Introduction

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) welcomes public comment as it reviews a draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Work Plan for the 251 Homer Street Redevelopment Site in Olean, Cattaraugus County. The work plan outlines an environmental investigation to be performed at the site. Previous industrial activities at the site have contaminated soil, and possibly groundwater, and soil vapor. A Remedial Investigation will help to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the site as well as options for cleaning it up if necessary.

The investigation work will be performed under New York State’s Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP). The BCP provides existing or potential property owners financial incentives to promote the voluntary cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield sites. Brownfields typically are former industrial properties where the real or perceived presence of contamination impedes reuse of the site. Benson Construction and Development, LLC volunteered to clean up the site and plans to redevelop the property.

Are People Exposed to Contamination?

Currently there are no known pathways through which people may be exposed to contamination. However, additional sampling and evaluation of potential exposure pathways will be completed during the remedial investigation.

Public Comments about the Remedial Investigation Work Plan

The RI Work Plan is available for public viewing at the locations listed in this fact sheet. NYSDEC will accept written public comments about the RI Work Plan for 30 days, from March 25 to April 23, 2011. Written comments should be submitted to the DEC project manager listed on the following page.

What Will the Upcoming Investigation Work Involve?

The planned remedial investigation will provide further environmental data to determine the nature and extent of contamination and if certain areas of the site require cleanup or other remedial precautions. The RI work will include:

- Drilling soil borings;
- Excavating test pits;
- Installing groundwater monitoring wells, and
- Sampling and analyzing surface and subsurface soil, fill materials, surface water, sediment and groundwater.

Next Steps

NYSDEC will consider public comments before it approves the RI work plan. The approved plan will be available for public review at the locations listed below and on the DEC website (see link below). After it is approved,
Benson Construction and Development, LLC may proceed with the environmental investigation at the site. The RI is expected to begin in Spring 2011. NYSDEC will keep the public informed during the cleanup and redevelopment process of the 251 Homer Street Redevelopment site through fact sheets similar to this one.

**Site Background**

The project site is situated in an industrially zoned area of the City of Olean, Cattaraugus County, New York. The site currently consists of approximately 16.68 acres of vacant land that was originally developed in 1890 for the oil industry and used for refinery purposes and as a petroleum storage tank farm. Historically, nearby adjoining properties were also developed and utilized in association with oil refining operations and petroleum storage. Petroleum refining operations ceased in 1954.

Previous preliminary environmental investigations at the site revealed a number of environmental impacts. A thick tar-like petroleum substance is present in soil at the site. Samples of soil revealed concentrations of various organic compounds and metals that exceeded New York State standards. The proposed Remedial Investigation Work Plan will facilitate a comprehensive investigation of site soil, groundwater, surface water, sediment and soil vapor.

**Who Should I Call If I Have Questions About the Site?**

NYSDEC values and appreciates public comments and questions. If you have questions, please contact the appropriate project representative:

**Environmental Questions**
Mr. Chad Staniszewski  
NYSDEC  
270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
(716) 851-7220  
region9@gw.dec.state.ny.us

**Health Questions**
Mr. Matthew J. Forcucci  
NYSDOH  
584 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 847-4501  
beei@health.state.ny.us

**Project Redevelopment Questions**
Don Benson  
Benson Construction and Development, LLC  
221 Homer Street  
Olean, NY 14760  
(716) 372-1893  
dbenson@benson-construction.com

**Locations to View Project Documents**

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

**Olean Public Library**
134 North Second Street  
Olean, New York 14760  
Phone: (716) 372-0200  
Mon-Thurs: 9am to 9pm  
Fri: 9am to 6pm  
Sat: 10am to 5pm (Sep. – June)  
Sun: 1pm to 4pm (Oct. -April)

**NYSDEC Region 9 Office**
270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14203-2999  
Phone: (716) 851-7220  
Hours: M-F 8:30am-4:45pm  
(Please call for appointment)

You may also view project documents online at [http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37554.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37554.html).

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**Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email**

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page:  
[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html)  
It’s *quick*, it’s *free*, and it will help keep you *better informed.*