

FACT SHEET

Gowanda Day Habilitation Site Update

November 2008



Voluntary Cleanup Program

Project No. V00463

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is pleased to update you on work completed by the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) addressing environmental impacts from historical activities at the Gowanda Day Habilitation Center. The Gowanda Day Habilitation Center facility is located at 4 Industrial Place in the Village of Gowanda, Cattaraugus County. Cleanup work at the site is being performed under New York State's Voluntary Cleanup Program.

SITE BACKGROUND

The site is a nearly 6 acre parcel consisting of the Gowanda Day Habilitation Center building, parking lots, access roads, landscaped yards and a garden. The 56,000 square foot building was previously used by several manufacturing operations starting in the 1950s.

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.



OMRDD had previously performed environmental investigations at the facility. The investigations had determined that cleanup actions, known as Interim Remedial Measures (IRMs), were appropriate and necessary to address contamination that consisted of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the site soils and shallow groundwater. An IRM is a cleanup action that can be conducted at a site relatively quickly in order to minimize environmental or health risks.

To address the contamination, OMRDD, through the services of the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY), performed the IRM by installing a groundwater and soil vapor extraction system. The system, which has been operating since May 2005, consists of pneumatic pumps placed in a number of extraction wells. These pumps extract contaminated groundwater and soil vapor and send it to a treatment system which removes the contaminants. After the contaminants are removed, the treated groundwater is discharged into the municipal sewage system and the cleaned air is discharged into the atmosphere.

The system was installed in a manner that allows for the re-use of the facility with minimal disturbance or alterations of the building. All work completed was observed by representatives from DASNY and NYSDEC. In September 2006, OMRDD submitted a report entitled "IRM Completion and Remedial Alternative Report," which details the completed

work. In addition to describing the remediation, the report also discusses alternatives that were reviewed in addition to the IRM. The report is available for public review at the locations listed below.

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CLEANUP ACTION

The Remedial Alternatives report recommends that the installation of the groundwater and soil vapor extraction system serve as the final cleanup action, or remedy, at the Gowanda Day Habilitation facility. The report does note that the system requires some enhancements, some of which have been completed while others will need to be implemented as the system continues to operate.

Monitoring has been ongoing since the system began operating in May 2005, and the results indicate that the IRM has been effective. The data shows that the IRM has reduced impacts to the soils by approximately 87% and to groundwater by approximately 62%. It is important to note, however, that although the system has reduced contaminant concentrations in both soils and groundwater, it will have to continue to operate for some time to attain remedial goals for the site.

NEXT STEPS

A **30 day public comment period** on DEC's selection of the IRM as the final remedy will run from **November 19 until December 18, 2008**. Public comments may be sent to Mr. Maurice Moore, the DEC project manager, at the address listed below.

Enhancements will continue to be made to the system. From time to time work at the site will be apparent, such as drilling and boring to facilitate extraction of contaminants. Residents may also expect some occasional truck traffic, as well as the continued presence of monitoring and operational personnel. This is normal for a site transitioning into a period of long term operation and monitoring.

As the remediation progresses, please be assured that the site will continue to be monitored by the NYSDEC. Updates such as this will be distributed from time to time to inform you about the progress.

WHO SHOULD I CALL IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SITE?

If you have questions about the site or cleanup activities, please feel welcome to contact the representatives below:

Site-Related Environmental Questions

Mr. Maurice Moore
Project Manager
NYSDEC
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 851-7220
mfmoore@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-Related Health Questions

Mr. Cameron O'Connor,
Public Health Specialist
NYSDOH
584 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 847-4385

LOCATIONS TO VIEW PROJECT RELATED DOCUMENTS

To keep you informed, NYSDEC has set up two locations at which you may review project documents. These locations include:

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

NYSDEC Region 9 Office
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14203
(716) 851-7220
(Please call for appointment.)