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FACT SHEET

Environmental Restoration Program

Glenmere Lake Property
E336071
Town of Chester, NY

May 2010

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Interim Cleanup Action to Begin at Municipal Brownfield Site

Division of Environmental Remediation

Action is about to begin under New York's Environmental Restoration Program that will address contamination at the Glenmere Lake Property ("site") located at the intersection of Glenmere Avenue and Pine Hill Road in the Town of Chester, Orange County. See map for site location.

The cleanup action is being performed as an interim remedial measure (IRM). An interim remedial measure is an action that can be undertaken without extensive investigation and evaluation, to prevent, mitigate or remedy environmental damage. The IRM includes removing underground and aboveground petroleum storage tanks from the site. There are five (5) storage tanks which have been identified which will be removed. Any contaminated soil encountered in the vicinity of the tanks will be excavated and properly disposed of off-site. The cleanup activities will be performed by Orange County. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) have approved the plans for this project, and will provide oversight of the cleanup activities.

Highlights of the Site Investigation

The goal of the cleanup action for the site is to remove the storage tanks, which represent a potential source of contamination and to remove contamination that may be present as a result of the tanks. Based on information obtained during the site investigation, it appears two of the tanks may have leaked. The impacted area from each tank appears to be limited.

Next Steps

The municipality, Orange County, is expected to begin cleanup activities at the site in mid-late June. These activities are anticipated to take about three to four weeks.

After the municipality completes the cleanup activities, it will prepare a Construction Completion Report and submit it to NYSDEC. The Construction Completion Report will describe the cleanup activities completed and certify that cleanup objectives have been achieved.

The Construction Completion Report will be integrated into a Site Investigation/Remedial

Environmental Restoration Program:
New York's Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) reimburses municipalities for their costs to investigate and clean up municipally owned contaminated properties. Once cleaned up, the properties may be redeveloped for commercial, industrial, residential or public use.

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

For more information about the ERP, visit:
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8444.html

Alternatives (SI/RA) Report which is being drafted by the municipality, and which includes the findings of the investigation conducted in the fall of 2008 and spring of 2009. Based on the findings of the investigation, additional cleanup of site contamination will be needed beyond the upcoming tank removal. The municipality will develop potential alternatives to clean up the site, which will be described in the SI/RA Report. When the municipality completes the report, it will submit it to the NYSDEC and NYSDOH for review.

NYSDEC will then develop a draft cleanup plan for the site, called a "Proposed Remedial Action Plan". This plan describes the remedy preferred by NYSDEC. The goal of the cleanup plan is to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. NYSDEC will present the draft cleanup plan to the public for its review and comment during a 45-day comment period and at a public meeting.

NYSDEC and the municipality will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

Background

NYSDEC previously accepted an application from the municipality to participate in the Environmental Restoration Program. The application proposes that the site will be used for green space and passive recreational usage (*e.g.*, hiking trails).

The Glenmere Lake Property Site is located at the north end of Glenmere Lake in a rural area. Much of the site is wooded, but it also contains several dilapidated buildings and several petroleum storage tanks located in the vicinity of those buildings. The site was formerly a portion of a 1,440-acre estate. The site contained stables, a maintenance facility and servant quarters associated with the estate. These buildings are now in severe disrepair. The site was also formerly a portion of a golf course. Orange County obtained the property for back taxes in 1978.

Glenmere Lake is a known habitat for the Northern cricket frog, which is an endangered species in New York State. An endangered species survey was conducted in the Spring 2008 to determine if and how the frogs may be using the Site. Glenmere Lake is also the public drinking water supply for the Village of Florida

A remedial investigation was conducted in the fall of 2008 and spring of 2009 to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the site. Surface soil contamination was identified by the investigation. A report of the results is being drafted by the municipality.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following locations to help the public stay informed. These documents include the Interim Remedial Measures Work Plan and the application to participate in the Environmental Restoration Program.

Florida Public Library
4 Cohen Circle
Florida, New York 10921
(845) 651-7659

Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 10 am - 8 pm
Fri & Sat. 10 am - 5 pm
Sun. 12 pm - 5 pm

NYSDEC Region 3 Office
21 South Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, New York 12561

Contact: Michael Knipfing
(845) 256-3154
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 am - 4:45 pm
By appointment

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions

Joshua Cook
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Site-Related Health Questions

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Oneonta, NY 13820
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If you know someone who would like to be added to the site contact list, have them contact the NYSDEC project manager above. 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.

