

NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF



**ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION**

Dear Interested Citizen:

This Fact Sheet provides notification of an availability session for the Remedial Action Selection Report (RASR) proposed for the BASF Closed Landfill site in the City of Rensselaer. The availability session will be held on June 15th from 5:00pm to 7:30pm, at The Rensselaer County Community Center. Questions and concerns will be answered individually by NYSDEC and NYSDOH staff. The comment period which started on May 5th has been extended until June 29th. For more information, please contact:

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NYSDEC

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

Mr. Mark VanValkenburg
Section Chief
NYSDOH
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180-2216
(518) 402-7860

FACT SHEET

BASF Closed Landfill Site

Site No. V00521-4
City of Rensselaer, Rensselaer County
June 1, 2006

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is announcing an availability session to provide information and answer questions about the proposed Remedial Action Selection Report for the implementation of a remedial program at the BASF Closed Landfill Site. The Site is located at 36 Riverside Avenue in the City of Rensselaer. NYSDEC and NYSDOH staff will address individual questions and concerns during the session. This cleanup is being conducted as part of a voluntary cleanup agreement between BASF and NYSDEC. The availability session will be located at the Rensselaer County Community Center (at 3^d and Washington), on June 15th from 5:00 pm to 7:30pm. The comment period which started on May 5, 2006 and was scheduled to end June 5, 2006, has been extended until June 29, 2006.

BACKGROUND

The site is approximately 11 acres and was the former disposal area for the previous owner of the parcel (the GAF Corp.) until 1978. It is bounded by Riverside Avenue to the west, by Conrail railroad tracks to the east, by the BASF manufacturing plant to the north, and by the South 40 Site to the south. There are no residential properties adjacent to the site. The site was listed as a Class 4 site (a site that has been properly closed and continues to be monitored) in the NYS Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites when a voluntary cleanup agreement (VCA) was signed in April 2002. This site would be reclassified if the VCA is not completed. The remediation of the Main Plant discovered contaminated ground water migrating from the landfill and onto the Main Plant. Excavation of contaminated soil on the Main Plant indicated that the source of the soil contamination continued into the landfill.



REMEDIAL INVESTIGATIONS

After purchasing the site in 1978, BASF initiated several investigations and installed a soil cap over the closed landfill in 1982. Ground water samples collected in 1985 and 1986 led to concerns about elevated levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). In May 1987, NYSDEC approved the installation of a two gallon per minute pump and treat system. A site investigation in the summer 2002 and test trench investigation in the winter 2002 identified two areas of concern (being called the northern zone and the southern zone) with elevated VOCs and co-mingled metals. The hot spots were delineated in the spring 2004. A groundwater collection system (GCS) was installed along the north, west, and south boundaries in 2004 and 2005. The GCS has been operating since the summer 2005.

PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTIVITIES

The Remedial Action Selection Report (RASR) outlines the proposed remedial activities designed to eliminate any potential exposures. The following activities would be implemented:

- Soil excavation would target elevated levels of VOC contaminated soil in the northern zone and the southern zone and assumes that removing the contaminants of concern (VOCs) in the two hot spots will also remove any significant pockets of metals and semi-volatile organic compounds because the contaminants tend to occur together.
- The GCS is a system of collection trenches installed deep enough to reach the underlying clay. The GCS will continue to operate and is designed to capture the ground water migrating from the landfill, eliminating off-site migration, off-site impacts, or potential off-site exposures.
- All areas of excavation will be backfilled and covered with a phyto-remediation landfill cover. This alternative to a traditional landfill cap uses plants to minimize dust, surface soil erosion, contaminant runoff, the volume of leachate and the volume of impacted ground water. This type of cover also provides micro organisms and plant enzymes (at the roots) that help breakdown contaminants in the soil.

The cover will also achieve the goal of eliminating the potential for exposure to the contaminated soil remaining on-site and meets the requirements for a landfill cap, which include reducing rainfall infiltration (because it is stored by the vegetation), providing erosion control, and isolating the landfill.

The plants will mature into a wildlife habitat with a mature forest and meadow complex. The habitat will comprise three planting zones: a core area with a dense system of small trees and shrubs; a meadow with native wildflowers and grasses; and finally a variety of larger trees (also native to this area) to provide a transitional environment and buffer the inner zones from the surrounding urban and industrial areas.

DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES

Public understanding and involvement are important to the success of New York's Voluntary Cleanup Program. As the project progresses, NYSDEC will distribute fact sheets, like this one, to keep you informed. In addition, NYSDEC has also placed site documents in a document repository.

NYSDEC has established a document repository for the BASF Closed Landfill Site at:

Rensselaer Public Library
810 Broadway (old National Bank)
Rensselaer, NY (518) 462-1193
M-F: 10:00am to 5:00pm, then **on M-W ONLY** 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Saturday: 9:00 to 12 noon