

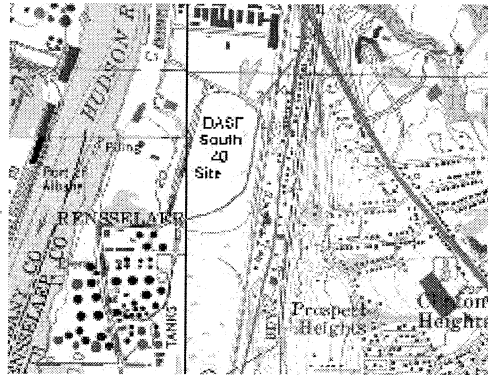
**BASF Corporation South 40 Site
Brownfield Cleanup Program Remedial Action
Site No. C-241047
City of Rensselaer, Rensselaer County
July 2004**

Introduction

Besicorp-Empire Power Company, LLC (PowerCo) and BASF Corporation (BASF) will soon start remediation work at the South 40 site owned by BASF at 36 Riverside Avenue in the City of Rensselaer pursuant to a joint Brownfield Cleanup Agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). DEC has consulted with the New York State Department of Health (DOH) regarding the remedial program at this site. The cleanup will follow the DEC and DOH approved Remedial Action Work Plan.

Background

The site is approximately 40 acres in size and reportedly was used as a drum storage/disposal area before BASF's ownership up until the mid-1970s. It is bounded by Riverside Avenue to the west, by Conrail railroad tracks to the east, by the BASF manufacturing plant to the north, and by an abandoned railroad bed to the south. Since the Port Access Highway was built, a small portion of the site is located south of the highway. There are no residential properties adjacent to the site.



Previous Investigations and Fieldwork

Environmental investigations between 1986 and 2002 performed by BASF pursuant to an Order on Consent defined the extent of on-site contamination.

Areas of possible contamination were identified based on the presence of remnants of metal drums and stained soils. The investigations found significant magnetic anomalies in the mounded central portion of the site where drum remnants were exposed at the surface. Test pits identified some drums and drum fragments in the anomaly area. Another magnetometer survey will be conducted before the removal work begins to assure that all significant anomaly areas are addressed. Arsenic, chromium, lead and zinc and Semi Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs) were detected in the soil samples, but arsenic is considered the primary metal of concern due to the frequency of detection and concentration. Therefore, arsenic targeted soil removal will also address SVOCs and other metals because they are all located in the same areas and arsenic is more widespread. Sampling of the groundwater from permanent monitoring wells along the perimeter of the site did not detect arsenic above water quality standards. The nine-acre portion of the site located south of the Port Access Highway was found to contain only slight contamination.

Upcoming Activities

The Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) describes the remedial activities to be undertaken at the site, which are designed to eliminate any potential exposures. The DEC does not suspect any off-site migration impacts or potential for off-site exposures.

South 40 Brownfield Cleanup Program Fact Sheet – July 2004

Soils containing elevated levels of arsenic will be removed from the mounded area and two other areas outside the mounded area. This action will remove any significant pockets of the other metals and semi-volatile organic compounds detected at the site. The excavated materials will be transported offsite to an appropriate disposal facility.

Post excavation sampling will be used to confirm that the remedial objective of 500 ppm or less of arsenic in the soil will be met.

The drum removal task will involve locating the drum remnants with an electro-magnetic survey, excavating all remnants and associated contaminated soil until no visible remnants or discolored soils remain, and transporting the waste offsite to an appropriate disposal facility.

All areas of excavation will be backfilled with at least one foot of clean fill material and seeded to generate a vegetative cover. An orange geo-membrane will be placed in all areas of excavation as a marker (demarcation layer) to separate the clean fill from the bottom of the excavation.

The remediation work is expected to be completed in approximately 6 to 8 weeks

Document Repositories

Public understanding and involvement are important to the success of New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program. As the project progresses the DEC will distribute fact sheets, like this one, to keep you informed. In addition, the DEC has also placed site documents in a document repository. The DEC has established a document repository for the BASF South 40 site at

Rensselaer Public Library
810 Broadway (old National Bank)
Rensselaer, NY
(518) 482-1193
M-F: 10:00am to 5:00pm, then 6:00pm to 9:00pm on M-W ONLY
Saturday: 9:00 to 12 noon

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About the Brownfield Cleanup Program

New York established its Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) to address the environmental, legal, and financial barriers that often hinder the redevelopment and reuse of contaminated properties. The BCP was developed to enhance private sector cleanups and to reduce the development pressures on "greenfield" sites. Under the program, a volunteer agrees to investigate and remediate a site to a level which is protective of public health and the environment for the present or intended use of the property. Investigation and remediation is carried out under the oversight of DEC and DOH. When the volunteer completes the work, the State provides release from certain State liability for site contaminants.