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NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

February 2018

FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

Receive Site Fact Sheets by *Email.* See "For More Information" to Learn How.

Site Name: Al Tech Specialty Steel
DEC Site #: 401003 Operable Units 02, 03 *
Address: Spring Street
Watervliet, NY 12189

Have questions? See "Who to Contact" Below

Remedies Proposed for State Superfund Site; Public Comment Period and Public Meeting Announced

Public Meeting, Monday, 2/26/2018 at 7:00 PM
Watervliet Senior Center
1501 Broadway
Watervliet, NY 12189

NYSDEC invites you to a public meeting to discuss the remedies proposed for two of the four operable units at the Al Tech Specialty Steel site. You are encouraged to provide comments at the meeting, and during the 30-day comment period described in this fact sheet. 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."

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

How to Comment
NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan for 30 days, from **February 16, 2018** through **March 19, 2018**. The proposed plan is available for review at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information." Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area below.

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. The Proposed Remedial Action Plan addresses two Operable Units (OUs) at the site, the landfilled portion of the Waste Management Area (OU-02) and the main plant area on-site structures (OU-03).

**Operable Unit:* 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.

Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) Summary
The remedies proposed for the site include:

Summary of the Completed Remedy for OU 02:
The consolidation and capping of on-site hazardous and industrial waste was completed in 2004. This remedy also includes post-closure monitoring and maintenance of the cap. The cap includes an impermeable membrane to prevent infiltration of precipitation into the waste mass. Leachate is collected and transported off-site for treatment.

Summary of the Proposed Remedy (additional action) for OU 02:
In addition to the above engineering controls, an institutional control in the form of an environmental easement will be placed on the property that limits development to industrial applications and will restrict groundwater use. A site management plan is also in place that describes what activities are necessary to effectively monitor and maintain the landfill.

Summary of the Proposed Remedy for OU 03:
Approximately 4,220 cubic yards of sheet metal coated with PCB- containing Galbestos will be carefully removed from the structural frames utilizing dust suppression as needed, and shipped off-site for disposal. A community air monitoring program will be implemented during the entire removal effort.

Bulk PCB-containing Galbestos pieces will be removed from the ground surface and disposed off-site.

Soil adjacent to the on-site structures that is contaminated with greater than 50 parts per million (ppm) of PCBs will be excavated and disposed off-site.

Summary of the Investigation for OU 02:
Initial investigation activities confirmed that waste was migrating off-site by way of erosion. A site-wide groundwater monitoring program was initiated to determine whether landfilled waste was impacting groundwater resources. Data from the monitoring program indicates that the cap has been effective at preventing additional migration of waste to surface water and groundwater.

Summary of the Investigation for OU 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.

NYSDEC, in consultation with the New York State Department of Health, developed the proposed remedies after reviewing the detailed investigation of the site and evaluating the remedial options in the “feasibility study” submitted under New York’s State Superfund Program.

Institutional and Engineering Controls
Institutional controls and engineering controls generally are designed to reduce or eliminate exposure to contaminants of concern.

An *institutional control* is a non-physical restriction on use of the site, such as a deed restriction, when contamination left over after the cleanup action makes the site suitable for some, but not all uses. An *engineering control* is a physical barrier or method to manage contamination such as a cap or vapor barrier.

The following institutional controls have been or will be put in place on the site:

-Soil Management Plan
-Monitoring Plan
-Environmental Easement
-Operation and Maintenance Plan
-Groundwater Use Restriction

The following engineering controls have been or will be put in place on the site:

-Cover System
-Leachate Collection
-Fencing/Access Control

Next Steps
NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the remedies for the site. The selected remedies will be described in a document called a "Record of Decision" that will explain why the remedy was selected and respond to public comments.

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 eight 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.

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

CURRENT ZONING AND LAND USE: The MPA is zoned “Industrial” while the WMA is comprised of one area zoned “Single Family Residential” and one zoned “Industrial.” The entire property is vacant of active commercial or industrial activities.

PAST USE OF THE SITE: The properties have been utilized 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 of the facility (MPA and WMA) were the target of remedial action under the Resource Conservation and Recovery (RCRA) program. Those remedial actions are detailed in the Proposed Remedial Action Plan.

RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI): An extensive RFI was performed throughout the 1990s. The RFI identified various areas of concern (AOCs) at the facility. AOCs that were identified and have or will be addressed under the State Superfund program include the South Lagoon, the 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 had not been previously sampled. Areas sampled 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 and the non-landfill portion of the WMA

Operable Unit 2 (OU-02) includes the 12-acre hazardous waste landfill and supporting infrastructure (roads and leachate collection building) located in 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

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

Watervliet Public Library
Attn: Librarian
1501 Broadway
Watervliet, NY 12189
phone: (518) 274-4471
(director@watervlietpubliclibrary.org)

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
Steven Berninger
New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation
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.

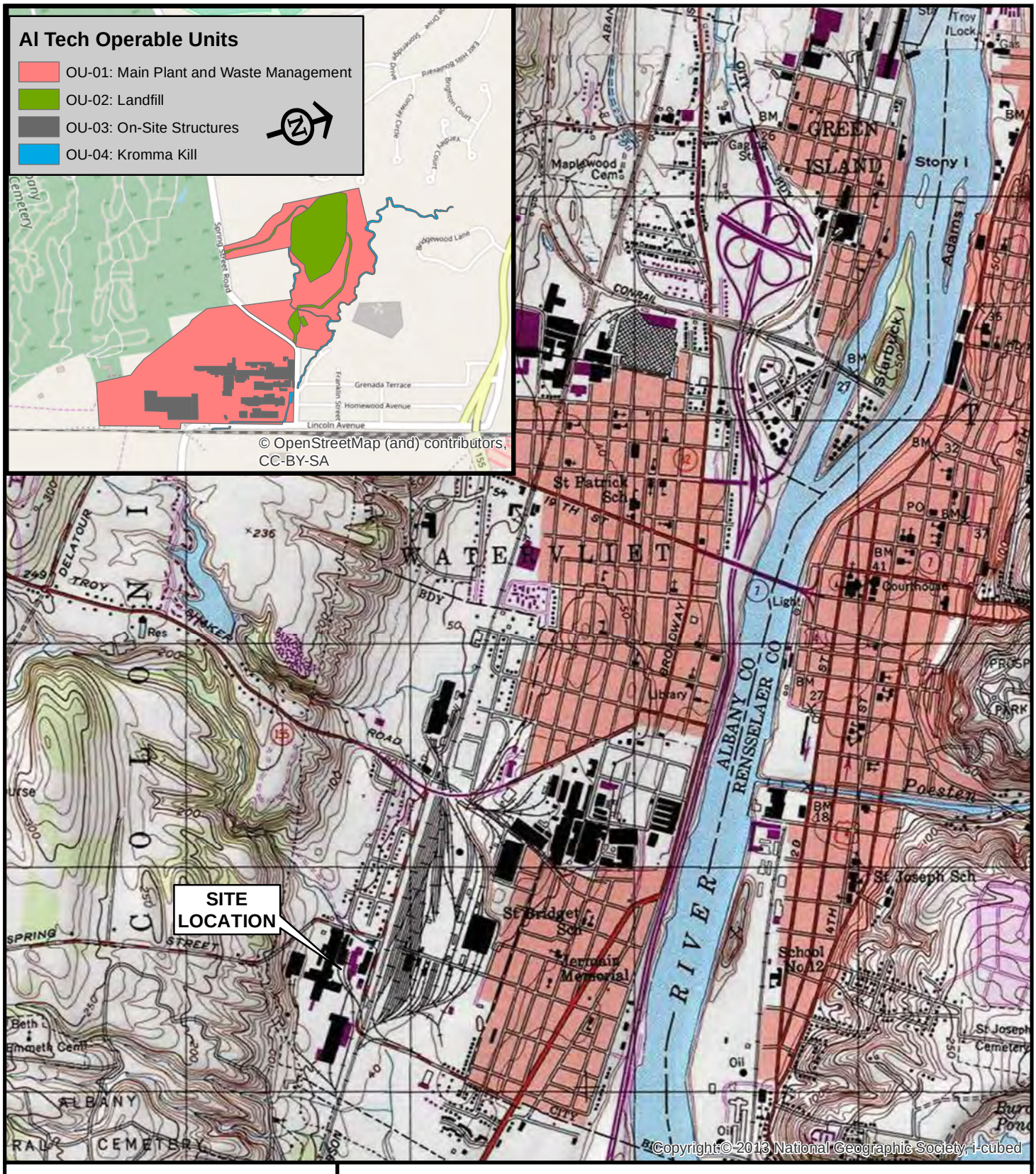

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Figure 1

Site Location Map

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

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