

**NEW YORK STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF**



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION**

**Dear Interested Citizen:**

This Fact Sheet provides you with information about the upcoming activities at the Sterling 1 Site in the City of Rensselaer. If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact:

**Mr. Daniel Lightsey**  
Project Manager  
NYSDEC

1150 North Westcott Road  
Schenectady, NY 12306  
**(518) 357- 2374**

or

**Mr. Richard Georgeson**  
Citizen Participation  
NYSDEC

1150 North Westcott Road  
Schenectady, NY 12306  
**(518) 357- 2075**

For site related health questions, please contact the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) at:

**Mr. Daniel Geraghty**  
Environmental Health Specialist  
NYSDOH  
1 Fulton Street  
Troy, NY 12180  
**(518) 408- 5423**

or

**Mr. Mark VanDeusen**  
Outreach Unit  
NYSDOH  
547 River Street  
Troy, New York 12180  
**1 (800) 458-1158, Ext. 27530**

# FACT SHEET

**Sterling 1 Site  
Groundwater Interceptor Trench Alteration**

**Site No. 442009  
City of Rensselaer  
May 2005**

## INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), are pleased to inform you that Albany Molecular Research, Inc. will be upgrading the groundwater treatment system by replacing and extending the groundwater interceptor trench for the Sterling 1 Site.

## BACKGROUND

The Sterling 1 Site consists of 23 acres and is located at 33 Riverside Avenue, in the City of Rensselaer. The Sterling Drug facility was constructed in 1882 and is currently an active facility. Sterling Drug operated the pharmaceutical facility from the 1940s to 1990. The groundwater treatment system was approved by the NYSDEC and installed along Rensselaer Avenue in 1988.

SITE MAP

## PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

In 1986, to assess the potential for subsurface contamination, environmental investigations were undertaken. The investigations found that the subsurface soils outside buildings 27 and 30 were contaminated with VOCs. The VOCs found most frequently were benzene and chlorobenzene, two common industrial solvents. The groundwater has been impacted, but is contained on-site by the groundwater interceptor trench. No contaminants are being detected in groundwater monitoring wells closest to the Fort Crailo neighborhood.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The goal of the construction (which will start in early June) is to further optimize the operation of the groundwater treatment system and to enhance the recovery of the groundwater along the north border of the site.

- The existing 150 feet of interceptor trench will be removed and a new trench of similar design and length will be installed with the addition of a low permeability barrier on the north side of the trench.
- Replace the existing recovery manhole and reset it to a deeper depth to improve operational control.
- An additional 200 feet of interceptor trench will be constructed west of the existing trench and connected to the original trench location at the recovery manhole.

The construction activities are scheduled to begin in early June and are expected to be completed in approximately eight weeks.

## DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES

Public understanding and involvement are important to the success of New York's Voluntary Cleanup Program. As the project progresses, the NYSDEC will distribute fact sheets, like this one, to keep you informed. In addition, the Department has also placed site documents in a repository for you to read.

The work plan for the Sterling 1 Site can be reviewed at:

NYSDEC's Schenectady Office  
1150 North Westcott Road  
Schenectady, N.Y.  
call (518) 357-2046 for a FOIL appointment

Any **site related questions or concerns** can be addressed by contacting Mr. Daniel Lightsey, at (518) 357-2374 and leave your name, phone number, and question. **For health related concerns regarding this site** feel free to contact the New York State Department of Health's Mr. Daniel Geraghty, Environmental Health Specialist, at (518) 408-5423; or by calling Mr. Mark VanDeusen, Outreach Unit, at 1 (800) 458-1158, Ext. 27530.