

Ms. Francine Gallego  
N.Y.S. D.E.C., Region 9  
270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14203



## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Dear Interested Citizen:

If you have any questions  
or would like more  
information, please do not  
hesitate to contact:

Ms. Francine Gallego  
Project Manager  
NYSDEC

270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
(716) 851-7220

or

Mr. Michael Podd  
Office Of Public Affairs  
NYSDEC

270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
(716) 851-7220

For site related health  
questions, please contact the  
following Health Department  
representatives:

Mr. Cameron O'Connor  
Environmental Health Specialist  
NYSDOH

584 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 847-4502

or

Ms. Nina Knapp  
Health Liaison Program  
NYSDOH

2 University Place  
Albany, NY 12203-3399  
1 (800) 458-1158, Ext. 6402

**NOTE:** Because our mailing list  
may be incomplete, we urge you  
to share this Fact Sheet with your  
neighbors who may not have  
phones or have unlisted numbers.

# FACT SHEET

## 1 HOWELL STREET

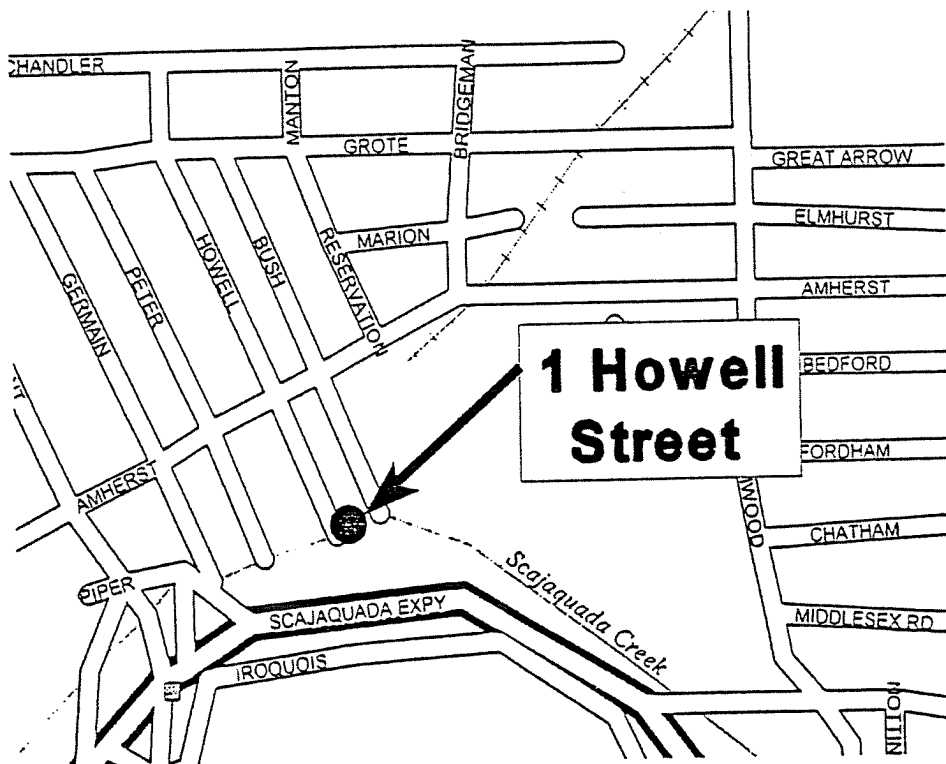
OCTOBER 1997

### INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in partnership with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), would like to inform you about chemical contamination found at 1 Howell, in the City of Buffalo (See Map). The abandoned oil storage tanks behind the building are contaminated with PCBs. PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are industrial chemicals that, if you come into contact with them, could affect your health. The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to tell you about the problem and what steps the State is taking to protect you and to make sure the contamination is cleaned up.

### WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Earlier this September, while cleaning three unused oil storage tanks at the rear of 1 Howell Street, the contractor hired by the current property owner contacted the Department for a waste haulers permit. NYSDEC found that the site contained hazardous waste as a result of information supplied as part of the permit process. After visiting the site, Department staff observed that sludge from the bottom of one of the tanks had spilled onto the ground and contaminated the soils on the site; however, the extent of the contaminated soils has not yet been determined and further testing will be needed.



## SHOULD I BE CONCERNED?

PCBs can affect your health only if you are exposed to them. The tanks at 1 Howell Street are behind a concrete retaining wall and fenced. The retaining wall and the fence limits access to the property and, at this time, we do not know how much exposure people might have had from the site. However, in general the greatest exposure to PCBs at this site is likely to be by people eating with contaminated soil on their hands.

If you believe you may have come into contact with the waste at this site or if you would like to know more about the effects of PCBs or to discuss what the exposure problems might be at the Howell site, please call the Department of Health contacts listed on the front of this Fact Sheet.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

Sludge from the two smaller tanks has been taken off site for proper disposal and the Department has instructed the contractor not to move any more of the wastes off site.

The Department has ordered the property owner to develop an investigation and cleanup plan for the site. As part of this plan the site will be fully tested. The testing will find out where the contaminated soils are and how deep the contamination has seeped into the ground.

Once the testing is completed and the extent of the remaining contaminated soils is known; a study will be conducted to find out what, if anything, needs to be done to make sure that the state's cleanup standards have been met.

During all the work noted above, the contractors will be required to follow a Health and Safety plan which will protect the surrounding community and the workers.

## WHERE CAN I SEE DOCUMENTS ABOUT THE CLEANUP?

Public understanding and involvement are important to the success of this cleanup project. To keep you informed, NYSDEC will mail you Fact Sheets, like this one as the cleanup project moves ahead. We also have all the documents available for your review, by appointment only, at our offices located at 270 Michigan Avenue, Buffalo, N.Y. If you would like to see any of these documents, please contact Ms. Kathy Hannemann at (716) 851-7220.