

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 New York State Department of Health (DOH) are providing a community update regarding the Hercules Inc./Dyno-Nobel site and surrounding properties. The DEC is committed to keeping the Esopus community informed about work related to the Hercules Inc. (DEC Site No. 356001) State Superfund site.

This community update describes an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM), and the Phase II Plantasie Creek In-stream Investigation to be conducted in September 2025. It also provides an update on investigation work completed during 2025 and outlines upcoming project milestones.

Interim Remedial Measure:

On May 7, 2025, out of an abundance of caution, DEC and DOH requested an IRM be conducted to establish an engineering control adjacent to Robert L. Graves Elementary School. Target metals concentrations in surface soils adjacent to school exceed the residential use soil cleanup objectives. The DEC and DOH approved the installation of soil stabilization measures and temporary fencing in 2024 to reduce the risk of public exposure. However, the temporary fencing installed is inadequate for long term use and an IRM work plan to install approximately 450 linear feet (ft) of 6-ft high, black, chain-link fence around areas where target metals concentrations exceed the residential use soil cleanup objectives was approved on August 12, 2025. Dyno-Nobel, the owner of the Hercules Inc./Dyno-Nobel State Superfund Site, as the party responsible for cleanup at the Superfund site has assumed responsibility for the IRM.

The IRM chain link fence installation was conducted on August 27, 2025. Dyno-Nobel will submit an IRM Construction Completion Report (CCR) to the Department documenting the completion of the IRM in late September or early October 2025.



Figure 1: Temporary fencing along the Plantasie Creek corridor adjacent to Robert Graves Elementary, June 2024.



Figure 2: Proposed chain link fencing as part of approved IRM.

Phase II Plantasie Creek In-stream Investigation:

Phase II Plantasie Creek comprehensive ecological impact assessment sampling is planned to begin on September 22, 2025. The proposed work will be completed within the Plantasie Creek, between the Dyno-Nobel Site and Salem Street. The Phase II Plantasie Creek investigation will include sampling of sediment, porewater, macroinvertebrates and fish within Plantasie Creek to:

- Assess the bioavailability of target metals, specifically copper, mercury, selenium, and zinc.
- Evaluate the potential exposure to target metals for aquatic and semi-aquatic receptors associated with Plantasie Creek.
- Provide data to support remedial decision-making for sediments in Plantasie Creek.

2025 Investigation Work and Reporting:

The DEC and DOH are committed to ongoing oversight of the remedial program implemented by Dyno-Nobel. The DEC has worked with Dyno-Nobel to expedite site work to the extent feasible. The remedial program must be implemented in a step-wise fashion to ensure an effective investigation and cleanup. Below are the dates of milestones achieved to this point in 2025:

- April 2025: Phase I Preliminary Bioavailability Assessment Report
- May 2025: Draft Comprehensive Floodplain Soil Sampling Report
- June 2025: Draft Interim Site Management Plan
- August 2025: IRM Work Plan

Upcoming Milestones:

The Phase II Plantasie Creek Ecological Impact Investigation will culminate with Dyno-Nobel submitting a Final Off-site Remedial Investigation Report which will summarize all off-site work conducted since 2019. A revised Feasibility Study will then be developed to evaluate remedy alternatives. A Proposed Remedial Action Plan will be developed and made available for public comment.

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

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