



# FACT SHEET

January 2001



## Investigation Report Released for CooperVision Site

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in conjunction with the New York State Department of Health (DOH) and the Monroe County Health Department (MCHD), want to inform you about activities at the CooperVision site located at 711 North Road in Scottsville (see map). DEC is providing this fact sheet to update the public on site environmental activities and explain 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 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA) in subsurface soil and groundwater near an area where TCA had previously been stored. TCA was used at the facility to release contact lenses from lens forms from the mid-1970s until 1993.

In 1999, CooperVision signed a voluntary agreement with the DEC to perform an environmental investigation at the site. See the box on this page for additional information on New York State's Voluntary Cleanup Program.

### 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 with DEC oversight. 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.

### The Investigation:

From 1999-2000, CooperVision performed an environmental investigation to determine the types and locations of contamination at the site. The investigation verified that the site subsurface soils and groundwater contained TCA at levels above New York State standards. In the environment, TCA gradually breaks down to form other compounds such as dichloroethane (DCA).

Several of these breakdown compounds were also detected at the site. The highest concentrations of TCA and its breakdown compounds were found in groundwater at 20 to 28 feet below ground near an area where TCA had previously been stored at the site in above-ground storage tanks.

The investigation did not identify any ways in which people could come in contact with site contaminants. Twice in 1998, the New York State Department of Health and the Monroe County Health Department tested water from the basement sumps of two nearby residences. No site-related contaminants were detected in any of the samples.

Groundwater, and therefore groundwater contamination, from the site flows toward Briarwood Lane. Four groundwater monitoring wells were installed at the edge of CooperVision's property along Briarwood Lane (see map). Tests performed on the groundwater from these wells indicated that off-site contaminant migration is not a concern at this time.

People are not using area groundwater for a source of drinking water. Residents in the area are served by a public water supply. Additionally, public contact with contaminated soil or groundwater is not likely because the site is covered by the building and parking lot.

### **What Happens Next:**

The DEC is currently negotiating with CooperVision to develop a cleanup plan for the site. When an acceptable cleanup plan is developed, the public will be notified and provided an opportunity to comment on the proposed plan. The DEC anticipates that the cleanup plan will include provisions to periodically test the groundwater from wells on CooperVision's property along Briarwood Lane.

### **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 (by appointment only)  
(716) 226-5357

The Investigation Report is also available at:

Scottsville Free Library  
28 Main Street  
Scottsville, NY 14546  
(716) 889-2023  
Hours: Mon., Wed. & Thurs.- 1 - 8:30  
Tues.- 10 - 8:30  
Fri.- 10 - 5  
Sat.- 10 - 1(Closed Saturdays from June 17 to September 2)

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  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
6274 East Avon-Lima Road  
Avon, NY 14414  
(716) 226-5357

**➤ 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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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:

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