COMMUNITY UPDATE

FORMER GENEVA FOUNDRY SITE
Off-Site Air Deposition Area Cleanup

State Superfund Program

23 Jackson Street, Geneva, NY 14456

2021 Construction Season Completed

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has completed remedial construction activities for 2021 in neighborhoods adjacent to the Former Geneva Foundry Site (Site No. C835027A), located at 23 Jackson Street in Geneva, Ontario County. Twenty-nine properties impacted by air deposition of contaminants from the former Geneva Foundry were cleaned up during 2021. This is in addition to the 143 properties within the off-site remedial project boundary that previously received No Further Action determinations. Based on the January 2017 Record of Decision (ROD), the cleanup includes removal of contaminated soil from off-site properties located near the former foundry (see Figure 1 on page 2). Remedial construction began in 2017 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

Soil removal and restoration activities will resume within the off-site air deposition boundary in late winter or early spring 2022, weather permitting (see Figure 2 on page 3). DEC is meeting with owners of properties identified for remediation to review and discuss their soil data, the proposed remedial and restoration activities, and to confirm their consent for property access to allow remediation to take place.

Please contact DEC and DOH if you have questions about these activities.

Highlights of Activities Planned for 2022

- Up to 38 contaminated properties are anticipated to be cleaned up in 2022, pending property owner agreements. This is in addition to 172 properties where remedial activities were previously completed.

- Landscaping and other restoration activities will be completed at properties where remediation was completed during 2021, but where final restoration was not completed before winter.

- Construction will occur in areas along Exchange, Wadsworth, Middle, Genesee, Lewis, and Geneva streets (see Figure 2 on page 3).

- Work and equipment operation will typically take place five days per week (Monday through Friday), generally between 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

- Construction activities will be performed by LaBella Associates of Rochester, with oversight provided by DEC’s engineering consultant, Ecology and Environment Engineering and Geology, P.C.

- DEC staff and contractors will continue to follow New York State guidelines for essential construction projects during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

- Areas that are disturbed during the cleanup will be restored to pre-existing conditions in consultation with each property owner. Prior to being brought to the site, all backfill materials will be tested to demonstrate that they meet DEC requirements that are protective of public health and the environment.

- Three existing construction staging areas on State Street, Middle Street, and Lehigh Avenue will continue to operate. Cleanup of the staging area at 60 Middle Street is expected to occur in late 2022/early 2023.
Site Background

The Geneva Foundry was operational from the late 19th century until 1988 and manufactured a variety of metal products. Air emissions (fly ash) from the former foundry’s furnace contained lead and arsenic, which were deposited onto the soil in the surrounding area. DEC is designing and implementing site-specific cleanup plans of mostly residential properties to remove the contaminants from impacted properties.

The project is being funded and conducted by DEC under the State Superfund Program. Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the locations identified below under “Where to Find Information.” Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on DEC’s website at: https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/107812.html

Excavation plans for each property are reviewed with property owners prior to construction.
DEC Will Remove Contaminated Soils and Restore Properties

Soil identified for remediation will be excavated and disposed of off-site at a permitted facility. All areas that are disturbed during the removal will be restored, including lawns, sidewalks, driveways, trees, shrubs, garden beds, sheds, decks, etc.

Trucks will be lined with plastic sheeting and covered to properly secure all material during transport. Truck traffic patterns will be designed to minimize congestion on local roads and maintain safety in the community. Truck traffic will also be minimized when school buses are picking up and dropping off students near work zones.

DEC and DOH approved a Community Air Monitoring Plan that requires continuous air monitoring during all excavation and backfilling activities to ensure no additional contamination is released to the environment or adjacent properties during the cleanup.

DEC will continue to conduct soil sampling within the remedial boundary to inform the preparation of additional property-specific excavation and restoration plans. DEC will continue to keep residents informed as areas are scheduled for cleanup. DEC is adaptively managing this project to ensure the remediation and restoration activities are completed as efficiently as practicable while continuing to ensure the protection of public health and the environment.
Remedial Action Status

Since 2017, DEC and DOH have completed investigations and/or cleanups of 172 properties in the off-site remedial area and issued “No Further Action” letters to the owners.

Approximately 38 properties are expected to be cleaned up in 2022, and the final 29 properties are anticipated to be cleaned up in 2023.

More information about the cleanup action is available at: https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/107812.html.

Property features affected by the cleanup will be restored in kind.