



# FACT SHEET

## Brownfield Cleanup Program

**Former Davidson's Collision Site**  
**Site No. C828091**  
**399 Gregory Street**  
**Rochester, New York**

**January 2005**

### **Draft Remedial Investigation Work Plan Available for Public Comment**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) requests public comments as it reviews a draft work plan to investigate the Former Davidson's Collision Site located at 399 Gregory Street in the City of Rochester, Monroe County. See map for the location of the site. The draft "Remedial Investigation Work Plan" was submitted by the City of Rochester under New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP).

NYSDEC is concurrently reviewing an application submitted by the City of Rochester to participate in the BCP. The application proposes that the site will be used for commercial purposes.

#### **Public Comments About the Draft Remedial Investigation Work Plan**

NYSDEC is accepting written public comments about the draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Work Plan for 30 days, from **January 26, 2005** through **February 25, 2005**. The draft RI Work Plan is available for public review at the document repository identified in this fact sheet.

Written comments should be submitted to:

Frank Sowers, Project Manager (585) 226-5357  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
6274 East Avon-Lima Road  
Avon, New York 14414-9519

#### **Highlights of the Proposed Remedial Investigation**

**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 include recreation, housing and business.

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:  
[www.dec.state.ny.us/website/der/bcp](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/der/bcp)

The remedial investigation has several goals:

1) define the nature and extent of contamination in soil, surface water, groundwater and any other impacted media;

2) identify the source(s) of the contamination;

3) assess the impact or potential impact of the contamination on public health and/or the environment; and

4) provide information to support the development of a Remedial Work Plan to address the contamination.

The investigation will be performed by the City of Rochester with oversight by NYSDEC, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), and the Monroe County Health Department (MCHD).

To facilitate the remedial investigation and eventual cleanup, the City plans to install fencing and demolish the building.

The proposed remedial investigation activities will involve the following:

- Complete drilling of 18 soil borings in the interior and exterior portions of the Site using the direct-push method;
- Install six new groundwater monitoring wells on the Site;
- Conduct a well survey with groundwater elevations;
- Sample a hydraulic lift pit in the western area of the former garage for contamination;
- Prepare a Remedial Investigation Report; and
- Develop a cleanup plan.

The investigation is being funded with a US Environmental Protection Agency brownfield assessment grant.

### **Next Steps**

NYSDEC will consider public comments as it completes its review of the RI Work Plan, and have any necessary revisions made. NYSDOH must concur in the approval of the RI Work Plan. The approved RI Work Plan will be placed in the document repository (see below). After the RI Work Plan is approved, the City of Rochester may proceed with the remedial investigation of the site. It is estimated that the remedial investigation will take about one year.

The City of Rochester will develop a Remedial Investigation Report that summarizes the results of the remedial investigation.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed during the investigation and remediation of the Former Davidson's Collision Site.

### **Background**

The Davidson Collision business located at 399 Gregory Street, operated as an auto body shop from the early 1960s until it went out of business in March 1993. In June 1993, the auto body shop reopened under new management and the new name of Southwedge Collision. Southwedge Collision has since gone out of business and the property was recently acquired by the City of Rochester through tax foreclosure. The property is about 0.4 acres in size and the surrounding neighborhood includes commercial and residential properties.

Previous investigations at the Site between 1991 and 2002 identified the disposal of a consequential amount of hazardous waste (primarily paint waste including paint thinner) through a pipe leading from a paint booth inside the shop to a storage container outside the building. This method of discharging paints and paint thinner contaminated soil near the southwestern corner of the auto body shop. The 1991 investigation results were sent to NYSDEC in 1992. In January 1993, some contaminated soil from the waste disposal area was excavated, however, confirmatory soil samples were not taken and the vertical and lateral areas of impacted soils were not determined prior to backfilling. The 1991 and 1993 activities were performed without NYSDEC approval or oversight. In 1994 the NYSDEC conducted an investigation and determined the 1993 soil removal activity did not remove all of the subsurface contamination at the Site. As such, the NYSDEC conducted an investigation from 2000 to 2002 to obtain additional information regarding the nature and extent of contamination at the Site and to determine if the Site represents a significant threat to human health or the environment. The results, which are available in a March 2003 Site Investigation Report, indicated that the contamination from hazardous waste disposal is limited to the subsurface soil (6-ft below the ground surface and deeper) and groundwater (approximately 8-ft below the ground surface) in an area around the southwest corner of the collision

shop building. The primary contaminants are volatile organic compounds (VOCs) associated with paint and paint thinner. Compounds consistent with gasoline were also detected in some of the samples at the site. A source of petroleum related VOC contamination, which is not associated with the waste paint disposal area, may also be present under the eastern section of the building where automobile maintenance was routinely performed. These contaminants have not migrated to the nearby residential properties. Groundwater at this site is not used as a source of drinking water, as the area is served by a public water supply.

The City of Rochester concurrently submitted its Brownfield Cleanup Agreement Application for the Former Davidson's Collision Site with the draft Remedial Investigation Work Plan.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

### **Document Repository**

A local document repository has been established at the following location to help the public to review important project documents. These documents include the March 2003 Site Investigation report, draft RI Work Plan and the application to participate in the BCP.

City of Rochester Public Library

Rundel Library

115 South Avenue

Rochester, New York 14604

Hours: Monday and Thursday – 9:00 am to 9:00 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday – 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Saturday – 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday – 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Contact: Shirley Iverson (585) 428-8370

### **Who to Contact**

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

#### Project Related Questions

Frank Sowers, Project Manager (585) 226-5357

Lisa LoMaestro Silvestri, Citizen Participation Specialist and Media Contact (585) 226-5326

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

6274 East Avon-Lima Road

Avon, New York 14414-9519

#### Health Related Questions

Tamara Girard, Project Manager

New York State Department of Health  
Flanigan Square, 547 River Street

Troy, New York 12180

(800) 458-1158 ext. 27860 or (518) 402-7860

Joseph Albert

Monroe County Department of Health

111 Westfall Road – PO Box 92832

Rochester, New York 14692

(585) 274-6902

If you know someone who would like to be added to the project mailing list, have them contact the NYSDEC project manager above. 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.