

# ELMIRA HIGH SCHOOL

## Former Sperry Remington Property Cleanup

Brownfield Cleanup Program

777 South Main Street, Elmira, NY 14904

### WHO TO CONTACT



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

#### PROJECT-RELATED QUESTIONS:

Tim Schneider, P.E.  
Project Manager NYSDEC –  
Region 8 Office  
6274 East Avon-Lima Road  
Avon, NY 14414  
(585) 226-5480  
[timothy.schneider@dec.ny.gov](mailto:timothy.schneider@dec.ny.gov)

#### HEALTH-RELATED QUESTIONS:

Dawn Hettrick, P.E.  
NYSDOH  
Empire State Plaza  
Corning Tower, Room #1787  
Albany, NY 12237  
(518) 402-7860  
[beei@health.ny.gov](mailto:beei@health.ny.gov)

#### FOR INFORMATION ON THE BROWNFIELD CLEANUP PROGRAM:

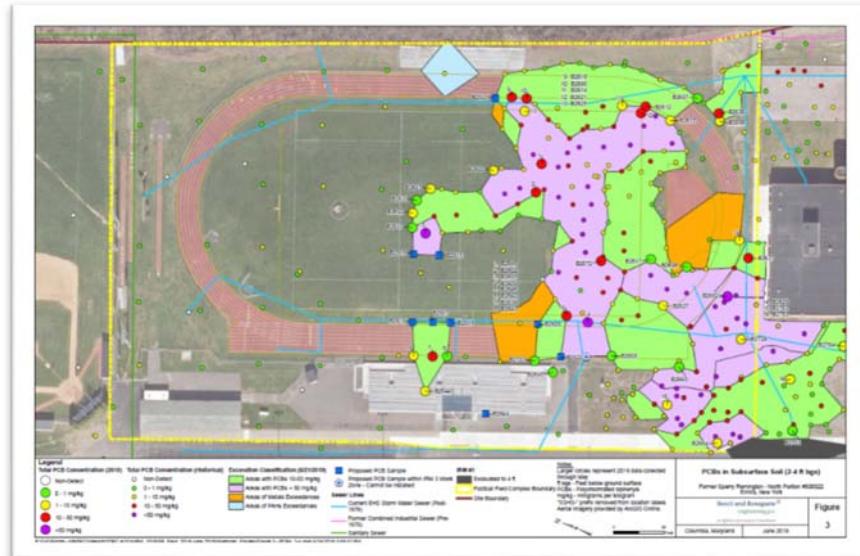
[https://www.dec.ny.gov/  
chemical/102390.html](https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/102390.html)

### Summer 2019 Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) #3 Completed

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Health (DOH) continue to oversee the ongoing investigation and cleanup activities at the Elmira High School property to ensure a comprehensive and careful cleanup while keeping the Elmira community informed of our progress and actions. Our top priority is ensuring that students, faculty, and visitors are not exposed to any of the site's below-ground contamination. Unisys, the corporate successor of the Remington Rand Company, is committed under its Brownfield Cleanup Agreement to fully investigate and implement a comprehensive cleanup of the site and any impacted off-site areas consistent with the Brownfield Cleanup Program.

This past summer, Unisys Corporation, with oversight by DEC and DOH, remediated approximately 0.8 acres in the southwest corner of the football field complex and along the northwestern corner of the high school. The work included a deeper excavation within a previously completed excavation area to remove Polychlorinated biphenyl- (PCB) contaminated soils that could not be removed during the work performed in 2017.

Approximately 11,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil was excavated from depths up to 16 feet below ground surface and taken off-site for disposal at appropriately permitted facilities. The work also included establishment of a two-foot clean soil cover.



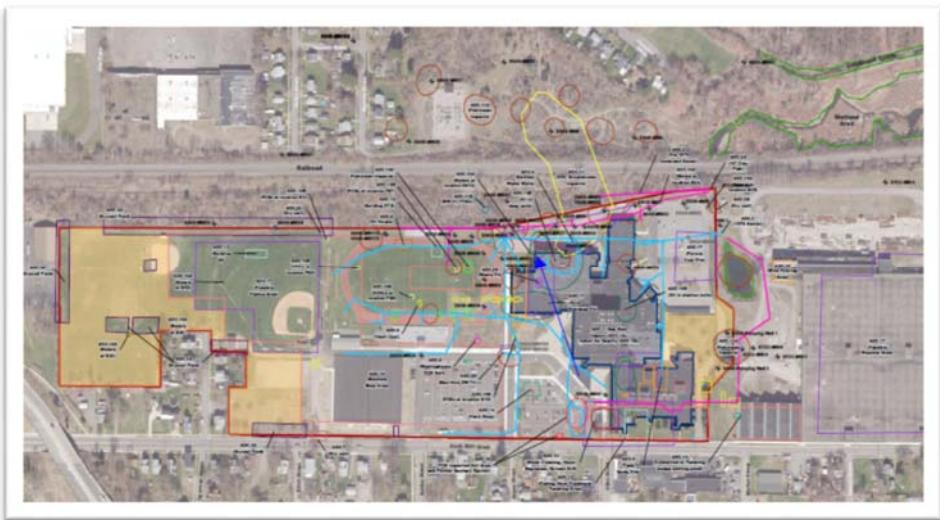
## Football Field/Track Complex

Unisys previously completed, under DEC oversight, a Short-Term Response Action on the southern portion of the football field. Subsequent data collected from the football field shows the turf and soil cover continue to prevent direct contact with contaminants beneath the surface; however, access to the athletic complex is being managed to further prevent exposure to any contaminants beneath the surface. To support the comprehensive cleanup of this area, more recent work on the athletic complex includes the investigation and delineation of contaminants in soil, groundwater, and the former underground industrial sewers.

Unisys will design and implement a cleanup plan for the athletic complex in coordination with Elmira City School District (ESCD) restoration and enhancement plans. Discussions between Unisys, ECSD, and the State are underway for planning and scheduling the restoration of the athletic complex to meet the needs of ECSD.

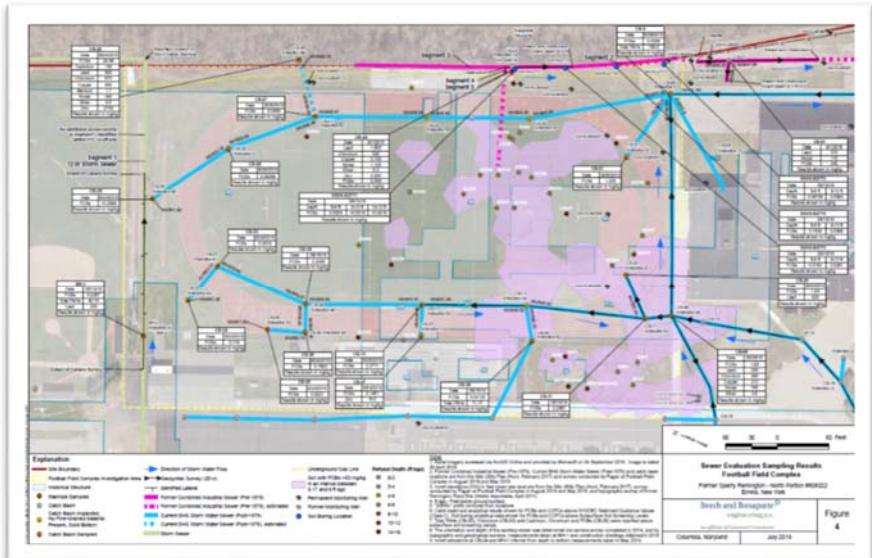


The final phases of sampling at the athletic complex in preparation for the next IRM cleanup are underway. Since July 2018, Unisys has completed more than 400 soil borings to collect samples at two-foot intervals during the Remedial Investigation and Pre-Design Investigation of the athletic complex. More than 900 soil samples have been collected as part of this effort to define the limits of the planned excavation. Unisys is currently evaluating the sample data and plans to complete the design of the cleanup of the complex over the coming months.



## Next Steps

DEC and DOH will also be coordinating with Unisys and the Elmira City School District to complete the Pre-Design Investigation and Remedial Design for the remainder of the football field/track complex. At the same time, the Remedial Investigation sampling for the entire site will continue into 2020. The planned work will result in a comprehensive investigation of the high school property, as well as delineating any on- and off-site groundwater impacts. DEC will keep the public informed throughout the additional investigation and cleanup of the site with newsletters such as this one.



## Department of Health Outreach

DOH is working with ECSD and the local community to assess the health concerns of current and former Elmira High School staff. During recent public events and meetings, members of the school community and other stakeholders have raised concerns about several health outcomes they think could be related to contaminants present on the school grounds. DOH is currently developing a survey, with input from the ECSD and other stakeholders, that will be mailed to current and former High School staff. The results of the survey will help inform future local decisions and DOH activities.

## Investigation of Properties Outside School

An investigation in and around Coldbrook Creek began in August with a habitat assessment and will continue into 2020. Fish will be collected to assess potential impacts on the broader ecosystem, while sampling of soils outside the banks of the creek will determine the extent to which impacted sediments may have been redistributed during flood events.

Access is being sought from property owners adjacent to Coldbrook creek to facilitate the investigation and if you are a property owner who has not yet responded to Unisys please contact Meghan Kilian, Senior Scientist, by email at [mkilian@Geosyntec.com](mailto:mkilian@Geosyntec.com).

Work is also planned to assess the attenuation or shrinking of groundwater plumes to the east of the Elmira High School towards Miller Pond. Previous and extensive study of these plumes has been completed and no adverse exposure risk to the public is evident.

Cleanup work will begin in November in an area adjacent to the High School with the cleaning of the sewer line and relocation of a natural gas line, followed by diversion of the storm sewer. The removal of a former oil skimmer located east of the railroad tracks and at the headwaters of Coldbrook Creek and its contents is planned for March/April 2020. The skimmer was a likely source of PCB contamination since it discharged to the headwaters of the creek. Additionally, the fenced Material Storage Area located on the Southern Tier Commerce Center Property is anticipated to be decommissioned and restored to turf after this cleanup work is completed.



## WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION



Project documents are at  
these location(s):

**Steele Memorial Library**  
101 East Church Street  
Elmira, NY 14901  
(607) 733-9175

**Region 8 NYSDEC**  
Headquarters  
6274 East Avon Lima Road  
Avon, NY 14414  
(585) 226-5324  
(call for an appointment)

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Project documents  
are available on the  
NYSDEC website at:  
[www.dec.ny.gov/  
chemical/37556.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37556.html)

## SIGN UP TO STAY INFORMED

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>



## Community Liaison Plan

DEC developed a Community Liaison Plan as a roadmap to the sources for information regarding the Dzus Superfund Site itself, as well as those project activities that may engender public interest and inquiries.

Visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/102390.html> for  
a copy of the Community Liaison Plan.