



# FACT SHEET

## Report on Environmental Investigation and Cleanup Alternatives At ExxonMobil Site Available for Public Comment; Public Meeting Scheduled

Brownfield Cleanup Program

Project No. C915201

September 2010

### Introduction

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and ExxonMobil welcomes public comment on a report that describes cleanup alternatives for the Operable Unit 4 portion of the ExxonMobil Former Buffalo Terminal site, located at 625 Elk Street in Buffalo. The report also describes the findings of an environmental investigation conducted at the site and explains the proposed cleanup alternative to address petroleum and metal contamination.

The report, called the Alternatives Analysis Report (AAR), is available for public review at the locations listed in this fact sheet and the DEC website (see opposite page for address).



*Site Location Map*

**Written comments** on the report **will be accepted** for 45 days, **from September 24 – November 8, 2010**. A **public meeting** to discuss the preferred cleanup alternative **will be held on Tuesday October 12, 2010, from 6 PM until 7:30 PM at the Dudley Branch Library** located at 2010 South Park Avenue in Buffalo.

Work at the site is being performed by ExxonMobil Oil Corporation under New York State's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP). The goal of the BCP is to facilitate private-sector cleanup of brownfields. Brownfields typically are former industrial properties where redevelopment or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of contamination. More information on brownfields and the BCP is available on DEC's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html>.

### Description of the Investigation Results Detailed in the Report

The AAR summarizes the environmental investigations that were completed at the site between 2001 and 2010. These investigations confirmed that contaminants of concern at the site consist of degraded gasoline fuel and diesel fuel, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs) in soil and groundwater, and metals in site soils originating from petroleum product releases and historic landfill operations. For more information on the investigation results, please consult the AAR.

### Description of Preferred Cleanup Alternative Detailed in the Report

The AAR provides an evaluation of cleanup alternatives to address soil and groundwater contamination and the movement of petroleum product to the Buffalo River. The alternatives were evaluated using nine criteria: protection of public health and the environment; New York State cleanup standards; long-term effectiveness and permanence; reduction of contamination through treatment; short-term impacts and effectiveness; ease of

implementation; cost; community acceptance; and land use.

The proposed alternative includes installing a cap and a slurry wall to contain petroleum product and contaminated groundwater. It also includes stabilization of the river bank using native plants to enhance habitat along the river. This cleanup alternative would facilitate continued use, potential redevelopment of the property for industrial purposes, and improvement of habitat along the river.

For more information on the evaluations of other cleanup alternatives, please consult the AAR.

### **What is the Next Step?**

The AAR concludes that cleanup work is necessary to address the petroleum product and soil contamination. Following public comment, DEC will select the final cleanup plan. ExxonMobil will then develop a Remedial Design Document that must be approved by DEC before cleanup work begins. DEC will continue to notify the public about future site developments through fact sheets similar to this one.

### **Site Background**

The ExxonMobil Former Buffalo Terminal site was historically used for petroleum refining, storage and distribution. Operable Unit 4 (OU-4, subject of the current AAR) is one of five operable units comprising the entire site. The site was divided into operable units to address contamination-specific concerns relating to various areas of the site. OU-4, which is currently owned by Buckeye Terminals LLC., occupies approximately 16.6 acres. It is bordered to the south by the Buffalo River and is currently utilized for the storage of refined petroleum fuels. The area of OU-4 was created in the early 1900s to realign the Buffalo River. It consists of urban fill and municipal waste from a former City of Buffalo landfill. ExxonMobil purchased the OU-4 area in 1951 and constructed storage tanks in 1953. The DEC has determined that the contamination in OU-4 poses a significant threat to the environment.

### **Who Should I Contact If I Have Questions About the Site?**

#### Project related questions:

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(401) 434-7356  
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#### Environment related questions:

Chad Staniszewski  
NYSDEC  
270 Michigan Avenue  
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(716) 851-7220  
[region9@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:region9@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

#### Health related questions:

Matthew Forcucci  
NYS Department of Health  
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### **Locations to View Public Documents**

Public understanding and involvement are important to the success of New York's Brownfield programs. To keep you informed, DEC has established the following locations where you can view project documents:

Dudley Branch Library  
2010 South Park Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14220  
(716) 823-1854

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

You may also view electronic copies of project documents at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/68659.html>.