



Erin M. Crotty
Commissioner

FACT SHEET

July 2004

OFF-SITE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY PLANNED AT UTILITY MANUFACTURING/WONDER KING SITE

Site No. 1-30-043H

INTRODUCTION

In August 2004, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) will begin an environmental study at the Utility Manufacturing/Wonder King ("Utility") Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site. The site is located at 700-712 Main Street in the New Cassel Industrial Area, Town of North Hempstead, Nassau County, New York. **See the map on page 4 showing the location of the site.**

Utility Manufacturing is an active facility that blends and repackages materials. The company has operated since 1976 and uses over 20,000 pounds of tetrachloroethene (PCE) per year. In 1988, several dry wells and cesspools were sampled at the Utility site by Utility Manufacturing's consultant. Sampling results indicated that these drainage structures were contaminated with PCE and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs). In 1989, Utility Manufacturing pumped out and power washed the drainage structures. Endpoint sampling results met cleanup objectives. In 1996, the NYSDEC's consultant issued a preliminary site assessment (PSA) for several properties in the New Cassel Industrial Area (NCIA). Groundwater sampling results from the PSA showed PCE concentrations downgradient of the Utility site significantly greater than upgradient concentrations. The site was added to the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites as a Class 2 site in 1996. A Class 2 site is a site where hazardous waste presents a significant threat to the public health or the environment and action is required.

ON-SITE INVESTIGATION AND REMEDIAL ACTION

An on-site Remedial Investigation (RI) was conducted by Utility Manufacturing from 1997-2000

with oversight from the NYSDEC. The purpose of the on-site RI was to define the nature and extent of contamination and the risks that it may pose to human health and the environment.

The on-site RI revealed the presence of contaminated groundwater beneath the site. PCE was detected in on-site groundwater at 846 parts-per-billion (ppb), exceeding the New York State groundwater standard of 5 ppb. Maximum total VOC concentrations were 1,019 ppb. PCE was detected at a maximum level 0.0822 parts-per-million (ppm) in on-site soils, below the NYSDEC guidance value of 1.4 ppm. The presence of PCE in soil above the water table is evidence of past disposal because PCE is not naturally occurring. Two semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), benzo(a)anthracene and benzo(a)pyrene, were detected in on-site soils in concentrations exceeding guidance values. However, neither of these compounds was detected in the groundwater.

An Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) was installed in November 2001 to address the VOC contamination in the on-site groundwater. The IRM consisted of an air sparge/soil vapor extraction (AS/SVE) system, which is a combination of two technologies. AS injects air into the groundwater below the contaminated zone. As the air rises through the contaminated groundwater and disperses, VOCs in the groundwater mix with the air and rise to the surface. SVE applies a vacuum to the soil zone above the water table to capture the air and VOC mixture. The air-vapor mixture is passed through carbon to remove VOCs prior to discharge of the air to the atmosphere. The AS/SVE system was chosen as the final remedy for on-site contamination in a Record of Decision, dated March 2003.

The AS/SVE system operated from December 2001 to December 2002. By December 2002, the system had reduced total VOC levels in groundwater from 1,019 ppb to 13 ppb and the contaminant concentrations had stopped decreasing. The remaining contamination will be allowed to naturally attenuate. The property owner's consultant will obtain on-site groundwater samples annually until 2005 to detect any rebound in contaminant concentrations.

OFF-SITE INVESTIGATION

Although the on-site Remedial Investigation (RI) adequately characterized the nature and extent of the on-site contamination, Utility Manufacturing refused to adequately investigate the extent of groundwater contamination located downgradient of the site. Therefore, the NYSDEC has retained a consultant to conduct an off-site Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) using state superfund money.

As part of the investigation, soil vapor and groundwater will be sampled at many locations and depths. Groundwater profiling will be performed at 11 locations on Bond Street, State Street and Old Country Road. At each location, groundwater samples will be obtained every ten feet from the water table (approximately 50 feet deep) to 125 feet deep. The samples will be sent to a laboratory for VOC analysis. Based on the analytical results, the NYSDEC will install five permanent monitoring wells. Also, a soil gas sample will be obtained at each profiling location to determine the potential for vapor intrusion into the buildings located downgradient of the Utility site.

Field work for the Remedial Investigation will begin in August of 2004 and should be finished

within three months. The Feasibility Study will be conducted during and after completion of the Remedial Investigation. The Feasibility Study will evaluate possible actions to clean up the site. Copies of the Work Plan which describes the investigation in detail are available for your review at the locations listed below. Based on the results of the RI/FS (which may be available in the summer of 2005), the NYSDEC will propose a plan to clean up the off-site groundwater. After considering public comments on the proposed cleanup plan, NYSDEC will select the remedy and implement it.

Copies of the workplan which describes the off-site RI/FS in detail are available for your review at the document repositories listed below.

YOUR OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INFORMED AND INVOLVED

NYSDEC wants your input on the project. Your understanding and involvement can help make sure that the cleanup program effectively protects human health and the environment. If you would like to review the Off-Site RI/FS Work Plan or other documents related to this site, you may visit the document repositories listed below.

Document Repositories. Three locations provide access to information about the site:

New Cassel Environmental Justice Project 847 Prospect Ave. New Cassel Open: M-F 10:30 am- 6 pm Phone: (516) 876-9526	New Cassel Youth Services Project 817 Prospect Avenue New Cassel Open: M-F 10:30 am - 10 pm Phone : (516) 333-9224	Westbury Memorial Public Library Reference Section 445 Jefferson St., Westbury Open: M-F 9:30 am -9:00 pm Sat: 9:30 am - 5:30 pm Sun: 1- 5 pm Phone: (516) 333-0176
NYSDEC 625 Broadway Albany, NY 12233-7015 (518) 402-9621 M-F 8:30 am to 4:45 pm Attn: Jeffrey Dyber, Project Manager	NYSDEC- Region 1 SUNY Campus Loop Road, Bldg. 40 Stony Brook, NY 11790-2356 (631) 444-0350 or 1-800-342-9296 M-F 8:30 am to 4:45 pm Attn: William Fonda, Citizen Participation Specialist	

Any questions or concerns about the site investigation can be addressed by contacting Mr. Jeffrey Dyber at (518) 402-9621. For site related health concerns feel free to contact the New York State Department of Health's Mrs. Jacquelyn Nealon, Environmental Specialist, at (518) 402-7870 or 1-800-458-1158, Ext. 27880.

Figure 1 - Site Location Map

