



Public Meeting Invitation

**Tuesday,
March 9, 2010
6:30 PM**

Watervliet High School
Auditorium
1245 Hillside Drive
Watervliet
(518) 629-3300

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health (NYSDEC and NYSDOH) will discuss the proposed remedy for the Former Adirondack Steel Site. At the meeting, representatives from the NYSDEC and NYSDOH will:

- o Describe the results of the site investigations;
- o Explain the proposed remedy;
- o Answer your questions about the remedy;
- o Receive your verbal or written comments about the proposal.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

From: February 24, 2010
To: March 25, 2010

FACT SHEET

FEBRUARY 2010

FORMER ADIRONDACK STEEL, SITE NO. 401039
191 WATERVLIET SHAKER ROAD, COLONIE, NY
NYSDEC, REGION 4, ALBANY COUNTY

STATE SUPERFUND PLAN PROPOSED FOR THE FORMER ADIRONDACK STEEL SITE OPERABLE UNIT No. 1

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Public Meeting & Comment Period Announced

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The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), working cooperatively with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), has proposed this plan designed to address contamination identified at Operable Unit No. 1 (OU-1) of the Former Adirondack Steel site in Colonie, New York (location map on page 4).

The Proposed Plan: The plan proposed for OU-1 of the site is No Further Action other than institutional controls. NYSDEC has proposed this remedy after an extensive investigation and remedial activities to address contamination under the New York State Superfund Program.

The proposed plan is described in a draft cleanup plan called a "Proposed Remedial Action Plan" (PRAP) developed under the State Superfund Program. The document is available for public review at the document repository locations identified on page 4 of this fact sheet.

Your Opportunities to Comment on the Proposed Plan: Release of the PRAP begins a process to finalize selection of the remedy for the site. Your comments and input about the proposed plan are important and encouraged.

Your oral and written comments about the PRAP are welcome at the **public meeting** (see sidebar) and during a **public comment period** which runs until **March 25, 2009**. Written comments also may be mailed or sent by e-mail until the end of the comment period to:

Ian A. Beilby, P.E.
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
12th Floor, 625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7016

Or

iabeilby@gw.dec.state.ny.us

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED PLAN

The proposed plan represents the alternative preferred by NYSDEC and the NYSDOH to address site contamination and is described in the draft cleanup plan. The draft plan has several goals:

- identify cleanup levels to be achieved;
- explain why NYSDEC and NYSDOH believe the proposed remedy will protect public health and the environment;
- provide a detailed description of the proposed remedy.

The proposed remedy was chosen following a detailed remedial investigation (RI) of the site and initial improvement work, formally known as an “interim remedial measure.” An interim remedial measure (IRM) is conducted at a site when a source of contamination or exposure pathway (the way in which a person may contact contamination) can be effectively addressed without extensive investigation and evaluation.

The RI was initiated because polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were known to have contaminated specific areas of soil on the property and it was necessary to determine the full extent of that contamination. The areas known to be contaminated were designated “the site.” PCBs are a group of chemicals that are relatively stable and nonflammable. They originated from electrical equipment used at the former steel foundry as the equipment was serviced and maintained throughout the foundry’s operating history or by the destructive acts of trespassers and scavengers that caused damage to the equipment after the facility’s abandonment. The RI also considered the potential for additional contaminants due to the long history of industrial activity at the property, including the presence of the off-site landfill associated with the foundry.

The RI identified appropriate cleanup levels through a review of the nature and extent of the contamination present, routes of exposure of humans and the environment to the contaminants present as well as appropriate uses for the property. Evaluation of the contamination utilized several different sources of environmental standards, criteria and guidance. State regulations allow for cleanup to one part PCBs per million parts of exposed soil at residential and commercial sites. Industrial sites may contain up to 25 parts per million of PCBs. While the Former Adirondack Steel Site is zoned “industrial” use, it was determined that more conservative commercial standards were appropriate because of the current lack of access controls and uncertain future use of the site.

The investigation confirmed the presence of PCBs and provided data to determine that IRMs could be implemented to remove significant sources of PCB contamination. By completing the IRMs, the NYSDEC and the NYSDOH have determined the cleanup goals for the site were met because the routes of exposure have been eliminated through the removal of the contaminated soils.

REMEDIAL ACTION ALREADY PERFORMED

Two separate IRMs were performed at the Adirondack Steel property. The first IRM addressed the abandoned PCB-contaminated electrical equipment at the property. One transformer and several capacitors were removed from the site and disposed of at a permitted facility. The second IRM was performed from May through August of 2009 and included the excavation and disposal of PCB source areas from the site as well as other off-site PCB-contaminated soils in the immediate vicinity.

To conduct the IRM, areas of contaminated soil to be removed were marked using soil and subsurface soil data collected during the RI. A large asbestos-containing smokestack was removed from one of the PCB contaminated areas to provide access prior to commencing excavation. An excavator was used to remove and stockpile the soil prior to loading and transport. Once the planned excavation was complete, confirmation samples were collected and analyzed from the bottom and sidewalls of the excavated area.

Soil was separated into hazardous and non-hazardous waste based on the PCB concentrations. Soil and fill were excavated in 13 separate areas totaling 2,044 tons of hazardous waste and 1,600 tons of non-hazardous waste removed, thereby eliminating the significant threat to human health and the environment from OU No. 1. In addition to the removal of soil and fill, contaminated sediment and surface water from the vicinity of the former North Power Station was also removed.

Backfill was placed where excavated areas presented a physical danger posed by deep pits or ponded water to individuals on-site.

Confirmation sampling from the excavations shows that the cleanup goals have been met or exceeded through implementation of the IRM. In all but one area located on-site, the former North Power Station, soils contain residual PCB concentrations of less than 1 ppm.

Therefore, the NYSDEC concludes that No Further Action is needed other than institutional controls. The elements the institutional controls are listed below:

1. Imposition of an institutional control in the form of an environmental easement that would require (a) limiting the use and development of the site to commercial use, which would also permit industrial use; (b) compliance with the approved site management plan; and (c) the property owner to complete and submit to the NYSDEC a periodic certification of institutional controls.
2. Development of a site management plan which would include the following controls: (a) development of a soils management plan that would prevent the surfacing of subsurface soils. Excavated soil would be tested, properly handled to protect the health and safety of workers and the nearby community, and would be properly managed in a manner acceptable to the NYSDEC; (b) identification of any use restrictions on the site.
3. The property owner would provide a periodic certification of institutional controls, prepared and submitted by a professional engineer or such other expert acceptable to the NYSDEC, until the NYSDEC notifies the property owner in writing that this certification is no longer needed. This submittal would: (a) contain certification that the institutional controls put in place are still in place and are either unchanged from the previous certification or are compliant with NYSDEC-approved modifications; (b) allow the NYSDEC access to the site; and (c) state that nothing has occurred that would impair the ability of the control to protect public health or the environment, or constitute a violation or failure to comply with the site management plan unless otherwise approved by the NYSDEC.

SITE HISTORY

The Former Adirondack Steel Site was listed as a Class 2 site on the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites because of a release to the ground of PCB-containing fluid caused by unauthorized scavenging activity. A Class 2 site means there is a significant threat to human health or the environment due to the contamination that is present. The site occupies approximately 0.5 acres of the former Adirondack Steel Casting Co. Inc. property. An initial cleanup of the grossly contaminated soil was completed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1999. Several years were spent pursuing the site owner in court to complete the cleanup. Upon a court judgment in favor of the EPA that allowed for the sale of the property, a remedial investigation (RI) was initiated by the NYSDEC and completed in 2008. The RI determined the full extent of residual PCB contamination at both the area of the release and on the remainder of the site. The RI also investigated the Adirondack Steel Casting Co. property for additional PCB contamination and non-PCB hazardous substances. No additional significant non-PCB hazardous substances were found although additional PCBs were discovered in off-site drainage sediments and sidewalls adjacent to the site that are both on and off the property. These locations have been designated Operable Unit No. 2 (OU-2) and

are currently being addressed. Investigation of OU-2 was completed in the fall of 2009 to determine the full extent of PCBs. Results of the investigation will be presented in subsequent reports and made available to the public at the document repositories and through future fact sheet mailings.

Based on the data from the RI, it was determined that IRMs to address the residual PCBs from the unlawful release of PCB-containing fluids from electrical equipment as well as abandoned PCB-containing electrical equipment still on-site were appropriate to eliminate the threat of exposure to PCBs from the site.

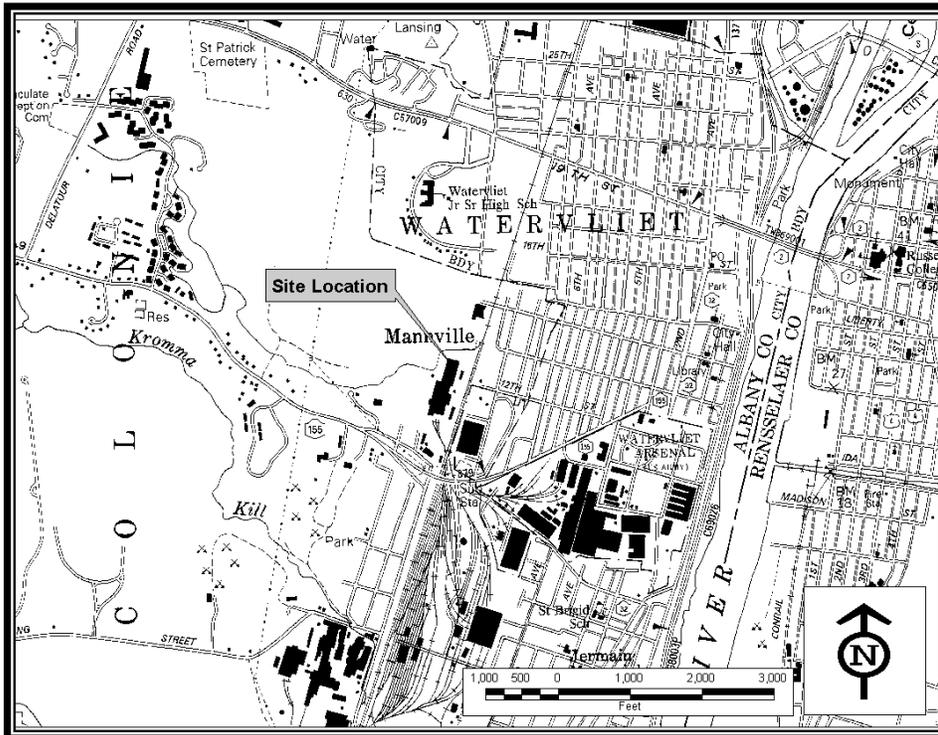


Figure 1: Former Adirondack Steel Site Location

WHAT'S NEXT

NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the no further action remedy for the site. The selected remedy will be described in a document called a "Record of Decision" that will explain why the remedy was selected and respond to public comments. This document will be made available to the public at the document repositories listed on this page and a notice will be sent to the site contact list announcing its completion and describing the remedy.

The PCB contaminated sediments and sidewall of the adjacent drainageways will be addressed in a separate remedial action planned for 2010 pending the results of recently completed sample collection activities.

QUESTIONS:

Any questions or concerns regarding the site can be addressed by contacting Mr. Ian Beilby, P.E. of the DEC at (518) 402-9767. For health related concerns regarding this site, please contact Ms. Bridget Callaghan of the NYSDOH at (518) 402-7860.

Document Repositories

Site related documents are available for review at the following locations:

NYSDEC

625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, New York 12233-7013
Call (518) 402-9767 for appointment

William K. Sanford Library

629 Albany-Shaker Road
Loudonville, New York 12211

Watervliet Public Library

1501 Broadway
Watervliet, NY 12189

For Additional Information

Please contact the following staff:

Ian Beilby, P.E.

NYSDEC
625 Broadway, 12th floor
Albany, NY 12233-7016
(518) 402-9767

Bridget Callaghan

NYSDOH
Bureau of Environmental Exposure
Flanigan Square, Rm 300
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180
(518) 402-7860