



SOUTH HILL UPDATE

April 2008

INTRODUCTION

This is the first in a series of updates that the NYSDEC will be posting to its website in an effort to keep the community informed regarding the status of investigation and remediation activities in the South Hill area of Ithaca, NY.

EMERSON POWER TRANSMISSION

NYSDEC and NYSDOH officials met with the consultants for both Emerson and Borg-Warner in early March to discuss the remedy evaluation, selection and implementation process. The deadline for submittal of the *Supplementary Remedial Program/Alternative Analysis Report* (formerly referred to as the Feasibility Study Report) has been extended to April 25, 2008. This document will address several areas of concern identified throughout the plant as part of the 2007 Supplemental Remedial Investigation, as well as contaminated groundwater and soil vapor migration. Following approval of the report, the NYSDEC will prepare a proposed amendment to the December 1994 Record of Decision for public review and comment. A public meeting will also be scheduled during the review and comment period, which is tentatively planned for June. Remediation activities could begin as early as July.

In response to the results of ambient air sampling conducted in the South Hill community by Emerson in November 2007, a number of follow-up investigations have been proposed by Emerson's consultant to further evaluate the ambient air quality in the neighborhood to the north-northwest of the plant. These include sampling the exhaust vents on existing sub-slab depressurization systems, sampling the air inside manholes along Turner Place and East Spencer Street, and evaluating the potential for impacts from sources of contamination located outside the neighborhood. Separate work plans have been submitted for each of these investigations, and are being finalized for implementation. Field work is anticipated to begin in late April.

FORMER AXIOHM FACILITY

The *Remedial Work Plan* was approved on February 27, 2008. A pilot study is now underway to evaluate in situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) for the treatment of groundwater contaminated with volatile organic compounds. ISCO is a remediation technology that involves the injection of an oxygen-releasing compound into the subsurface to enhance the natural degradation of contaminants in groundwater. If the results of the study are favorable, then a full-scale treatment system will be designed and implemented. Otherwise, alternative groundwater remedies will be evaluated.

ADDITIONAL WORK BEING CONDUCTED BY THE NYSDEC

NCR Sewer

After NCR declined to conduct an investigation, the NYSDEC began working with its stand-by contractor to continue evaluating the former NCR sewer line as a potential migration pathway for soil vapors. The upcoming work will focus on the portion of the line south of Columbia Street and north of Coddington Road. Two sewer laterals entering this portion of the line will be evaluated, as will several homes. This work is scheduled to take place during the month of April.

Phase VI Study Area

The Phase VI Study Area is generally bounded by Turner Place to the west, Aurora Street to the east, and Prospect Street to the north. Since the source of soil vapors migrating along the sewer lines in this area has not been determined, both Emerson and NCR have declined to perform additional sampling. Accordingly, the NYSDEC is making arrangements with its stand-by contractor to begin evaluating the potential for soil vapor intrusion in the Phase VI Study Area. Testing will begin this summer.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As the documents cited in this and future updates are finalized, copies will be placed in the Tompkins County Public Library, 101 East Green Street, Ithaca, NY, and will be posted on the NYSDEC's website @ <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8669.html>.