Final

NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF

ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

Citizen Participation

Document Repositories. The RI Work Plan is available for review at the following locations:

NYSDEC
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, New York 12233-7013
Please call (518) 402-9812 for appointment

William K. Sanford Library
629 Albany-Shaker Road
Loudonville, New York 12211

Watervliet Public Library
1501 Broadway
Watervliet, NY 12189

For More Information
Call or write the following staff:

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Albany, New York 12233-7013
(518) 402-9812

For Site-Related Health Concerns:

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Public Health Specialist
NYSDOH
Flanigan Square
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180
(518) 402-7860

Fact Sheet

Former Adirondack Steel Site (#4-01-039)
Albany County
January 2006

Remedial Investigation at the Former Adirondack Steel Site

General:

In September 2005 the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) began a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the Former Adirondack Steel Facility due to continued environmental concerns. The work is being conducted by Ecology and Environment (E&E), a State Superfund standby contractor. The DEC is overseeing the work. Contamination of the soil and groundwater with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and heavy metals has been documented. NYSDEC placed of a 0.5 acre portion the facility on the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites as a Class 2 site due to a PCB contaminated transformer oil spill. A Class 2 site is a site at which hazardous waste is present at levels which constitute a significant threat to public health or the environmental and action must be taken to mitigate the threat.

Site Description:

The approximately 101-acre property is located in an industrial area bounded on the south by Watervliet-Shaker Road, Carioto Fruit, Passonno Corporation, and Benben, Inc.; on the east by D&H Railroad and Enterprise Venture Management; and on the north and west by undeveloped and residential properties (see Figure 1-1). The northeast end of the property consists of a 9-acre landfill that received spent foundry and core sands, furnace slag and refractoreis, and dust from collector furnace. Just south of the landfill is the former main operations and manufacturing area of Adirondack Steel, which is approximately 30 acres. Many of the large buildings at the site have been demolished.

Site History:

The site was initially listed because of a power transformer substation used by the former Adirondack Steel Castings Company. Adirondack Steel closed in the mid 1980s, and after the property was abandoned the old transformers and other high voltage power equipment were broken open and scavenged for copper. When the transformers were opened during the scavenger work, the transformer oil spilled out. It is estimated that up to 3,000 gallons of transformer oil containing PCBs at levels of up to 25% by weight was spilled this way over an area of more than one-half acre. The USEPA initiated an Emergency Removal Action at the site in 1993. Contaminated soils were excavated and stored in a small, secured warehouse building on-site, significantly reducing the potential

for additional off-site migration of the PCB laden soils. An Administrative Order was issued by USEPA in September of 1994 and the Timmons Corporation, the property owner, responded with an intent to comply. The owner consolidated the contaminated soils and put them in another secure building on the east side of the property with the intent of disposing off-site in 1998. The owner failed to do this, consequently the USEPA completed disposal in 1999. The site still needs to be evaluated in order to determine if the PCB contamination levels are still above soil clean-up guidelines. There are also concerns with the contents and cover material of the landfill, asbestos waste on site and other waste piles at numerous locations on the property.

Site Investigation:

The purpose of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is to determine the nature and extent of the contamination at the site, to obtain sufficient information to assess the risk posed by the site, and to evaluate cleanup alternatives. Based on the RI/FS, NYSDEC will propose a means for cleaning up the site in a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) and will release the PRAP for public review. Following consideration of public comments on the PRAP, the NYSDEC will select a cleanup remedy and document its decision in a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will include a response to all public comments received during the comment period.

Elements of the Field Investigation:

Site Reconnaissance: Detailed site walk-over to identify areas to be targeted for sampling.

Asbestos Sampling: Up to 15 samples to be taken for asbestos analysis from the downed chimney stack and C&D piles.

Surface Water and Sediment Sampling: Eight (8) samples to be taken from eight (8) locations along the stream that flows south of the landfill plus locations on the north and west sides of the landfill.

Manhole/Sump Water and Sediment Sampling: Up to nine (9) samples to be taken from manholes and sumps located throughout the former manufacturing area.

Surface Soil Sampling: Approximately 38 samples will be collected at predetermined grid locations plus an additional 13 samples from specific targeted locations.

Sub-surface Soil Sampling: Thirty (30) samples will be collected from various depths (up to 25 feet deep) from 30 locations.

Groundwater Monitoring Wells and Sampling: Up to 10 monitoring wells will installed in pairs at 5 locations. The wells will be developed to produce representative groundwater samples and water level. Wells will be sampled twice, once in winter 2005, once in spring 2006. A series of geotechnical tests will be conducted at each well cluster.

Drum Sampling: A number of samples will be collected for analysis from several drums and containers abandoned at the site and slated for off-site disposal.

Geophysical Survey: A conductivity survey and an electromagnetic survey will be completed to help determine the uniformity of the landfill materials and possibly the boundary of the landfill. These non-intrusive tests will also identify metal objects and other subsurface anomalies up to 14 feet in depth.

Test Pit Excavations: Ten (10) test pit excavations will be performed. Samples will be collected within the pit. Visual observations will be made in the test pit.

Air Monitoring: Air monitoring for VOC and particulates will be conducted during the intrusive investigation for the protection of site workers and the community.

Presentation of the Field Results:

A RI report will be published and consist of site background data, investigation procedures, data gathered, and data interpretation. Analytical data will be screened against New York State Standards, Criteria and Guidelines to determine cleanup objectives and cleanup levels for soil, groundwater, surface water and sediment. A qualitative evaluation of potential health risk will be presented.

Determining Action to be Taken:

An FS will be developed to meet NYSDEC goals to be protective of human health and the environment. Generally, an FS evaluates alternative approaches to meeting the cleanup objectives. The process to be followed for the FS will be:

- development of remedial action objectives;
- development of alternatives and technologies;
- screening of alternatives;
- detailed analysis of remedial alternatives, and
- remedy selection.

Your Opportunities to be Informed and Involved:

- **During the RI:**
  Fact Sheets and informational updates will be distributed to describe the site investigation and related field activities.
- **At the End of FS/Completion of PRAP:**
  A mailing describing the Proposed Remedial Action Plan and notice announcing a 30-day public comment period will be completed.
- **Within 30-day PRAP Comment Period:**
  A public meeting to discuss the PRAP and solicit public comment will be held.
- **After Remedy is Selected and Finalized:**
  A mailing describing the selected remedy and response to comments on the PRAP will be completed.

The RI Work Plan is available at the repository. Your comments and suggestions about the investigation for the site are always welcome. NYSDEC encourages your participation in the project. Your understanding and involvement can assist in developing a cleanup program that effectively protects public health and the environment.

Document Repositories:

Three locations provide access to information about the site as it becomes available. See the side bar on page one for the addresses of these locations.

For additional information about the NYSDEC remedial cleanup program, visit the following web site:
http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/der/ihws/

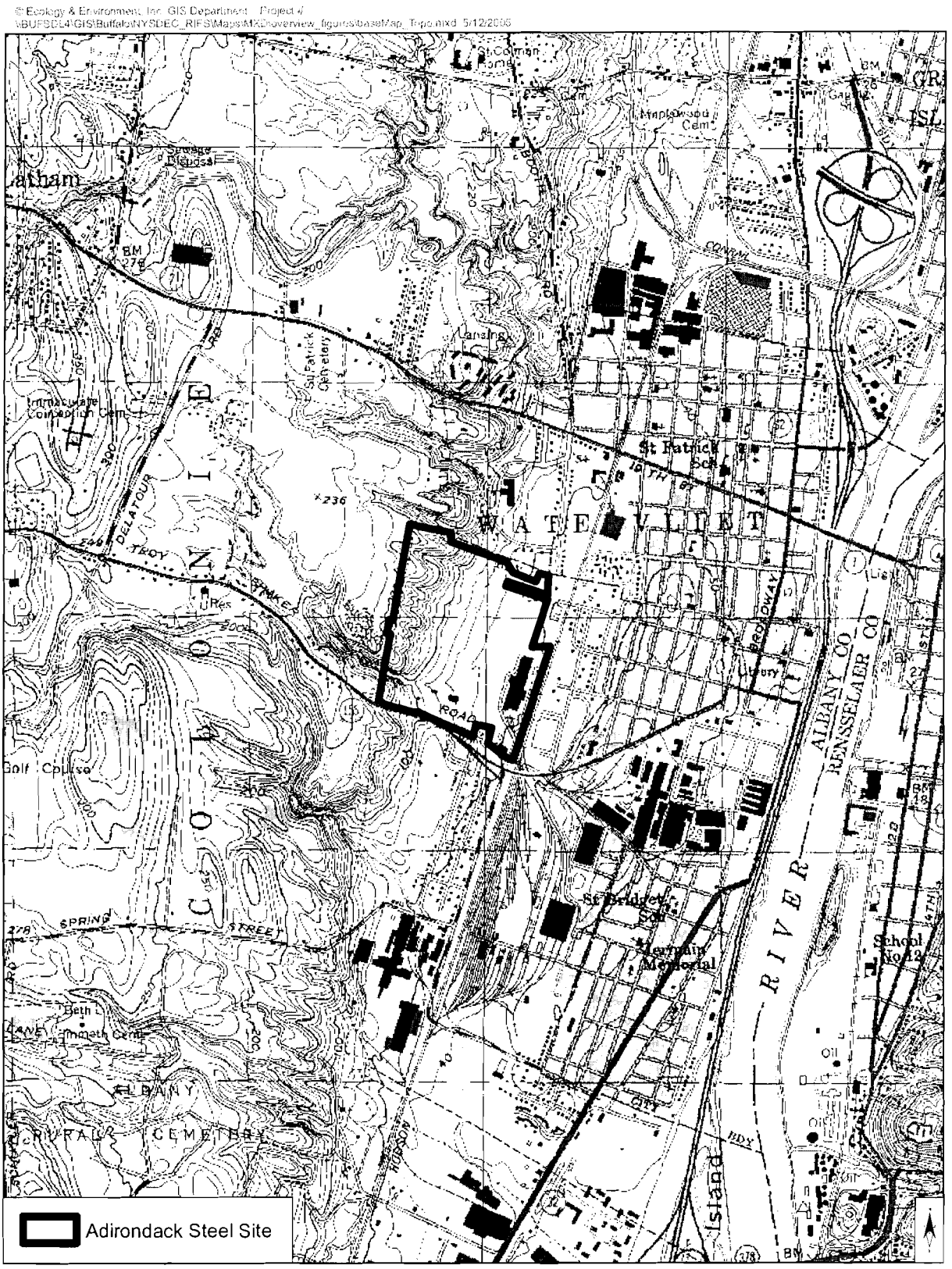

Figure 1-1 Site Location Map
Former Adirondack Steel Site
Colonie, NY