



# FACT SHEET

## State Superfund Program

**BASF Manufacturing Plant**  
**Site Number 442027**  
**Rensselaer, NY**

September 2009

### **Pilot Sediment Treatment to Begin at BASF Site**

BASF is about to begin a pilot study to help determine the best way to address sediment contamination at its former Manufacturing Plant Site ("site") located at 36 Riverside Avenue in the City of Rensselaer. The plant is being cleaned up by BASF under New York State's Superfund program. See map on page four for the location of the site.

The cleanup plan for the site calls for the testing of different treatment methods on sediment removed from the Hudson River. The testing will be conducted by BASF with oversight provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

#### **Highlights of the Upcoming Cleanup Activities**

The overall goal of the cleanup is to achieve cleanups levels to ensure the protection of public health and environment. The contaminants in the sediment are volatile organic compounds (chlorobenzenes) and total metals (copper and lead).

During the winter and spring of 2008/2009, approximately 1,000 cubic yards (CY) of sediment were dredged from the Hudson River adjacent to the site to allow for installation of a process water discharge line associated with construction of the Empire Generating Project at the nearby BASF South 40 property. The dredged sediment is currently stockpiled in a secure enclosure (referred to as the "Containment Cell") in the western portion of the site. The sediment from this Containment Cell will be used in the pilot study, thus further dredging of the Hudson River is not necessary for the pilot study.

**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)

The Pilot Study will be conducted on a paved and fenced area of the Main Plant site immediately across Riverside Avenue from the Containment Cell location. The Pilot Test program will involve dividing the 1,000 CY of sediment into four approximately equally-sized treatment cells for pilot testing. Each of the four piles will be managed similarly, but each will be subjected to different cleanup technologies. For example, each cell will have a different treatment configuration, heating mechanisms, piping structure, and so on.

A pilot study is usually done at a site to “test” the technology on a small volume of impacted material (sediment) before using it on the entire sediment pile. BASF’s pilot study, if successful, will provide information to determine the appropriate final treatment technology, and to implement this technology on a full-scale basis.

All New York State environmental cleanups contain health and safety plans designed to protect on-site workers as well as any nearby off-site individuals. The pilot study area will be secured by a fence, and the gates will be locked when the workers are not present. Traffic may be controlled at times when trucks are entering and leaving the site. The work may produce slight odors at some times, and the Pilot Test Study Workplan has been designed to minimize these nuisance odors. Workers will be able to reduce the odors with foam and tarps. In addition, the air will be monitored for dust and volatile organic compounds to ensure the health of the workers and the public is not impacted.

### **Next Steps**

The pilot study will take place for three to four months, during which time the sediment will be sampled. BASF will provide a Pilot Treatment Report to the NYSDEC, assessing the treatment technology effectiveness for larger volumes of sediment, for potential use in the final river sediment removal actions.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed during the BASF cleanup through periodic fact sheets (which will be mailed to local media outlets) as well as the placement of key documents in the document repository (see page three for repository locations).

### **Background**

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

The BASF Corporation owns a former industrial plant that is located south and west of the intersection of Routes 9 and 9J in Rensselaer. Dyes and pharmaceuticals were manufactured at this thirty-five (35) acre site. The property is zoned as heavy industrial. There are residential areas located to the north and southeast. The site is bordered to the north by Albany Molecular Research Incorporated (Sterling Drug Site 1, #442009), to the east by railroad tracks, to the southeast by the BASF Former Landfill (BASF Closed Landfill Site, #V00521), to the south by Empire Generating Power Project (BASF South 40, #C442035), to the southwest by the Coastal Power Plant, and to the west by the Hudson River. The remedial project for the site has been subdivided into two operable units, OU1 (on-site) and OU2 (off-site). The primary contaminants are chlorinated solvents and metals. A remedial investigation/feasibility study was done, and a Record of Decision for OU1 was signed in September 2003. Remedial activities include the following completed interim-remedial measures: excavation of soil “hot spots” (June 2005); removal of basement sludge (June 2005); removal of sludge from the north and south lagoons (June 2005); excavation of contaminated soil between the two lagoons and Riverside Avenue (June 2005); and the filling of the two lagoons with approved soil (summer 2009).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following locations to help the public to stay informed. These documents include the decision document describing the selected remedy for the site, called the "Record of Decision".

Rensselaer Public Library  
810 Broadway  
Rensselaer, NY 12144  
518-462-1193

Library hours: Mon. 2-5 PM, Tues., Fri. 10-5 PM  
Wed., Thurs. 10-8 PM, Sat. 11-2 PM

New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation  
1130 North Westcott Road  
Schenectady, NY 12306-2014

518-357-2045

Office hours: Mon-Fri. 8:30-4:45 PM

### Who to Contact

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

#### For Project Related Questions

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#### For Site Related Health Concerns

Ms. Maureen Schuck  
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[mer10@health.state.ny.us](mailto:mer10@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.**



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