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# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



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FACT SHEET - January 1997  
Former GE Court Street 5/5A Site  
Deere Road, Dewitt  
NYSDEC, Region 7, Onondaga County

## Remedial Investigation to Begin at Former GE Court Street Building 5/5A Site

In February 1997, the Lockheed Martin Corporation (LMC) will begin a detailed environmental study at the Former GE Court Street Building 5/5A Inactive Hazardous Waste Site. Oversight will be provided by the Department of Environmental Conservation. General Electric Company (GE) leased the property until April 1993 when the lease was assigned to Martin Marietta (now LMC) in connection with the transfer of GE's aerospace business. Building 5 was used by GE for the manufacture of sonar and radar equipment, printed circuit boards and power packs. Building 5A was used by GE to warehouse production equipment and raw materials, and as an auxiliary radar and sonar testing and repair shop. GE ceased operations at the site by the end of 1991. LMC has assumed GE's obligations as the responsible party for the site. The site is located off Deere Road in Dewitt, Onondaga County (*site location map attached*). DEC placed this site on the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites as a Class 3 site in March, 1996. A Class 3 site is a site at which hazardous waste is present, but does not currently constitute a significant threat to public health or the environment and action may be deferred.

**The Site Investigation:** The study to be done at the Former GE Court Street 5/5A Site is called a "Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study" (RI/FS). The Remedial Investigation will determine the nature and extent of the contamination at the site, as well as potential threats to the public's health and the environment. As part of the investigation, various environmental media (including groundwater and soil) will be sampled. The Feasibility Study will occur after completion of the Remedial Investigation. The Feasibility Study will evaluate possible actions to clean up the site. Based on the RI/FS results, NYSDEC will propose a means for cleaning up the site in a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) and will release the PRAP for public review. Following NYSDEC consideration of public comments on the PRAP, a remedy will be selected. The selected remedy will be discussed in the NYSDEC Record of Decision.

*See page 2 for details about the upcoming site investigation. Copies of the workplan which describes the RI/FS in detail are available for your review at the document repositories listed below.*

**Your Opportunities to Be Informed and Involved:** The Citizen Participation Plan describes activities to keep you informed and involved during the investigation and cleanup of the site. These activities and their timeframes are listed on page 3. You are encouraged to review the Citizen Participation Plan which is available at the document repositories. *Your comments and suggestions about the Citizen Participation program for the Former GE Court Street 5/5A Site are always welcome.*

NYSDEC encourages your participation in the project. Your understanding and involvement can help ensure a cleanup program that effectively protects public health and the environment.

**Document Repositories.** Two locations provide access to information about the site:

NYSDEC Reg. 7, 615 Erie Blvd. West  
Syracuse, NY 13204-2400  
(315) 555-5151  
Hours: M-F 8:30am - 4:45 pm  
Please call for an appointment

East Syracuse Free Library  
4990 James Street, East Syracuse, NY 13051  
(315) 437-4841  
Hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00am - 8:00pm  
Friday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm (Labor Day through mid-June only)

**For More Information About:**

**The Site Investigation:**  
Alyse Peterson, Project Manager  
NYSDEC  
Div. of Env. Remediation  
50 Wolf Road, Room 228  
Albany, NY 12233-7010  
(518) 457-1641

**Health-Related Information:**  
Susan VanPatten  
NYSDOH  
2 University Place  
Albany, NY 12203-3399  
1800-458-1158 ext. 402/306

Ronald Heerkens, Reg. Toxics Coord.  
NYSDOH  
Syracuse Field Office  
217 South Salina Street, 3rd Floor  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
(315) 426-7625

# HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE PROGRAM

## Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study

In June 1996, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Lockheed Martin Corporation (LMC) entered into an Order on Consent to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the Former GE Court Street 5/5A Inactive Hazardous Waste Site. By signing the Order on Consent, LMC has agreed to conduct the RI/FS at the Former GE Court Street 5/5A Site. Conducting the RI/FS will determine:

- the extent of contamination;
- the quality of surface water and groundwater;
- any potential risks to people's health and the environment created by the site; and
- actions that may be necessary to effectively clean up the site.

Remedial Investigation activities will include:

### • Surveying and Site Mapping

A survey will be conducted on the site and the surrounding area. A map will be created from the survey. The map will serve as a base map on which all sampling points will be shown.

### • Soil Sampling

Soil samples will be taken to define the vertical extent of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the former underground storage tank and solvent storage pad areas, and assessment of the potential presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the soil adjacent to the existing transformer pad on the north side of Building 5.

### • Groundwater Sampling

The groundwater investigation will consist of the installation of seven additional monitoring wells and the collection of groundwater samples from these monitoring wells and thirteen existing monitoring wells. This portion of the investigation will define the vertical and horizontal extent of groundwater impacted by the site.

### • Surface Water Sampling

Surface water samples will be taken in the adjacent South Branch of Ley Creek to assess whether the movement of impacted groundwater at the site has affected the water quality in Ley Creek.

### • Sediment and Outfall Sampling

Sediment samples will be collected in Sanders Creek and the South Branch of Ley Creek at the two storm sewer outfall locations to assess the potential presence of VOCs in creek sediments. To assess the potential of infiltration of VOCs in storm water discharges, outfall samples will be collected at the two storm sewer outfall locations.

### • Risk Assessment

In addition, LMC will perform a human health risk evaluation and a fish and wildlife assessment.

**For more details about the upcoming site investigation, the RI/FS workplan will be available at the document repositories listed on p. 1.**

## Site History

The Former GE Court Street 5/5A Inactive Hazardous Waste Site is located off Deere Road in Dewitt, Onondaga County. The property was leased to GE from the late 1950s to April 1993, when the lease was assigned to Martin Marietta (now LMC) in connection with the transfer of GE's aerospace business. GE used the Building 5 facility for the manufacture of sonar and radar equipment, printed circuit boards and power packs. GE used Building 5A to warehouse production equipment and raw materials, and as an auxiliary radar and sonar testing and repair shop. Operations at the facility ceased by the end of 1991.

In 1991, GE initiated an assessment of the Court Street 5/5A facility. The purpose of this assessment was to identify potential environmental impacts related to historic GE operations. Among the areas of concern identified by this assessment were the underground storage tank area, the solvent storage pad and the former and present locations of transformers at Buildings 5 and 5A. Subsurface investigations performed in 1992 showed that contaminated soil and groundwater were present at the Building 5/5A site. In addition, the investigation showed that contaminated groundwater had moved onto property located to the west of the site, between the site and the South Branch of Ley Creek, which is owned by the Onondaga County Department of Drainage and Sanitation.

(Continued on p. 3)

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# HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE PROGRAM

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## (Site History Continued)

In 1992, 1993 and 1995, various measures were undertaken by GE and LMC. In 1992, contaminated soils in the vicinity of the former underground storage tanks, solvent storage pad and former metal garage locations were removed, in addition to groundwater that accumulated in the excavations. Confirmatory sampling indicated that residual levels of contaminants were detected in the former underground storage tank area and solvent pad soils. In 1995, in response to a request by the site owner, soils adjacent to the Building 5A transformer pad were removed.

In 1992 and 1993, there was a storm sewer system project. The purpose of the project was to prevent the infiltration of contaminated groundwater into the catch basins and clay tile piping. The project included the abandonment, relocation and reconstruction of several catch basins, grouting of select tile pipe sections, replacement of select sections of clay tile pipe and grouting of pipe joints.

## Citizen Participation

NYSDEC and LMC have developed a Citizen Participation (CP) Plan for the Former GE Court Street 5/5A Site. The CP Plan describes activities to inform and involve citizens during investigation and cleanup of the Former GE Court Street 5/5A Site. These activities and their timeframes include:

**At the End of FS/Completion of PRAP:**

Mailing describing the Proposed Remedial Action Plan and announcing 30-Day Public Comment period.

**Within 30-Day PRAP Comment Period:**

Public meeting to discuss the PRAP.

**After Remedy is Selected and Finalized:**

Mailing describing selected site remedy and response to Record of Decision comments.