



FACT SHEET

Environmental Cleanup Plan for the Former Buffalo China Site Available for Public Comment

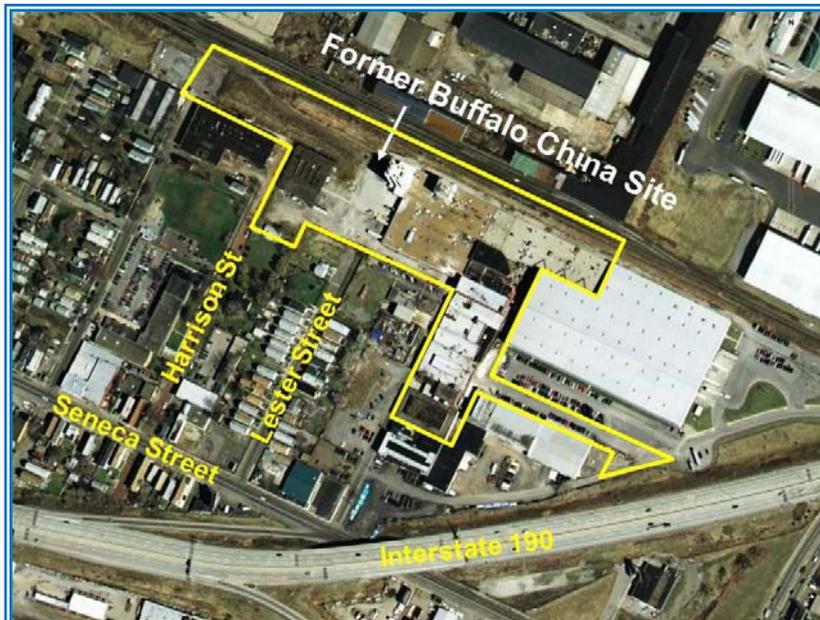
Brownfield Cleanup Program

October 2010

Project No. C915209

Introduction

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) welcomes public comment as it reviews a draft cleanup plan, called the Remedial Action Work Plan, for the Former Buffalo China Site in Buffalo, Erie County. Current and historical use of the Site has been for the manufacture of China tableware. A small portion of the Site purchased in the 1980s, including the Harrison Street Warehouse, was historically owned by a mirror manufacturing operation located north of the Site. Historical Site operations have resulted in contaminated soils and groundwater with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and metals.



The Remedial Action Work Plan is available at the locations identified in this fact sheet and on the DEC website, <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/52695.html>. **Comments on the plan will be accepted for 45 days, from October 25 – December 14, 2010**, and may be submitted to the NYSDEC project manager listed on the opposite page.

Work at the site will be performed under New York State's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP). The BCP provides existing or potential property owners financial incentives to promote the voluntary cleanup, redevelopment, and revival of brownfield sites. Brownfields typically are former industrial sites that have been environmentally compromised, making redevelopment of the site more difficult. Buffalo China, Inc. entered the BCP in May 2007. The property was sold to Niagara Ceramics Corporation, which continues to manufacture china at the Site.

Are People Exposed to Contamination at the Site?

VOC and metals-impacted subsurface soil/fill is present at the site. Currently, access is restricted to the Site because it is an active industrial property and is fenced. However, VOC impacted groundwater has migrated off-site and VOC vapors are affecting one adjacent property, based on sub-slab monitoring. The proposed cleanup plan will address areas of known contamination.

What Does the Draft Remedial Action Work Plan Involve?

Elements of the Remedial Action Work Plan include:

- Excavating contaminated soils and disposing them at an authorized disposal facility;
- Installing a vapor mitigation system to minimize exposure to vapor contamination at an adjacent property;
- Injecting chemical oxidants into the ground to clean up groundwater;

- Placing an environmental easement on the property to restrict future use of the site to industrial purposes; and
- Completing routine site inspections and maintenance.

Next Steps

NYSDEC will consider public comments before it approves and finalizes the Remedial Action Work Plan. The approved plan will be available for public review at the locations listed below and on the NYSDEC website. After it is approved, Buffalo China will proceed with the environmental cleanup work at the site. The environmental cleanup work is expected to begin in the spring of 2011. The excavation will be completed in the spring, and groundwater injections will occur periodically over an 18-month period, followed by monitoring. NYSDEC will keep the public informed about significant project milestones at the Former Buffalo China Site through fact sheets similar to this one.

Site Background

The Former Buffalo China Site has historically been the location of china manufacturing. A small portion of the Site purchased in the 1980s was used as a warehouse by the Standard Mirror Company. The Site, which is currently owned and operated by Niagara Ceramics Corp., comprises approximately 8 acres and is bordered 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 public health and the environment.

Who Should I Call If I Have Questions About the Site?

Environmental Questions

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Project Questions

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Health Questions

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Buffalo, NY 14202
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Locations to View Project Documents

To keep you informed, NYSDEC has set up two locations at which you may view project documents. These locations include:

Buffalo and Erie County Library
East Clinton Branch
1929 East Clinton Street
Buffalo, New York 14220
Phone: (716) 823-5626

NYSDEC Region 9 Office
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14203
Phone: (716) 851-7220
(Please call for appointment)

You can also view project documents online at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/52695.html>.