



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

FACT SHEET

Brownfield Cleanup Program

Riverview Innovation &
Technology Campus
3875 River Road
Tonawanda, NY 14150

SITE No. C915353
NYSDEC REGION 9

August 2023

Report Recommends Cleanup of Brownfield Site Contamination

Where to Find Information

Access project documents through the DECinfo Locator and at these location(s):
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C915353/>

**Buffalo and Erie County Public Library
– Central Library**
One Lafayette Square
Buffalo, NY 14203

**Buffalo and Erie County Public Library
– Kenmore Branch**
160 Delaware Road
Kenmore, NY 14217

Who to Contact

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

Project-Related Questions

Benjamin McPherson, Project Manager
NYSDEC
700 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
716-851-7220
benjamin.mcpherson@dec.ny.gov

Project-Related Health Questions

Angela Martin
NYSDOH
Empire State Plaza
Corning Tower, Room 1787
518-402-7860
bee@health.ny.gov

For more information about New York's
Brownfield Cleanup Program, visit:
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is reviewing the Draft Remedial Investigation Report for the Riverview Innovation & Technology Campus site ("site") located at 3875 River Road, Tonawanda, Erie County. The site was formerly part of the manufacturing facility operated by the Tonawanda Coke Corporation. Please see the map for the site location.

Remedial Investigation Report: The Draft Remedial Investigation Report (RIR) describes the results of the site investigation and recommends development of a remedy to address the contamination that was found. The draft RIR was submitted by Riverview Innovation & Technology Campus, Inc. ("applicant").

- Access the draft RIR and other project documents online through the DECinfo Locator: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C915353/>.
- The documents also are available at the location(s) identified at left under "Where to Find Information."

Based on the findings of the investigation, NYSDEC, in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), has determined that the site poses a significant threat to public health and the environment. This decision is based on the significant amount of hazardous substances present at the site and the need to control these materials to prevent impacts to site users and the Niagara River.

Highlights of the Remedial Investigation Report: Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were found in surface and subsurface soils at concentrations above commercial soil cleanup objectives. The PAHs are generally present from ground surface down to the bottom of the on-site fill layer and are the result of past site use. This fill layer (generally 2 to 10 feet below ground surface) is present across almost the entire site, though the composition of the fill varies across the site.

In addition to the fill, contaminant source materials related to the past disposal and/or release of coking byproducts and wastes are present in distinct areas of the site. Coal tar, non-aqueous phase liquids, and coke oven gas purifier waste are all present in significant quantities at the site. These source materials have resulted in localized impacts to on-site soil and groundwater.

Petroleum impacted soils are also present in several areas near former tanks and equipment maintenance areas due to past use of petroleum products at the facility.

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There are no natural surface water bodies located on-site, but contamination of stormwater infrastructure from the surrounding soil/groundwater has been identified in the northwestern portion of the site.

Several interim remedial measures (IRMs) have been implemented at the site to address remaining manufacturing equipment and control the impacted stormwater before it discharges off-site. The IRMs have been successful at removing waste materials from the site and improving access for investigation and remediation activities.

Next Steps: NYSDEC will complete its review, make any necessary revisions and, if appropriate, approve the investigation report. The approved report will be made available to the public (see “Where to Find Information” at left). The applicant may then develop a cleanup plan, called a “Remedial Action Work Plan.” This plan describes how contamination will be addressed, with NYSDEC and NYSDOH overseeing the work. NYSDEC will present the draft cleanup plan to the public for its review and comment during a 45-day comment period. NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

Site Description: The 86.46-acre site is generally bordered by the Huntley fly-ash landfill and vacant property to the north, railroad and utility property to the east, the 3821 River Road, Inc. site (Site No. C915003) and utility property to the south, and Vanocur Refractories and Swift River Associates to the west. The site was formerly operated by the now defunct Tonawanda Coke Corporation for the production of metallurgical coke. Operable Units 01 and 02 of the Tonawanda Coke Superfund Site (#915055) are adjacent to the BCP site.

The site is a former coke production facility that contained coke ovens, coke by-products plant, storage tanks, maintenance buildings, boiler house, and coal/coke handling infrastructure formerly located in the north-central portion of the site. Many of these structures have been demolished as of June 2023. The southern and eastern portions of the site are generally open areas formerly used for outdoor storage of raw materials, finished coke, or surplus materials. Coking operations at the site ceased in October 2018 and the site is

currently inactive.

It is anticipated that the site will be redeveloped for commercial and/or industrial uses. The exact type of businesses that will be established during redevelopment are not known at this time, but are expected to be related to data storage or other high-tech manufacturing.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, C915353) at:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/dereexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3>

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, business or other uses. A brownfield site is any real property where a contaminant is present at levels exceeding the soil cleanup objectives or other health-based or environmental standards, criteria or guidance adopted by DEC that are applicable based on the reasonably anticipated use of the property, in accordance with applicable regulations. For more information about the BCP, visit:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html>

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.

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www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html

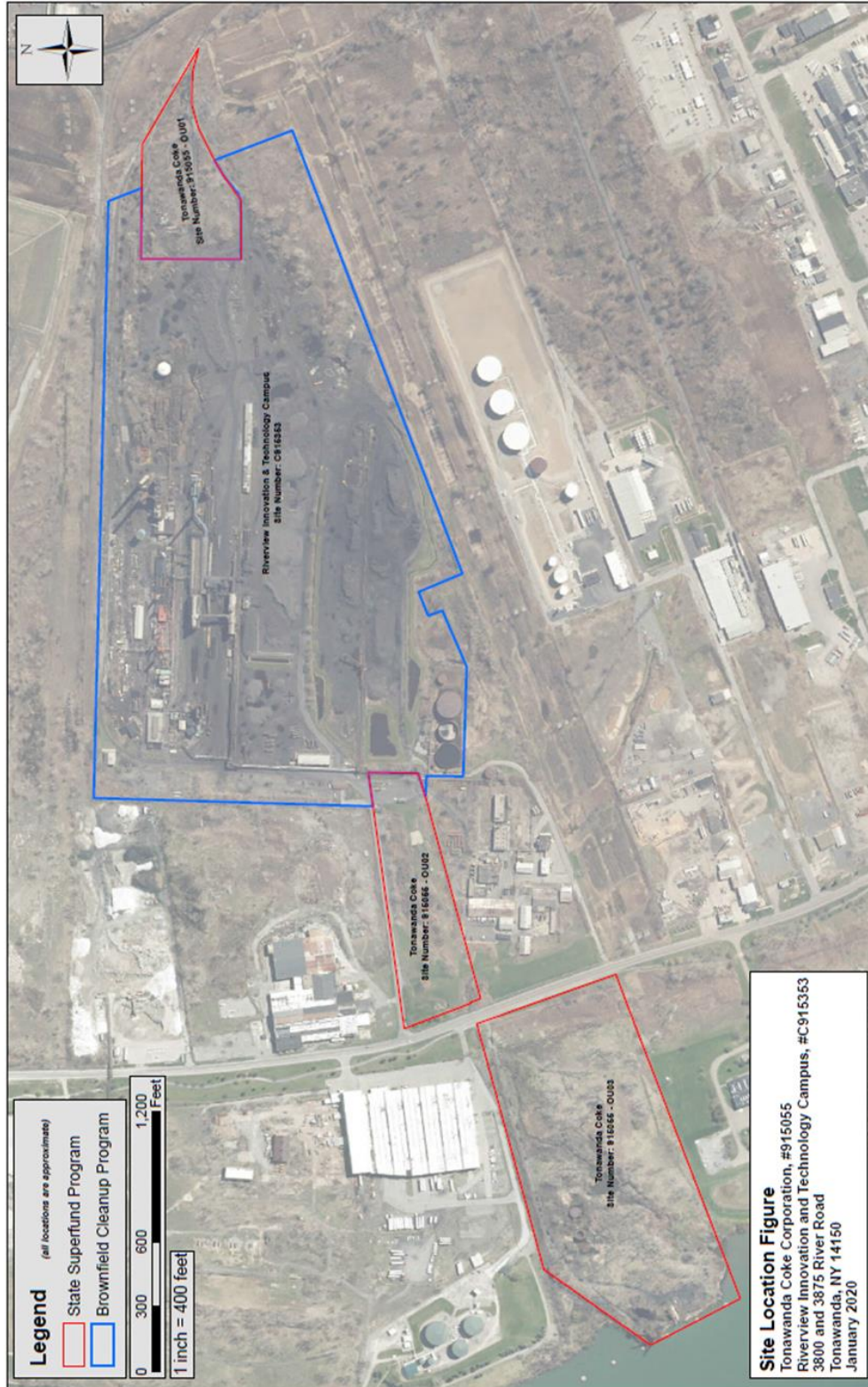
Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

DECinfo Locator

Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>

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Site Location





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Contact: Benjamin McPherson, 716-851-7220, benjamin.mcpherson@dec.ny.gov