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New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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Community Update  
River Road and Cherry Farm Sites  
Town of Tonawanda  
Erie County  
Site #9-15-031 & 9-15-063

NYSDEC-REG. 9  
FOIL  
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June 1995

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Dear Interested Citizen:

The purpose of this letter is to bring you up to date on the remedial program for the River Road (9-15-031) and Niagara Mohawk Cherry Farm (9-15-063) Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites. An Order on Consent (a legal agreement) was signed on September 27, 1994 between some of the responsible parties (Allied Signal Inc., Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation and General Motors) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to design and build the remedy for these sites. The Responsible Parties (RPs) agreed to combine and remediate these two sites jointly. The RPs retained Parsons Engineering Science, Inc. to prepare the design of the remedy. The design (currently 50 percent complete) is likely to be finalized by this fall. Construction is scheduled to start at the end of 1995 and will take approximately one year to complete.

**Background:**

The River Road site is approximately 23 acres in size. It is located along the Niagara River south of the Grand Island Bridge, in the Town of Tonawanda. Cherry Farm is a 55-acre site located adjoining and immediately north of the River Road site (see figure).

These two sites were at one time part of a larger piece of property owned by Wickwire-Spencer Steel Company. The Cherry Farm and River Road sites were used for the disposal of waste from steel manufacturing from approximately 1908 to 1963, and were operated as a landfill for disposal of industrial wastes from facilities in the area from 1963 to until about 1970. Flyash, bottom ash, foundry sand, slag, sludge, liquid boiler cleaning waste, concrete rubble, and miscellaneous fill were disposed on the sites. The slag covers most of the site. Due to the common history, former common ownership, and similar remedial programs, it was considered appropriate to combine the remedial program at the two sites.

### **Site Investigations:**

At the River Road site, a Phase II Investigation was conducted from October 1984 to September 1986 by Engineering Science and a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) was conducted under the State Superfund Program by consulting engineers for NYSDEC during 1992-93. The RI is a process to determine the nature and extent of contamination by collecting data and analyzing the site. The FS is a process for developing, evaluating and selecting a remedial action for the site using data collected during the RI. Investigations at the River Road site documented the presence of lead, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), organic compounds, and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) at elevated levels in surface and subsurface soils. Semivolatile organic compounds, metals, PCBs, and PAHs were found in groundwater. Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (LNAPL) was found in a small area in the western portion of the site.

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, the current owner of the Cherry Farm site, retained consultants to perform a Phase II investigation in 1985-86 and a RI/FS in 1988-89. Investigations at Cherry Farm site indicate contamination that exceeds the groundwater and surface water standards at the site. Phenols, PAHs, PCBs, and heavy metals were detected in groundwater at levels which exceed water quality standards and in soils at concentrations in excess of background levels.

### **Selected Remedy and Current Remedial Status:**

A Record of Decision (ROD) selecting a remedy for the River Road Site was signed March 24, 1994. A ROD for the Cherry Farm site was signed on February 15, 1991 and following additional investigations, an Amended ROD was signed October 7, 1993. A joint Order on Consent was signed on September 27, 1994. In accordance with the consent order and the Records of Decision for the joint remedial work, the Responsible Parties (RPs) will remediate the sites. The remedy includes: river bank stabilization; installation of soil cover; installation and operation of a series of groundwater extraction wells to eliminate the discharge of contaminated groundwater to the Niagara River; and institution of an operation, maintenance, and monitoring program. The cost to construct, operate, and maintain the remedy at these sites is approximately \$13.4 million. The remedial design is being prepared by Parsons Engineering Science, Inc. a design consultant hired by the RPs. The design work is likely to be completed by the Fall of 1995. Construction should begin by the end of 1995 and be completed in 1996.

### **Repositories:**

Pertinent documents, relative to both the sites, are available for your review at the site information repository at the Parkside Village Library, 169 Sheridan

Parkside Drive, Tonawanda, New York (716/876-6929). Documents are also available for review (by appointment with the contacts listed below) at the NYS DEC's Region 9 Headquarters, 270 Michigan Avenue, Buffalo (716/851-7220) and NYS DEC's Central Office in Albany, New York.

**Contacts:**

If you have any further questions or would like additional information please contact:

**NYSDEC Central Office Contact: NYSDEC Regional Office Contact:**

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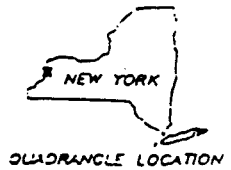
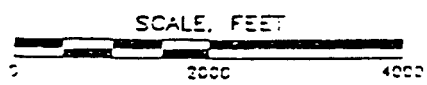
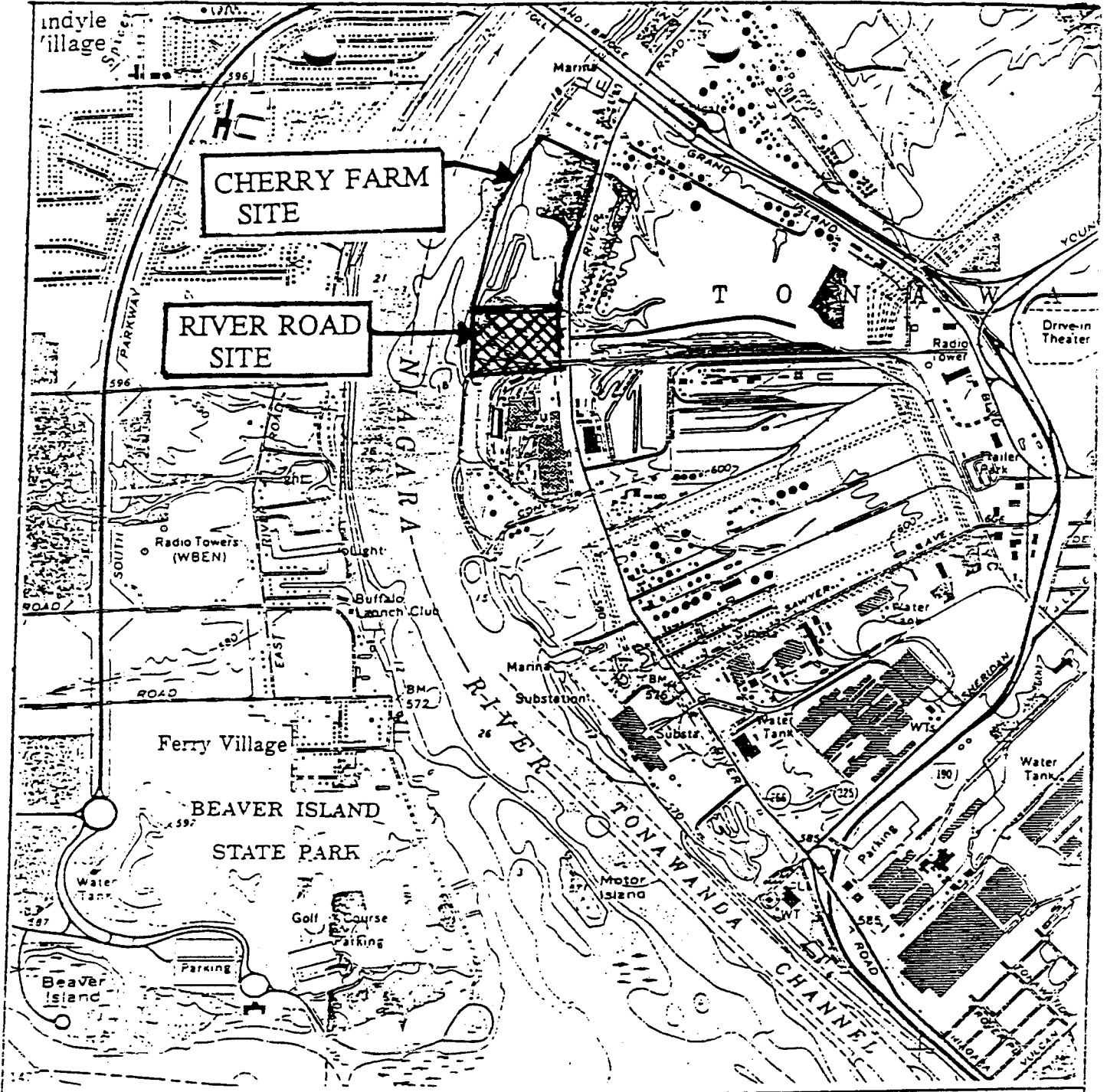
Dr. John Hyden, P.E.  
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**Department of Health (DOH) Contacts:**

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Your questions and concerns regarding investigation and remediation can also be addressed by calling DEC at 1-800/342-9296 and leaving your name, address, telephone number and a brief message.



REFERENCE  
USGS 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLE,  
BUFFALO NW, NEW YORK-ONTARIO, CANADA,  
1965. SCALE 1:24000.



FIGURE 1  
SITE LOCATION  
MAP  
CHERRY FARM SITE  
AND  
RIVER ROAD SITE  
TONAWANDA, NEW YORK