



EPA to Oversee Cleanup Activities at the Peter Cooper Landfill Site

Community Update

JULY 2009

Recent activity:

- On February 12, 2009, the court entered an order approving the Remedial Design/Remedial Action Consent Decree in *United States v. Wilhelm Enterprises Corp., et al* which require them to design, construct and implement the remedy selected for the Site.
- On March 15, 2009, Benchmark Environmental Engineering & Science, PLLC (Benchmark) was approved as the Supervising Contractor for the Peter Cooper Landfill Site remedial design and construction.

Planned Activities:

- Access Road Improvements;
- Site preparation and Grading;
- Regrading and Lining of the Cattaraugus Creek Bank;
- Groundwater/seep collection system installation; and
- Cover system installation.

CURRENT STATUS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing this notice to inform you of the schedule of activities that are planned at the Peter Cooper Landfill Superfund Site located in the Town of Gowanda, Cattaraugus County, New York.

This summer, EPA and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will provide oversight as the responsible parties environmental contractor will commence cleanup work at the site located on Palmer Street.

Site preparation and access road improvement work will begin in early July, 2009 and will include clearing, grubbing and access improvements required for consolidation and covering work. Trees, shrubs and brush will be removed to facilitate construction work. Re-grading of the Cattaraugus Creek Bank will involve moderate re-grading to remove existing concrete blocks and boulders to provide a more uniform slope to minimize erosion potential. The slope of the regraded creek bank will be lined with a geocomposite drainage layer, leading to the collection trench, covered by a geomembrane liner to prevent seep breakout and creek or surface water infiltration. Construction of the cap over the landfill will begin in late August, 2009.

SITE BACKGROUND

The Peter Cooper Landfill Site, in Gowanda, NY, consists of an inactive landfill area and some areas of contaminated soil in the manufacturing plant area at the former Peter Cooper Corporations (PCC). The inactive landfill area is located on the western side of the site and covers approximately 16 acres. The portion of the inactive landfill area that contains waste fill, is also referred to as the ele-

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EPA encourages public participation. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact:

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ated fill subarea, is located in the northwest corner and covers approximately 5 acres. The former manufacturing plant area is on the eastern side of the site and covers approximately 10 acres.

PCC and its predecessor, Eastern Tanners Glue Company, manufactured animal glue in Gowanda from 1904 until 1972. When the animal glue product line was terminated, PCC continued to produce synthetic industrial adhesives until the plant closed in 1985. The wastes from PCC's glue production were disposed of on the Elevated Fill Subarea. Between 1925 and October 1970, PCC used the northwest portion of the property to pile sludge remaining after the animal glue manufacturing process. These wastes, known as "cookhouse sludge" because of a cooking cycle that occurred just prior to extraction of the glue, are derived from animals hides including, in part, chrome-tanned hides obtained from tanneries. The waste material has been shown to contain elevated levels of chromium, arsenic, zinc, and several organic compounds. The site was added to the National Priorities List on April 6, 1998. The investigation of the site was conducted under a Unilateral Order with 14 potential responsible parties under EPA oversight.

In September 2005 EPA issued a Record of Decision which outlined a plan to stabilize the banks of the Cattaraugus Creek; excavate two areas of contaminated soil; consolidate the contaminated soil into the landfill and cover the landfill with a protective cap; and collect leachate seeps then discharge the collected seeps to the Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW). Containment of the waste and collection of the leachate seeps will prevent them from contaminating other soils, groundwater and surface water.

On February 12, 2009 the court entered into an order approving the Consent Decree in *United States v. Wilhelm Enterprises Corp et al* which requires them to design, construct and implement the remedial measures selected for the site.

On March 15, 2009 Benchmark Environmental Engineering and Science PLLC (Benchmark) was approved as the supervising contractor to conduct the remedial design and construction work at the Peter Cooper Landfill Superfund Site.



www.epa.gov/region2/superfund/npl/petercooperlandfill