Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study Work Plan for the Three Star Anodizing Site # 314058 Public Informational Meeting Announced

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Three Star Anodizing Site
Site # 314058
Public Informational Meeting Scheduled for 7:00 PM
April 4, 2001
at the
American Legion Hall
on
7 Spring Street
in
Wappingers Falls
to Discuss the Remedial Investigation & Feasibility Study Work Plan

The Work Plan for the investigation is available in the document repositories listed on this fact sheet.

The objective of this notice is to notify the community about the public informational meeting for the Three Star Anodizing Site scheduled on April 4, 2001 at 7:00 PM at the American Legion Hall on 7 Spring Street in the Village of Wappingers Falls.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) have scheduled the public meeting to familiarize the public with the current status of the Three Star Anodizing site and the pending environmental investigation of the site. The NYSDEC has developed a work plan and will schedule field work to investigate the nature and extent of environmental contamination at the Three Star Anodizing site and the impacts to the surrounding community and environment.

The Three Star Anodizing site is identified as a Class 2 Site on the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites. The Site is listed in the Registry as Site # 314058. A Class 2 designation means that the site poses a "significant threat to public health or the environment - action required."

Background: The Three Star Anodizing site is in what is presently called the Market Street Industrial Park along the Wappingers Creek in the Village of Wappingers Falls. Numerous industrial activities have been conducted at the Site since 1832. These include, among others, Dutchess Print Works (Dutchess Bleachery) a.k.a. Garner Mills from 1832 to 1958, a manufactured gas plant (MGP) that provided gas for lighting in the surrounding community and power to operate machinery at the print works from 1875 to 1913, Three Star Anodizing from 1958 to 1990, a chemical manufacturer and distributer, and a felt hat manufacturer. Chemicals known to have been used or produced at the site include volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), and metals.

Waste waters are documented to have been discharged directly to the Wappingers Creek and to an on-site lagoon which discharged directly to the Creek. During operation of the MGP, coal cinder wastes were used to fill portions of the site, including parts of the Creek. The manufactured gas was held in two on-site gas holders. The gas holder foundations are still present at the site. It is likely that most of the industries that operated at and near the site discharged wastes to soils and to the creek prior to the implementation of environmental regulations in the 1970s and 1980s.

From 1958 to 1980, Three Star Anodizing discharged to surface soils and to a raceway (drainage channel) that led to the waste lagoon and subsequently the creek. In 1975, the Three Star facility was required to obtain a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit to continue discharging wastewater to the Creek via the raceway. From 1977 to 1979, Three Star occasionally exceeded the SPDES effluent limitations for nickel and copper.

Previous Investigation Conclusions: Although previous investigations have been limited, several contaminants have been identified in several site media. Groundwater samples were collected from two on-site wells in 1986. The sampling procedure and the construction of the wells is not known and the wells can no longer be located.

Three volatile organic compounds (VOCs); 1,1,1-trichloroethane, trichloroethene and tetrachloroethene were detected above groundwater standards. Several metals, including aluminum, chromium, nickel, and mercury, were also found above groundwater standards.

Surface water samples were collected from Wappingers Creek in December 1985. A variety of VOCs and semi volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) were found in the creek water above water quality standards. The sediment in the lagoon was found to have elevated concentrations of VOCs, SVOCs and metals when it was sampled in November 1986.

Investigation Work Plan: During the pending Remedial Investigation, surface and subsurface soil samples will be collected from throughout the site. The investigation of the surface soils will be performed to determine the extent of contamination as well as to identify possible exposures to people occupying the site.

Test pits will be excavated in the MGP area to ascertain the extent of soil contamination in and around the gas holder foundations still present there. Test pits will also be excavated in other places across the site to locate areas of coal cinders used as fill. Soil borings will also be driven in various locations to collect additional soil samples.

Eight groundwater monitoring wells will be installed at the site. Five wells will be installed in the MGP portion of the site and the rest will be installed near the three star facility. The exact location of some of the wells will not be determined until the second phase of the investigation after possible contamination sources on the main portion of the site have been identified. The monitoring wells will be sampled for laboratory analysis and surveyed to determine the direction of groundwater flow.

A reconnaissance of Wappingers Creek will be conducted to identify the areas of sedimentation. Creek sediment samples will be collected for laboratory analysis from the on-site lagoon and from selected areas near the site as well as upstream and downstream from the site. Also, to investigate the impacts from the site to the Creek, surface water samples will be collected twice for analysis. The samples will be collected during a high flow event and a during low flow event from near the site and upstream and downstream from the site.

As stated above, limited information is available about the type of pollutants at the site. But, based on the variety of industries that have operated at and near the site, an assortment of contaminants may be present there as well as in the Creek. Therefore, for the first phase of the investigation, samples from all media will be analyzed for 33 different VOCs, 64 different SVOCs including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), PCBs, pesticides, and metals including cyanide.

For more information, call or write the following staff about:

Work Plan Concerns
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1(800) 342-9296

Health-Related Concerns
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Citizen Participation Issues
Michael Knipfing
Citizen Participation Specialist
NYSDEC
Region 3 Headquarters
21 South Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, NY 12561
(845) 256-3154

Document Repositories: The public is encouraged to review the remedial investigation work plan and the associated documents. The site-related documents are available for public review at the following locations:

NYSDEC Region 3 Headquarters
21 South Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, NY 12561
Attn.: Michael Knipfing
(845) 256-3154
Mon-Fri - 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Village Clerk
Village Hall
2628 South Avenue
Wappingers Falls, 12590
(845) 297-8773
Mon.-Fri. - 9:00 to 4:30

Grinnell Library
2642 East Main Street
Wappingers Falls, 12590
(845) 297-3428
Mon.-Thurs. - 9:30 to 4:30
Fri. & Sat. 9:30 - 5