

**NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION**

Dear Interested Citizen:

This Fact Sheet is to inform you about the upcoming investigation at the former Sewall's Island Site on Pearl Street in the City of Watertown. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact:

Philip Waite, P.E.

Project Manager
NYSDEC- Region 6
Dulles State Office Building
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 12977
(315) 785-2513

For site related health questions, please contact the following New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) representative:

Mr. Nathan Freeman

NYSDOH

Bureau of Environmental
Exposure Investigation
Flanigan Square
Room 300
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180-2216
(518) 402-7860

FACT SHEET

Sewall's Island Site 400 Pearl Street – Site No. E623021 Environmental Restoration Program

**City of Watertown
May 2008**

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has awarded funding to the City of Watertown through the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) for an investigation of the Former Sewall's Island Site located on Pearl Street in the City of Watertown, Jefferson County. The site is located on the Black River and includes parcels on the island and to the north and south of the island (see attached map). The site contains vacant land with former building foundations and building demolition fill. A remedial investigation is anticipated to begin in the upcoming months to determine if soil and/or groundwater at the site have been impacted by petroleum storage and former industrial activities, and to evaluate remedial actions, if necessary, to cleanup the site for reuse as recreational property.

BACKGROUND

The Sewall's Island Site consists of five parcels on the island, plus four parcels north of the island and two south of the island owned by the City of Watertown. The sites main use was a Foundry for a span of 80 years but also included paper mills, a railroad, carriage company and sewing machine works. The was abandoned and has been vacant since approximately 1990. The City of Watertown took ownership of the property through tax foreclosure in 2007.

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed by Lu Engineers for the City of Watertown in March 2007. The assessment identified the following areas of concern:

- Over 150 years of industrial use including foundry operations, railroad and coal storage;
- Petroleum contamination encountered east of Pearl Street Bridge over south fork of Black River (NYSDEC Spill #9810485);
- Presence of slag, ash and cinder material noted at the Site; and
- The reported presence of buried drums at the Site.

A Site Investigation and Remedial Report were completed for the Black Clawson Company in 2001 by GYMO, PC.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The goal of the remedial investigation is to fully characterize sources of contamination that may impact on and off-site properties and use the information to develop appropriate remedial alternatives for cleanup of the Site, if necessary. The Town's consultant, Lu Engineers, will perform a number of tasks during the summer and fall of 2008. The scope of work will include:

- a geophysical survey to identify underground tanks and buried fill materials;
- a site wide surface soil analysis;
- a site wide subsurface/hydrogeologic evaluation which will include test pits, soil borings and groundwater monitoring wells; and
- a soil vapor survey (if necessary).

Investigation results will be evaluated to determine what, if any, additional remedial work is necessary at the site. If cleanup actions are necessary, DEC will propose a remedial plan and distribute a Fact Sheet summarizing the plan. A 45-day public comment period will be provided before the final remedy is selected.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Public understanding and involvement are important to the success of New York's Environmental Restoration Program. As the project progresses, the NYSDEC will distribute fact sheets, like this one, to keep you informed. In addition, the Department has placed the Work Plan and other site documents in a repository for you to read.

The NYSDEC has established the following document repositories:

NYSDEC Region 6 Office
Dulles State Office Building
Watertown, NY 13601
call (315) 785-2513 for an appointment

City of Watertown
245 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 785-7730

Any site related questions or concerns, or comments on the proposed RI, can be addressed by contacting Philip Waite at (315) 785-2513. **For health related concerns regarding this site** feel free to contact the New York State Department of Health's Nathan Freeman, at (518) 402-7860.

If you know someone who would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact the NYSDEC Regional Citizen Participation Specialist at (315) 785-2252.

ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM

The 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act provides funding to municipalities for the investigation and cleanup of brownfields. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used properties where redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. They typically are former industrial or commercial properties where operations may have resulted in environmental contamination. Brownfields often pose not only environmental, but legal and financial burdens on communities. Under the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP), the state provides grants to municipalities to reimburse up to 90 percent of eligible costs for site investigation and remediation activities. Once remediated, the property can then be reused. For more information on the New York State ERP please visit the Department of Environmental Conservation's website at www.dec.ny.gov.