



# FACT SHEET

## Reports on Environmental Investigation and Cleanup Alternatives At Former Buffalo China Site Available for Review

Brownfield Cleanup Program

Project No. C915209

June 2010

### Introduction

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) would like to inform the public that reports about the environmental investigation and possible cleanup options at the Former Buffalo China site, located at 51 Hayes Street in Buffalo, are available for review. The reports describe the specific investigation techniques, findings, and remedial alternatives to address volatile organic compound (VOC) and lead contamination at the site.

The reports, called the Remedial Investigation (RI) Report and Alternatives Analysis Report (AAR), are available for public review at the locations listed in this fact sheet and the DEC website (see opposite page for web address).



*Site Location Map*

Work at the site is being performed by Buffalo China, Inc. 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 RI Report documents the environmental investigation that was completed at the site between August 2007 and July 2009. The RI confirmed that contaminants of concern at the site consisted of chlorinated VOCs in soil and groundwater, and metals in site soils. The chlorinated VOC contamination was identified in both overburden and bedrock groundwater at both on- and offsite locations. For more information about the investigation, please consult the full RI Report.

### Description of Cleanup Alternatives Detailed in the Report

The AAR provides an evaluation of remedial alternatives to address the groundwater and soil contamination at the site. Criteria such as protection of public health, difficulty of implementation, and short- and long-term effectiveness were used to evaluate the potential cleanup alternatives.

Cleanup options to address both on and offsite groundwater contamination include:

- Monitored natural attenuation (monitoring groundwater conditions as the contaminants naturally degrade over time with no active remediation);
- In-situ groundwater treatment (treating contaminated groundwater in place, rather than extracting it first for treatment) by biological and chemical methods; and
- Collection and treatment of groundwater.

The remedial alternatives to address the onsite soil contamination include:

- Excavation and offsite disposal of contaminated soils;
- Monitored natural attenuation of site groundwater; and
- Institutional and engineering controls to prevent exposure of contaminated soils that remain in place. An institutional control is a legal restriction on the use of the site, established when contamination left over after the cleanup prevents some reuses of the site. An engineering control is a physical barrier or method to manage contamination.

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

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

The RI Report concludes that cleanup work is necessary to address the chlorinated VOC contamination in the soil and groundwater. The AAR identifies and evaluates alternatives that could be used to clean up (remediate) the contamination. After selecting the appropriate alternative, Buffalo China will develop a Remedial Work Plan that must be approved by NYSDEC before cleanup work begins. The public will be given the opportunity to review this report and provide comments prior to NYSDEC's approval of the cleanup plan. NYSDEC will continue to notify the public about future site developments through fact sheets similar to this one.

### **Site Background**

The Former Buffalo China site has historically been the location of china and mirror manufacturing. The site, which is currently owned and operated by Niagara Ceramics Corp., comprises approximately 8 acres and is bounded on the north by Conrail railroad tracks, on the east by the adjoining former Buffalo China Warehouse and other commercial/industrial facilities, and on the south and west by residential properties. The nearest body of water is the Buffalo River, located approximately ¼ mile south and east of the site. Environmental investigations have identified that the site's soil and groundwater have been impacted by VOCs and lead, and the VOC contamination in the groundwater has migrated off site. The DEC has determined that this contamination 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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#### Environment related questions:

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#### Health related questions:

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### **Locations to View Public Documents**

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

East Clinton Branch Library   OR   NYSDEC Buffalo Office  
1929 East Clinton Street       270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14206               Buffalo, N.Y. 14203  
Phone: (716) 823-5626         (716) 851-7220 (Please call for appointment.)

You may also view electronic copies of project documents at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/52695.html>.