



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

## Where to Find Information

Access project documents through the DECinfo Locator  
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/401065/>  
and at these location(s):

*(\*Repositories are temporarily unavailable due to COVID-19 precautions. If you cannot access the online repository, please contact the NYSDEC project manager listed below for assistance)*

**Albany Public Library**  
161 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12210  
(518) 427-4300

## Who to Contact

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

### Project-Related Questions

Kyle Forster, Project Manager  
NYSDEC  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY  
(518) 402-8644  
[kyle.forster@dec.ny.gov](mailto:kyle.forster@dec.ny.gov)

### Project-Related Health Questions

Steven Berninger  
NYSDOH  
Bureau of Environmental Exposure  
Investigation  
Empire State Plaza – Corning Tower  
Albany, NY 12237  
(518) 402-0443  
[bee@health.ny.gov](mailto:bee@health.ny.gov)

For more information about New York's  
State Superfund Program, visit:  
[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html)

# FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

Former RKO Dry Cleaners

566 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12203

February 2021

SITE No. 401065

NYSDEC REGION 4

## Interim Remedial Measure Completed; No Further Action Required for State Superfund Site; Public Comment Period

**NYSDEC is committed to providing the public with ample opportunity to provide input on proposed remedies in your community. You are encouraged to provide comments in writing to the NYSDEC Project Manager, during the 30-day public comment period noted below.**

The public is invited to comment on a no further action remedy being proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) related to the Former RKO Dry Cleaners site ("site") located at 566 Washington Avenue, Albany, Albany County. Please see the map for the site location.

**How to Comment:** NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan, called a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for 30 days, from **February 17** through **March 19, 2021**.

- Access the PRAP and other project documents online through the DECinfo Locator: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/401065/>.
- Documents also are available at the location(s) identified at left under "Where to find information."
- Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project-Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area at left.

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 or the environment; action is required.

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**Proposed Remedial Action Plan:** The remedy proposed for the site includes:

- No Further Action with engineering and institutional controls based on the results of the investigation at the site and actions that have already been implemented. An expedited cleanup, called an "Interim Remedial Measure" (IRM), is conducted at a site when a source of contamination or exposure pathway (the way in which a person may contact contamination) can be effectively addressed without extensive investigation and evaluation. At the Former RKO Dry Cleaners site one IRM was conducted.
- An IRM was performed to excavate approximately 240 cubic yards of soil impacted by dry cleaning solvents. The excavation removed the contamination source area located near a doorway of the former dry-cleaning building. An in-situ chemical reduction (ISCR) amendment was then placed and mixed at the base of the excavation to promote degradation of residual soil and groundwater contamination. The excavation was backfilled with clean fill and finished with the placement of crushed stone to establish pre-existing site grades.
- Groundwater will continue to be monitored to evaluate the ongoing breakdown of residual contamination.

This expedited cleanup addressed the contamination found at the site, allowing it to meet the criteria for a restricted residential cleanup, which allows residential (with certain restrictions), commercial, or industrial use as permitted by local zoning. Therefore, NYSDEC is proposing No Further Action as the remedy at the RKO Dry Cleaners site.

NYSDEC developed the proposed remedy after reviewing the detailed investigation of the site and evaluating the IRM Construction Completion Report.

**Institutional and Engineering Controls:** Institutional controls and engineering controls 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 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 will be put in place on the site:

- Local Groundwater Restriction
- Environmental Easement

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

- Cover System

**Next Steps:** NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the no further action 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. NYSDEC would then reclassify or delist the site from the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout this process.

**Site Description:** The 0.077-acre site is located in the City of Albany at the intersection of Ontario Street and Washington Avenue. It is bordered on the west by Ontario Street followed by Beverwyck Park, to the north by Washington Avenue, and to the east and south by residential structures. The site is currently vacant and covered with concrete and gravel. A circa 1950 one-story building with a basement previously occupied the site until a fire occurred in 2000, resulting in the building being razed in 2012 by Albany County. The property was occupied by RKO Dry Cleaners and Tailors from 1964 until 2005.

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Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, 401065) at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/external/index.cfm?pageid=3>

**Summary of the Investigation:** The primary contaminants of concern at the site are chlorinated volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are present in soil and groundwater, primarily in the identified source area. Chlorinated VOCs were also detected in the sub-slab and indoor air of adjacent structures, and a sub-slab depressurization system was installed to protect building occupants from exposure.

**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 before committing State funds for investigation and cleanup.

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

*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.*

## Stay Informed With DEC Delivers

Sign up to receive site updates by email:  
[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html)

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

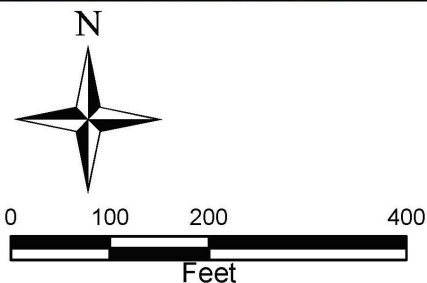
## DECInfo Locator

Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites:  
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>



# STATE SUPERFUND PROGRAM

## Site Location



**Figure 1**

Site Map

Former RKO Drycleaners  
466 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY  
Site No. 401065



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