COMMUNITY UPDATE

AUGUST 2023

Excavation Activity to Begin at Former Silver Cleaners Site

New York State Superfund Program • 245 Andrews Street, Rochester, New York

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is about to begin the excavation phase of cleanup at the Former Silver Cleaners Site (the "site", Site No. 828186), located at 245 Andrews Street in Rochester, Monroe County. Based on the June 2020 Record of Decision (ROD) the cleanup includes demolishing the abandoned site building, excavating contaminated soil from underneath the demolished building, and chemical injections into the subsurface to treat contaminated groundwater.

This year's activities began in June and building demolition was completed in July. Excavation will begin in early August and is expected to be completed by early fall. Injection activities will continue through the fall, and site management activities to ensure the remedy is effective will continue at the site for several years.

DEC is coordinating this work with nearby property owners to minimize any disruptions to the surrounding residents, businesses, and schools.

Please contact DEC if you have questions about these activities. The New York State Department of Health (DOH) should be contacted with any health-related questions.

Former Silver Cleaners – Site Background

The Former Silver Cleaners site is made up of 3 adjacent properties located along Andrews Street, near the corner of Andrews Street and North Clinton Avenue (see Figure 2 on page 3). The property at 245 Andrews Street was used as a dry cleaner from 1949 to 2011 and was occupied by the now-demolished dry-cleaning building. The properties at 151 and 159-169 Pleasant Street were used as a gas station from 1935 to 1955 and are now

a parking lot. The primary contaminants of concern at the site are volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are present site-wide in soil, groundwater, and soil vapor.

Upcoming Excavation Activities

Excavation work will be performed by Groundwater & Environmental Services, Inc. (GES), with oversight provided by DEC's engineering consultant, Arcadis of New York, Inc. (Arcadis). The total number of personnel on-site will vary based on the work being performed and may include representatives from DEC, DOH, GES, Arcadis, subcontractors, and vendors.

Work will typically take place five days per week (Monday through Friday), generally between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Excavation and off-site disposal of hazardous soils are being coordinated closely with the Rochester City School District to minimize the possibilities of exposure for the nearby school.

To make room for construction staging areas on-site, the parking lot at 151 Pleasant Street and the sidewalk along Andrews Street is closed for the duration of work (see Figure 1). Access to this sidewalk and the site is restricted by a fence.

DEC expects that excavation work will begin immediately after the building demolition work is complete and all excavation equipment and materials have been mobilized to the site. All soil contained within the planned limits of excavation will be removed, stockpiled on-site if needed, and then disposed of at an approved and licensed off-site facility. The planned limits of excavation are about 20 feet deep and roughly correspond to the footprint of the building at 245 Andrews Street (see Figure 1). Excavated soil will be segregated into two categories – hazardous and non-hazardous – before transportation and disposal. The soil will be loaded directly into trucks for immediate transportation off-site.

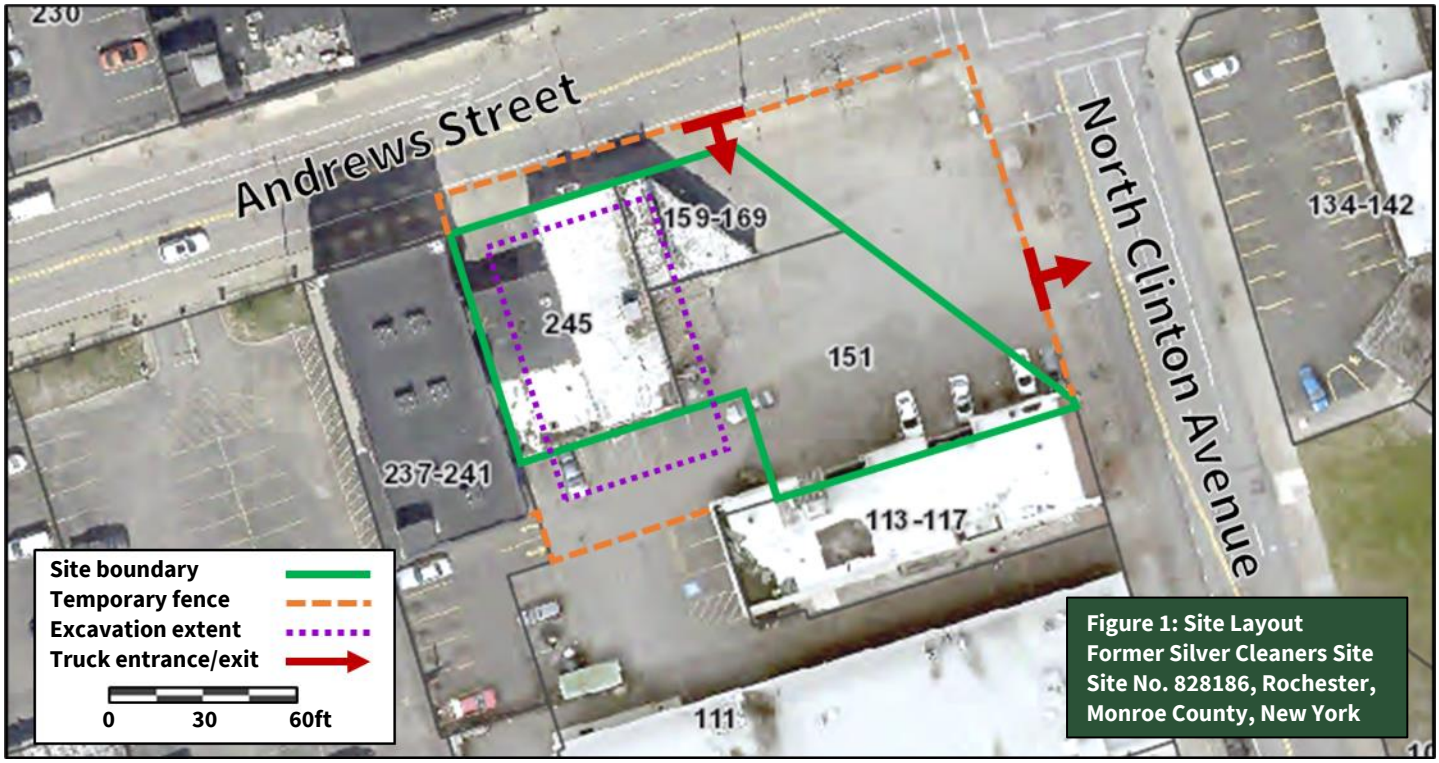

Figure 1: Site Layout
Former Silver Cleaners Site
Site No. 828186, Rochester, Monroe County, New York

Upcoming Excavation Activities (cont'd.)

When sections of the excavation are completed, they will be backfilled with material imported from off-site. Backfill materials will be tested before being brought to the site to demonstrate that they meet DEC requirements that are protective of public health and the environment. The site will be restored by returning the site surface to pre-excavation grades and providing an asphalt surface similar to the existing surface.

Site Monitoring and Nuisance Control

Every effort will be made to minimize dust, odor, and noise during upcoming excavation activities. Due to the proximity of receptors and levels of contamination that will be exposed, suppression compounds, water, and other techniques will be used to control dust and VOCs at the site. Please contact DOH with any questions regarding odors and other emissions from the site.

- **Suppression Compounds** — Suppression compounds designed to control odors and vapors will be applied to grossly impacted soil at the site. These compounds have been approved by DEC and DOH, and include:
  - BioSolve®, a solution that traps and stabilizes odor- and vapor-producing contaminants; and
  - Rusmar foam, a viscous spray foam that acts as a barrier between odor- and vapor-producing contaminants and the atmosphere.
- **Continuous Air Monitoring** — Open excavations and soil stockpiles will be covered with polyethylene sheeting at the end of each work shift to help control odors and vapors. These areas of the site will be monitored overnight to ensure that vapor emissions remain under control until the next work shift.
- **Soil Barriers** — Tarping, covers, or other enclosure systems will be placed on exposed soils as necessary to reduce the emissions. Excavation size and surface area of soil may also be limited to reduce emissions.

Vehicle Loading and Decontamination — Before vehicles leave the site with any excavated soil, the soil will be sprayed with the compounds mentioned above and then completely covered or enclosed. Vehicles transporting soil from the site will be inspected and decontaminated before leaving so that soil is not tracked onto nearby roads and sidewalks.

WHO TO CONTACT

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

James Kruegler (518) 402-8068
james.kruegler@dec.ny.gov

DEPT. OF HEALTH

Angela Martin **(518) 473-4671**
beei@health.ny.gov

FOR INFORMATION ON NEW YORK'S STATE SUPERFUND PROGRAM

https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html

Figure 2: The site building before and after demolition of the roof and walls.