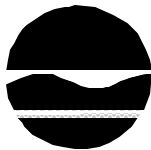


**NEW YORK STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF**



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION**

**Dear Interested Citizen:**

This Fact Sheet is to inform you about upcoming activities at the Gowanda Day Habilitation Center located in the Town of Persia, N.Y. If you have any questions or would like to comment on the Voluntary Cleanup Work Plan, please do not hesitate to contact:

**Mr. Maurice Moore  
Project Manager**

NYSDEC  
270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
**(716) 851-7220**

or

**Mr. Michael Podd  
Office Of Public Affairs**

NYSDEC  
270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
**(716) 851-7220**

For site related health questions, please contact the following NYSDOH representative:

**Mr. Cameron O'Connor  
Public Health Specialist**

NYSDOH  
584 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
**(716) 847-4385**

**NOTE:** Because our mailing list may be incomplete, we urge you to share this Fact Sheet with your neighbors who may not have phones or have unlisted numbers.

# FACT SHEET

## Gowanda Day Habilitation Site

**V00463-9**

**Upcoming Interim Remedial Measures**

**May 2004**

### 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 the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) has completed an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) work plan to address environmental impacts from historical activities at the Gowanda Day Habilitation Center. The Center is located at 4 Industrial Place in the Village of Gowanda, Cattaraugus County.

### SITE HISTORY

The site is a 5.94-acre developed parcel consisting of the Gowanda Day Habilitation Center building, parking lots, access roads, landscaped yards and a garden. The 56,000 square foot building is a single story slab-on-grade concrete block structure with aluminum siding expansions. It was previously used by several manufacturing operations and was built in stages between 1956 and 1987.

New York State agencies have occupied the building since 1982 and the State acquired the parcel in 1989. The site was most recently operated by the Western New York Developmental Disabilities Services Office as a Day Habilitation Center for mental care clients. In April 2001 operations ceased at the facility, and services were relocated to other OMRDD facilities. The building is currently vacant.

### SITE INVESTIGATIONS

OMRDD had previously performed environmental investigations at the facility. Information obtained from these investigations has indicated that volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as trichloroethene, was commonly used as industrial de-greaser at the facility.

It was determined that the VOCs had impacted the soils directly south and underneath the building. VOCs have also impacted the shallow groundwater. This groundwater is not used for consumption and all residents in the area are on a municipal supply system. The investigations have also determined that remedial measures are necessary to address contamination in the site soils and shallow groundwater.

## WHAT'S NEXT

The Interim Remedial Measures (IRM) are to be completed under a Voluntary Agreement and are designed to clean up the soil and to address the groundwater contamination. Under the IRM, a remedial system will be implemented in a manner that will allow for the re-use of the facility with minimal disturbance or alterations to the building.

Objectives of the IRM:

- minimize the further migration of contaminated groundwater from underneath the building;
- remove VOCs from the groundwater and subsurface soils;
- treat recovered groundwater and soil vapors as required; and,
- treat VOCs within the facility to allow re-use.

Components of the remedial system include a groundwater pump and treatment system that will extract groundwater and process the water for discharge to the village sanitary sewer. Additionally, the system will include a soil vapor extraction system that will extract the VOCs from the soils and treat those VOCs for eventual discharge. Monitoring of the system will occur on a scheduled basis to determine the effectiveness of the system.

The treatment strategy proposed for the contamination found at Gowanda Day Habilitation has been utilized with success in numerous similar situations. Implementation of the work plan will occur during Summer 2004 and the project should be complete and operational by Fall 2004.

## COMMENTS WELCOME

Written comments on the Interim Remedial Measures Action Work Plan are welcome and will be accepted until Friday, June 10, 2004. Written comments expressing objection or opposition to the work plan must explain the basis of that opposition and identify the specific grounds which could lead the Department to impose significant changes to the IRM Work Plan. Comments should be directed to Mr. Maurice Moore, Project Manager, NYSDEC, 270 Michigan Avenue, Buffalo, N.Y. 14203.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

The NYSDEC and the NYSDOH will keep you informed throughout this process. Your understanding and involvement in this project will help to ensure an effective site investigation. If you have any questions, please contact any of the persons listed in the side bar on the front of this Fact Sheet.

If you would like more information about this project, you are invited to visit the site's document repositories. These repositories are located at:

Gowanda Free Library  
56 West Main Street  
Gowanda, New York 14070  
(585) 532-3451

NYSDEC Buffalo Office  
270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, New York  
(716) 851-7220  
Please contact Maurice Moore at  
(716) 851-7220 for an appointment.