



# FACT SHEET



April 1999

## Environmental Investigation Planned at CooperVision

CooperVision, Inc. has signed a voluntary agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to perform an environmental investigation at their property at 711 North Road in Scottsville (see map). The investigation is being conducted through New York State's voluntary cleanup program (see box at right).

The Department of Environmental Conservation is providing this fact sheet to explain highlights of the planned investigation and how to get more information.

### About the CooperVision Site:

The Union Corporation manufactured contact lenses at the facility from 1976 to 1983. CooperVision acquired the facility in 1983 and continues to manufacture contact lenses at the facility today.

In 1997, CooperVision discovered the chemical trichloroethane (TCA) in subsurface soil and groundwater near an area where TCA had previously been stored. TCA was used at the facility from the mid-1970s until 1993. The highest concentrations of TCA were found 8-12 feet below ground. Acetone was also detected in groundwater at levels above New York State standards.

No significant off-site exposure pathways (ways people could come in contact with contaminants) are known at this time. Twice in 1998, the New York State Department of

### NEW YORK STATE'S VOLUNTARY CLEANUP PROGRAM

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Voluntary Cleanup Program promotes the return of contaminated property to productive use. These include sites contaminated by hazardous waste, petroleum, and solid waste.

Under this program, a person or entity (such as a corporation) agrees to pay for an investigation and/or environmental cleanup of the site. In return, this volunteer gets to develop or use the property. If the volunteer performs a cleanup of the site, the volunteer receives a limited release from liability for the past environmental damage at the site.

Health and the Monroe County Health Department sampled water from the basement sumps of two nearby residences. No site-related contaminants were detected in any of the samples. Residents in the area are served by a public water supply, meaning people are not using area groundwater for a source of drinking water. Additionally, contact with contaminated soil or groundwater is not likely because the site is covered by the building and parking lot.

## **Upcoming Investigation:**

In April 1999, CooperVision signed an agreement with DEC to perform a more detailed environmental investigation of the property. The purpose of the investigation is to gather information on the extent of groundwater and soil contamination.

As part of the investigation, CooperVision will install groundwater monitoring wells to assess the extent of groundwater contamination. Soil removed during the monitoring well installation will also be tested for chemicals. Additionally, CooperVision will collect and test soil samples from underneath the building near the former TCA storage area. The investigation is expected to begin in May and should be completed in about 3 months.

## **What Happens Next:**

After the investigation is complete, CooperVision will submit a report to DEC. DEC will evaluate the report and determine if additional investigation or cleanup action is necessary. DEC will work with the responsible parties to perform the appropriate remedial (cleanup) actions. If CooperVision does not wish to proceed with any required cleanup, the site will be referred to New York State's hazardous waste program for appropriate action.

## **For More Information:**

Documents related to this investigation are available for you to review at:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Region 8 Office  
6274 E. Avon-Lima Rd.  
Avon, NY 14414  
Hours: Monday- Friday 8:30 - 4:45  
(716) 226-2466 (Contact Meaghan Boice-Green for an appointment)

We encourage you to contact the State representatives listed below with questions, comments or concerns. If you know someone who would like to be added to the mailing list, have them send in the attached mailer or contact one of the people listed below. You do **not** have to return the mailer if you received this fact sheet in the mail; your name will automatically remain on the mailing list.

### **> For Question About the Investigation, Contact:**

Frank Sowers, Project Manager  
Meaghan Boice-Green, Citizen Participation Specialist  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
6274 East Avon-Lima Road  
Avon, NY 14414  
(716) 226-2466 *or*  
1-800-342-9296 (leave a message and someone will return your call.)

**> For Site-Related Health Questions, Contact:**

David Napier, Regional Toxics Coordinator  
NYS Department of Health  
42 S. Washington Street  
Rochester, NY 14608  
(716) 423-8071

Joseph Albert  
Monroe County Health Department  
111 Westfall Road - PO Box 92832  
Rochester NY 14692  
(716) 274-6904

# NYSDEC Mailer

Please feel free to use this mailer for any of the following purposes:

- 1. You would like to be placed on our CooperVision mailing list.
- 2. You would like to include the name and address of someone you know who maybe interested in receiving future fact sheets.
- 3. You would like to be taken off our CooperVision mailing list.
- 4. You would like to provide us with a change of name or address.
- 5. You would like to provide us with a comment or concern.

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## FOLD

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Please complete the form as indicated below, fold and mail directly to the DEC.

Add the following name(s):

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Delete the following name(s):

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Make the following changes:

(Old)_____	(New)_____
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Comments or Concerns:

Frank Sowers  
Project Manager  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
6274 East Avon-Lima Rd  
Avon, NY 14414-9519