



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

Ashland Tank 75  
4625 River Road  
Tonawanda, Erie County

**SITE No. 915008B**  
**NYSDEC REGION 9**

**December 2023**

## Where to Find Information

Access project documents through the DECinfo Locator and at these location(s):  
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/915008B/>

### Document Repository Name

City of Tonawanda Public Library  
333 Main Street  
Tonawanda, New York 14150  
Attn: John Gaff  
Phone: (716) 693-5043

## Who to Contact

Comments and questions are welcome and should be directed as follows:

### Project-Related Questions

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### Project-Related Health Questions

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For more information about New York's State Superfund Program, visit:  
[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html)

## Investigation to Begin at State Superfund Site

Ashland (the “remedial party”) will soon begin a detailed environmental study at the Ashland Tank 75 site (“site”) located at 4625 River Road, Tonawanda, Erie County. Please see the map for the site location.

**Investigation Work Plan:** The investigation work plan, called a “Site Characterization/Remedial Investigation Work Plan (SC/RIWP),” was submitted to NYSDEC under New York’s State Superfund Program. The site is listed as a Class “3” site in the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites (list of State Superfund sites). A Class 3 site has contamination present on-site but has not been determined to represent a significant threat to public health or the environment. NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) will oversee the investigation.

- Access the SC/RIWP and other project documents online through the DECinfo Locator: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/915008B/>.
- Documents also are available at the location(s) identified at left under “Where to Find Information.”

**Highlights of the Site Investigation:** The investigation will define the nature and extent of contamination in soil and groundwater, and any other parts of the environment that may be affected. The investigation will also determine the amount and characteristics of any residuals remaining in the Tank 75 structure.

Tank 75 is a concrete lined structure that was initially used for the storage of crude oil. In addition to crude and fuel oil feedstock, off-specification asphalt, other tank bottoms, soils, piping, and refinery and petroleum derived sludges are believed to have been placed in Tank 75. Past investigations have documented the presence of waste residuals in Tank 75, but the current characteristics of the material are not well understood. A more detailed investigation surrounding the structure is also being conducted to determine if there have been any releases from the structure.

Key components of the investigation work include:

- Sampling of surface soil across the site;
- Installing and sampling soil borings in close proximity of Tank 75;
- Redeveloping and sampling existing groundwater monitoring wells;
- Mapping the depth and lateral extent of submerged sediment/sludges present in Tank 75;
- Sampling of surface water and sediment/sludges within Tank 75;
- Screening of surface and subsurface materials for potential radiological contamination; and

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- Implementation of a Community Air Monitoring Program (CAMP) during ground intrusive activities to prevent off-site migration of contaminants

**Next Steps:** The information collected during the investigation will be summarized in a report. After the site investigation is complete, the remedial party with oversight provided by NYSDEC will conduct a "Feasibility Study." This study uses information developed during the site investigation to develop and evaluate potential ways to clean up contamination related to the site. The information collected during the site investigation may also support the conclusion that no action, or no further action, is needed to address site-related contamination. NYSDEC will then develop a draft cleanup plan, called a "Proposed Remedial Action Plan." This plan describes the remedy preferred by NYSDEC, or, if warranted, a proposal for no action or no further action.

The draft cleanup plan explains the decision that led to the preferred remedy by discussing each alternative and the reasons for choosing or rejecting it. The goal of the plan will be to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. NYSDEC will announce the availability of the draft cleanup plan in a future fact sheet, and will present it to the public for its review and comment during a 30-day comment period and at a public meeting.

**Site Description:** The 1.25-acre Ashland Tank 75 site is located in an industrialized area of the Town of Tonawanda. The site is accessed through the United Refining property, addressed as 4625 River Road, which is bound by the I-190 to the southwest, the Seaway/Niagara Landfill to the northeast, River Road to the northwest, and commercial properties to the southeast. The Niagara River is approximately 3,300 feet north of the site.

The Tank 75 structure is approximately 200 feet by 300 feet in size, constructed during World War II to store crude oil. Because of the shortage of steel during the war, the impoundment was built as a concrete (gunite) lined structure to a depth approximately 26 feet below grade. During the operation of the former Ashland Refinery, listed hazardous wastes was inadvertently placed in Tank 75. This activity took place from approximately 1950 until 1980. Since the refinery

shutdown there have been periodic removals of oils, sludges, or water from Tank 75, but a complete cleanout has not been completed.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, 915008B) at:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/externalapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3>

**State Superfund Program:** New York's State Superfund Program (SSF) identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and/or the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination before committing State funds for investigation and cleanup.

For more information about the SSF, visit:

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

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## Stay Informed With DEC Delivers

Sign up to receive site updates by email:

[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html](https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html)

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

## DECInfo Locator

Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>

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## Site Location





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