



FACT SHEET

February 2006



DEC Proposes Cleanup at Former Photech Imaging Site Seeks Public Input

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health, Monroe County Health Department, and the City of Rochester, invite you to a public meeting to discuss the Former Photech Imaging site in the City of Rochester (see map on page 4). DEC will discuss results of the environmental investigation conducted on behalf of the City of Rochester under the auspices of the NYS Environmental Restoration Program (see program description on page 2). DEC will also present the proposed cleanup plan for the site.

The public is encouraged to provide comments or offer suggestions on the cleanup plan, called a Proposed Remedial Action Plan or PRAP; (see summary below), at the meeting, and during the public comment period (February 14, 2006 through March 30, 2006). As the remedy for the cleanup is finalized, all comments received during the public comment period will be considered. Public comments will be factored into a document called the Record of Decision or ROD, which will describe the remedy selected and why it was chosen. As part of the ROD, a responsiveness summary will provide responses to public comments and questions received. Work can then begin to design the selected remedy.

Summary of the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP):

Manufacturing operations of photographic film and paper have resulted in the disposal of hazardous substances, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and metals. These hazardous substances have contaminated the groundwater and soil at the site. The DEC has prepared a PRAP that summarizes the investigation and proposes the following remedial alternatives to cleanup the site for commercial/industrial use:

- Asbestos abatement, building and equipment decontamination, and building demolition;
- A design-phase investigation to further delineate the extent of soil contamination, and to confirm the extent of groundwater contamination;
- Excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soils;

PUBLIC MEETING

March 7, 6:30 pm.

**City of Rochester Training and
Safety Office
210 Colfax Street
Rochester, New York**

Public Comments Welcome

DEC will accept comments on the proposed plan at the meeting and in writing through March 30, 2006. Please send comments to:

Todd M. Caffoe, P.E., Project Manager
NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
6274 East Avon-Lima Road
Avon, NY 14414-9519

- Excavation and removal of the silver wastewater recovery system;
- Imposition of institutional controls (restrictions on the property's future use) in the form of an environmental easement to limit the site to commercial or industrial future use, address residual soil contamination, prohibit the use of groundwater as a source of potable water without necessary treatment as determined by NYSDOH, and evaluate the potential for vapor intrusion into any future buildings at the site. A site management plan would be developed to ensure that the removal of any contaminated soils in the future is done safely and in compliance with State and Federal regulations; and
- Implementation of a long-term groundwater monitoring plan to monitor the effectiveness of the remedy.

Site History:

The former Photech Imaging Systems, Inc. property (Site) is located at 1000 Driving Park Avenue in a commercial/industrial-zoned area in the City of Rochester, Monroe County. The site is comprised of 12.5 acres of land with a total of 15 buildings, and the area is served by public water. The site was originally developed in 1948 for manufacturing photographic film and paper. Several different companies have owned and operated the facility for photographic paper and film production through 1991. The most recent owner, Photech Imaging Systems, Inc., ceased operations and abandoned the facility in 1991. Under tax foreclosure proceedings, the City of Rochester obtained the property in August 1997. Large amounts of chemicals, wastes, and various supplies and materials were left "as-is" on-site when the facility was abandoned. In 1994, the DEC and the United States Environmental Protection Agency performed a bulk waste and chemical removal action at the site. This work successfully removed bulk chemicals from the facility; however, residual chemicals remained in some of the on-site buildings. Since the removal action, the buildings have been severely vandalized. As a result, asbestos and chemical residues are suspected to be present in many interior areas of the buildings. Additionally, the roofs have failed on several of the buildings, and a fire in 2004 severely damaged the former warehouse building.

A Site Investigation/Remedial Alternatives (SI/RAR) report was prepared in January 2006. The report identified contamination with metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in on-site soils and groundwater. Additionally, low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in on-site groundwater. The predominant metals detected at the site were silver and cadmium. These metals are used in the manufacture of photographic film and paper. PAHs can be associated with waste oil, creosote (preservative for railroad ties, telephone poles and piers), stripped paint, incinerator ash, incomplete combustion of fossil fuels, and natural sources such as in petroleum and smoke from fires. VOCs are chemicals that evaporate easily and are typically found in paints and solvents.

The majority of contamination appears to be limited to the areas surrounding the on-site buildings. Based upon existing data, contaminants do not appear to be migrating off-site. Details of the environmental investigation can be found in the January 2006 SI/RAR which is available for review at the locations listed below under "For More Information."

About New York State's Environmental Restoration Program:

A brownfield is an abandoned or under-used property where redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. In an effort to spur the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields, a \$200 million Environmental Restoration Fund was enacted as part of the \$1.75 billion Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act of 1996. Enhancements to the program were enacted on October 7, 2003. Under the enhanced Environmental Restoration Program, the State provides grants to

municipalities that own brownfields, but are not responsible for the contamination, to reimburse up to 90 percent of on-site eligible costs and 100 percent of off-site eligible costs for site investigation and remediation activities.

For More Information:

Documents related to this investigation and the proposed cleanup are available for you to review at:

City of Rochester
Department of Environmental Services
30 Church St., Room 300B
Rochester, New York 14614

Hours: M-F, 8:00am - 5:00pm (by appointment)
Contact: Joseph Biondolillo (585)428-6649

NYS Department of Environmental
Conservation
Region 8 Office
6274 E. Avon-Lima Rd.
Avon, New York 14414-9519

Hours: M-F, 8:30am - 4:45pm (by appointment)
Contact: Todd M. Caffoe, P.E. (585)226-5350

Maplewood Branch Library
1111 Dewey Avenue
Rochester, New York 14613

Hours: Mon. 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Tues. 10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Wed. 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Thur. 10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Fri. 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Sat. Noon - 3:00 pm

Contact: Debbie Leary (585)428-8220

We encourage you to contact the representatives listed below with questions, comments or concerns. If you know someone who would like to be added to the mailing list, please have them contact one of the people listed below. We encourage building owners to share this Fact Sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this Fact Sheet in a prominent area of your building for tenants, employees and visitors to view.

➤ For Question About the Investigation:

Todd M. Caffoe, P.E., Project Manager; (585) 226-5350
For Media Inquiries: Lisa LoMaestro Silvestri, Citizen Participation Specialist (585) 226-5326
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
6274 East Avon-Lima Road
Avon, NY 14414-9519

➤ For Site-Related Health Questions:

Tamara Girard
NYS Department of Health
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180
Telephone: (800) 458-1158 ext. 27860

Joseph Albert, Senior Public Health Sanitarian
Monroe County Health Department
111 Westfall Road - PO Box 92832
Rochester NY 14692
(585) 753-5904

