

# Important News

Superfund Program



Region 2

NOV 17 1999

## Mohonk Road Industrial Plant Site

High Falls, New York

November 1999

### EPA and New York State Propose a Long-Term Cleanup Plan for the Mohonk Site:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) have released for public review and comment a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for the long-term cleanup of the Mohonk Road Industrial Plant (MRIP) site. This plan is available at the information repositories listed below. The site is located in the Hamlet of High Falls and was occupied from the early 1960s until 1992 by various business that used chemicals or solvents in their operations.

After completing a comprehensive site investigation to determine the nature and extent of the contamination and evaluating various cleanup options, NYSDEC, with assistance from EPA, prepared a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) outlining the preferred alternatives to protect human health and the environment from the site contamination. **The primary goals of the plan are to:**

1. eliminate human exposure to groundwater contaminated by the MRIP site that does not meet state or federal drinking water standards;
2. restore the groundwater contaminated by the MRIP site to meet drinking water standards and prevent the contaminated groundwater from spreading and further impacting the aquifer;
3. eliminate the potential for human exposure to any contaminants in subsurface soils on the MRIP property or the release of those contaminants into the groundwater.

### EPA and NYSDEC Propose to:

1. construct and begin operation of a new public water supply system to provide clean, safe potable water to the residences or businesses in the towns of Marbletown and Rosendale with impacted or threatened private supply wells. The source of this new public water supply is proposed to be the Catskill Aqueduct. **Note:** this would require the establishment of a community water district in the towns of Marbletown and Rosendale;
2. construct and operate a groundwater extraction and treatment system to cleanup groundwater contamination

that has migrated away from the MRIP property. **Note:** EPA will continue to operate the treatment system currently being constructed to address the grossly contaminated groundwater underlying the MRIP property;

3. excavate contaminated subsurface soils on the MRIP property and transport those soils to a waste treatment or disposal.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR !

**December 2, 1999**

**Public Meeting**

to discuss and give EPA your comments on the proposed plan

**7:00 p.m.**

**High Falls Firehouse**

**November 15, 1999 thru January 15, 2000**

**Public Comment Period**

on Proposed Long-Term Cleanup Plan for the Mohonk Site.

The total estimated cost for this proposed plan is \$14,869,000. EPA will select and be the lead agency responsible for the final cleanup plan. EPA is continuing it's investigations to identify parties responsible for the contamination. EPA typically offers such parties the opportunity to pay for and implement the final plan. If the responsible parties are not willing or able to do so, EPA will pay for and undertake the long-term cleanup work under the federal Superfund program and subsequently seek to recover its cleanup cost from those parties.

### Why are EPA and NYSDEC proposing this plan?

NYSDEC evaluated several approaches to address each of the three primary areas of concern: safe potable water supply, groundwater contamination and soil contamination. The combination of alternatives outlined in this proposed plan will allow EPA to effectively address all of these areas at the same time and best meet the criteria used to evaluate cleanup plans under Superfund. These criteria include: protection of human health and the environment, short-term and long-term effectiveness, implementability, cost and conformity with existing laws and regulations.

**Why can't those properties with contaminated private wells just use the individual treatment units that are already working?**

EPA and NYSDEC did consider and evaluate the option of the continuing the use of the individual treatment systems that NYSDEC already has installed on 70 contaminated private wells and installing new ones where additional wells are threatened. However, if this alternative were selected, EPA would not be able to operate a treatment system to cleanup the contaminated groundwater that has moved off the MRIP property because nearby private wells could run dry.

If the alternative of constructing a public water system is selected, the NYSDEC will continue to maintain the individual treatment systems until the new public water supply is available.

**Who will receive water from the new public water supply system?**

EPA, NYSDEC and the Ulster County Department of Health have identified the boundaries of a proposed public water service area (PWSA), which includes all properties currently impacted or considered threatened by contamination from the MRIP site. The PWSA is comprised of 174 lots in the towns of Marbletown and Rosendale, of which approximately 143 are currently developed for municipal, residential or commercial use and contain private wells.

A map of the specific lots within the PWSA is included in the Feasibility Study, which is available for public review at the Stone Ridge Library and Rosendale Libraries.

**More about the proposed public water system...**

In order for EPA to construct a public water system, the towns of Marbletown and Rosendale must first establish a

community water district for the long-term maintenance and operation of the public water supply system.

In addition, if the Catskill Aqueduct is selected as the source for the new water system, the towns of Marbletown and Rosendale and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection must establish a use agreement, which is an option available to towns through which the aqueduct runs.

A backup system would also be constructed to supply drinking water during periods of time when the Catskill Aqueduct is temporarily out of service. Sources currently considered for the backup supply are the Roundout Creek and a well in an uncontaminated area of the aquifer.

In accordance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the Surface Water Treatment Rule, the raw water from the Catskill Aqueduct and the backup source would be treated with a conventional treatment system, including filtration and disinfection.

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(518) 402-7880 or 1-800-458-1158:ext. 2-7880

Greg Mapstone, Ulster County Health Department  
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**Send Us Your Comments !**

Send your comments through **January 15, 2000** to:

**Patrick Hamblin, Remedial Project Manager  
290 Broadway, 20th Floor  
New York, NY 10007-1866**

EPA relies on public input to ensure that the concerns of the community are considered when selecting cleanup plans for each Superfund site. EPA has extended the normal 30-day comment period to 60 days to allow the community additional time to review and comment on this plan.

Before selecting a final cleanup plan for this site, EPA will prepare a written response to all public comments in a **Responsiveness Summary** document, which will be placed in the site information repositories.

**Information Repositories**



Now available for public review at the Rosendale and Stone Ridge Libraries and offices of the EPA and NYSDEC:

**Proposed Remedial Action Plan** and other documents related to the site, including site history documents, investigation reports and information about EPA and NYSDEC interim cleanup actions.



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Environmental Remediation



**MOHONK ROAD INDUSTRIAL PLANT  
INACTIVE HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL SITE #356023  
HIGH FALLS, ULSTER COUNTY  
PROJECT UPDATE - SEPTEMBER 1998**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Mohonk Road Industrial Plant Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site (the "Site"), is located on Mohonk Road in High Falls, Ulster County. The Site lies on approximately 14.5 acres most of which is undeveloped property. The Site is bounded on the southeast by Mohonk Road and to the northeast, northwest, and southwest by residential properties on large wooded lots.

The Site property is mostly undeveloped except for the southern corner of the site, which is occupied by an approximately 43,000 ft<sup>2</sup> building. Two underground storage tanks were located to the north of the building. Both have subsequently been removed. The attached Site maps show all locations and features referenced in this Fact Sheet.

**SITE/REMEDIAL HISTORY**

A detailed description of the site history and remediation history is contained in the May 1997 Fact Sheet. Briefly, in 1994 a resident on Mohonk Road contacted the Ulster County Department of Health (UCDoH) concerning the quality of her drinking water. The well was sampled and contained volatile organic compounds (VOCs) above the New York State Department of Health (NYSDoH) drinking water standard. These VOCs included: 1,1,1-trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA); trichloroethylene (TCE); 1,1-dichloroethylene (1,1-DCE); and 1,1-dichloroethane (1,1-DCA). Concentrations of total VOCs exceeding 1,000 parts per billion (ppb) have been detected in residential wells. The drinking water standard is 5 ppb for all of these compounds. Other wells in the area were sampled and many were also found to be contaminated with VOCs. At the request of the health departments, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

**PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:**

There will a public meeting on *Wednesday, October 28, 1998 at 7:00 PM* at the High Falls Firehouse, in High Falls, New York. The purpose of the meeting is to present the findings of the Remedial Investigation and for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to solicit comment on the proposal for an interim groundwater response action at the Site.

(NYSDEC) installed granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration systems on residential, municipal and commercial property water supply wells whose water contains VOCs above the NYSDoH drinking water standard. The NYSDEC is currently monitoring and maintaining 67 GAC filtration systems. The NYSDEC identified the Site as the source of the contamination, and in August 1994 the Site was designated a Class 2 site on the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites. The Class 2 designation indicates that the site poses a significant threat to public health and/or the environment.

After repeated, unsuccessful attempts to have a responsible party fund a remedial program at the site, the NYSDEC elected to use the State Superfund program to conduct a full investigation. In the Fall of 1996, the NYSDEC and their consultant conducted an Immediate Investigation Work Assignment (IIWA). A sample from the 1000 gallon underground storage tank (UST) onsite indicated an estimated concentration of 1,1,1-TCA at 26% and 1,1-DCE at 1.8% in the sludge. The work included the installation of five shallow soil/bedrock interface monitoring wells on the Site. Analysis of groundwater sampled from

monitoring well MW-4 located near this underground tank detected the presence of 1,1-DCE at 10,000; 1,1-DCA at 6,700; TCE at 3,300; and 1,1,1-TCA at 82,000, parts per billion. Four bedrock monitoring wells were installed and sampled on site under a second IIWA in April 1997.

NYSDEC started the full Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) in May 1997.

### ***PUBLIC HEALTH***

The NYSDEC is currently monitoring and maintaining 67 granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration systems which are connected to residential, municipal and commercial property water supply wells whose water contains VOCs above the NYSDoH drinking water standard. The NYSDEC and UCDoH continue to monitor the contaminated residential wells to ensure that the GAC systems are working properly. Private wells outside the plume boundaries are also monitored to determine that the groundwater contamination plume has not reached these wells.

The NYSDoH completed a Health Consultation Report for the Site in December 1997. Copies of the report can be obtained by contacting Ms. Nina Knapp, Outreach Unit, NYSDoH at 1-800-458-1158, ext.6402.

### ***REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION (RI)***

The RI consisted of two major tasks. The first task was the Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) which consisted of the sampling of all homes/businesses with GAC filters, seven background wells, and all the existing on-site monitoring wells. The information was used to develop a Hazard Ranking System (HRS) score for the site. The ESI report has been sent to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for review and nomination to the National Priorities List (NPL). Inclusion on the NPL could mean Federal funding for any future remediation of the site.

The second major task was the actual RI. The purpose of the RI is to characterize the nature and extent of risks posed by any contamination resulting from previous activities at the site. The RI field

investigation addressed the following areas:

- ▶ ***Groundwater*** - In addition to the on-site wells installed in the Fall of 1996 and Spring of 1997, eleven off-site monitoring wells have been installed and sampled. The most recent monitoring well sampling event was in May 1998. The extent and concentration levels of the bedrock groundwater contamination are depicted in Figure 2. The contamination is found throughout the vertical extent of the bedrock aquifer. Two off-site overburden (soil) wells were also installed and sampled. No contamination was found in these wells indicating that outside of the site the contamination is confined to the bedrock.
- ▶ ***Subsurface Soils*** - Numerous samples were collected by using a direct push soil sampler or through the excavation of test pits and trenches. The subsurface soil data indicates that contaminated soils remain in the vicinity of the former 1000 gallon underground storage tank, to the west of the building and a small area under the building. In total, there are approximately 334 cubic yards of contaminated subsurface soils that will need to be addressed in the Feasibility Study portion of the project.
- ▶ ***Surface Soils*** - Historical sampling did not detect any contaminants of concern in the on site surface soils.
- ▶ ***Surface Water*** - samples were collected from various ponds and other water bodies downgradient of the site. With the exception of the cistern located just downgradient of the site, none of the samples were contaminated with site-related contaminants.
- ▶ ***Groundwater Pump Tests*** - A 45 hour pump test was conducted on the on-site production well PW-2 to determine if sufficient drawdown and hence capture of the plume could be achieved through pumping of the aquifer. The pump test

indicated that the well could maintain a high rate of pumping and significant drawdown was achieved. A second pump test was conducted on MRMW-11B and the results were similar to the first test. The data from the two pump tests has been used to develop and calibrate a groundwater model of the plume.

- ▶ ***Human Health Exposure Assessment*** - The assessment was conducted to provide a qualitative assessment of the health risks to humans. The assessment concluded that the primary route of exposure and most significant exposure intake under a current land use scenario is inhalation of VOCs by off-site residents. The use of the granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration system has eliminated this exposure pathway and ensures a safe supply of water.
- ▶ ***Fish and Wildlife Impact Analysis*** - A Step 1 Analysis of the Site was conducted following the guidelines provided by the NYSDEC. The analysis is presented in Chapter 8 of the RI report. Based on the available information, no further study of fish and wildlife resources is necessary at this time.

A RI report was prepared that summarizes the findings of the RI and is available for review at the project document repositories listed below.

Semiannual sampling of all bedrock monitoring wells will continue. The next sampling event is scheduled for late October 1998.

### ***FEASIBILITY STUDY (FS)***

The purpose of the FS is to identify and evaluate potential remedial alternatives for the Site. The Draft FS Report has been submitted and is under review. The FS discusses and evaluates several remedial alternatives to address the following:

- ▶ The on site subsurface contaminated soils,

- ▶ The contaminated groundwater in the study area, and
- ▶ A long-term solution for supplying potable water to residential and commercial property with impacted or threatened private water supply wells.

It is anticipated that a public meeting to discuss a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) will be conducted in early 1999. There will be a public comment period to solicit the public's input on the proposed plan. The NYSDEC may modify the preferred alternative or select another of the alternatives presented in the PRAP, based on new information or public comments.

The NYSDEC, in consultation with the health departments and the USEPA, will review all comments carefully. Comments will be summarized and responses provided in the Responsiveness Summary section of the Record of Decision. The Record of Decision (ROD) is the NYSDEC's final selection of the remedy for this site. It is anticipated that a ROD will be issued for the Site by March 1999.

### ***INTERIM REMEDIAL MEASURES (IRMs)***

Since the underground tank was determined to be the primary source of the VOC contamination in the groundwater, the NYSDEC elected to remove the tank as an IRM in August 1997. The tank was removed along with about 25 tons of contaminated soil from beneath the tank and properly disposed of off site. Removal of the tank prevents additional contamination from entering the groundwater since this source is no longer in existence.

The groundwater in the vicinity of where the underground tank was located is contaminated with over 10,000 ppb of total VOCs. The NYSDEC decided to conduct a second IRM that consists of an on-site groundwater extraction and treatment system. This IRM will pump the contaminated groundwater and then treat the water on-site using a tray air stripper. The clean water will be discharged to the ground surface or an on-site recharge basin. The design is near completion and construction is

anticipated to begin later this year. The USEPA was requested to fund the construction and start up of this system and have agreed to do so. They will be the lead on this portion of the site's remedial program. The USEPA will shortly be issuing and soliciting comment on a document that describes the rationale for the action that the USEPA is undertaking to complete the IRM.

### ***CITIZEN PARTICIPATION***

The NYSDEC, in conjunction with the NYSDoH and UCDoH, is committed to establishing effective communication with the public and providing timely information about upcoming activities at the Site. Fact sheets and public meetings will be used to keep the interested and affected public informed as the project proceeds. The public is encouraged to comment on activities implemented or proposed throughout the course of the remedial program at the Site.

As part of the citizen participation program, repositories have been established where the public may review documents related to this project. The repositories are located at:

1. Stone Ridge Library  
Stone Ridge, New York 12484  
(914) 687-7023
2. Town Clerks Office  
Town of Marbletown  
Stone Ridge, New York 12484  
(914) 687-7500
3. NYSDEC, Region 3 Office  
21 South Putt Corners Road  
New Paltz, New York 12561  
(914) 256-3154  
ATTN: Michael Knipfing
4. NYSDEC, Albany Office  
50 Wolf Road, Room 242  
Albany, New York 12233-7010  
(518) 457-3395  
ATTN: Michael Komoroske

### ***FOR FURTHER INFORMATION***

#### **About the Site, Contact:**

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#### **About Health Concerns, Contact:**

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Toll-Free: 1-800-458-1158 or

#### **Greg Mapstone**

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#### **About the Individual GAC Filters, Contact:**

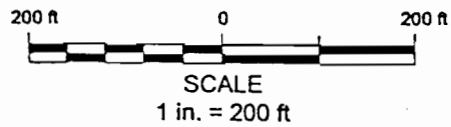
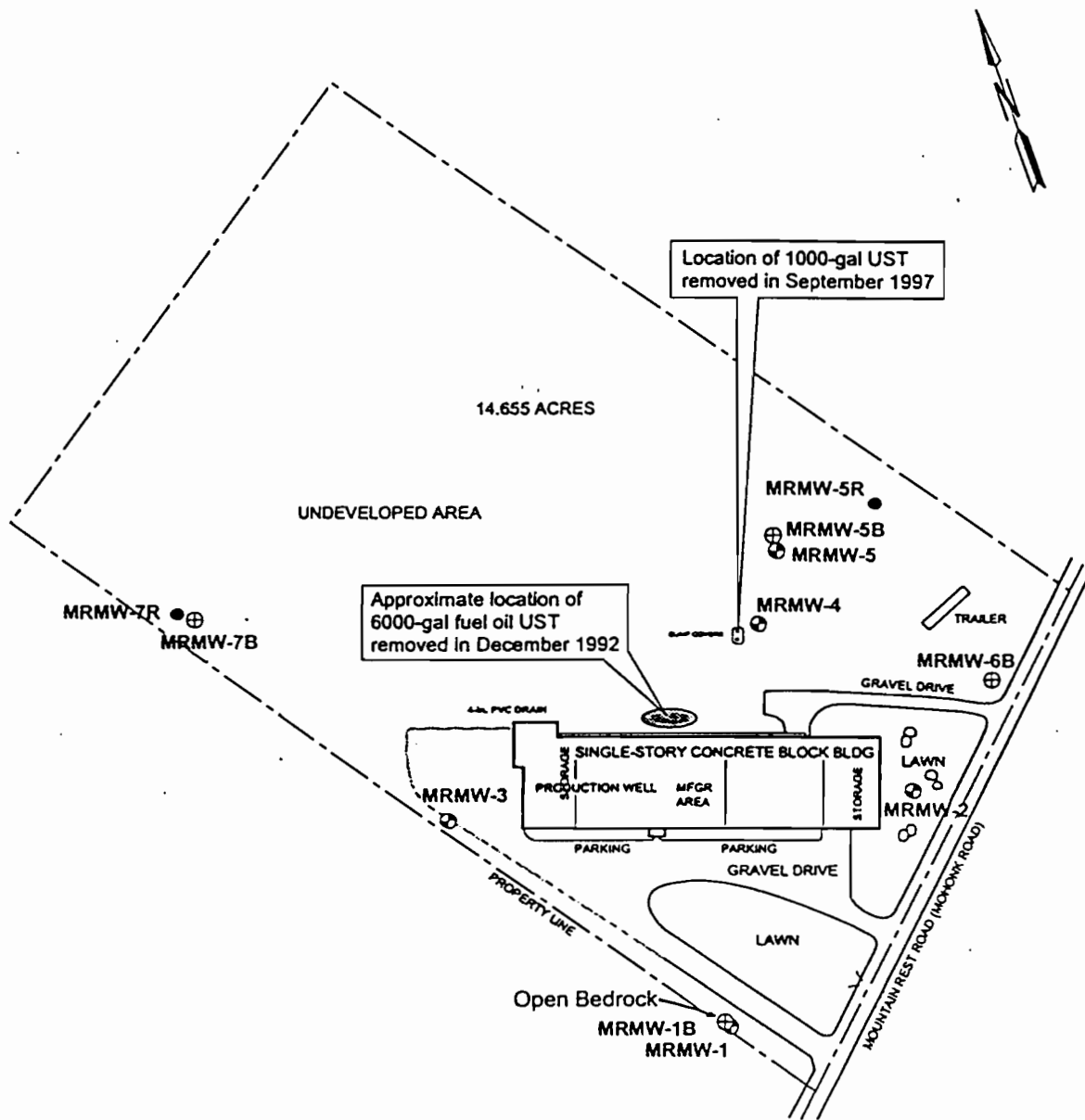
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**Legend**

- ⊕ Bedrock wells
- ⊙ Interface wells
- Existing production wells
- Recovery wells

Map source: Richard T. Sherman, P.C., 1981.

**Figure 1**  
**Site Plan**

MOHONK ROAD INDUSTRIAL PLANT  
 NYSDEC I.D. No. 356023

LAWLER, MATUSKY & SKELLY ENGINEERS LLP  
 Pearl River, New York

