Interim Remedial Measure Approved

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in consultation with New York State Department of Health (DOH), has approved an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) work plan for the 945 Kenmore Avenue site (“site”) located at 945 Kenmore Avenue, Tonawanda, Erie County. Please see the map for the site location. Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the location identified below under "Where to Find Information."

Interim Remedial Measure Work Plan

An IRM is a cleanup activity that may be performed when a source of contamination or exposure pathway (the way in which a person may contact contamination) can be effectively addressed without extensive investigation and evaluation.

The IRM work plan describes the proposed cleanup activities that include:

- Demolition of the existing structure and rerouting/termination of the existing on-site subsurface utilities required for demolition.
- Removal of the two existing on-site underground storage tanks (USTs) and any associated piping.
- Removal of the four existing in-ground hydraulic lift systems.
- Removal and off-site disposal of soil exhibiting an unacceptable degree of nuisance characteristics in the four pump island areas, fill port areas, and hydraulic lift areas.

Summary of the Investigation

Environmental investigations have identified petroleum contamination resulting from the operation of a former gasoline station. Petroleum compounds are found in the shallow soil from 2 to 8 feet below ground surface near the former pump islands and USTs. The concentrations of the petroleum compounds are below Residential Soil Cleanup Objectives but exhibit nuisance petroleum odors. Groundwater samples meet DEC Groundwater Criteria except for a few naturally occurring metals and Methyl tert butyl ether (MTBE), a gasoline additive, found slightly above Groundwater Criteria in one well.
Next Steps

The approved IRM work plan is available to the public (see “Where to Find Information” below). After the activities detailed in the work plan have been completed, a Construction Completion Report will be prepared that documents the activities that were performed.

DEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

Background

Site Location: The Site is located in a mixed residential/commercial business area at 945 Kenmore Avenue in the Town of Tonawanda. The Site is bordered by residential properties to the North, Kenmore Avenue to the south, Fairmount Avenue to the east and South Irving Terrace to the west. Residential properties are located on the side streets surrounding the site.

Site Features: The site consists of one 0.552 acre parcel which is developed with a one single-story structure that was constructed in 1949. Over three-quarters of the site is currently covered with asphaltic pavement and the remnants of a concrete slab.

Current Zoning and Land Use: The site is within a C-General Business district and is currently vacant.

Past Use of the Site: The site was utilized as a gasoline station from at least 1950 to 1986 and as an automotive repair facility from at least 1958 to 2010; such operations included automotive body repair work from at least 1994 to 2010. Several prior petroleum spills have been reported at the Site related to the removal of former underground storage tanks (USTs) and petroleum contamination observed in the utility corridor along Kenmore Avenue, adjacent to the former pump islands. Two USTs and four in-ground hydraulic lifts remain at the Site.

Site Geology and Hydrogeology: Bedrock underlying the site consists of the Upper Silurian Akron Dolostone and Salina Group; specifically, the Camillus, Syracuse, and Vernon Formations, described as shale, dolostone, salt, and gypsum. Thickness generally ranges between 400 and 700 feet.

Surface deposits in the area of the site consist of lacustrine silt and clay. Thickness is variable, and generally ranges up to 300 feet.

Groundwater is approximately 25 feet below ground surface. Groundwater flow is to the southwest.

Brownfield Cleanup Program: New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) encourages the voluntary cleanup of contaminated properties known as "brownfields" so that they can be reused and redeveloped. These uses include recreation, housing, business or other uses.

A brownfield is any real property that is difficult to reuse or redevelop because of the presence or potential presence of contamination.

For more information about the BCP, visit: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information
Project documents are available at the following location to help the public stay informed.

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
Attn: Kenmore Branch
160 Delaware Road
Kenmore, NY 14217
716-873-2842

Who to Contact
Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

Project Related Questions
Timothy Dieffenbach
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
270 Michigan Ave
Buffalo, NY 14203
716-851-7220
timothy.dieffenbach@dec.ny.gov

Site-Related Health Questions
Renata Ockerby
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower, Room 1787 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237
518-402-7860
BEEI@health.ny.gov

We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.
Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email
Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. DEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html. It’s quick, it’s free, and it will help keep you better informed.

As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.