



FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

SI Group, Congress Street Facility
(also known as Schenectady International – 10th St Plant)

September 2010

Site Number: 447007
Schenectady, NY

Remedy Proposed for State Superfund Site; Public Comment Period and Public Meeting Announced

The public is invited to comment on a remedy proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to address soil contamination related to SI Group's Congress Street facility ("site"). The site is located at 1302 Congress Street in Schenectady. See map for site location.

The Proposed Remedy

The remedy proposed for the site includes limited excavation; capping and treatment of soils in place (in situ) using a combination of heating, vacuum extraction of soil gases and natural biological degradation.

The proposed remedy is described in a draft cleanup plan called a "Proposed Remedial Action Plan" developed under New York's State Superfund Program. The document is available for public review at the NYSDEC Region 4 Headquarters and the Schenectady County Library identified below under "Where to Find Information". The document also is available on the NYSDEC web site at (insert link).

Public Meeting
Wednesday, September 29, 2010
Starting at 7:30 pm

NYSDEC Region 4 Headquarters
1130 North Westcott Road
Schenectady, New York

NYSDEC invites you to a public meeting to discuss the remedy proposed for the site. You are encouraged to provide comments at the meeting, and during the 30-day comment period described in this fact sheet.

State Superfund Program: New York's State Superfund Program (SSF) identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

NYSDEC generally attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds.

For more information about the SSF, visit:
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html

How to Comment

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed remedy for 30 days, from September 15, 2010 through October 15, 2010.

Submit written comments to:

Howard Brezner
New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
1130 North Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12306
hsbrezne@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Summary of the Proposed Remedy

The proposed remedy represents the alternative preferred by NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to address site contamination. The draft cleanup plan has several goals:

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

The proposed remedy was chosen following a detailed investigation of the site called a “Remedial Investigation” and evaluation of alternatives to address contamination, called a “Feasibility Study”.

The cleanup goal for the site is for unrestricted use for the Process Area, which is the highest cleanup standard. If this goal cannot practically be reached, then SI Group will be required to at least achieve a cleanup standard for “industrial” use, which would entail some type of land use limitation(s) using deed restrictions.

Contamination found in the soil includes phenols and solvents containing dissolved phenols. On the eastern side of the site, the solvents with dissolved phenols can be removed from the soil in place by heating the soil to gasify the solvents and then sucking the gases out of the ground for treatment. Once contaminant levels are reduced using this method, lower temperature heating will be used to encourage bacterial breakdown of the remaining contamination to achieve the cleanup goals.

On the western side of the site, phenols buried in the ground are too deep for excavation and cannot be removed in place by heating. Natural attenuation (bacterial degradation and groundwater removal) with monitoring is proposed for this area.

While the soil is being remediated, groundwater will be collected by a pump-and-treat system that was installed and running since 2002. Public health and the environment are currently fully protected. This proposed remediation will ultimately ensure that the groundwater will be fully protected without the pump-and-treat system. The total estimated cost of the remediation is \$4.3 million which will be paid by SI Group.

Next Steps

NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes its site remedy decision. 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 (see “Where to Find Information” below). Next, the chosen cleanup method will be designed and implemented to address site contamination. NYSDEC will keep the public informed during the cleanup of the site. A community air monitoring plan will be followed as a measure of protection for the nearby community by minimizing the potential for site contaminants to migrate off-site during remediation.

Background

The site is listed as a Class “2” site in the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites (list of State Superfund sites). A Class 2 site represents a significant threat to public health or the environment; action is required.

The SI Group plant at Congress Street was formerly a chemical manufacturing facility. The site is approximately 7.0 acres in size and is located southwest of the intersection of 10th Street and Congress Street. Residences are near the site.

From the early 1900's to 1997, SI Group manufactured insulating coatings and other chemical products at their Congress Street facility. Spills that have occurred over the years (ranging from a few gallons to a few hundred gallons) have contaminated a significant volume of soils.

Groundwater monitoring wells were first installed in 1984 and 1987 during initial investigations of the Site. Groundwater contamination by phenols, naphtha, ethylbenzene, and xylene was verified during these investigations. A Hydrogeologic Investigation report was submitted in March 1988 and confirmed the previously cited groundwater contamination.

Contaminated surface water from seeps on the hillside on the west side of the site was accessible to local residents. A fence has been installed around this area. The Cowhorn Creek, which receives the ditch outfall, is not contaminated. Also, ingestion of contaminated groundwater is not expected because residents in the area are served by a public water supply source.

A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) was completed in 1996, and a Record of Decision (ROD) for the groundwater contamination was signed in March 1998. This ROD required: installation of a groundwater collection trench, installation of groundwater recovery wells (in areas outside the capture zone of the collection trench), and construction of a groundwater pump-and-treat system for the collected groundwater.

Production at the site ceased in 1997 and SI Group removed all the process equipment, storage tanks, piping and remaining buildings in 2004. The site conditions changed when the buildings were removed, making all the soils at the site accessible for investigation and allowing for the evaluation of additional cleanup alternatives to address the contaminated soils. A work plan to update the RI/FS was prepared in August 2007 and approved by NYSDEC on August 16, 2007.

The results of two investigations to update the RI (conducted in September 2007 and December 2008) were presented in the “Updated Remedial Investigation Report” dated January 8, 2009.

An updated Feasibility Study was subsequently submitted by SI Group and approved by NYSDEC on March 5, 2010.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public to stay informed. These documents include the proposed cleanup plan for the site, called the “Proposed Remedial Action Plan”.

New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
1130 North Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12306
(518) 357-2045
Hours: M-F 8:30-4:45

Schenectady County Library
Central Branch
99 Clinton Street
Schenectady, NY
(518) 388-4500
Hours: M-Th 9-9; F-Sat 9-5; Su 1-5

Who to Contact

Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

Project Related Questions

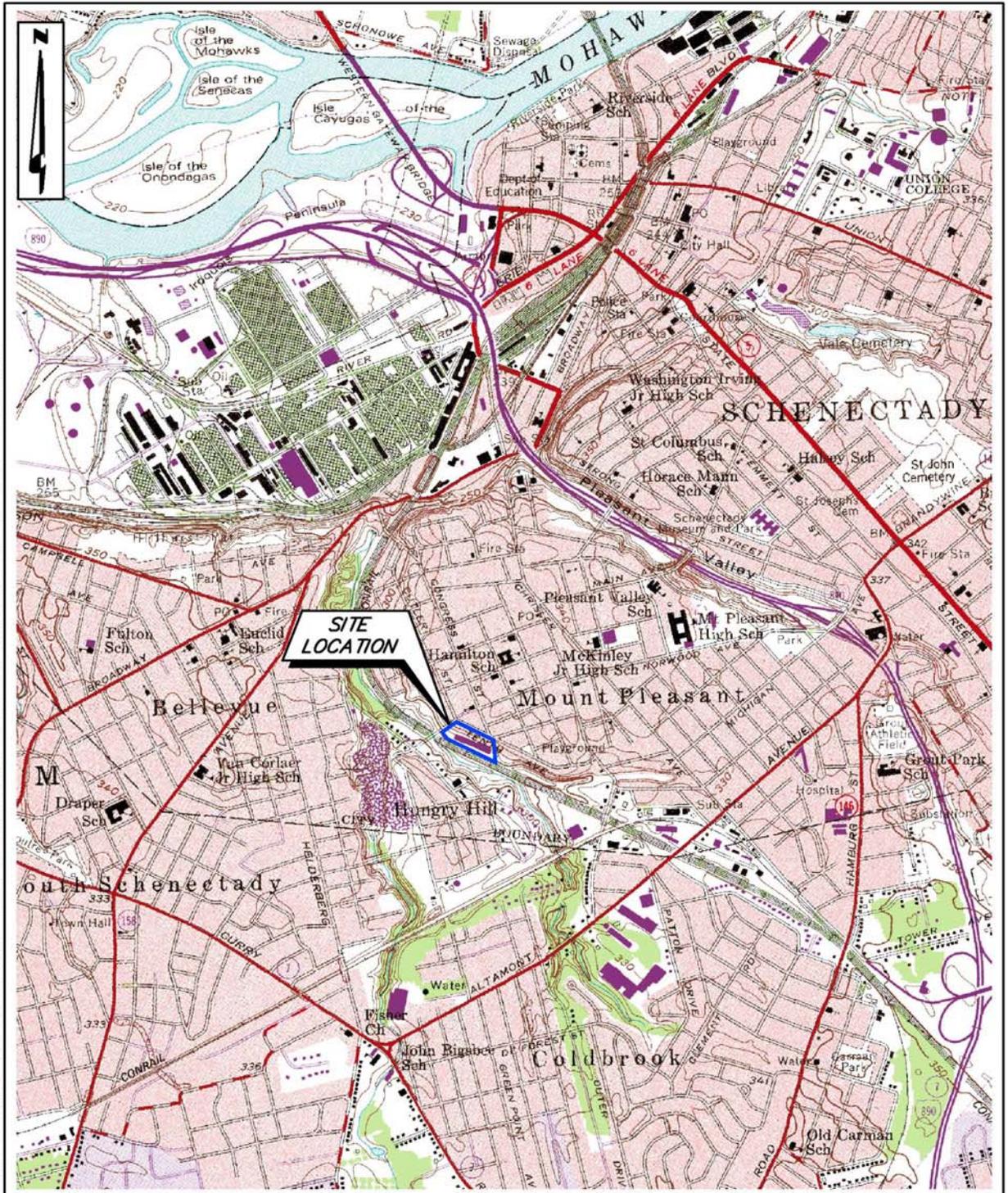
Howard Brezner
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
1130 North Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12306
(518) 357-2347
hsbrezne@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-Related Health Questions

Maureen E. Schuck
Center for Environmental Health
NYS Department of Health/ BEEI
Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza,
Albany, NY 12237
(518) 402-7860
mer10@health.state.ny.us

If you know someone who would like to be added to the site contact list, have them contact the NYSDEC project manager above. We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.

File: M:\15091\CS\FEASIBILITY STUDY\ACAD\ACAD\FIGURE 1.DWG Saved: 4/15/2009 3:23:59 PM Plotted: 4/15/2009 3:25:59 PM User: Weathery Jr., Bill



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111 Winners Circle, PO Box 5269 - Albany, NY 12205-0269
 Main: (518) 453-4500 - www.chaconpa-tee.com

SITE LOCATION
 UPDATED FEASIBILITY STUDY
 CONGRESS STREET FACILITY
 SI GROUP INC.
 SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

PROJECT NO.
 15091.2010.1102
 DATE: 02/25/09
 FIGURE 1