

Dzus Fastener Company: Site Update

New York State Superfund Program

425 Union Boulevard West Islip, New York 11795

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
DZUS FASTENER SITE
REMEDATION PROGRAM:
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/114710.html>

Current Conditions at Dzus

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in coordination with the State Department of Health (DOH), is committed to ongoing monitoring of the Former Dzus Fasteners site, Willetts Creek, Lake Capri, and surrounding properties while keeping the West Islip community informed about the progress of this work.

DEC recently detected increased levels of cadmium in groundwater on and around the former Dzus Fasteners property, as well as increased levels of cadmium in the sediment and surface water of Willetts Creek. DEC determine the increased cadmium detected can be attributed to the release of contaminated groundwater from the former Dzus Fasteners property. This contaminated groundwater allows cadmium to bind to creek sediments.

DEC is pursuing enforcement action against Island Associates, Inc., the owner of the Dzus Fastener Company State Superfund Site (DEC Site No. 152033) as the party responsible for the illegal removal of an asphalt cap that previously prevented offsite migration of the cadmium on site. DEC previously requested that the owner perform a cleanup (Interim Remedial Measure, or "IRM") under DEC and DOH oversight and any necessary further investigation and cleanup to ensure full protection of public health and the environment. The owner repeatedly refused to comply with this request. As a result, New York State will implement these actions.

Immediate Next Steps

The schedule to design and implement the IRM includes:

In spring 2024, DEC in coordination with DOH will carry out a pre-design investigation that will provide information necessary to install the IRM as soon as possible. This IRM will be designed to prevent contaminated groundwater from continuing to reach Willetts Creek. The investigation will include sampling groundwater monitoring wells and some small-bore drilling in the area between 425 Union Boulevard and the west bank of Willetts Creek.

In summer 2024, the IRM will be designed and released for public comment. The public comment period will include an in-person availability session. DEC will announce the date of the availability session soon in a future Community

Update.

In fall 2024, the IRM will be installed. The investigation will determine the exact nature of this work, including its spatial extent and schedule. These details will be shared publicly when they become available.

After installation of the IRM, in fall and winter 2024, once the IRM is installed, DEC will carry out additional investigations to confirm the effectiveness of the IRM, as well as to determine the need for further remedial actions addressing impacted Willetts Creek surface water and sediment.

Health Exposure Assessment

People can be exposed to sediment and surface water contaminants such as cadmium if they get sediment particles or water on their hands and ingest through hand-to-mouth activity. Exposure may also occur by ingesting fish caught in Lake Capri. According to the Long Island Region Fish Advisories published by DOH, women under 50 and children under 15 should not eat any fish from Lake Capri. Men over 15, and women over 50 are advised to not eat more than 1 meal per month of American eel or carp, and not more than 4 meals per month of all other fish. Information about DOH fish consumption advisories can be found at: https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health_advisories/. There is no risk of exposure to site related contaminants from drinking water as the area is served by a public water supply routinely monitored to meet the State's stringent drinking water standards.

Based on recent concentrations detected by DEC, no immediate health effects are expected from exposure to cadmium or other contaminants in the Willetts Creek sediment or surface water. However, the chances for exposure to these contaminants can be reduced by taking reasonable and practical steps to minimize direct and repeated contact with creek sediment and surface water, particularly by young children. Unnecessary digging and wading in the creek should be avoided, and children and adults should wash hands after outdoor activities. The use of doormats and periodic damp mopping of floors can help reduce exposure to sediment that might be tracked indoors. It is important to note that all soils and sediments contain metals and microorganisms, and therefore it is always a good idea to minimize getting soils and sediments into the body whether it is contaminated or not.

Recent Site History

Buildings and foundations at the on-site former Dzus facility were demolished in 2020--2021. The site was redeveloped into a commercial space. Sometime before April 2021, the owner illegally removed the asphalt cap at the eastern end of the former facility. This asphalt cap was an engineering control put in place to prevent stormwater infiltration and minimizes the off-site transport of contamination through groundwater. DEC took enforcement by issuing a Notice of Violation in September 2021 for the removal of this important engineering control.

DEC and the owner entered into an Order on Consent in December 2021 with the required steps to address the cap removal. After those terms were not met, DEC issued a second Notice of Violation in September 2022 immediately requiring a temporary cap which was installed in October 2022. As of February 2024, the new permanent cap was installed by the owner.

In accordance with the Site Management Plan, monitoring of groundwater, surface water, and sediment was performed following completion of the remediation project. Ongoing monitoring showed increasing cadmium concentrations in groundwater downgradient of the former Dzus facility. It is important to note that groundwater at the site is not a source of potable water and is not being used for irrigation purposes.

Increasing cadmium concentrations in sediment and surface water of Willetts Creek were also observed in the area behind Captree Plaza. DEC believes the increases are attributable to cadmium-impacted groundwater discharged to the creek when the asphalt cap was removed.

In addition to the sampling of groundwater, surface water, and sediment, fish samples were collected in June 2023 from Lake Capri and upstream of the lake in Willetts Creek. Results from the fish sampling show that elevated concentrations of cadmium remain present in most of the species sampled. Additional rounds of sampling will be needed to determine if changes to the existing DOH-issued fish consumption advisory for Lake Capri are warranted.

Further Information

New York State's top priority continues to be ensuring that residents, students, faculty, and all other community members do not become exposed to site-related contamination and that the site remedy remains effective.

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION



Project documents are at these location(s):

West Islip Public Library
3 Higbie Lane
West Islip, New York 11795
(631) 661 7080

Region 1 NYSDEC Headquarters
SUNY at Stony Brook
50 Circle Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790
(631) 444-0200
(call for an appointment)

Project documents are also available on the NYSDEC website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/114710.html>

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/152033/>

DEC encourages residents and other community stakeholders to sign-up for our **LISTSERV** to continue receiving updates on these actions: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>

The DEC site webpage contains further information on the current status of the site, along with information on site history and links to previous site documents:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/114710.html>

DEC is committed to ongoing monitoring of Willetts Creek, Lake Capri, and the surrounding properties while keeping the West Islip Community informed of our actions. The site is subject to several ongoing controls to properly manage the site.

Information about DOH fish consumption advisories can be found at: https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health_advisories/