The public is invited to comment on a proposed remedy being reviewed by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to address contamination related to the ENRX, Inc-Voelker Analysis site ("site") in the City of Buffalo, 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."

The cleanup activities will be performed and funded by the site owner, Diamond Hurwitz Scrap, LLC (applicant) with oversight provided by DEC. When DEC is satisfied that cleanup requirements have been achieved, the applicant may be eligible for tax credits to offset the costs of performing cleanup activities and for redevelopment of the site.


How to Comment
DEC is accepting written comments about the proposed cleanup plan for 45 days, from July 7 through August 21, 2015. The draft Remedial Investigation and Alternative Analysis Report (RIAAR) containing the proposed site remedy is available for public review at the location identified below under "Where to Find Information." Please submit comments to DEC project manager listed under Project Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area below.

The proposed remedy consists of:

1. Installation of a groundwater pump and control system to prevent impacted groundwater from exiting the site, by pumping the groundwater from the northern, down gradient end of the site and treating with granulated activated carbon before discharging to the local municipal sewers;
2. Covering the remaining, contaminated near surface soil/fill with either concrete/asphalt pavement or a minimum of one foot of clean soil or crushed stone placed on top of a demarcation layer;
3. Installation of a sub-slab depressurization system to prevent contaminant-impacted soil vapor from accumulating beneath the concrete slab floor of the on-site building and impacting the indoor air;
4. Imposing an environmental easement on the property that will restrict it to commercial or industrial uses; and,
5. Implementing a Site Management Plan that will detail the management of any future excavations in areas of remaining contamination, detail site monitoring requirements, (including groundwater monitoring), require a soil vapor intrusion investigation and/or mitigation on all newly constructed on-site buildings and detail the steps necessary for the periodic review and certification of these site controls.

In addition to the proposed remedy, interim remedial measures (IRMs) have already been completed at the site. An IRM is an activity to address both emergency and non-emergency site conditions, which can be undertaken without extensive investigation and evaluation, to prevent, mitigate or remedy environmental damage. The IRMs completed at the site included:

1. The identification and removal of six underground storage tanks including excavation and off-site disposal of approximately 1200 tons of impacted soils, and the removal of 24 tons of construction and demolition debris from test pits completed during the remedial investigation.
2. Placement of one to two feet of clean soil and crushed stone over the surface of areas where buried utilities prevented the excavation of test pits.
3. Completion of groundwater pumping tests to assess the effectiveness of capturing and preventing contaminated groundwater from migrating off site.

The completed IRMs, coupled with the planned control and treatment of groundwater, the site cover and the sub-slab depressurization systems for existing and new buildings on site will reduce the risk of exposure to contaminants.

Summary of the Investigation
Consistent with the initial findings of earlier site investigations, the remedial investigation confirmed that chlorinated solvent-related volatile organic compound (VOC) impacts are localized to the site, with the highest concentrations identified in the groundwater near the site’s southwest corner, where underground storage tanks were once located. To a lesser degree, semi-volatile organic compounds, PCBs and select metals were also found in the groundwater and soils.

Next Steps
DEC will consider public comments received on the proposed remedy presented in the draft RIAAR and ultimately issue a final Decision Document. New York State Department of Health (DOH) must also concur with the remedy. The final RIAAR (with revisions if necessary) and the Decision Document will be made available to the public. The applicant(s) may then design and perform the cleanup action to address the site contamination, with oversight by DEC.

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

Background
Location: The site is located at 766 New Babcock Street, near Williams Street, in the eastern portion of the City of Buffalo, Erie County.

Site Features: The Site 0.85-acre site consists of a warehouse/maintenance building with an attached
office, fenced perimeter and parking lot, outdoor equipment storage area and two entrance driveways with electronic security gates. The site is directly east of and across the street (Hannah Street) from the owner’s existing metal recycling facility.

Current Zoning/Uses: The site is zoned for industrial use and is currently used by the metal recycling facility for storage and office space. The surrounding area is developed with the recycling facility to the west, NFTA bus garages to the southeast, vacant lots to the east, and industrial buildings and manufacturing facilities to the north, along Williams Street. The nearest residential properties are approx. 1300 ft. to the southwest of the site.

Historical Use: Voelker Analysis was a small, permitted hazardous waste facility for the processing and recovery of chlorinated organic solvents. It was housed in a multi-story wood frame structure and adjoining one-story brick and concrete block building. The facility handled waste solvents such as methylene chloride, trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene and 1-1-1-trichloroethane. The facility was acquired by ENRX in August of 1987, which moved the solvent recovery operations from the wood frame building into the adjoining brick structure. In 1989, the facility’s hazardous waste recovery permit was revoked and the facility was abandoned. Between 1990 and 1992, the USEPA removed nearly 500 drums of chlorinated solvent wastes that had been left in the facility. Between 1998 and 1999, the older wood frame portion of the facility was demolished by a subsequent owner.

Site Geology and Hydrogeology: Fill material covers the entire site. It consists of sand, gravel, and silty clay mixed with varying amounts of brick, concrete and wood fragments, plastic, glass, ash and cinders. Limestone bedrock was found at a depth of 8 to 10 feet, covered with one foot or less of native silt and clay. Groundwater was found at or near the interface of overburden soil and bedrock, and flows in a northerly direction beneath the site.

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 and Erie County Public Library
1 Lafayette Square
Buffalo, NY 14203

Selected project documents are also available on DEC’s website at:
Who to Contact
Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

Project Related Questions
David Locey
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
716-851-7220
david.locey@dec.ny.gov
{Call for an appointment}

Site-Related Health Questions
Matt Forcucci
New York State Department of Health
584 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-847-4501
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.