
EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

ALCO-MAXON SITE – PARCEL A

City of Schenectady / Schenectady County / Site No. C447042 / November 2016

Prepared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this notice is to describe the progress of the cleanup at the former American Locomotive Company (ALCO) property (55.78 acres) in the Brownfield Cleanup Program and to inform the public about a change in the Site remedy. ALCO-Maxon Site – Parcel A (Site) is 19.15 acres of the former ALCO property located at 301 Nott Street in the City of Schenectady. On August 14, 2014, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) issued a decision document which selected a remedy to clean up the Site. While widening the Mohawk River and completing the site cover adjacent to the river, a petroleum sheen appeared on the surface of the river along an 80 foot stretch of the shoreline. The sheen was reported to the New York State Spill Hotline on August 3, 2016 and became Spill number 1604483. Based upon a subsequent investigation which included the installation of soil borings along the shoreline, the source of the petroleum has been determined to be contaminated soil in the subsurface of the Parcel A site. In order to remediate the source that is causing the surface water contamination, a remedial element is being added to the ALCO-Maxon Site – Parcel A Decision Document. This new remedial element calls for In-Situ Chemical Oxidation in the area identified as the source of the sheen.

This Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) will become part of the Administrative Record for this Site. The information here is a summary of what can be found in greater detail in documents that have been placed in the following repositories:

New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
1130 North Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12305-2083
Phone: (518) 357-2045
Hours: Mon-Friday 8:30 am – 4:45 pm
Project Manager: John R. Strang, P.E. (518) 357-2390

Schenectady Public Library
99 Clinton Street
Schenectady, NY 12306
Phone: (518) 388-4500
Hours: Mon-Thursday 9am - 9pm
Fri-Saturday 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday 1 pm – 5 pm

Although this is not a request for comments, interested persons are invited to contact the Department's Project Manager for this site to obtain more information or have questions answered.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION AND ORIGINAL REMEDY

2.1 Site History, Contamination, and Selected Remedy

1. ALCO-Maxon Site – Parcel A has the Mohawk River as its northern boundary and the ALCO-Maxon Site – Parcel B as its southern border. The site currently is under development with construction of a casino with adjoining hotel, parking garage and surface lot. A harbor which is connected to the Mohawk River, has been constructed and spans both Parcel A and Parcel B.
2. While widening the Mohawk River, constructing an armored shoreline [with large (greater than 12 inch) stone] and a walking path along the shoreline, a petroleum sheen appeared on the surface of the river along an 80 foot stretch of the shoreline in the western end of the Site. The sheen was reported to the Department Spill Hotline and was recorded as Spill number 1604483. The remedial party placed a hard river boom and surface absorbent pads inside the river boom, to temporarily contain and remove any petroleum from the river.
3. The remedial party subsequently submitted an Investigation Work Plan to define the nature and extent of the source material that is the cause of the petroleum release. The Department accepted the Work Plan on August 11, 2016.
4. Based on the results of the investigation, the depth and width of the contaminated material has been determined. The remedial party developed and submitted a Remedial Work Plan in late August 2016 and the Department approved the Plan in September. The Remedial Work Plan includes performing in-situ chemical injections to remediate the source material, placement of a geo-synthetic clay liner (GCL) to contain surface releases, and the installation of four monitoring wells to determine the effectiveness of the injections.
5. Use of in-situ chemical oxidation as a remedial element is an addition to the selected remedy in the August 14, 2014 ALCO-Maxon Site – Parcel A Decision Document. In-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) will be implemented to treat petroleum contaminants in the subsurface soil which are causing the petroleum sheen. A chemical oxidant will be injected into the subsurface through temporary boreholes created with a direct-push drill rig at a depth of 5 to 45 feet below grade. The contractor is injecting approximately 16,000 pounds of oxidant into the subsurface soil. The GCL will provide control/containment of any release to the surface river water as a result of the ISCO injections.

3.0 CURRENT STATUS

Following Department review and approval of the ALCO-Maxon Site – Parcel A Spill 1604483 Remedial Work Plan, the ISCO work, installation of the GCL, and the installation of the monitoring wells commenced in September 2016. The frequency for the inspection and monitoring of the four new ground water monitoring wells is monthly, and is formalized in the ALCO-Maxon Site – Parcel A Site Management Plan (SMP).

4.0 DESCRIPTION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

4.1 New Information

Following the reworking of the river bank along the ALCO-Maxon Site – Parcel A site, a petroleum sheen on the Mohawk River appeared along an 80 foot in the western part of the site. The sheen was reported and became Spill 1604483.

4.2 Comparison of Changes with Original Remedy

The remediation of Spill 1604483 (containment and treatment of petroleum contaminated soil) using in-situ chemical oxidation will be completed as part of the remediation of the ALCO-Maxon Site – Parcel A. Any additional oxidation injections, if needed, will be completed under the SMP for this site. Adding ISCO as a soil and a groundwater remedy is the reason for this ESD. The remedy remains protective of public health and the environment.

5.0 SCHEDULE AND MORE INFORMATION

The Department is issuing this ESD as a notice that a change in remedy has been made. Formal amendment of the decision document is not necessary because the Department is not reconsidering the overall remedy. The addition of petroleum remediation and containment is not considered to be a fundamental change to the remedy.

The ESD will be placed in the document repository and a fact sheet will be issued to the Site contact list.

If you have questions or need additional information you may contact any of the following:

NYSDEC Project Manager, John R. Strang, P.E., Environmental Engineer 2, (518) 357-2390
Region 4 Headquarters, 1130 North Westcott Road, Schenectady, NY 12306

NYSDEC Regional Citizen Participation Specialist, Rick Georgeson, (518) 357-2075
Region 4 Headquarters, 1130 North Westcott Road, Schenectady, NY 12306

For site-related public health questions, please contact:

NYSDOH Project Manager, Justin Deming, Health Specialist III, (518) 402-7860
Center for Environmental Health, Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, Room 1787, Albany, NY 12237

11/01/16

Date

11/01/2016

Date

John R. Strang

John R. Strang, P.E. Project Manager
Region 4 Division of Environmental Remediation

Rick Mustico

Richard A. Mustico, P.E.
Region 4 Hazardous Waste Remediation Engineer

11/2/2016



Date

Robert J. Cozzy, P.E., Director
Remedial Bureau B

November 9, 2016



Date

Robert W. Schick, P.E., Director
Division of Environmental Remediation