



FACT SHEET



July 2003

Monroe County and Rochester Gas & Electric Begin Cleanup at Brewer Street Site

In July 2002, Monroe County and Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E) signed a voluntary agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to perform an environmental investigation and cleanup at the Brewer Street site in the City of Rochester (see map). The investigation and remediation are being conducted through New York State's Voluntary Cleanup Program (see box at right).

The DEC is providing this fact sheet to explain highlights of the site cleanup and how to get more information.

What Happens Next:

A remediation work plan was developed and it provides the details for excavation and removal of contaminated sediments and soils at the Brewer Street Site. It also includes a health and safety plan to address worker and community safety. Implementation of the remediation will take approximately 4 months. The first phase of work started the week of June 16, 2003 and includes preparation of access roads to the site. The next phase of construction begins during the first week of July and involves construction of a cofferdam in the Genesee River. A cofferdam is a temporary dam that will allow construction crews to excavate the river sediments below the level of the river. Once the cofferdam is in place and the river level is dropped, excavation of contaminated sediments and soils will begin. During this phase, air quality will be monitored and all reasonable efforts will be made to control

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. If the volunteer performs a cleanup of the site, the volunteer receives a limited release from liability for past environmental damage at the site.

odors that may be generated from excavation of river sediments and contaminated soils. A NYSDEC representative will be on-site for most of these excavations. Upon completion of excavations, the site will be backfilled with clean soils and seeded. The temporary cofferdam will be removed and the site will be monitored to determine the effectiveness of the cleanup. Please refer to the remediation work plan at either of the document repositories identified below.

About the Brewer Street Site:

This site is located in the Genesee River Gorge

adjacent to the middle falls in the City of Rochester, Monroe County. The site is currently owned by RG&E. In 1984 and 1985, Monroe County used a portion of the site under an easement granted by RG&E during the construction of the Cliff Street Siphon Tunnel Project. During sewer tunnel construction, coal tar was encountered. To facilitate construction of the sewer tunnel, two settling lagoons were constructed on-site to separate coal tars from water that was pumped out of the tunnel. The outfall of the lagoons discharged to a wetland adjacent to the Genesee River (the marsh area). Contaminants settled in the base of the lagoons and apparently leaked into the surrounding soils. The lagoons were closed in-place in 1985. Closure activities included excavation of visibly contaminated soils from several areas of the site. The property is currently vacant. RG&E and Monroe County (the Volunteers) conducted an extensive on-site investigation of groundwater, soil and river sediments in 1998 without NYSDEC oversight. This investigation included installation of 21 groundwater monitoring wells, numerous test pits and soil samples, and 27 river sediment and marsh sediment samples. The results of the investigation indicated coal tar product and constituents in groundwater, soils, and river sediments. Coal tar seeps (discharges coming from the ground) were noted at the base of the middle falls dam floodgate. For definition purposes, coal tar is a generic term for wastes generated from a coal gasification plant. Most coal gasification plants in the northeastern United States ceased operation in the 1950s with the advent of natural gas pipelines. Today, coal tar is commonly found in such products as driveway sealers and dandruff shampoos.

Public water and sewers are used in the area. There are no known private drinking water wells in the vicinity of the site.

Details of the Investigation:

The purpose of the investigation was to further define the nature and extent of contamination at the site. The investigation was completed in 2001, and the report was submitted to the Department in early 2002. This investigation supplemented the existing data and included the following activities: installation of additional monitoring wells; sampling new and existing wells; and sampling of soil and sediment to characterize the extent of contamination in the adjacent marsh area and the Genesee River. Downstream off-site monitoring wells were not installed due to physical barriers at the site (the middle falls, the river, and steep gorge walls).

The results of investigations confirmed previous sampling and identified an area of sediment in the Genesee River and soils in the former lagoon area which would require removal. Coal tar seeps were noted at the base of the dam and along the ledge of the middle falls. The Volunteers installed a temporary barrier to mitigate further seeps into the Genesee River along the ledge of the middle falls.

For More Information:

DEC will keep you informed of progress at the site through fact sheets like this one. If enough interest is expressed, the State will hold a public meeting to discuss the upcoming activities at this site. You can express your interest in attending such a meeting by calling one of the people listed below or by sending in the attached mailer.

Because our mailing list includes property owners of businesses and apartments, we encourage you and the building owners to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for tenants, employees, and visitors to view

The remediation work plan and other documents related to the site cleanup and investigation are available for you to review at the following document repositories:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Region 8 Office
6274 East Avon-Lima Rd.
Avon, New York 14414-9519
Hours:
Monday- Friday 8:30 - 4:45 by appointment only
Contact: Lisa LoMaestro Silvestri
(585) 226-5326

Rochester Public Library - Lincoln Branch
851 Joseph Avenue
Rochester, New York 14621
Hours:
Monday and Wednesday, 10:00 am - 7:00 pm
Tuesday and Thursday, Noon - 8:00 pm
Friday, 11:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday, Noon - 5:00 pm
Contact: Joan Lee, Reference Librarian

We encourage you to contact the 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:

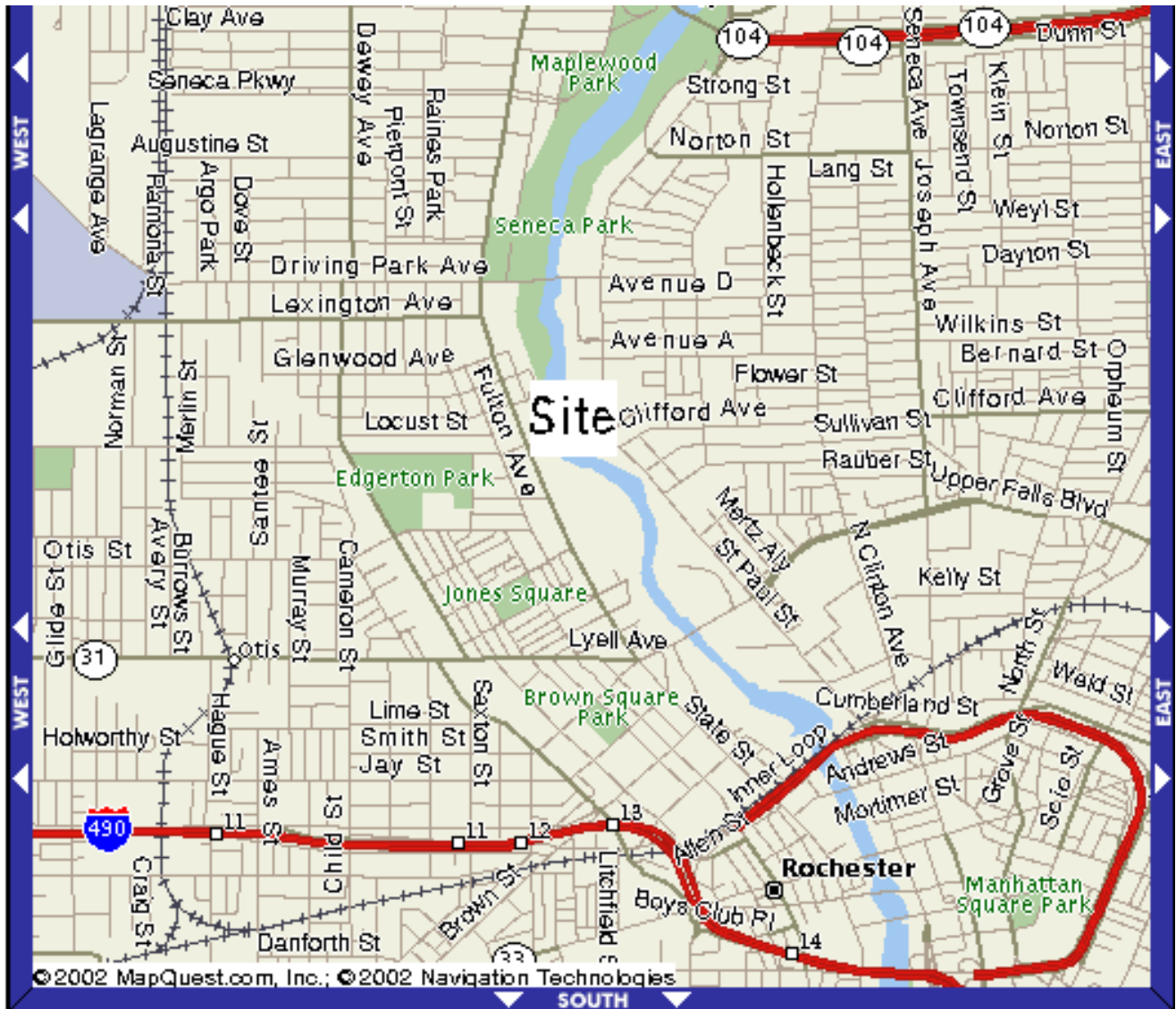
Todd M. Caffoe, P.E., Project Manager (585) 226-5350 or
Lisa A. LoMaestro-Silvestri, Citizen Participation Specialist (585) 226-5326
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
6274 East Avon-Lima Road
Avon, NY 14414-9519

% For Site-Related Health Questions, Contact:

Charlotte Bethoney
NYS Department of Health
Flanigan Square
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180
(800) 458-1158 ext. 27860 or
(518) 402-7860

Joseph Albert
Monroe County Health Department
111 Westfall Road - PO Box 92832
Rochester NY 14692
(585) 274-6904

Site Map
Brewer Street Site
Rochester(C), Monroe(C)



NYSDEC Mailer

Please use this mailer for any of the following purposes:

- _____ 1. You would like to be placed on our Brewer Street site mailing list.
- _____ 2. You would like to be taken off our Brewer Street site mailing list.
- _____ 3. You would like to include the name and address of someone you know who maybe interested in receiving future fact sheets.
- _____ 4. You would like to provide us with a change of name or address. If you are moving, fact sheets are NOT automatically forwarded unless we are notified by you.
- _____ 5. You would like to provide us with a comment or concern. Please include your address, email address, or phone number if you want us to contact you.
- _____ 6. You would be interested in attending a future public meeting about this site.

FOLD

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

Add the following name(s):

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Delete the following name(s):

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Make the following changes:

(Old) _____	(New) _____
_____	_____
_____	_____

FOLD

Comments or Concerns: