

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION**



## **FACT SHEET**

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**FORMER CAVALIER GAGE & ELECTRONICS, #314092  
INACTIVE HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL SITE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) along with the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Law (DOL) is responsible for ensuring the cleanup of inactive hazardous waste sites across the State. Under New York State's Hazardous Waste Site Remedial Program, the process begins with the discovery of a potential hazardous waste and follows a path of thorough investigation, enforcement, remedial action selection, design, construction and monitoring. This fact sheet highlights the findings of the investigation of the Former Cavalier Gage and Electronics. The conclusion of the investigation is that this site no longer poses a threat to human health or the environment.

### **SITE HISTORY**

This site is located along Hibernia Road in Salt Point, Dutchess County, and is 23 acres in size. The site contains two one-story buildings with an out building. The site is about 550 ft. northeast to the closest residence and about 500 ft. west to the Wappingers Creek. The site is now used as a children's day care center called the Rainbow's End Child Development Center.

The site was constructed and used as a

residence in the 1950s. From 1967 to 1985, the site was an electronic parts manufacturer and used solvents which contained volatile organic compounds (VOCs). In 1988, the site changed to the Rainbow's End Child Development Center. During a drinking water well survey in 1992 by the Dutchess County Department of Health, VOCs were detected in the water supply well. Bottled water followed by a treatment system was provided upon notification of the contamination.

In August 1992, the site was listed on the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites as a class 2 site. A class 2 site is defined as one that poses a significant threat to the public health or environment.

Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) are those who may be legally liable for contamination at a site. This may include past or present owners and operators. The DEC and PRPs negotiate to develop a legal document called an Order on Consent for investigation and remediation of hazardous waste sites. In December 1994, the Cavalier Gage & Electronic Co. signed an Order on Consent for a Remedial Investigation /Feasibility Study (RI/FS). An RI/FS is used to determine the nature and extent of contamination and uses the collected

information to select a remedial action that effectively eliminates the threat posed by the site. In March 1995, Cavalier Gage & Electronic Co. requested a one year postponement stating that they were in financial trouble and would not be able to conduct the RI/FS. In 1996, Cavalier Gage & Electronic Co. went out of business. In February 1997, the property owner, Dominic Cavalieri, signed a new RI/FS Order on Consent using the original RI/FS work plan that had been drafted in 1995.

### Sampling Record

The two original drinking water wells (WSW-1 and WSW-2) on site were sampled and revealed VOCs contamination above groundwater and drinking water standards for 1,1,1-trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA) up to 130 ppb, 1,1-dichloroethane (1,1-DCA) up to 200 ppb and 1,1-dichloroethene (1,1-DCE) up to 18 ppb. A sample from the contents of the on-site septic tank reveals contamination with 1,1-DCA, 1,1,1-TCA, toluene, and 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene (1,2,4-TMB). The toluene and 1,2,4-TMB can be associated with septic tank cleaners. The PRP is conducting quarterly monitoring on WSW-2, the new water supply well (WSW-3), and a water well located at 30 Hibernia Rd.

## **REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION /FEASIBILITY STUDY**

The RI was completed in January 1998. During the period of electronic parts manufacturing, chlorinated solvents were used. The storage and disposal practices of the operation are not clear, but VOCs were used and were detected in the water supply well and the septic tank in 1992.

To determine which media (soil, groundwater, etc.) contain contamination at levels of concern, the RI analytical data was compared to environmental Standards, Criteria, and Guidance (SCGs). The results

are summarized below:

**Groundwater**-Three VOCs have been detected in site groundwater above SCGs; TCA, 1,1-DCE, 1,1-DCA. NYS groundwater standard is 5 ppb for the three VOCs detected. There are three wells on site which are all bedrock wells. Well WSW-1 was the first water supply well for the site and was abandoned in 1992. There is no information on the construction or depth of this well. Well WSW-2 is an open borehole bedrock well with approximate depth of 500 ft. Well WSW-3 is an open borehole bedrock well with approximate depth of 475 ft. The nearby residential well at 30 Hibernia Rd. had no detects for VOCs since 1992, except for one sample. The one exception took place May 1997 with 0.5 ppb of TCA, but the result was due to laboratory error.

**Surface Soil**-Two common laboratory contaminants, methylene chloride and chloroform, were found in one soil sample each at concentrations well below SCGs.

**Subsurface Soil** -Three VOCs (TCA, TCE, PCE) were detected in subsurface soil samples that were collected at concentrations at least 100 times lower than SCGs.

**Indoor Air**-The basement's (which is unoccupied) air sample contained TCA at a concentration of 9.6 ppbv, which was determined to pose no unacceptable risk, based on USEPA risk assessment methodologies.

**Septic Tanks**-The site septic tanks historically contained low concentrations of VOCs. In 1992, the last sampling detected 1,2,4-TMB at 89 ppb and toluene 49 ppb in the liquid of the 1987 Septic Tank. The system had been pumped on December 1992, April 1994, and December 1997.

**Soil Gas-** There were no soil gas detections.

## HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Since the detection of contamination in the drinking water supply at the day care center, a new water supply well (WSW-3) has been drilled upgradient of the suspected source area. A carbon filtration system was initially installed on the new well as a precaution, however, volatile organic compounds have been detected in the raw water, making a carbon filtration system a necessity. The water is also monitored quarterly both before and after filtering to insure acceptable drinking water quality. Maintenance of the treatment system will prevent ingestion of contaminated drinking water by persons at the center. Results of a soil gas survey of the site did not indicate any areas with elevated level of contaminants.

## PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION

The selected remedy for any site should, at a minimum, eliminate or mitigate all significant threats to the public health or the environment presented by the hazardous waste found at the site. The DEC believes that the point of use treatment with granulated activated carbon and on-site/off-site groundwater monitoring, will accomplish this objective provided that it continues to be operated and maintained in a manner consistent with the design.

Based upon the results of the RI, the DEC is proposing no further action with continued groundwater monitoring as the preferred remedial alternative for the site. The DEC would also reclassify the site from a Class 2 to Class 4, provided the maximum annual concentration in the water supply well (WSW-3) and monitoring well (WSW-2) meets year by year goals established by DEC and DOH for a period of two years after the Record of Decision is issued.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

DEC will hold a public meeting on March 16, 1998 to present the PRAP and receive comments on the PRAP. The meeting is part of a 30 day public comment period which begins March 9, 1998 and continues through April 7, 1998. DEC will consider all comments received during the comment period, including the public meeting, as it prepares its final decision on the remediation of the site. Written comments should be sent to:

Keith Browne, Project Manager  
DEC, Region 3  
21 South Putt Corners Rd.  
New Paltz, NY 12561-1696

Copies of the PRAP as well as other site-related documents are available for review at the following repositories:

Pleasant Valley Free Library  
Main Street - Route 44  
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

DEC, Region 3  
21 South Putt Corners Rd.  
New Paltz, NY 12561-1696

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Comments or questions about the Former Cavalier Gage & Electronics inactive hazardous waste site should be directed to **Keith Browne**, at (914)256-3152 or **Larry Ennist**, Citizen Participation Specialist, at (518)485-7719 or toll free at 1-800-342-9296. For health related concerns, contact **Wendy Kuehner**, Sanitary Engineer, at (518)458-6305 or **Nina Knapp**, Health Liaison Program, at (518)458-6402 or call toll free at 1-800-458-1158, ext. 6402.