



# FACT SHEET

## State Superfund Program

**Former Paulsen-Holbrook Site**  
**Site ID #401046**  
**Town of Guilderland, NY**

**February 2010**

### **Remedy Proposed for State Superfund Site; Public Comment Period and Public Meeting Announced**

The public is invited to comment on a remedy proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to address contamination related to the Former Paulsen-Holbrook site ("site"). The site is located at 54 Railroad Avenue in the Town of Guilderland, Albany County. See map for site location.

#### **The Proposed Remedy**

The remedy proposed for the site includes in-place solidification/stabilization of contaminated soil and chemical/biological treatment of groundwater.

**Public Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 17, 2010**  
**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**Town of Colonie Community Center**  
**(Youth Bureau)**  
**East Lounge**  
**1653 Central Avenue**  
**Colonie, New York**

NYSDEC invites you to a public meeting to discuss the remedy proposed for the site. You are encouraged to provide comments at the meeting, and during the 30-day comment period described in this fact sheet.

The proposed remedy is described in a draft cleanup plan called a "Proposed Remedial Action Plan" developed under New York's State Superfund Program. The document is available for public review at the locations identified below under "Where to Find Information".

#### **How to Comment**

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed remedy for 30 days, from February 26, 2010 through March 27, 2010.

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

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

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

Submit written comments to:

Lawrence J. Alden, P.E.  
New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-7016  
E-mail: [ljalden@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:ljalden@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

## **Summary of the Proposed Remedy**

The proposed remedy represents the alternative preferred by NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to address site contamination. The draft cleanup plan has several goals:

- identify cleanup levels to be achieved
- summarize other alternatives considered
- explain why NYSDEC and NYSDOH believe the proposed remedy will protect public health and the environment
- provide a detailed description of the proposed remedy

The proposed remedy was chosen following a detailed investigation of the site and evaluation of alternatives to address contamination, called a “Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study”.

NYSDEC looked at various combinations of alternatives to address metals contamination in soil and groundwater, including:

- Asphalt cover
- Excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil
- In-place treatment of contaminated groundwater
- In-place solidification/stabilization of soil

The significant components of the proposed remedy include:

- Demolition of two small buildings which are situated in the zone of contaminated soil
- Injection of chemicals into the groundwater to immobilize the soluble metals in the groundwater through chemical reactions and microbial activity
- Removal of contaminated soil from the surface and disposal off-site
- Mixing deeper contaminated soil with an additive to solidify it in-place
- Covering solidified soil with a one-foot layer of clean soil
- Placement of an environmental easement on the site to restrict its use to commercial or industrial purposes and to restrict use of the groundwater beneath the site

The estimated cost in today's dollars to design and construct the proposed remedy is \$1,850,000.

## **Next Steps**

NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the remedy for the site. The selected remedy will be described in a document called a “Record of Decision” that will explain why the remedy was selected and respond to public comments. This document will be made available to the public (see “Where to Find Information” below).

The project then moves to designing and performing the cleanup to address the site contamination.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed during the cleanup of the site.

## **Background**

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

The site is a half-acre piece of 54 Railroad Avenue, an 8.8-acre property in the Town of Guilderland. The site is located in an industrial and commercial area bounded by Fuller Road to the west, the raised Amtrak main line to the south, and Railroad Avenue to the north. Patroon Creek is located to the south of the site and flows to the east-southeast. The soil consists of fine sand and the site topography is flat. The property has been largely unoccupied since at least 2002.

Various lumber companies which occupied the property ran a wood treatment operation at this location from the early 1950s until some time before 1978. Wood was preserved by treating it with chromated copper arsenate (CCA - a solution of chromic acid, cupric oxide, and arsenic pentoxide) in a large pressure vessel. After treatment, the batches of lumber were removed from the pressure vessel and allowed to air dry on site. An estimated 2,000 - 3,000 gallons of CCA spilled at the site in 1965. Soil contamination resulted from the spill and excess CCA solution dripping off the wood and/or from being washed off by rainfall. Groundwater is impacted beneath the site. According to available aerial photographs, the building containing the pressure vessel was removed some time between 1982 and 1985.

The 8.8-acre property was being investigated under the Voluntary Cleanup Program but the volunteer never submitted an acceptable Remedial Action Plan. NYSDEC negotiated a settlement with the responsible parties and volunteer in March 2007, and the half-acre site was referred to the State Superfund to complete the investigation and cleanup. The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study began in October 2008.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

### **Where to Find Information**

Project documents are available at the following locations to help the public stay informed. These documents include the proposed cleanup plan for the site, called the "Proposed Remedial Action Plan".

William K. Sanford Town Library  
629 Albany-Shaker Road  
Loudonville, New York 12211  
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Fri. 9  
a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 12  
p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Phone: (518) 458-9274

NYSDEC Region 4 Office  
1130 North Westcott Road  
Schenectady, NY 12306  
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 - 4:00  
Appointment requested; contact Keith  
Goertz at (518) 357-2399

### **Who to Contact**

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

### Project Related Questions

Lawrence J. Alden, P.E.  
New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-7016  
Phone: (518) 402-9767  
E-mail: [ljalden@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:ljalden@gw.dec.state.ny.us)  
Please call for an appointment.

### Site-Related Health Questions

Bridget K. Callaghan  
New York State Department of Health  
Flanigan Square  
547 River Street  
Troy, New York 12180-2216  
Phone: (518) 402-7860  
E-mail: [bee1@health.state.ny.us](mailto:bee1@health.state.ny.us)

**If you know someone who would like to be added to the site contact list, have them contact the NYSDEC project manager above. 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.**

