The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is committed to a careful and thorough clean-up of Hercules Inc./Dyno-Nobel Site ("site") located at 161 Ulster Ave., Ulster Park, Ulster County. DEC has postponed the schedule for selection of the final remedy based on significant public interest expressed at the March 11, 2019 public meeting on the proposed clean-up plan. This will allow additional opportunities to share site information, answer questions and gather information from the public, as well as provide an overview on the DEC’s clean-up process.

How to Participate

In case you missed the June 27, 2019 open house/public availability sessions, another opportunity to share information and get your questions answered will be held as follows:

When: July 18th – Two sessions: 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM

Where: Esopus Town Hall, 284 Broadway, Ulster Park

These sessions will focus on the history of the site, what was found during environmental investigations, and what interim clean-up activities have been performed to-date. DEC and NYS Department of Health (DOH) will be available to answer questions. Representatives from the Hercules/Dyno-Nobel Companies may also be on hand to answer questions. The public is encouraged to share any information or concerns about the site, including past and current operations, with agency staff. The sessions are designed to provide an opportunity to speak directly to DEC, DOH, and company representatives on an informal one-on-one basis to learn about the site and to share concerns and information.

Please see the map for the site location. Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the location(s) identified to the left under "Where to Find Information." We encourage you to sign-up for our LISTSERV to continue receiving updates on these actions and future public information sessions (see page 4).
Next Steps of the Process

DEC will consider information received during the June and July sessions to inform the potential revisions to the proposed remedy for the site. Ultimately, another Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) will be released for public comment, and another public meeting held as part of the formal process of remedy selection.

Following the PRAP release and public comment period, the selected remedy will be described in a document called a, “Record of Decision,” that will explain why the remedy was selected and include a formal written response to public comments received. A detailed design of the selected remedy will then be prepared, and once approved, the cleanup will be performed.

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

Site Description: The Hercules site is located at 161 Ulster Avenue, Ulster Park NY, approximately one mile south of the Village of Port Ewen. The approximately 280-acre property includes the main plant site and land east of a rail line located outside of the fenced main plant area. Manufacturing operations for primers and igniters for explosives took place in the developed portion of the site, which occupies approximately 100 acres. Disposal activities occurred within the plant area and within wetland areas in the eastern portion of the property. Most of the surrounding areas are naturally vegetated with cover types ranging from old fields to forested areas. Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC’s Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the Site ID, 356001) at: http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/erexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3

The site is listed as a Class “2” site in the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites (list of State Superfund sites). A Class 2 site represents a significant threat to public health or the environment; action is required.

Summary of the Investigation: The primary contaminants of concern at the site are inorganic (metals) in the soil site-wide and “energetic” (potentially explosive) materials in soil and wetland sediment in specific areas. Volatile organic compounds are also present in the groundwater in the former shell plant area. The presence of potentially energetic materials complicate implementation of a remedy at this site.

State Superfund Program: New York’s State Superfund Program (SSF) identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and/or the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds.

For more information about the SSF, visit: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html

For more information about the Hercules/Dyno-Nobel Site #356001, visit: https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/117410.html.
Site Location
WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

Project documents are at these locations:

Town of Esopus Library
128 Canal Street
Port Ewen, NY 12466
(845) 338-5580

Region 3 NYSDEC Office
21 S. Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, NY 12561
(845) 256-3000
(call for an appointment)

Project documents are also available on the NYSDEC website at: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/117410.html

LISTSERV:
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http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html