundwater plume include no further action, minimal action (continued operation of the system installed during the removal action), and extraction and treatment of the Site-wide groundwater plume.

### ***The Next Steps for Cleanup***

The Towns of Marbletown and Rosendale are currently evaluating the FS and exploring the formation of a water district. A organization of community residents has also formed to analyze the FS and consider the water supply alternatives. A Proposed Plan is being prepared which will discuss the FS alternatives and EPA and NYSDEC's preferred alternatives to address the long-term cleanup of the Site for: supplying clean water to the impacted and threatened residents; remediation of the Site-wide groundwater plume; and soil cleanup. It is anticipated that the Proposed Plan will be released during the summer of 1999. Following the release of the Proposed Plan, a public meeting will be held to discuss the alternatives. There will also be a public comment period to solicit the public's input on the Proposed Plan. The EPA and NYSDEC may modify the preferred alternative or select another of the alternatives presented in the Proposed Plan, based on new information or public comments.

All comments will be summarized and responses will be provided in the Responsiveness Summary section of the Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will finalize

EPA and NYSDEC's final selection of the remedy for this site. It is anticipated that a ROD will be issued in late summer or fall of this year.

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#### **Information Repositories**

Additional information on the MRIP Site may be found in EPA and NYSDEC's information repositories at the Rosendale and Stone Ridge public libraries.

