

Hercules Inc./Dyno-Nobel Site Update New York State Superfund Program (Site 356001)

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 Hercules Inc./Dyno-Nobel site and surrounding properties and keeping the Esopus community informed about recent work underway related to this State Superfund site.

Current Conditions

An investigation is being conducted by Dyno-Nobel, under DEC's oversight, within Plantasie Creek and its floodplain area to determine the extent of contamination from the Hercules Inc. site. Preliminary data from samples collected in October 2023 and recently received by DEC indicate potential areas with levels of metals in the stream and floodplain soil above the state's protective standards.

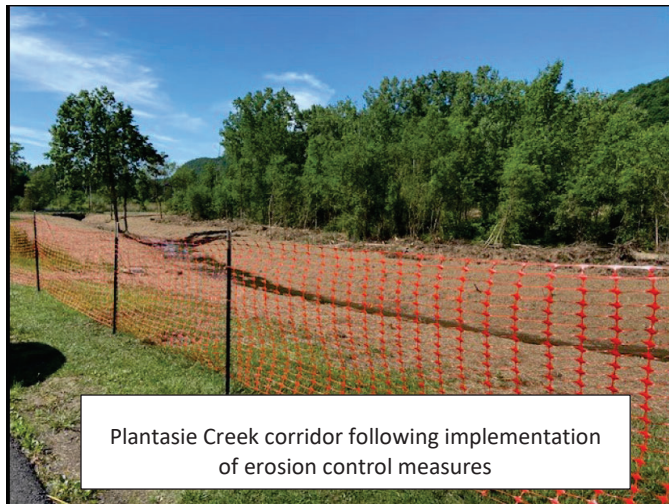
On May 24, 2024, DEC conducted testing for metals in the floodplain surrounding the stream running adjacent to the Robert L. Graves Elementary School after receiving reports of a significant soil disturbance caused by excavation of the stream channel performed by the town of Esopus. The town removed garbage and debris and re-graded the creekbank area and disturbed approximately five acres of soil without having required coverage under DEC's State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity. The area is downstream of the Hercules Inc./Dyno-Nobel State Superfund Site.

Steps Taken

On May 21, 2024, DEC issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the town for the unpermitted work and ordered the town to cease and desist construction activities to prevent additional soil disturbances.

The town was also ordered to implement corrective measures, including covering all areas of soil

disturbance and installing temporary fencing near the elementary school. This work was completed on Friday, May 24, 2024.



Out of an abundance of caution, DEC conducted additional soil sampling for metals along the creek in the vicinity of the elementary school on May 24, 2024. DEC collected 12 surface soil samples from the disturbed area in the vicinity of the school for analysis for the metals mercury and copper, which were found in previous investigations in the off-site areas.

Preliminary evaluation of the data indicates that the total mercury was detected in the range of 0.031-3.8 parts per million (ppm) with five samples exceeding its applicable standard of 0.81 ppm. Copper was detected in the range of 1.7-300 ppm with one sample exceeding its applicable standard of 270 ppm. Dyno-Nobel is also anticipated to conduct an additional investigation in off-site areas.

DEC continues to closely monitor this site and will take appropriate enforcement action for any violations to ensure protection of public health and the environment.

DEC continues to work with Dyno-Nobel, the owner of the Hercules Inc./Dyno-Nobel State Superfund Site (DEC Site No. 356001), as the party responsible for cleanup at the Superfund site.

Health Exposure Assessment

Based on preliminary results from the October 2023 floodplain sampling event associated with the investigation of areas along and proximate to Plantasie Creek (prior to the recent soil disturbance), the risk of health effects as a result of contact with site-related contaminants, such as copper and mercury, in the Plantasie Creek area is low.

However, the chances for exposure to these contaminants can be reduced by taking reasonable and practical steps to avoid direct contact with stream sediment and floodplain soils, particularly by young children. Unnecessary digging and wading in the stream should be avoided, and children and adults should wash hands after outdoor activities in areas adjacent to the stream. It is important to note that all soils and sediments naturally 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.



Plantasie Creek corridor following grass growth

Recent Site History

The Hercules Inc./Dyno-Nobel site is located at 161 Ulster Avenue in Ulster Park, approximately one mile south of the village of Port Ewen. The site includes the former main manufacturing plant area and land east of a rail line located outside of the fenced main plant area.

The site was divided into two operable units. An operable unit represents a portion of a cleanup for a site that for technical or administrative reasons can be addressed separately from the whole site to investigate, eliminate, or mitigate a release, threat of release, or exposure pathway resulting from the contamination.

Operable Unit (OU) 01 of the Hercules Inc/Dyno-Nobel site includes the former manufacturing area west of the railroad tracks and east of Hussey Hill, the wetlands area east of the railroad tracks, and the Plantasie Creek corridor extending to Mountain View Road.

Preliminary extent of OU 02 consists of areas along and proximate to Plantasie Creek from the OU 01 northern boundary to approximately 1.5 miles downstream to Rondout Creek. The final extent of OU02 will be determined based on the additional investigation currently underway in the offsite Plantasie Creek corridor documenting site-related contamination.

OU 01: Former Manufacturing operations for primers and igniters for explosives took place in the developed portion of the site, which occupies approximately 100 acres; however, present day operations include producing electric detonators within a smaller portion of the site. Disposal activities occurred within the plant area and within wetland areas in the eastern portion of the property. Most of the surrounding areas are naturally vegetated with cover types ranging from old fields to forested areas. Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on DEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering Site ID 356001) at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3>

DEC and Dyno-Nobel entered into an Order on Consent in 2018. DEC is conducting a supplemental investigation of the site to help inform the final on-site remedy because of information provided at public availability sessions in 2019. . After the supplemental investigation is complete, the results will be evaluated to develop and evaluate cleanup options that will be evaluated in a revised Feasibility Study and subsequently presented in a revised Proposed Remedial Action

Plan (PRAP) that will be released for public comment. Another public meeting will also be held.

Ultimately, the selected remedy for OU 01 will be memorialized in a document called a “Record of Decision” (ROD) that will explain why the remedy was selected and include a formal written response to public comments received on the PRAP.

A detailed design of the selected remedy will then be prepared, and once approved, the cleanup will be performed.

OU 02: The investigation within the Plantasie Creek and its floodplain area downstream of the northern site boundary to Rondout Creek is being

conducted to determine the extent of off-site contamination. Upon completion of the investigation and a Feasibility Study evaluating cleanup options, DEC will release a PRAP for OU 02 for public comment. At that time, another public meeting will be held.

Similar to OU 01, the selected remedy for OU 02 will be memorialized in a ROD that will explain why the remedy was selected and include a formal written response to public comments received. A detailed design of the selected remedy will then be prepared, and once approved, the cleanup will be performed.

Further Information

New York State’s top priority continues to be ensuring the protection of public health and the environment.

DEC encourages residents and other community stakeholders to sign up for our LISTSERV to continue receiving updates on these actions: DEC’s website contains further information on the status of the site, along with information on site history and links to previous site documents:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/117410.html>

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/356001>

DEC is committed to ongoing monitoring of Dyno Nobel and the surrounding properties while keeping the Esopus community informed of our actions. The site is subject to several ongoing controls to properly manage the site.

Where to find information:

Project documents are available at the following locations to help the public stay informed:

Town of Esopus Library 128 Canal Street Port Ewen, NY 12466 (845) 338-5580

NYSDEC Region 3 Office 21 S. Putt Corners Road New Paltz, NY 12561 (845) 256-3000

Ongoing Community Engagement

DEC and DOH experts will continue to be available to answer questions from the community. Please see “Who to Contact” below for key points of contact.

WHO TO CONTACT

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

Project-Related Questions
Parag Amin, Project Manager, NYSDEC
 625 Broadway, 12th floor, Albany, NY 12233
 (518) 402-9648
 Parag.Amin@dec.ny.gov

Project-Related Health Questions
Kristin Kulow, NYSDOH
 28 Hill Street. #211. Oneonta, NY 13820
 (607) 353-4335
 Kristin.kulow@health.ny.gov

