NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

MAY 2016

FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

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Site Name: Al Tech Specialty Steel
DEC Site #: 401003 Operable Units 01, 03, 04 *
Address: Spring Street Rd
Colonie, NY 12189

Have questions? See "Who to Contact" Below

Investigation to Begin at State Superfund Site

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) will soon begin a detailed environmental study at the Al Tech Specialty Steel site ("site") located at Spring Street, Colonie, Albany County. Please see the map for the site location. Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information."

The site is listed as a Class "2" site in the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites (list of State Superfund sites). A Class 2 site represents a significant threat to public health or the environment; action is required.

Investigation Work Plan
The investigation work plan, called a "Remedial Investigation Work Plan / Scope of Work," was developed under New York's State Superfund Program. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation will perform the investigation which will assess conditions on-site (and, if appropriate, off-site).

Highlights of the Site Investigation
The purpose of the investigation is to define the nature and extent of contamination in soil, surface water, groundwater and any other parts of the environment that may be affected. The site investigation will fully characterize all contamination at the site.

Summary of the Investigation for Operable Unit 01:
Past investigations of soil and groundwater have determined that various contaminants are present at OU-01 including PCBs, hexavalent chromium, and liquid phase petroleum products.

PCBs and hexavalent chromium are primarily located on the south end of OU-01 but have not been fully delineated.

Fuel oil and hydraulic fluids can be found from the central portion of OU-01 to the far-northern boundary.

**Operable Unit:* Abbreviated "OU" is an administrative term used to identify a portion of a site that can be addressed by a distinct investigation and/or cleanup approach. An operable unit can receive specific investigation, and a particular remedy may be proposed.

Summary of the Investigation for Operable Unit 03:
Most of the on-site structures are coated with a fabric-like material that contains PCBs and asbestos at various concentrations. The coating is delaminating from the structures, migrating to the on-site soils, and becoming part of the soil matrix. Analysis of PCB sampling shows generally higher concentrations of PCBs in the soil in close proximity to the structures.

Summary of the Investigation for Operable Unit 04:
Sediment and surface water samples show that lead is present in the on-site stream at concentrations exceeding the Class C sediment screening values by several orders of magnitude. The "Class C" designation includes sediments considered to be highly contaminated and are likely to pose a risk to aquatic life as defined in the Division of Fish and Wildlife guidance document, "Screening and Assessment of Contaminated Sediment."

Next Steps
The information collected during the investigation will be summarized in a report. During the site investigation phase, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) will conduct a “Feasibility Study.” This study uses information developed during the site investigation to develop and evaluate potential ways to clean up contamination related to the site. The information collected during the site investigation may also support the conclusion that no action, or no further action, is needed to address site-related contamination.

NYSDEC will then develop a draft cleanup plan, called a "Proposed Remedial Action Plan." This plan describes the remedy preferred by NYSDEC, or, if warranted, a no action or no further action alternative. The draft cleanup plan explains the decision that led to the preferred remedy by discussing each alternative and the reasons for choosing or rejecting it. The goal of the plan will be to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. NYSDEC will announce the draft cleanup plan in a future fact sheet, and will present it to the public for its review and comment during a 30-day comment period and at a public meeting.

Background
LOCATION: The Al Tech Specialty Steel site lies in a suburban area in the town of Colonie, NY. The Al Tech Main Plant Area (MPA) spans the area between Lincoln Ave and Spring Street Road while the Al Tech Waste Management Area (WMA) is situated on a hillside along Spring Street Road. Other former industrial scale facilities are also located in the immediate vicinity including the former Delaware and Hudson Rail Yard and the former Adirondack Steel and Casting Corporation.

SITE FEATURES: The MPA encompasses 68 acres and consists of 8 large, empty and unused remaining buildings, roadways, concrete foundation slabs and former industrial waste disposal areas. Pioneer plant species are beginning to reclaim some portions of the property which have only a soil cover. The Kromma Kill flows along significant lengths of the north and the east sides of the MPA. The Hudson River is approximately 1 mile downstream from the MPA.

The WMA is comprised of 31 acres of land and is occupied by a 12 acre industrial waste landfill. The remaining property contains wooded areas, former parking facilities and the unoccupied

leachate storage building. On the WMA, the Kromma Kill overlies the north and east boundaries with an unnamed tributary to the Kromma Kill originating on the south side of the landfill. Two unpaved roads are maintained to provide access to the landfill. There is an approximately 20-acre wooded area on the west side of the WMA which has not been impacted by the former industrial activity.

CURRENT ZONING AND LAND USE: Zoning for the MPA is "Industrial" while the WMA is comprised of one area zoned "Single Family Residential" and one zone "Industrial." The entire property has no on-going commercial or industrial activities.

PAST USE OF SITE: The properties were used solely for the production, and activities associated with the production, of stainless steel. Development of the property for this purpose began in 1910. Potential polluting activities from the manufacture of stainless steel include disposal of coal ash from early furnaces, storage and distribution of fuel oil, storage and use of various acids for pickling of steel products, use of PCB-containing electrical equipment such as transformers and capacitors on site, and generation of chromium-containing electric arc furnace dust. To a lesser extent, there were paints, thinners, solvents, lubricants and other chemicals used in the facility support activities such as equipment and vehicle maintenance as well as general facility maintenance.

While the facility was operating, several areas on the MPA and WMA were the target of cleanup actions under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) program. Those remedial actions are detailed in the following paragraphs.

Waste Acid Pits: Two in-ground, brick-lined pits were constructed in the central-eastern part of the MPA and were used to store spent sulfuric, hydrofluoric and nitric acids prior to on-site treatment. The pits leaked and consequently their use was discontinued. Sampling revealed that groundwater within an approximately one-acre area was contaminated with several heavy metals and exhibited low pH (acidic) characteristics. A groundwater recovery and treatment system operated for about eight years, until groundwater sampling data indicated treatment was no longer necessary. The wastewater treatment plant was decommissioned in 2004 which included closure of the waste acid pits. Results from biannual groundwater monitoring indicate pH has returned to neutral conditions and the metals concentrations have decreased nearly to background levels. Monitoring continues in this area to verify this trend.

The WMA: The landfill formerly consisted of 31 acres and was located in the northwest corner of the facility. A holding basin in the northwest part of the landfill received electric arc furnace (EAF) dust (K061 waste) from mid-1970 to 1980 and the landfill also received lime stabilized waste pickle liquor sludge from 1972 to 1990. Leachate was collected in a surface impoundment at the southern end of the landfill from 1978 to 1988, and was treated at the facility's wastewater treatment plant. After 1988, the surface impoundment was replaced by two leachate collection tanks. Analysis of sludge and sediment samples taken from a stream adjacent to the landfill in 1990 was determined to be hazardous when it failed the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Protocol (TCLP) for chrome. Al Tech completed an interim remedial measure at the landfill under a 1992 Consent Order. The work involved removing materials from the north face of the landfill, stabilizing the slope, and routing leachate to the wastewater treatment plant. From 2000 to 2003, a stainless steel metal reclamation project was completed to remove valuable metals from the landfill and to consolidate the remaining waste materials into a 12-acre area. From 2003 to 2004 the 12-acre landfill was closed with an NYSDEC approved cover. Eroded banks of the Kromma Kill were restored. Currently, upgradient and down gradient monitoring wells are routinely sampled and limited leachate is collected, stored and trucked off-site for treatment and disposal.

Petroleum Cutoff Wall: Fuel oil that was likely spilled from a leaky distribution network had been impacting the Kromma Kill along the east side of the property. A plastic membrane cutoff wall and light, nonaqueous phase liquid (LNAPL) recovery wells were installed in 2002. That system prevents additional petroleum LNAPL on the MPA from migrating to the Kromma Kill. Monitoring wells and recovery wells are routinely monitored and purged to remove petroleum LNAPL from the property.

Miscellaneous Waste Removal: In 2008 various small containers of waste left at the site were collected and disposed of off-site at a permitted facility. Types of waste included laboratory chemicals, bulk acids, compressed gas cylinders, and varieties of lubricating and fuel oils. In 2015, additional tanks were identified that contained various petroleum products, lubricants, acids, and contaminated water. The tanks were pumped out and the fluids reclaimed or disposed off-site.

RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI): An extensive RFI was performed throughout the 1990's. The RFI identified various areas of concern (AOCs) at the facility. AOCs that were identified and are being, or have been addressed under the State Superfund program, include the South Lagoon, transformer areas, and maintenance activities at the WMA.

Site-wide Characterization: A site-wide characterization was initiated in 2014 to address any data gaps resulting from areas of the facility that were not sampled during the course of past investigation activities. Areas and media sampled during the site characterization where contaminants of concern have been documented include the on-site structures (PCBs), Kromma Kill (lead) and former transformer locations (PCBs).

OPERABLE UNITS: The site is divided into four operable units. An operable unit represents a portion of a remedial program for a site that for technical or administrative reasons can be addressed separately to investigate, eliminate or mitigate a release, threat of release or exposure pathway resulting from the site contamination.

Operable Unit 1 (OU-01) includes the entire MPA

Operable Unit 2 (OU-02) includes the WMA.

Operable Unit 3 (OU-03) includes the On-Site Structures

Operable Unit 4 (OU-04) includes the Kromma Kill

SITE GEOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY: The site is mostly flat and is situated on layers of fill, alluvial sediments, clay till and bedrock (Snake Hill Shale). Bedrock is found between 1 to 42 feet below ground surface (bgs). There are two groundwater bearing zones, overburden and bedrock. The first continuous water-bearing zone can be as shallow as 5 feet bgs but is typically is about 10 to 15 feet bgs.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's website at:
http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=401003

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/or the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

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

For more information about the SSF, visit: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed.

William K. Sanford Town Library
Attn: Librarian
629 Albany Shaker Road
Loudonville, NY 12211
phone: (518) 458-9274
(info@colonielibrary.org)

Watervliet Public Library
1501 Broadway
Watervliet NY 12189
(518) 274-4471

Project documents are also available on the NYSDEC website at:
http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37564.html

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions
Ian Beilby
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7016
518-402-9639
ian.beilby@dec.ny.gov

Site-Related Health Questions
Albert DeMarco
New York State Department of Health
Empire State Plaza - Corning Towner Room 1787
Albany, NY 12237
(518) 402-7860
BEEI@health.ny.gov

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.

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html. It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you *better informed*.

As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

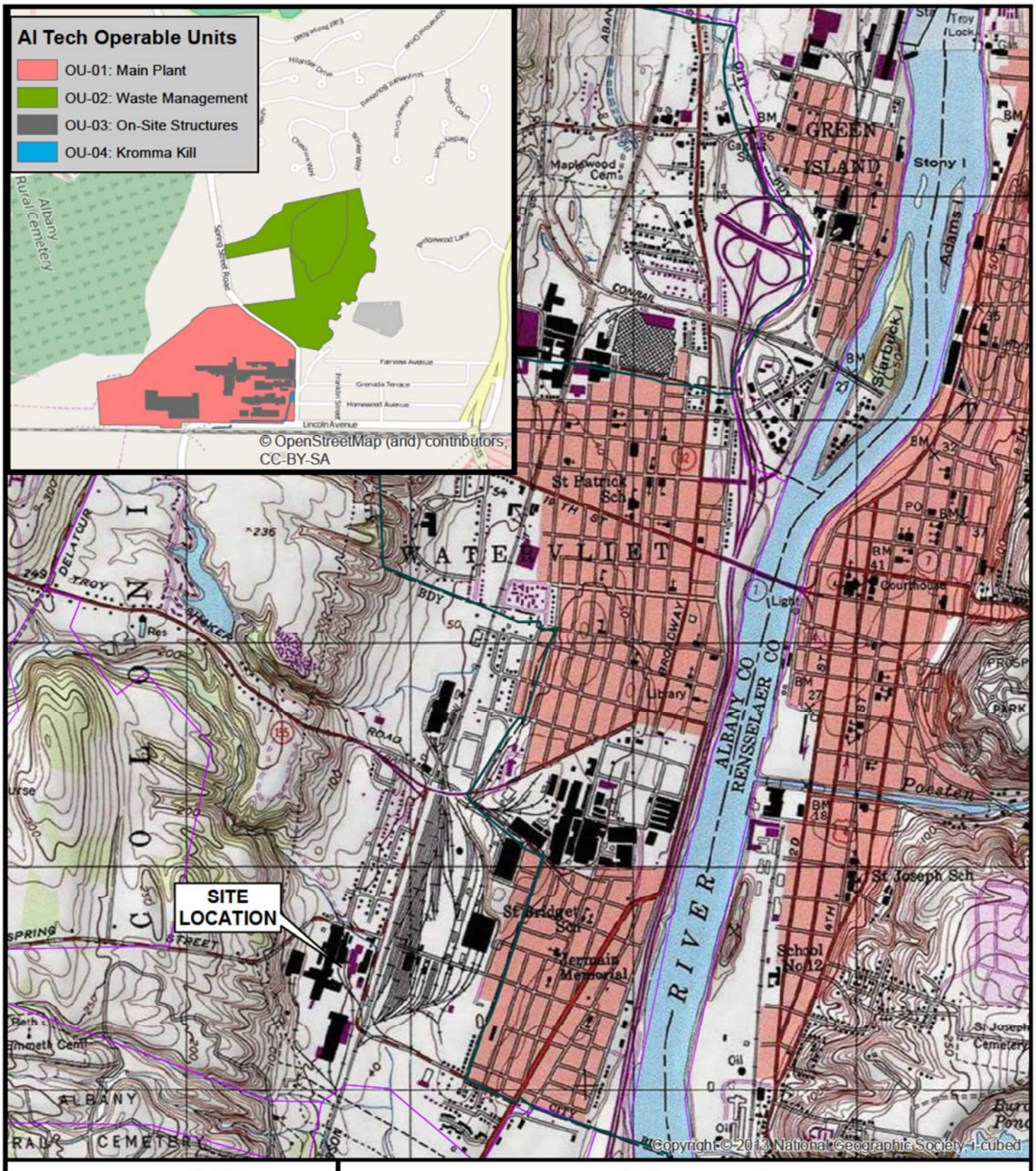

Figure 1

Site Location Map

Al Tech Specialty Steel
Town of Colonie
Albany County
Site No. 401003