

ELMIRA HIGH SCHOOL

Former Sperry Remington Property Cleanup

Brownfield Cleanup Program

777 South Main Street, Elmira, NY 14904

WHO TO CONTACT



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

PROJECT-RELATED QUESTIONS:

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FOR INFORMATION ON THE BROWNFIELD CLEANUP PROGRAM:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/102390.html>

Introduction

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Health (DOH) continue to oversee the ongoing investigation and cleanup activities at the Elmira High School (EHS) property to ensure a comprehensive and careful cleanup that is protective of public health and the environment while keeping the Elmira community informed of our progress and actions. Our top priority is ensuring that students, faculty, staff, and visitors will not be exposed to the site-related contamination, which is below ground Unisys Corporation, the corporate successor of the Remington Rand Company, is committed under its Brownfield Cleanup Agreement with New York State to fully investigate and implement a comprehensive cleanup of the site and any impacted off-site areas consistent with the Brownfield Cleanup Program.

Summer 2020 Activities

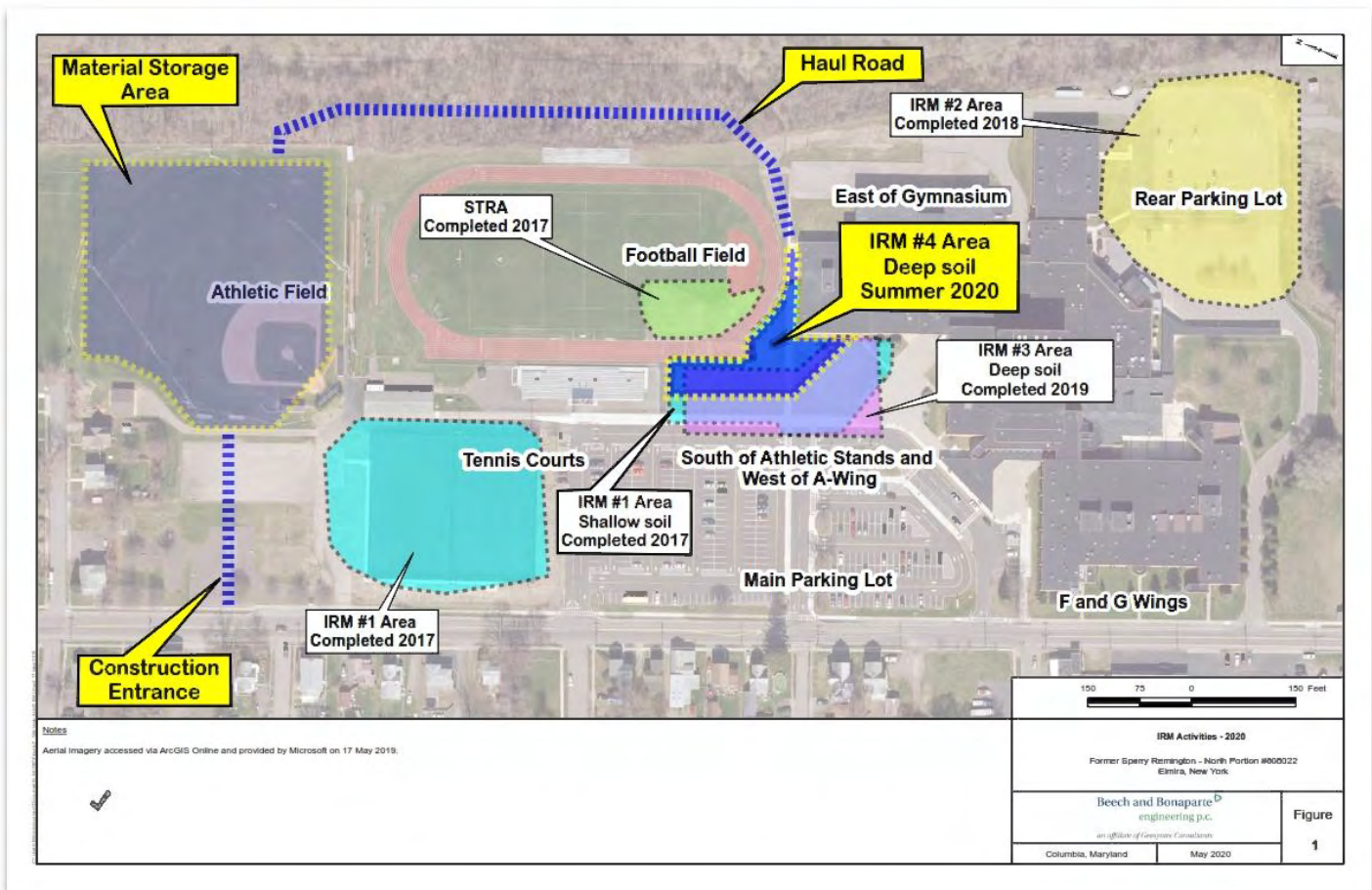
Interim Remedial Measure #4

In early June, Unisys will begin site preparations for Interim Remedial Measure No. 4 (IRM #4) to remove below-ground contaminated soil located next to the EHS building on the north and west side of the locker rooms (see Figure 1).



Cleanup activities on EHS property during summer 2019

Over the summer, an estimated 12,280 tons of soil will be excavated and taken off-site for disposal at appropriate facilities or re-used as backfill if the soil meets cleanup standards. Excavated material will be transferred to a material storage area over a temporary haul road, prepared for disposal or tested for re-use, and then loaded into clean, covered trucks for disposal exiting through the construction entrance to South Main Street. Operations will take place between 7:00 a.m. – 5 p.m. and no more than 35 trucks per day are expected to be on local roads. The work areas identified in the figure below, including excavation area, haul road, and material storage area, will not be accessible to the public for safety reasons. In addition, EHS building foundations will be monitored and protected from disturbance. Measures to control dust will be implemented so that no dust leaves work areas, and if air monitors detect dust above action levels, work will be stopped until corrective measures are in place. DEC and DOH approved a Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) for the site that requires continuous air monitoring during all excavation and backfilling activities to ensure no visible dust or PCBs are released to the school, adjacent properties, or the environment during the cleanup. Safety measures, such as fencing and clear signage, will be in place to prohibit access to the site.



STRA in the above map refers to Short-Term Response Action

The backfilled excavation will be capped with 2 feet of clean soil and the work area will then be restored with turf and sidewalks.

During IRM #4 construction activities, normal access to EHS will be through the main and rear parking lots. In addition, during construction EHS athletic and football fields will not be accessible. Prior to the anticipated start of school in September, outside access to the locker room area will be restored.

COVID-19: Ensuring a Safe Work Environment

DEC is adaptively managing this project to ensure the remediation and restoration activities are completed as safely and efficiently as practicable during the current COVID-19 public health crisis. DEC is exploring alternative ways to keep the public informed virtually and to remain engaged with all stakeholders throughout the project.

The cleanup team (Unisys and Geosyntec) and the remedial oversight team (DEC, DOH, EHS), are all coordinating and working diligently together to help protect the health and safety of the school community, residents, and construction site workers to minimize the spread of the virus and continue progress at the site. An array of strict controls including, but not limited to, CDC and DOH guidance regarding hygiene and disinfecting protocols, physical distancing practices, and use of additional personal protective equipment, in addition to monitoring and compliance with all local, state, and federal recommendations, will continue to take place throughout the remedial activities.

Next Steps

IRM #5 Football Field Complex

Unisys, under DEC oversight, has completed comprehensive investigations at the EHS football field (IRM #5) to define the nature and extent of contamination. Cleanup plans are nearly complete to implement IRM #5 this fall. The remedial work will continue north from IRM #4 to encompass the track and football field and will utilize much of the same construction infrastructure (e.g., Materials Storage Area, Haul Road) and excavation to remove soils impacted by PCBs and metals. During remedial activities, there will be no access to the football field, track, and bleachers. Enhanced communications and construction precautions will be implemented to protect the health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and visitors during normal EHS activities and every effort will be made to minimize disruption to school activities. Final details of this work will be included in a community update newsletter this summer prior to the anticipated start of the new school year.

Department of Health Outreach

DOH has been working with the Elmira City School District and the local community to learn about health concerns of current and former EHS staff. During recent public events and meetings, members of the school community and other stakeholders expressed concern with possible health related impacts associated with contaminants present on the school grounds. DOH worked with a group of EHS representatives (survey workgroup) to address these concerns. The survey work group played a key role in creating and distributing a health outcome survey that was provided to 330 current and former EHS staff in November 2019. Information about the survey was also shared with the larger community via email, social media, and traditional media. Survey responses were received by DOH via a Survey Monkey online application, by mail, email, and telephone through the end of December 2019. The results of the survey are currently being reviewed and summarized to share with the community at a later date.

Ongoing Remedial Activities at the EHS Property

Interim Site Management Plan

Unisys has implemented an Interim Site Management Plan (ISMP) to reduce the risk of exposure to below-ground contamination during school activities. The ISMP includes measures to monitor and maintain engineering controls, including cover system barriers (e.g., concrete floors, pavement, mulch beds, clean and vegetated soil) and sub-slab depressurization systems (SSDS) to prevent contaminated

vapors from mixing with indoor air. If deficiencies are found during scheduled ISMP inspections, actions will be taken to quickly address these concerns.

Comprehensive Remedial Investigation

Unisys has completed soil sampling across the majority of the EHS site to depths of 16 feet below ground. Additional delineation of soil impacts is necessary in some areas to support future on-site cleanup plans and to determine the extent of impacted soil off-site, west of the northern athletic fields. Plans for that soil sampling and a comprehensive site-wide groundwater investigation plan are currently under review and scheduled to begin soon after approval. Work is also planned to assess the attenuation or shrinking of the groundwater plumes extending east of the site toward the railroad tracks. Previous and extensive study of these plumes has been completed and found no adverse risk to the public.

Remedial Activities at Adjoining and Off-site Properties

DEC and DOH continue to strictly oversee Unisys's ongoing investigation and cleanup activities at the adjoining Southern Tier Commerce Center and off-site properties along Coldbrook Creek.

Coldbrook Creek Sampling

Unisys has identified the downstream extent of impacted sediments in Coldbrook Creek and is now investigating the extent of impacted soils along the creek banks and in the flood zone. This work will continue and additional sampling within Coldbrook Creek is scheduled for this summer to complete a study of impacts to fish and wildlife. Sampling results will be used to plan future remedial actions, as necessary.



Overbank soil sampling along Coldbrook Creek

Cleanup of Oil-Water Separator #2 (IRM - Site #808043)

Approved IRM activities for the Oil-Water Separator (OS2) on the Southern Tier Commerce Center (STCC) occurred late last year and additional work on the OS2 IRM is underway at the present time. This includes cleanup and disconnection of former industrial sewers to the drainage culvert discharging to Coldbrook Creek that will eliminate a suspected upstream source of contamination.

The IRM includes:

- 1) installation of new stormwater infrastructure;
- 2) cleaning and removal of structural elements of the OS2 chamber; and
- 3) backfilling the excavation with clean soil and completing site restoration.

At the conclusion of this work, the fenced Materials Storage Area located on the south end of STCC property will be decommissioned and restored with turf.



OS2 IRM

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION



Project documents are at these location(s):

Steele Memorial Library 101
East Church Street
Elmira, NY 14901
(607) 733-9175

Region 8 NYSDEC
Headquarters
6274 East Avon Lima Road
Avon, NY 14414
(585) 226-5324
(call for an appointment)

While repositories may be closed due to COVID-19 response, project documents are also available on the NYSDEC website at:
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37556.html or
by contacting the Project Manager, Tim Schneider at timothy.schneider@dec.ny.gov

SIGN UP TO STAY INFORMED

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>



Community Liaison Plan

DEC developed a Community Liaison Plan as a roadmap to the sources for information regarding the Elmira High School property and project activities that interest the public. For a copy of the Community Liaison Plan please visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/102390.html>