

FACT SHEET

WATERVLIET ARSENAL - SIBERIA AREA WATERVLIET, NY 12801

AUGUST 2008

Cleanup Proposed to Address Arsenal Contamination Public Comment Sought

This Fact Sheet provides information about the final remedies being proposed for the Watervliet Arsenal Siberia Area in the city of Watervliet. If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact:

Ms. Alicia Barraza
Project Manager
NYSDEC

625 Broadway, 9th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7258
(518) 402-8594

or

Mr. Larry Rosenmann
Project Geologist
NYSDEC

625 Broadway, 9th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7258
(518) 402-8594

For site related health questions,
please contact the New York State
Department of Health
(NYSDOH):

Ms. Charlotte Bethoney
Public Health Specialist
NYSDOH

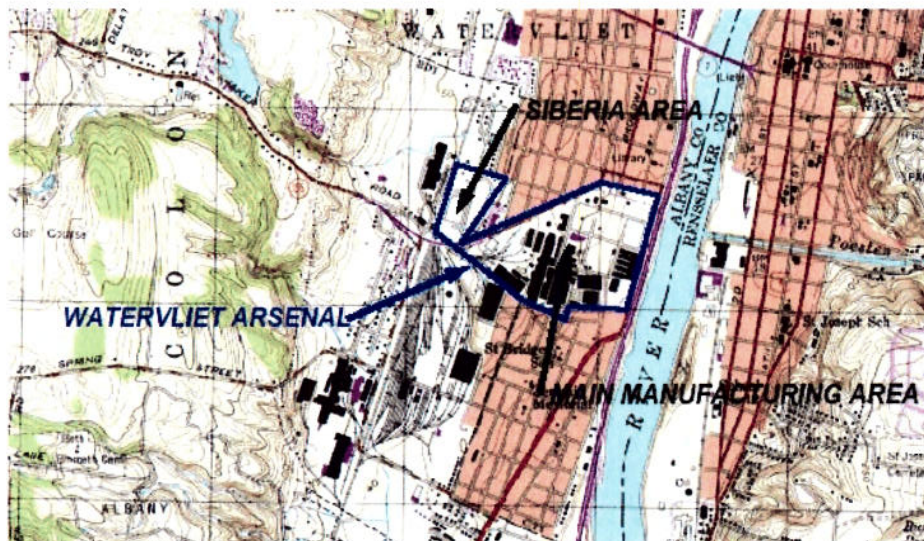
Flanigan Square, Rm 300
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(518) 402-7860

The New York State Department of Environmental (NYSDEC) is proposing a cleanup plan to address contamination in the Siberia Area of the Watervliet Arsenal in Watervliet, Albany County. NYSDEC will be accepting public comment on the proposed cleanup plan until September 26, 2008.

The Watervliet Arsenal has identified and investigated soil and groundwater contamination and has taken actions to clean up contamination found. The proposed cleanup plan is described in a Statement of Basis, which details cleanup actions for soils and groundwater contamination at the Watervliet Arsenal Siberia Area. These actions have already been implemented as Interim Corrective Measures (ICMs) and have effectively cleaned up and contained the contamination. Accordingly, they are being proposed as final remedies for the Siberia Area.

Description of Siberia Area

The Watervliet Arsenal is located in the city of Watervliet, adjacent to Interstate 787 (see map below). The arsenal is a US government-owned facility that consists of the 127-acre Main Manufacturing Area and the 15-acre Siberia Area. The Siberia Area was purchased in the early 1940s and was filled to grade with slag, cinders, wood, brick and other debris. The area was also used to manage various wastes including metal chips coated with cutting oils, salvaged scrap metals and scrap lumber. In addition, mixtures of waste oils and solvents were sprayed on the ground for dust control. Current operational procedures prohibit all of these activities in the Siberia Area.



NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF



ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

For More Information

A local document repository has been established at the Watervliet Public Library so the public can review the proposed cleanup plan and other project-related documents.

Watervliet Public Library
1501 Broadway
Watervliet, NY 12189-2895
Telephone: (518) 274-4471
Monday through Thursday:
12:00 to 8:00 p.m.; Friday:
12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Public comment on the proposed cleanup should be sent to the following before September 26, 2008:

Alicia Barraza
Project Manager
NYSDEC
625 Broadway, 9th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7258
(518) 402-8594
aabarraza@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Contamination Found at Siberia Area

Soil contamination throughout the area consisted primarily of organic contaminants associated with coal and fuel oil. (These are typically referred to as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons or "PAHs".) Arsenic, chromium and lead were found in soils in various locations including a former burn pit and the main power substation. Arsenic was also found along the perimeter fence.

Petroleum hydrocarbons and PAHs were detected at very low levels in groundwater samples collected throughout the Siberia Area. Concentrations greater than NYSDEC standards were found only in the main substation, chip handling, and former burn pit areas. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in groundwater at concentrations greater than NYSDEC standards in the northeast portion of the area. These are believed to have come from disposal within the former burn pit.

Proposed Final Remedies for Soils and Groundwater

The completed ICMs are proposed in the Draft Statement of Basis to become final remedies.

For soil these cleanup measures include:

- Removal and disposal of approximately 3,500 cubic yards of soil;
- Enhanced bioremediation (landfarming) using biological agents, such as bacteria or plants, to remove or neutralize contaminants in the soil;
- Capping of certain areas with stone or asphalt; and
- Institutional controls.

For groundwater these cleanup measures include:

- Removing and treating contaminants found at the former burn pit;
- Treating groundwater by passing it through a reactive iron wall that was installed in the ground to intercept the contaminated groundwater and breakdown the VOC contaminants in the water;
- Monitored natural attenuation (using natural processes to reduce the mass, toxicity, mobility, volume, or concentration of contaminants); and
- Institutional controls, such as a deed restriction on potential site uses to prevent future exposures.

These conclusions will be reevaluated if NYSDEC becomes aware of significant changes at the facility.

Protection of Public Health and the Environment

The proposed final remedy will be protective of public health and the environment because:

- Groundwater contaminant concentrations are stable or decreasing and no groundwater contaminants are known to be leaving the site.
- All surrounding properties are served by public water.
- The lone building at the Siberia Area was constructed with a sub-slab depressurization system to prevent vapors from VOCs in groundwater from migrating through the soil and into the building.
- In February 2008, three on-site soil gas samples close to the nearby residential area did not indicate contaminants at a level of concern.
- Long term groundwater monitoring and institutional controls will continue to detect and prevent potential exposures in the future.