

*PW  
6/16/08 File 4840 Sewall's Island*

*PW*



**CITY OF WATERTOWN, NEW YORK**

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245 WASHINGTON STREET  
WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601-3380  
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**MARY CORRIVEAU**  
CITY MANAGER

June 10, 2008

Phillip Waite  
NYSDEC DER  
317 Washington Street  
Watertown, NY 13601

RE: Sewall's Island Remedial Investigation

Dear Mr. Waite:

Enclosed with this letter is a fact sheet and map detailing the remedial investigation, which will occur on Sewall's Island in Watertown, New York. If you have any questions in regard to the project contact either the NYSDEC or the NYSDOH, both of which are listed on the fact sheet. You may also contact me for general inquiries on the project.

Sincerely,  
*Jacqueline S. Longton*  
Jacqueline S. Longton  
Planner

Enclosure

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 Remedial Investigation

City of Watertown  
June 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).

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 parcels south of the island owned by the City of Watertown. The site was used for industrial purposes from the mid-1800s until late 1990 including a foundry, paper mills, a railroad, carriage company and sewing machine works. The property to be investigated on the island is most recently noted for the operation of the Bagley & Sewall Company, which was a division of the Black Clawson Company, maker of paper manufacturing machines. The property has been vacant since approximately 1990, but contains former building foundations and building demolition fill. 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 limited 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 City'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, 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. The DEC will develop a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) 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](http://www.dec.ny.gov).

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**LU ENGINEERS**  
Civil and Environmental

JOSEPH C. LU ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING, P.C.  
2230 TENDLER ROAD      FENFIELD, NEW YORK 14526  
PHONE: 585.377.1450      FAX: 585.377.1266

**FIGURE 1. SITE LOCATION MAP**

**SEWALL'S ISLAND PROJECT**  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
JEFFERSON COUNTY      NEW YORK

DATE:	OCTOBER 2006
SCALE:	1:24,000
DRAWN BY:	DLS
MAP SOURCE:	WATERTOWN QUADRANGLE NEW YORK - JEFFERSON COUNTY 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC) 1959; PHOTO REUSED 1982