

**NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION**

Dear Interested Citizen:

This Fact Sheet provides an update for the Ward Products site. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact one of the following:

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Fact Sheet

**Ward Products Site
Edson Street Industrial Area
City of Amsterdam, Montgomery County
Site No. 429004**

August 2005

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (**NYSDEC**) and Health (**NYSDOH**) would like to update you on the status of the Ward Products inactive hazardous waste disposal site, owned by New Water Realty Corporation (formerly known as Ward Products Corporation.) The current operator of the site has no relation to the current property owner or prior operator. The site is located at 61 Edson Street in the City of Amsterdam (see attached map.) Currently the site is under an Order on Consent to develop and implement a remedial investigation (**RI**) and feasibility study (**FS**.) As part of the FS, a risk assessment (**RA**) will also be performed.

In May 2005, New Water Realty submitted a Revised Remedial Investigations Report (**RRIR**) for the site to the NYSDEC. This report updated the findings of the Remedial Investigations Report that was submitted to the NYSDEC in 2001. This fact sheet summarizes the findings presented in the RRIR and the future actions to be taken at the site.

BACKGROUND

Since 1957, the Ward Products site has been used for the manufacture and assembly of automobile antennas. As part of these operations, electroplating wastes and metal degreasing wastes were produced on-site. Until 1973, untreated electroplating and degreasing wastes were discharged to an open ditch on the property. Between 1973 and 1985, successive process improvements were made and contaminant discharges to the environment were eliminated.

In 1986, under the terms of an Order on Consent issued by the NYSDEC, Ward Products Corporation began the environmental assessment of the nature and extent of contamination at the site. Initial studies were completed in 1988. In 1996, Ward Products Corporation under the terms of a second Order on Consent continued the RI, which was recently completed by New Water Realty Corporation with the submittal of the RRIR.

RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATIONS

The RI process has identified the nature and extent of the contamination on- and off-site. The principal contaminants of concern include cadmium, chromium, cyanide, nickel, and zinc (these are all inorganic compounds); and trichloroethene (**TCE**, a volatile organic compound.)

The original sources of the inorganic compounds were several electroplating operations at the site, while the source of the TCE was a vapor degreaser. The electroplating operations and the use of the vapor degreaser were eliminated prior to 1985.

Generally, the investigations found inorganic compounds in the on-site soil and sediment, as well as off-site sediment. The investigations found chromium impacts to on-site groundwater, and TCE impacts to the groundwater both on-site and off-site. In addition, TCE affects the indoor air at the Ward Products building.

The soils contaminated with inorganic compounds were concentrated along the northern and eastern portions of the site. This was a result of waste electroplating solutions released to the ground in the vicinity of the manufacturing building. In 1997, a stockpile of contaminated soil was removed from the site and in 2004, an Interim Remedial Measure (**IRM**) removed the remaining contaminated surficial soils from the site.

From the late 1950s to early 1970s, untreated electroplating bath solutions were discharged from the manufacturing building via a buried pipe to a drainage ditch along the eastern property line. In December 2000, an IRM was performed to flush the remaining contaminated materials from the drain line and to repair the pipe. Samples of sediment in the drainage ditch and in two drainages (East and West Branch) downstream of the site indicate that electroplating-related metals have been transported by surface water runoff down to NY State Route 5 (West Branch) and the Mohawk River (East Branch) (see attached map.) In January 2004, an IRM was performed to remove contaminated sediments in the drainage ditch on-site and in the upper portions of the East and West Branch drainages.

The groundwater on-site is contaminated by chromium and TCE. The suspected sources are past releases to the ground surface and leaks from the drain pipe. While groundwater contaminated by chromium appears to be limited to the site, a plume of TCE has migrated downgradient and beneath neighboring properties in the Edson Street Industrial Park. Based on the results of water quality samples collected from off-site monitoring wells, TCE is detectable in groundwater over 200 feet from the Ward Products property.

Three groundwater supply wells are located in the immediate vicinity of the site. One abandoned water supply well is located on the Universal Custom Millwork property, which is due south of the site, and two water supply wells are located on the Fiber Glass Industries (**FGI**) property located immediately east of the site. The FGI wells are used for the production of fiberglass and one of the two wells is currently active. Water quality samples recently collected from both of these wells revealed TCE in the groundwater on the FGI property.

Due to the high concentrations of TCE in groundwater on-site, samples of indoor air were collected in 2002 and 2005 from inside the manufacturing building located on the site. These samples were to determine if contaminants are volatilizing from contaminated groundwater and migrating into the building. In addition, soil gas samples were collected from beneath the concrete slab during the 2005 sampling event. The results of the 2005 indoor air testing indicate that TCE is present in detectable concentrations in the indoor air of the manufacturing building and in the sub-slab soil gas. TCE is considered to be a contaminant of concern in indoor air at the site.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

After the Remedial Investigation, a Feasibility Study (FS) will be performed. A Risk Assessment (RA) will be done as part of the FS. The RA will focus on the human health and environmental risks associated with the identified contaminants of concern. The results of the RA will be integrated into the FS to evaluate the potential alternatives for the remediation of the contamination both on- and off-site.

New Water Realty has also advised NYSDEC that it intends to conduct an Interim Remedial Measure to address the sub-slab soil gas believed to be the source of TCE in indoor air in the on-site building. Verification sampling as to the effectiveness of the IRM will occur in the month after implementation of the IRM and once again in the colder months following implementation.

A draft FS Report will be submitted to the NYSDEC by approximately September 1, 2005. Once that draft is finalized, it will be made available to the public for review. The NYSDEC will then issue a Proposed Remedial

Action Plan, which will outline the NYSDEC's proposed remedies to address the remaining contamination on- and off-site. A public meeting then will be held in Amsterdam to discuss the findings presented in the FS Report and the proposed remedies. After review and public comment, the NYSDEC will issue a Record of Decision document formally detailing the decision process and the specifics of the selected remedies.

DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES

For more information, please contact those listed in the side bar on the first page. Various site-related documents are available for review at the following locations:

Amsterdam Free Library
28 Church Street
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(518) 842-1080

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