

**NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION**

Dear Interested Citizen:

This Fact Sheet is to inform you about the ongoing investigation of the Melody Cleaners Site in East Meadow, N.Y. If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact:

Mr. John Swartwout, P.E.
Project Manager
NYSDEC
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7014
(518)402-9564

For Citizen Participation questions, contact:

Mr. Mark Lowery
Citizen Participation Spec.
NYSDEC
Building 40-SUNY
Stony Brook, NY 11790
(631)444-0350

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

Mr. Ian Ushe
NYSDOH
547 River St.
Troy, NY 12180
1(800)458-1158,
ext 27880

FACT SHEET

Melody Cleaners Site

Voluntary Clean-up Project

Site No. V00347-1

February 2003

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is pleased to inform you that Lowden Family Trust d/b/a Lowden Properties (the Volunteer) has volunteered to investigate and remediate as necessary contamination discovered at the Melody Cleaners Voluntary Clean-up Site. The Volunteer has elected to take significant steps toward the protection of human health and the environment for the benefit of the community. The site is located at 2050 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, New York within a 74,702 square foot commercial shopping center at the southwest corner of the intersection of Hempstead Turnpike and Front Street. (See attached map.)

BACKGROUND

In October of 1999 the results of an environmental site assessment indicated soil and groundwater beneath the site were contaminated with chlorinated organic solvents. These types of contaminants include the chemical tetrachloroethene (PCE), which is utilized in dry cleaning and spot removal processes, as well as its breakdown products trichloroethene (TCE) and cis-1,2-dichloroethene (cis-1,2-DCE). In March of 2000 the results of an additional investigation performed by the Volunteer confirmed that wastes had been discharged to the on-site sanitary disposal system prior to the facility's connection to the municipal sewer system. This former on-site disposal system was identified as the primary source of contamination to on-site subsurface soil and on-site and off-site groundwater.

Under the oversight of the NYSDEC, the Volunteer implemented immediate remedial activities to remove the pollution source identified at the site for the protection of human health and the environment. The remedial activities included the excavation of approximately 500 tons of contaminated soil from within three polluted cesspools. The Volunteer completed these remedial activities in November 2000.

STATUS

Dry cleaning operations at the property ceased in December 2002. The Volunteer's investigation has identified sources of groundwater

contamination, which have been removed from the property.

The residual groundwater contaminants were determined to be traveling with groundwater in a southerly direction 30 to 80 feet below the ground surface. (See attached map.) Soil contamination from the release was limited to the dry cleaner property. The path of the groundwater contaminants will be further detailed in subsequent investigative phases performed by the Volunteer. Low levels (below drinking water standards) of chlorinated solvents have been detected recently in one of the active wells at the East Meadow Water District well field. However, the drinking water is regularly tested by the Town Water Department and Nassau County Department of Health (NCDOH) to ensure that the water supply continues to meet state and federal drinking water standards.

Air sampling performed by the NYSDOH and the NCDOH identified indoor air contamination within some of the commercial buildings near the dry cleaner. The air contamination is being

addressed by modifying the ventilation systems in those buildings.

Impacts above the NYSDOH residential indoor air guideline have also been detected in two homes near the site. The NYSDOH is continuing to test indoor air quality in residential and business properties adjacent to the site and off-site above the groundwater plume. Other homes that have been tested have been below the indoor air guideline, and steps will be taken to address residential impacts as they are identified.

The NYSDOH tested indoor air at the McVey Elementary School to determine if chemicals from the Melody Cleaners site were affecting indoor air quality within the school. The detected levels were generally within the range of typical background for indoor air, and were well below the indoor air guideline. Exposures to these concentrations are not expected to cause health effects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

An informational meeting is being held on February 26th at 7:30 p.m. at the McVey Elementary School. In addition, the NYSDEC has all site documents available for your review at our Building 40-SUNY Office in Stony Brook, (631)444-0240, and at the following Nassau County locations:

Levittown Public Library
1 Bluegrass Lane
Levittown, NY
(516)731-5728

East Meadow Public Library
1886 Front Street
East Meadow, NY
(516)794-2570

If you have any questions, concerns or comments regarding **environmental aspects** of the site, please contact Mr. John Swartwout, P.E., Project Manager, at (518)402-9564. For site related **health concerns** feel free to contact the New York State Department of Health's Mr. Ian Ushe at 1(800)458-1158, ext. 27880.

ABOUT THE VOLUNTARY CLEANUP PROGRAM

The Voluntary Cleanup Program was developed to enhance private sector cleanup of properties by enabling businesses to remediate sites using private rather than public funds, and to reduce the development pressures on "greenfield" sites. Under the program, a volunteer agrees to investigate and remediate a site to a level which is protective of public health and the environment for the present or intended use of the property. Investigation and remediation is carried out under the oversight of NYSDEC. When the volunteer completes the work, the State provides a release from State liability for

the work done, returning the site to productive use. For more information regarding New York State's Voluntary Cleanup Program, please visit the Department's web site at:
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/der/vcp/vcpfs.html>.