



FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

COSCO Site

October 2009

Site Number 344035

Spring Valley, Rockland County, NY

Off-site Investigation and Groundwater Treatment Continues

The COSCO Site (“site”) is located at 15 West Street/Harriet Tubman Way in Spring Valley, Rockland County. See the attached map for the site location. The site is listed as a Class “2” site in the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites (list of State Superfund sites). A Class 2 site represents a significant threat to public health or the environment; action is required.

Highlights of the Off-site Investigation and Groundwater Treatment.

An off-site investigation commenced in November of 2008, and included groundwater sampling and a soil vapor intrusion study. Planned activities for this phase of the study will further delineate the nature and extent of the contamination that may have migrated beyond the Site, in groundwater, soil gas, and/or indoor air. This investigation will include the installation of twelve (12) soil borings and, one (1) bedrock groundwater well; the collection of seven (7) sub-slab soil gas samples; and the collection of seven (7) indoor air samples from down gradient properties as determined by The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). To help effectively characterize any soil vapor intrusion, it is important to conduct this testing during the heating season. This area is beyond the boundary of the site, where on-site contamination was investigated and is currently being addressed under the State Superfund Program.

A groundwater treatment system was installed at the site in 2003 to remediate shallow and bedrock groundwater contaminated by tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), and their breakdown products. This system was shutdown in 2005 after routine sampling showed that contamination had been significantly reduced. However, sampling events in 2009 have revealed that lower levels of contamination persist in both shallow and bedrock groundwater. The current treatment system is being replaced with an air stripper which will better address the lower levels of contamination. The old treatment system will be removed and the new system will be operational this winter.

State Superfund Program: New York's State Superfund Program (SSF) identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

NYSDEC generally attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds.

For more information on indoor air quality, visit:

www.health.state.ny.us/environmental/air_quality/

For more information about the SSF, visit:

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html

Next Steps

At the completion of the off-site work, an Off-site Investigation Report that summarizes the results of the investigation will be prepared. Based on the results of the

Off-site Investigation Report, the NYSDEC, in consultation with NYSDOH, will assess the need for any off-site mitigation. When this report has been accepted, it will be placed in the document repositories and a Fact Sheet will be sent to the mailing list advising the public both of its availability and the status of the project.

Background

The COSCO site, located at 15 West Street in Spring Valley, is an inactive manufacturing facility that formerly used trichloroethene (TCE) in a vapor degreasing process.

In the past, investigations identified contaminated discharge water coming from the COSCO facility and neighboring Continental Plastics Company facility. In 1990, a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study was conducted by the NYSDEC.

As part of the investigation, monitoring wells were installed and groundwater, soil, and surface water were sampled. Volatile organic compounds, primarily PCE, TCE, dichloroethene, and vinyl chloride were detected in nearby drainage pathways and groundwater. There is no exposure risk from groundwater as the site and surrounding community are supplied by municipal drinking water.

As a result of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, a Record of Decision (ROD) was issued recommending treatment of soil and groundwater. A ROD amendment was subsequently issued calling for extraction and treatment of groundwater, capping of the site's west corner, and monitoring. As a result, a source area groundwater extraction and treatment system was installed by the NYSDEC. The system used ultra violet chemical oxidation and polishing to eliminate contaminants and treating the groundwater. Following installation and operation of the treatment system, routine groundwater monitoring results revealed that contaminant levels were steadily declining.

The NYSDEC subsequently conducted two (2) investigations to assess whether soil vapor intrusion (SVI) is a pathway of concern. Soil vapor can become contaminated when chemicals evaporate from subsurface sources and enter the soil vapor. The phrase "soil vapor intrusion" refers to the process by which volatile chemicals move from a subsurface source into the indoor air of overlying buildings. Soil vapor, or soil gas, is the air found in the pore spaces between soil particles. Because of a difference in pressure, soil vapor can enter buildings through cracks in slabs or basement floors and walls, and through openings around sump pumps or where pipes and electrical wires go through the foundation.

Results of the on-site SVI study showed elevated levels of TCE, PCE, dichloroethene and vinyl chloride in the soil gas on the site. The off-site SVI study showed elevated levels of volatile chemicals *under* the sub-slabs of some buildings down gradient of the site. Based on these findings, NYSDEC and NYSDOH have determined that re-sampling of these buildings is warranted.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed. These documents include the supplemental investigation work plan.

Finkelstein Memorial Library
24 Chestnut Street
Spring Valley, New York 10977
(845) 352-5700
Hours: M-Th, 9AM-9 PM
F, 9 AM-5 PM
Sat. & Sun., 1PM-5 PM

NYSDEC Region 3 Office
21 South Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, New York 12561
(845) 256-3154
Hours: M-F, 9-4:30 PM

Who to Contact

Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

Project Related Questions

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Site-Related Health Questions

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If you know someone who would like to be added to the site contact list, have them contact the NYSDEC project manager above. We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.



Figure 1 COSCO Site Map