



FACT SHEET

Brownfield Cleanup Program

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Site Name: Former Breneman Site

DEC Site #: C738046

Address: 8 East Utica Street
Oswego, NY 13126

Have questions?
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"Who to Contact"
Below

Report Recommends Cleanup of Brownfield Site Contamination

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is reviewing the Remedial Investigation Report for the Former Breneman Site ("site") located at 8 East Utica Street, Oswego, Oswego County. Please see the map for the site location. Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information."

Remedial Investigation Report

NYSDEC is reviewing the "Remedial Investigation Report" that was submitted by Canalview Development LLC ("applicant(s)"). The report describes the results of the site investigation and recommends development of a remedy to address the contamination that was found.

Highlights of the Remedial Investigation Report

The investigation identified contamination in surface soil, subsurface soil and groundwater.

Contaminants identified in surface soil include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), metals, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). These contaminants are generally present in surface soils at concentrations slightly greater than unrestricted use soil cleanup objectives (SCOs), and in a very few instances at concentrations greater than commercial use SCOS.

Metals, PAHs, and PCBs are present in subsurface soil in a few locations at concentrations greater than unrestricted use SCOS and at concentrations greater than commercial use SCOS. Cyanide is present at one location in the southwest portion of the site at a concentration of 684 parts per million (ppm), which is greater than its unrestricted use SCO and its commercial use SCO, which are both 27 ppm. This location was also impacted by petroleum. Cyanide was detected at other locations at concentrations less than its unrestricted use SCO.

Petroleum is present in subsurface soil in the western portion of the site. The petroleum is present under an area that slopes steeply downhill to the west and along the bottom of the slope. Several sampling locations impacted by petroleum contained petroleum-related volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and PAHs. VOCs were present in several locations at concentrations greater than unrestricted use SCOS and SCOS for the protection of groundwater.

VOCs were present at concentrations greater than commercial use SCOs in one location. PAHs were present in the petroleum-impacted area at concentrations less than unrestricted use SCOs or slightly greater than unrestricted use SCOs.

Groundwater was impacted by several petroleum-related VOCs at concentrations greater than groundwater standards at the western edge of the site, within the area impacted by petroleum.

Next Steps

NYSDEC will complete its review, make any necessary revisions and, if appropriate, approve the investigation report. The approved report will be made available to the public (see "Where to Find Information" below). The applicant(s) may then develop a cleanup plan, called a "Remedial Work Plan." This plan describes how contamination will be addressed, with NYSDEC and NYSDOH overseeing the work. NYSDEC will present the draft cleanup plan to the public for its review and comment during a 45-day comment period.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

Background

Location: The Former Breneman Site is located at 8 East Utica Street in an urban area of the City of Oswego. It covers approximately 2.1 acres and is situated on the southwest corner of the intersection of East Utica Street and East First Street, which is also State Route 481.

Site Features: The site is currently vacant. The eastern portion of the property, referred to as the upper portion, is grass-covered and is relatively flat. The western portion of the property is wooded and drops steeply to a property now owned by the City of Oswego and developed as a walkway along the east side of the Oswego Canal and River. Approximately one-third to one-half of the site is wooded.

The Oswego Canal is located approximately 100 feet west of the site. The Oswego Canal is approximately 110 feet wide and is bounded on the west by bulkheads and the Oswego River. The Oswego Canal is connected to the Oswego River through a series of locks, located upstream and downstream of the Former Breneman Site. The Oswego River flows north into Lake Ontario, which is located approximately 5000 feet north of the site.

Current Zoning and Land Use: The site is currently vacant and lies in the B3 Redevelopment zoning district, which allows for commercial uses and certain residential uses (condominiums, multi-family dwellings). The surrounding area consists primarily of residential properties, with some commercial properties along East First Street and East Utica Street.

Past Use of the Site: The site was used for manufacturing purposes from approximately 1834 until 1981. The Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) site was a portion of the former manufacturing facility, which extended to the west of the site, covering approximately four to five acres. The first manufacturing buildings built on the BCP site were reportedly built around 1872. From 1834 through approximately 1954 the facility was used to manufacture fabric. Owners and operators during this period included the Oswego Shade Cloth Company and Stewart Hartshorn Company, and possibly others. From approximately 1954 through 1982 the site was owned by Breneman of Wisconsin, Inc., which manufactured window shades at the site until about 1981. It was reported that industrial wastes were formerly disposed of on the

property.

For a time the Breneman facility was divided by a canal which was referred to as the "hydraulic canal" and which was used for power generation. It was present on maps from 1890 through 1964, but anecdotal history of the site suggests the hydraulic canal was present prior to any industrial development in 1834. It has since been filled. It appears a portion of the hydraulic canal extended onto the western portion of the BCP site. It was reported that wastes were formerly disposed of in the hydraulic canal.

Several paints, dyes, oils, organic solvents and plasticizers were used in the manufacturing processes at the facility, including acetone, methyl ethyl ketone (MEK, also known as 2-butanone), naphtha, polyvinyl chloride resin, and diethyl phthalate.

Chemical and petroleum storage tanks were formerly located on the BCP site and off the BCP site, including both aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) and underground storage tanks (USTs). At least two storage tanks were located outdoors on the BCP site, including an approximately 5,000 gallon acetone tank and an approximately 10,000 gallon MEK tank. There was also a 500 gallon UST used to store diethyl phthalate, the location of which is unknown. During an inspection in 1991, the MEK tank was empty, and the acetone tank contained product, presumed to be acetone, and water suggesting the tank's integrity was compromised. During the 1991 inspection, an approximately 100 gallon tank containing heating oil was also identified within a building on the BCP site. A number of drums were identified within and outside of the buildings during this inspection; some drums were not labeled, and several contained liquid. Other tanks identified inside of the buildings include: four 20,000 gallon tanks, three 10,000 gallon tanks, six 5000 gallon tanks, and four 2000 gallon tanks. There are no known tanks remaining on the site.

A number of transformers were also present on the site, several of which contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Between June 1989 and January 1990 transformers and other wastes were removed from the facility by the NYSDEC through its contractor, Environmental Products & Services, Inc (EPS). Initially, EPS was responding to a spill of approximately 35 gallons of transformer oil onto a concrete pad. The concrete pad was cleaned of oil; however, other transformers and wastes were identified at the facility by the NYSDEC and EPS at that time. Two other transformers were determined to have leaked. One of the leaking transformers was located on a roof and had contained PCB oil. The leak impacted roofing materials and soil, which were removed and disposed of off-site. The other leaking transformer impacted soil. The soil was removed and disposed of off-site. All three leaking transformers were located on the BCP site. It was reported that at least 14 transformers were removed from the facility. Of those, six contained oil with PCBs at concentrations greater than 50 ppm. All of those PCB transformers were located on the BCP site. In addition, four 55-gallon drums of lube/hydraulic oil, two 55-gallon drums of a powdered material and one 55-gallon drum of solidified paint were removed and disposed of off-site as non-hazardous waste.

In December 1990, several of the buildings associated with the facility were damaged by fire, including several that were on the BCP site. An asbestos survey conducted in 1991 identified several asbestos-containing building materials in the buildings. The buildings were subsequently demolished between 1996 and 1998. Some of the demolition debris was disposed of on-site. Two fuel oil USTs and one solvent AST were reportedly removed during building demolition activities.

Geology & Hydrogeology: Two geologic units were identified at the site: fill and glacial till. The fill varies in depth from a couple feet up to greater than 12 feet in the southern portion of the site. In the area of the former buildings the fill contained a high percentage of brick. In the southern portion of the site the fill contained debris, which was reportedly generated by road construction projects conducted by the City of Oswego. Debris encountered in that area included asphalt and stone material that appeared to be road curbs. The glacial till unit consisted of a very dense sandy silt and silty sand with some gravel. The till in this area is underlain by Oswego Sandstone bedrock. Groundwater was reported to be present at depths ranging from approximately five feet (near the base of the steep slope) to 22 feet below grade (on the upper portion of the site). Groundwater flow is towards the west/southwest towards the Oswego River.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=C738046>

Brownfield Cleanup Program: New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) encourages the voluntary cleanup of contaminated properties known as "brownfields" so that they can be reused and redeveloped. These uses may include recreation, housing, business or other uses.

A **brownfield** is any real property that is difficult to reuse or redevelop because of the presence or potential presence of contamination.

For more information about the BCP, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed.

Oswego Public Library
Attn: Edward Elsner
120 East 2nd Street
Oswego, NY 13126
phone: 315-341-5867

NYSDEC Region 7
Attn: Joshua Cook
615 Erie Blvd West
Syracuse, NY 13204
phone: 315-426-7411
(joshua.cook@dec.ny.gov)

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions

Joshua Cook
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
615 Erie Blvd W
Syracuse, NY 13204
315-426-7411
joshua.cook@dec.ny.gov

Site-Related Health Questions

Richard Jones
New York State Department of Health
217 South Salina Street
Syracuse, NY 13202
315-477-8148
BEEI@health.ny.gov

We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox.

NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>. It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you *better informed*.



As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

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

