



FACT SHEET

April 2008

Environmental Cleanup Plan Available for Public Comment at the 1501 College Avenue Site

Brownfield Cleanup Program

Project No. C932134

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) welcomes public comment as it reviews an environmental cleanup plan for the 1501 College Avenue site in Niagara Falls, Niagara County (see map below for site location). The plan proposes an environmental cleanup action, called an interim remedial measure (IRM), in response to an ongoing environmental investigation at the site. An IRM can be conducted relatively quickly to address obvious issues at the site and minimize environmental and health risks. Previous industrial use at the site impacted the soil with semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and metals. In addition, deteriorating asbestos and PCB-containing roofing and siding materials pose a threat to human health.

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 may include recreation, housing and business.

A **brownfield** is any property that is difficult to reuse or redevelop because of the presence or potential presence of contamination.

For more information about the BCP, visit:
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html

Cleanup work at the site will be performed under New York State's Brownfield Cleanup Program. The BCP provides existing or potential property owners financial incentives to promote the voluntary cleanup, redevelopment, and revival of brownfield sites. Santarosa Holdings, Inc. volunteered to clean up the site and plans to reuse it as a tire recycling and crumb rubber manufacturing facility.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT THE IRM WORK PLAN

The IRM Work Plan is available for public viewing at the locations listed below. NYSDEC will accept written public comments about the IRM Work Plan for 45 days, from **April 17, 2008** through **May 31, 2008**.

Written comments should be submitted to:

Mr. Jeffrey Konsella
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14203

SITE BACKGROUND

1501 College Avenue is a 15 acre abandoned industrial property located in a heavy industrial area of Niagara Falls, New York. It is bound by College Avenue to the north, a private gated access road to the west, and industrial properties to the east and south. Residential properties sit approximately 500 feet to the southwest.

From 1910 until 1986, Union Carbide operated a manufacturing complex that encompassed the site and the adjoining properties to the east and west. Its industrial operations contaminated the soil with SVOCs, PCBs, and metals. Subsequent environmental investigations revealed these contaminants and a number of storage tanks, drums, and other containers that held hazardous materials. Weathered galbestos roofing and siding materials on some structures were also identified.

POSSIBLE HEALTH IMPACTS

Currently, access to the site is restricted, although there is evidence of past trespassing and illegal use of the site. There are no immediate health impacts from the site to the surrounding area, but anyone illegally accessing the site could be exposed to site related contamination identified in certain areas of the site. The proposed IRM will address these areas of contamination as well as others that may be encountered.

WHAT WILL THE UPCOMING CLEANUP WORK INVOLVE?

The upcoming IRM cleanup work will address immediate environmental concerns presented by contamination at the site. Under the oversight of DEC, upcoming IRM cleanup activities will include:

- Excavating stained surface soils and disposing offsite;
- Removing soil/fill debris piles;
- Removing aboveground storage tanks, drums, and other containers and disposing offsite;
- Cleaning and closing floor drains, sumps, pits and vaults containing soil, sediment, or other non-solid materials;
- Removing underground storage tanks, if encountered;
- Excavating petroleum-impacted subsurface soil and disposing offsite;
- Removing roofing and siding materials and disposing offsite;

NEXT STEPS

NYSDEC will consider public comments before it approves the IRM work plan. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) must concur in the approval of the work plan. The approved plan will be available for public review at the locations listed below. After it is approved, Santarosa may proceed with environmental cleanup actions at the site. The IRM is expected to begin in June 2008.

Following the interim cleanup action, further environmental investigation will be conducted to determine the extent of any remaining contamination. A report detailing the findings and evaluating additional cleanup options will be compiled and made available at the locations for public viewing listed below.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed during the cleanup and redevelopment process of the 1501 College Avenue site through fact sheets similar to this one.

WHO SHOULD I CALL IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SITE?

Site-Related Environmental Questions

Mr. Jeff Konsella
Project Manager
NYSDEC
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 851-7220

Site-Related Health Questions

Mr. Matt Forcucci
Public Health Specialist
NYSDOH
584 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 847-4385

LOCATIONS TO VIEW PROJECT RELATED DOCUMENTS

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

Niagara Falls Public Library
Earl W Brydges Building
1425 Main Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14305
Phone: (716) 283-8309

NYSDEC Region 9 Office
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14203-2999
Phone: (716) 851-7220
Hours: M-F 8:30am-4:45pm
(Call for appointment)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information on human health and exposure issues, please visit the New York State Department of Health's website at: <http://www.health.state.ny.us/environmental/about/exposure.htm>

For additional information on some of the cleanup technologies that may be potentially used at this site, please visit the EPA's website at:

A Citizen's Guide to Soil Excavation: <http://www.clu-in.org/download/citizens/excavation.pdf>

SITE LOCATION

