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## FACT SHEET

**315 North Meadow Street  
City of Ithaca, Tompkins County  
Environmental Investigation  
October 2005**

**Introduction** - The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in conjunction with the New York State Department of Health (DOH) is conducting an environmental investigation at 315 North Meadow Street in the City of Ithaca.

**Site Description** - This property has housed a dry-cleaning business since the 1920's. The surrounding neighborhood is a mix of residential use with light commercial and industrial facilities. It is located east of the Cayuga Inlet. Please refer to the enclosed map.

**Background** - Until 1999, the dry-cleaning business at the property used a dry-cleaning fluid that contained tetrachloroethene, commonly referred to as PCE. This chemical was found in groundwater during a subsurface investigation performed for adjacent property owners in June of 2005. The owners of 315 North Meadow St. have informed the DEC that they are unable to fund an investigation of the site. As a result, the DEC has begun an investigation of the site and surrounding area. A priority is a soil vapor intrusion investigation to determine if PCE and related vapors are migrating from groundwater into nearby structures. The investigation will also aid in determining if the site should be listed under the state superfund.

**Upcoming Activities** - The DEC will be performing indoor air and sub-slab soil vapor sampling in residences and other structures immediately adjacent to the property. Soil gas and groundwater samples will also be collected. This sampling should take place in October and November of this year. Results of the testing will be made available to the public. These results will help determine the next steps.

**Details of Soil Vapor Intrusion Sampling** - The testing consists of collecting samples of soil gas from beneath the basement floor, air inside the basement, air on the first floor, and air from outside of the home. A household product survey will be conducted and a brief questionnaire regarding heating systems, house construction, etc. will be completed. Test results will be evaluated by the DOH and each homeowner will receive a copy of their results with an explanation. There will be no cost to the homeowner. The DEC and DOH will evaluate the results of these investigations to determine the need for further action.

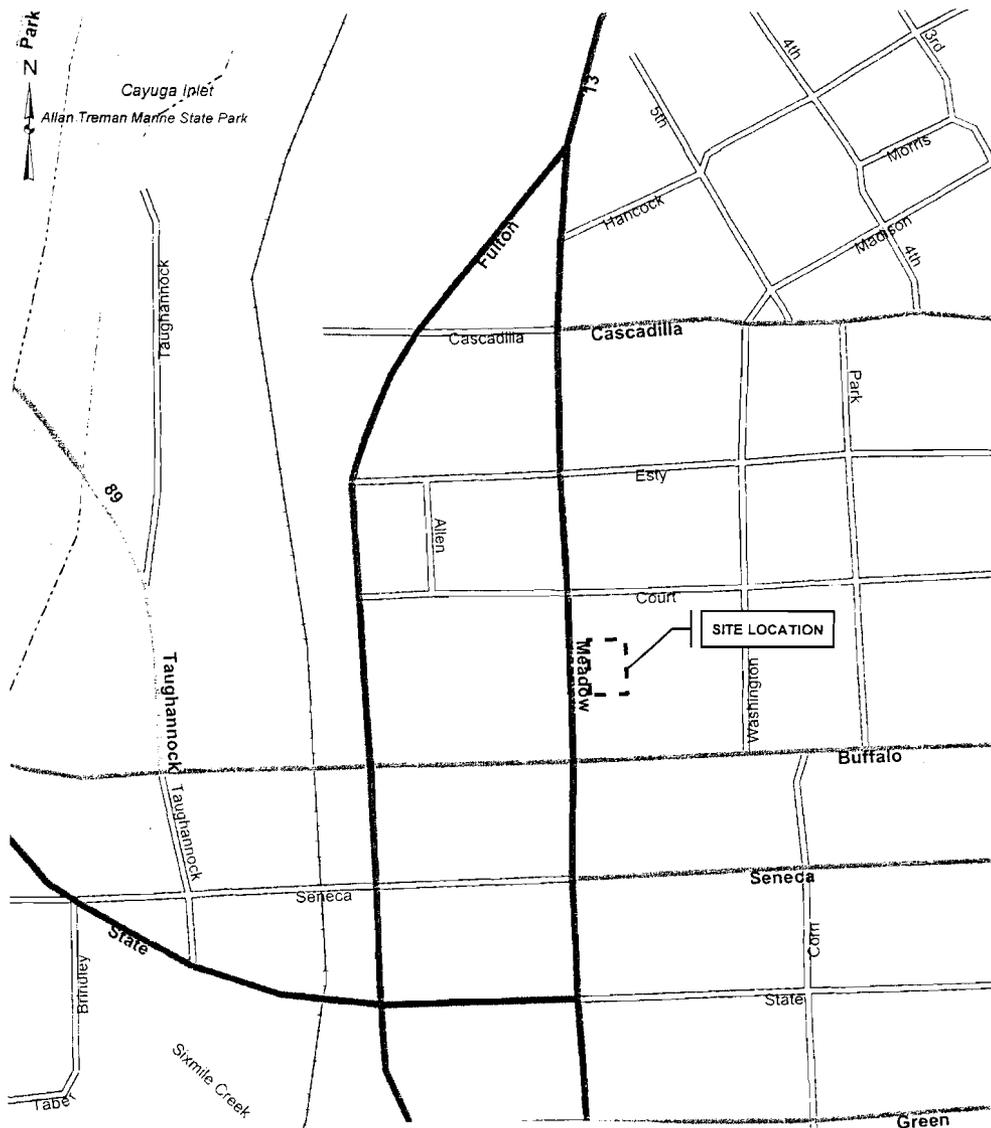
**Document Locations** - Public understanding and input are important to the success of this project. As the project progresses, the NYSDEC will distribute fact sheets, like this one, to keep you informed. Public meetings may be scheduled as the investigation progresses. In addition, the public is encouraged to review documents related to this project at the following regional locations:

Tompkins County Public Library  
101 East Green St.  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
Mon. - Thurs. 10:00 a.m. -8:15 p.m.  
Fri. & Sat. 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.  
Sun. 1:00p.m. to 5:00p.m.  
(607) 272-4557

NYSDEC  
1679 NY Rt. 11  
Kirkwood, NY 13795  
Mon. Fri. 8:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.  
Attn: Dan Fuller  
(607) 775-2545, Ext.104  
(800) 775-2510, Ext. 104

Any questions or concerns regarding the investigation can be addressed by contacting Mr. Dan Fuller of the NYSDEC at (607) 775-2545, Ext.104; or by calling, toll free, 1-800-775-2510, Ext.104.

For health-related concerns regarding this site, please contact Ms. Stephanie Selmer of the NYSDOH at 1-800-458-1158 Ext. 27870 or Stephen Maybee of the Tompkins County Health Department at (607) 274-6688.



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Investigation Work Plan has been prepared to identify the activities for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the 315 N. Meadow Street (Site #7-55-014) in the city of Ithaca, Tompkins County, New York. This is Work Assignment No. D004433-23 under URS Corporation – New York (URS) Standby Contract with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The Field Activities Plan (submitted under separate cover) specifies the procedures to be followed during the work activities and includes the Health and Safety Plan (HASP) (including a Community Air Monitoring Plan [CAMP]), Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and the Field Sampling Plan (FSP).

### 1.1 Site Background

#### 1.1.1 Site History

The 315 N. Meadow Street property (i.e., the site proper) is located near the intersection of N. Meadow Street and West Court Street in the City of Ithaca, Tompkins County, New York (Figure 1-1). This is in an area of mixed commercial and residential land use. The 315 N. Meadow Street property (“the site”) has been used for a dry cleaning service from the 1920’s through the present. Tetrachloroethene had previously been used in dry cleaning operations as a cleaning solvent. No other facilities or businesses situated immediately adjacent to the site historically are known to have used tetrachloroethene.

#### 1.1.2 Site Investigation History

Previous investigation at the site is limited to a report dated June 30, 2005 summarizing an investigation conducted on the southern end of the 315 N. Meadow Street property (Buck Engineering, June 2005). The report indicated that elevated levels of tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE) were detected in groundwater immediately south of the site. On behalf of NYSDEC, a Preliminary Site Assessment (PSA) was conducted by URS Corporation (URS) in 2006. Results of the PSA indicated that tetrachloroethene was detected above NYSDEC standards

in both soil and groundwater within the property boundary of 315 N. Meadow Street. There were no exceedances outside of the property boundary. Tetrachloroethene was also detected at greatest concentrations directly beneath the building located on the 315 N. Meadow Street property and the property immediately to the south of the 315 N. Meadow Street property. Groundwater results from samples within the property limits of the 315 N. Meadow Street site also exceed applicable standards. This contamination has impacted soil vapor on site and in the surrounding residences, with the highest concentrations found either on site or in adjacent properties. Based upon potential for soil vapor intrusion, sub-slab depressurization systems were installed at two structures located south of the site. The remaining properties previously investigated showed significantly lower contamination, however the concentrations in some of the surrounding properties require further investigation. Tetrachloroethene was identified as the contaminant with the highest concentration. Because PCE is also a known cleaning agent previously used in the dry cleaning process the 315 N. Meadow Street property, this property is the likely source of this contamination. Based upon site investigation information gathered to date, there appears to be some potential for contaminant migration south of the site.

### **1.1.3 Site Geology**

Site soils consist of a persistent layer of fill ranging in thickness from 1 to 4 feet underlain by a medium-stiff to stiff layer of clay inter-bedded with a water-bearing silt and sand layer. The bottom of the clay unit was not penetrated as part of the PSA. Reportedly, there is a water-bearing silt and sand layer in the site vicinity. Saturated conditions are typically found at approximately 5 to 6 feet below grade in the sand and silt unit. Groundwater in the vicinity of the site flows from east to west with a northwest component.

Regionally, there is a silty clay semi-confining layer beneath the water-bearing silt and sand layer approximately fifteen feet deep and is reportedly ten to twelve feet thick. A lower sand aquifer lies beneath the clay layer. The lateral and vertical extent of this layer is not known but could potentially form a confining unit or partially confining unit in the area. If this is the case, then it may preclude VOC and other groundwater contaminants from migrating vertically into the lower sand aquifer in the vicinity of the site.