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# DEC Proposes Ongoing Remediation At Former Amphenol Site in Sidney

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By Allison Collins

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The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation held a public hearing on Wednesday, Sept. 4 to discuss its "No Further Action" remedy proposal for the former Amphenol site at 40-60 Delaware Avenue in the village of Sidney. Roughly 20 citizens, including Sidney Mayor Andy Matviak, attended.

DEC and New York State Department of Health officials said

the proposed remedy will continue mitigating and monitoring soil vapors and groundwater contamination at the site, with plans for an environmental easement on the entire 42-acre parcel and a longterm site management plan.

"No further action' does not mean we're walking away," DEC project manager Joshua Haugh said. "It means we're going to keep doing what we're doing."

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Allison Collins/The Reporter

DEC Project Manager Joshua Haugh discusses previous contamination levels at the former Sidney Amphenol site during a Sept. 4 public hearing.

Haugh noted that, as the one-time site of a major manufacturing plant, the property has "been subject to an extensive remedial history, spanning decades."

"All existing systems will continue to operate and be maintained, including two groundwater treatment systems, all offsite vapor mitigation systems and existing site covers (such as) slabs, pavements and soil," he continued. "In addition, the proposed remedy includes a site management plan... with a monitoring program, inspections, a maintenance plan and an excavation plan. And an environmental easement will... indicate that the state holds this property regardless of who owns it and limit

terize suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites and investigate and remediate those sites found to pose a significant threat to public health and environment."

DEC efforts, Haugh said, are primarily concentrated at the two state superfund sites on the former Amphenol location.

"Based on evaluation of all seven solid waste management units identified, two required corrective action," he said. "Groundwater contamination was discovered (at) the West Well and plating area, including the West Well parking lot, because spent plating oils were historically applied to the parking lot for dust control. And the boiler room on

(in the mid-'90s) at West Well and is pumped to induce hydraulic capture," he said. "That draws about 4 million gallons of contaminated water a month... and the treated water is used at the (remaining) plating facility and then treated at their treatment plant. A second IRM was installed in the boiler room in 1996."

In the intervening decades, Haugh noted, the IRMs have proven effective.

"In 30-plus years, we've seen significant reductions in groundwater contamination," he said, "and now most are at or near drinking-water standards." Levels in the shallow wells of the boiler room area, Haugh said,

the site to industrial use only, (while) requiring Amphenol and any future owner to comply with the site management plan and restrict groundwater use at the site."

The proposal, Haugh said, corresponds with the New York State Hazardous Waste Management Program, or Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and the New York State Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site Remedial Program.

"Each (program) follows a similar process of investigation and cleanup," he noted.

According to a DEC-issued statement, "RCRA requires corrective action for releases of hazardous waste and hazardous constituents to the environment (and) the New York State Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site Remedial Program, or state superfund, is an enforcement program to identify and charac-

the northeast end of the site was identified (for groundwater contamination) when a large underground storage tank associated with the boiler room system was removed."

Groundwater contamination levels and soil vapors tested in the 1980s and 90s were "all consistent with a site for manufacturing," Haugh said. He named contaminants at a rate of 4,500 parts per billion (compared to the drinking water standard of 5 ppb) in the shallow wells near the boiler room as an example.

Such levels, Haugh said, necessitated implementation of two interim remedial measures, or IRMs. DEC testing, he noted, looks especially for volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, and polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs. Levels, officials said, are monitored continuously.

"A groundwater extraction and treatment system was installed

have dropped to between 5 and 10 ppb.

"Over decades of data, we are getting better results and the groundwater is becoming cleaner," Richard Mustico, DEC Regional Hazardous Waste Remediation Engineer, echoed.

The DEC's most recent action took place from May through July of this year.

"Following the (2018) demolition of production buildings, the remaining slabs were inspected," Haugh said. "The concrete was sampled where staining was observed, and elevated PCBs detected. About 400 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated concrete were removed from that area and disposed of... then Amphenol sampled soil underlying the concrete slab and found PCB soil contamination. As a result, approximately 800 cubic yards of impacted soil was dug out of the area."

The rate of contamination

The rate of contamination at that time, Haugh noted, was 43 parts per million, versus the industrial standard of 25 ppm. DOH project manager Renata Ockerby noted that a "community air-monitoring program was in place the whole time" during excavation.

Fully realizing the proposal, Haugh said, would safeguard and further such improvements, as well as reclassify the superfund sites from hazardous, or Class 2, to Class 4, or "properly closed but requiring management."

"To implement this proposed remedy, the state will consolidate the two state superfund sites into a single site consistent with the RCRA facility boundary," he said. "(Having) one superfund site makes the (property) subject to the same site management plan, all implemented and paid for by Amphenol, under DEC and DOH oversight." An annual cost associated with the proposal, DEC officials said, has yet to be determined.

A public comment period regarding the proposal, the draft of which was released on Aug. 21, will remain open through Sept. 20.

Mustico said the volume of public comment will, in part, determine the speed with which the proposal is, or is not, adopted.

"If (public comment) is extensive, then we address things as needed; if it's not, things go quicker," he said. "We are scheduled by Sept. 30 to select the rem-

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"If (public comment) is extensive, then we address things as needed; if it's not, things go quicker," he said. "We are scheduled by Sept. 30 to select the remedy, but if that doesn't happen because of significant public issue, then it doesn't happen."

The full draft can be viewed at the Sidney Memorial Public Library, the DEC regional office or online at [dec.gov](http://dec.gov).

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