



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

State Superfund Program

Citizen Participation Plan for **SI Group, Congress Street Facility** **(Formerly: Schenectady International-10th St. Plant)**

1302 Congress Street
City of Schenectady
Schenectady, New York

September 2010

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Note: The information presented in this Citizen Participation Plan was current as of the date of its approval by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Portions of this Citizen Participation Plan may be revised during the site's investigation and cleanup process.

Responsible Party: **SI Group, Inc. (“Responsible Party”)**
Site Name: **Schenectady International-10th St. Plant (“site”)**
Site Address: **1302 Congress Street, Schenectady, NY**
Site County: **Schenectady**
Site Number: **447007**

1. What is New York's 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 or the environment, such as the site identified above, undergo a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup, and monitoring.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) administers the SSF Program with assistance and input from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). When the parties responsible for the contamination of the site are known (“responsible parties”), they often pay for or perform the investigation and evaluation of cleanup options under an enforceable consent order. At sites where responsible parties cannot be found or are unable or unwilling to fund an investigation, the State pays for the investigation and may try to recover costs from a responsible party after the investigation and cleanup are complete.

The SSF program contains investigation and cleanup requirements, ensuring that cleanups protect public health and the environment. For more information about the SSF program, go online at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html> .

2. Citizen Participation Activities

Why NYSDEC Involves the Public and Why It Is Important

NYSDEC involves the public to improve the process of investigating and cleaning up contaminated sites, and to enable citizens to participate more fully in decisions that affect their health, environment, and social well being. NYSDEC provides opportunities for citizen involvement and encourages early two-way communication with citizens before decision makers form or adopt final positions.

Involving citizens affected and interest in site investigation and cleanup programs is important for many reasons. These include:

- Promoting the development of timely, effective site investigation and cleanup programs that protect public health and the environment
- Improving public access to, and understanding of, issues and information related to a particular site and that site's remedial process

- Providing citizens with early and continuing opportunities to participate in NYSDEC's site investigation and cleanup process
- Ensuring that NYSDEC makes site investigation and cleanup decisions that benefit from input that reflects the interests and perspectives found within the affected community
- Encouraging dialogue to promote the exchange of information among the affected/interested public, State agencies, and other interested parties that strengthens trust among the parties, increases understanding of site and community issues and concerns, and improves decision making.

This Citizen Participation (CP) Plan provides information about how NYSDEC will inform and involve the public during the investigation and cleanup of the site identified above. The public information and involvement program will be carried out with assistance, as appropriate, from the responsible party.

Project Contacts

Appendix A identifies NYSDEC project contact(s) to whom the public should address questions or request information about the site's investigation and cleanup program. The public's suggestions about this CP Plan and the CP program for the site are always welcome. Interested people are encouraged to share their ideas and suggestions with the project contacts at any time.

Locations of Reports and Information

The locations of the reports and information related to the site's remedial program also are identified in Appendix A. These locations provide convenient access to important project documents for public review and comment. Some documents may be placed on the NYSDEC web site. If this occurs, NYSDEC will inform the public in fact sheets distributed about the site and by other means, as appropriate.

Site Contact List

Appendix B contains the site contact list. This list has been developed to keep the community informed about, and involved in, the site's investigation and cleanup process. The site contact list will be used periodically to distribute fact sheets that provide updates about the status of the project. These will include notifications of upcoming activities at the site (such as fieldwork), as well as availability of project documents and announcements about public comment periods. The site contact list includes, at a minimum:

- chief executive officer and planning board chairperson of each county, city, town and village in which the site is located;

- residents, owners, and occupants of the site and properties adjacent to the site;
- the public water supplier which services the area in which the site is located;
- any person who has requested to be placed on the site contact list;
- the administrator of any school or day care facility located on or near the site for purposes of posting and/or dissemination of information at the facility;
- location(s) of reports and information.

The site contact list will be reviewed periodically and updated as appropriate. Individuals and organizations will be added to the site contact list upon request. Such requests should be submitted to the NYSDEC project contact(s) identified in Appendix A. Other additions to the site contact list may be made at the discretion of the NYSDEC project manager, in consultation with other NYSDEC staff as appropriate.

CP Activities

The table at the end of this section identifies the CP activities, at a minimum, that have been and will be conducted during the site's investigation and cleanup program. The public is informed about these CP activities through fact sheets and notices distributed at significant points during the program. Elements of the investigation and cleanup process that match up with the CP activities are explained briefly in Section 4.

- **Notices and fact sheets** help the interested and affected public to understand contamination issues related to a site, and the nature and progress of efforts to investigate and clean up a site.
- **Public forums, comment periods and contact with project managers** provide opportunities for the public to contribute information, opinions and perspectives that have potential to influence decisions about a site's investigation and cleanup.

The public is encouraged to contact project staff at any time during the site's investigation and cleanup process with questions, comments, or requests for information.

This CP Plan may be revised due to changes in major issues of public concern identified in Section 3 or in the nature and scope of remedial activities. Modifications may include additions to the site contact list and changes in planned citizen participation activities.

Technical Assistance Grant

The site identified above poses a significant threat to public health or the environment, so that a qualifying community group may apply for a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG). The purpose of a TAG is to provide funds to the qualifying community group to obtain independent technical assistance. This assistance helps the TAG recipient to interpret and understand existing

Citizen Participation Requirements (Activities)	Timing of CP Activity(ies)
When NYSDEC Releases Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Place PRAP in document repository •Distribute fact sheet to site contact list that describes PRAP and announces 30-day comment period and public meeting •Conduct 30-day public comment period •Hold public meeting about PRAP 	<p>When NYSDEC releases PRAP. Comment period begins/ends as per dates identified in fact sheet. Public meeting is held during the comment period.</p>
When NYSDEC Issues Record of Decision (ROD):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Place ROD in document repository •Distribute notice to site contact list that announces availability of ROD. ROD includes responsiveness summary of significant comments about PRAP 	<p>When NYSDEC issues ROD</p>
Before Start of Remedial Action:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Distribute fact sheet to site contact list that describes upcoming remedial action 	<p>Before the start of remedial action at the site.</p>
When NYSDEC Issues Certificate of Completion (COC) or Similar Site Closure Document:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Place COC in document repository •Distribute fact sheet to site contact list that announces issuance of COC 	<p>Within 10 days after NYSDEC issues COC or other similar site closure document</p>

environmental information about the nature and extent of contamination related to the site and the development/implementation of a remedy.

An eligible community group must certify that its membership represents the interests of the community affected by the site, and that its members' health, economic well-being, or enjoyment of the environment may be affected by a release or threatened release of contamination at the site.

For more information about TAGs, go online at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2590.html> .

Note: The table identifying the citizen participation activities related to the site's investigation and cleanup program follows on the next page:

3. Major Issues of Public Concern

This section of the CP Plan identifies major issues of public concern that relate to the site. Additional major issues of public concern may be identified during the course of the site's investigation and cleanup process.

No concerns have yet been identified.

4. Site Information

Appendix C contains a map identifying the location of the site.

Site Description

- location – 1302 Congress Street, Schenectady, Schenectady County**
- setting – urban**
- site size – 7 acres**
- adjacent properties – Mixture of residential, commercial, industrial sites**

History of Site Use, Investigation, and Cleanup

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 SI Group plant at Congress Street was formerly a chemical manufacturing facility. The site is approximately 7.0 acres in size and is located southwest of the intersection of 10th Street and Congress Street. Residences are near the site.

From the early 1900's to 1997, SI Group manufactured insulating coatings and other chemical products at their Congress Street facility. Spills that have occurred over the years (ranging from a few gallons to a few hundred gallons) have contaminated a significant volume of soils.

Groundwater monitoring wells were first installed in 1984 and 1987 during initial investigations of the Site. Groundwater contamination by phenols, naphtha, ethylbenzene, and xylene was verified during these investigations. A Hydrogeologic Investigation report was submitted in March 1988 and confirmed the previously cited groundwater contamination.

Contaminated surface water from seeps on the hillside on the west side of the site was accessible to local residents. A fence has been installed around this area. The Cowhorn Creek, which receives the ditch outfall, is not contaminated. Also, ingestion of contaminated groundwater is not expected because residents in the area are served by a public water supply source.

A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) was completed in 1996, and a Record of Decision (ROD) for the groundwater contamination was signed in March 1998. This ROD required: installation of a groundwater collection trench, installation of groundwater recovery wells (in areas outside the capture zone of the collection trench), and construction of a groundwater pump-and-treat system for the collected groundwater.

Production at the site ceased in 1997 and SI Group removed all the process equipment, storage tanks, piping and remaining buildings in 2004. The site conditions changed when the buildings were removed, making all the soils at the site accessible for investigation and allowing for the evaluation of additional cleanup alternatives to address the contaminated soils. A work plan to update the RI/FS was prepared in August 2007 and approved by NYSDEC on August 16, 2007.

The results of two investigations to update the RI (conducted in September 2007 and December 2008) were presented in the “Updated Remedial Investigation Report” dated January 8, 2009.

An updated Feasibility Study was subsequently submitted by SI Group and approved by NYSDEC on March 5, 2010.

Based on this approved Feasibility Study, the Department developed a “Proposed Remedial Action Plan” (PRAP) and will present it to the public for its review and comment during September 2010.

5. Investigation and Cleanup Process

Investigation

A detailed study of the site was performed by the responsible party under a consent order, with oversight by NYSDEC and NYSDOH. This detailed study was officially called a “Remedial Investigation”. The investigation work plan was officially called a “Remedial Investigation Work Plan” and is available for public review at the “Locations of Reports and Information” identified in Appendix A.

The site investigation had several goals:

- 1) define the nature and extent of contamination in soil, surface water, groundwater and any other parts of the environment that may be affected;
- 2) identify the source(s) of the contamination;
- 3) assess the impact of the contamination on public health and the environment; and
- 4) provide information to support the development of a proposed remedy to address the contamination.

NYSDOH reviewed and recommended activities that were performed during the investigation to ensure that a complete picture of potential health impacts is understood. Such activities include identifying the ways contamination can reach people, such as through direct contact, eating, drinking, or breathing.

The information collected during the site investigation is summarized in the Remedial Investigation Report and is available for public review at the “Locations of Reports and Information” identified in Appendix A.

Feasibility Study

After the site investigation was completed, Si Group, with oversight by NYSDEC conducted a “Feasibility Study.” This study used the information developed during the remedial investigation to develop and evaluate potential ways to clean up contamination related to the site.

Proposed Remedy

The evaluation of possible remedies ended with a recommended proposal to eliminate the threat posed by contaminants at the site. NYSDEC prepared this proposal, officially called a “Proposed Remedial Action Plan” (PRAP). The PRAP described the remedy preferred by NYSDEC. The PRAP summarized the decision that led to the recommendation of the preferred remedy by discussing each alternative and the reasons for choosing or rejecting it. The goal of any cleanup plan is to protect public health and the environment. NYSDEC will present the PRAP to the public for its review and comment during a 30-day comment period and at a public meeting.

Selected Remedy

NYSDEC considers public comments as it selects the remedy to address contamination related to the site. The selected remedy will be described in a document officially called a “Record of Decision” (ROD). The ROD will explain why the remedy was selected and respond to public comments. This document will be placed in the location of reports and information. If the selected remedy is no action or no further action, NYSDEC may then take steps to reclassify the site or remove the site from its list of contaminated sites.

Cleanup Action

If the Record of Decision for the site calls for cleanup action, the project then moves to designing and performing the cleanup actions to address the site contamination. When cleanup actions have been completed, NYSDEC will approve or prepare a final engineering report that

describes the cleanup actions undertaken and certifies that cleanup requirements have been achieved or will be achieved.

Certificate of Completion

Upon approval of the final engineering report, NYSDEC may issue a Certificate of Completion (COC). The COC would recognize the findings of the final engineering report. The COC would note that the cleanup program achieved a cleanup level consistent with specific categories of use for the site. The recipient of the COC would be entitled to limited liability as long as it complied with the terms of the COC, and other conditions.

A COC may be modified or revoked if, for example, the recipient does not comply with the terms of the COC, or if the recipient commits fraud regarding its certification that it has met cleanup levels.

Site Management

Site management is the last phase of the site cleanup program. This phase begins when the COC is issued. Site management may be conducted by NYSDEC, or by the responsible party under NYSDEC oversight, if contamination will remain in place. Site management incorporates any institutional and engineering controls required to ensure that the remedy implemented for the site remains protective of public health and the environment. All significant activities are detailed in a Site Management Plan.

An institutional control is a non-physical restriction on use of the site, such as a deed restriction that would prevent or restrict certain uses of the property. An institutional control may be used when the cleanup action leaves some contamination that makes the site suitable for some, but not all uses.

An engineering control is a physical barrier or method to manage contamination. Examples include: caps, covers, barriers, fences, and treatment of water supplies.

Site management also may include the operation and maintenance of a component of the remedy, such as a system that is pumping and treating groundwater. Site management continues until NYSDEC determines that it is no longer needed.

During the Site Management phase, NYSDEC may also take steps to reclassify the site or remove the site from the Registry.

Appendix A

Project Contacts and Locations of Reports and Information

Project Contacts

For information about the site's investigation and cleanup program, the public may contact any of the following project staff:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC):

Howard Brezner
Project Manager
NYSDEC Region 4
1130 North Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12306
(518) 357-2347
hsbrezne@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Rick Georgeson
Citizen Participation Specialist
NYSDEC Region 4
1130 North Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12306
(518) 357-2075
rngeorge@gw.dec.state.ny.us

New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH):

Maureen E. Schuck
Project Manager
NYSDOH
Center for Environmental Health
NYS Department of Health/ BEEI
Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza,
Albany, NY 12237
(518) 402-7860
mer10@health.state.ny.us

Locations of Reports and Information

The facilities identified below are being used to provide the public with convenient access to important project documents:

Schenectady County Library
Central Branch
99 Clinton Street
Schenectady, NY
(518) 388-4500
Hours: M-Th 9-9; F-Sat 9-5; Su 1-5

NYSDEC Region 4
1130 North Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12306
Attn: Howard S. Brezner
(518) 357-2045
Hours: M-F 8:30-4:45 or call for appointment

Appendix B – Site Contact List

Mailing list to be used to send out information concerning the proposed Congress Street PRAP and public comment.

1. Schenectady County
Susan E. Savage
Chair of the County Legislature

Kathleen Rooney
County Manager

John J. Woodward
Schenectady County Clerk

Schenectady County Office Building
620 State Street
Schenectady, NY 12305
2. Schenectady County – Department of Public Health
Dr. David S. Pratt
Commissioner of Public Health
107 Nott Terrace
Schaffer Heights
Schenectady, NY 12308
3. Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council
107 Nott Terrace – Suite 303
Schenectady, NY 12308
4. City of Schenectady
Brian U. Stratton
Mayor

City of Schenectady Water Department
Paul LaFond
Deputy Director of Water and Wastewater

City of Schenectady Engineering Department
Paul Cassillo
City Engineer

City of Schenectady Planning Department
Steve Strichman
Zoning Officer

President
City Council

City Hall
105 Jay Street
Schenectady, NY 12305

5. Neighborhood Associations

Mt. Pleasant Action Coalition
Carm Pantalone Jr., Pres.
905 Ten Eyck Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12303

6. Media

The Daily Gazette
2345 Maxon Road Ext.
Schenectady, NY 12308
news@dailygazette.net

The Times Union
News Plaza, Box 15000
Albany, NY 12212
tucitydesk@timesunion.com

Capital District Business Review
40 British American Blvd.
Latham, NY 12110
Albany@bizjournals.com

7. Residential Properties across Tenth Avenue

Information obtained from the Schenectady County Real Property Tax Service Agency Image Mate Online property information, which has been updated to include the 2010 Final Assessment Roll information. A number of the residences are duplexes.

(1) Resident
1435 Tenth Ave.
Schenectady, NY 12303
Reported Owner: D. & F. Depasquale
Address: Same

(2) Resident

1431 Tenth Ave.
Schenectady, NY 12303
Reported Owner: Guy M. Beauchamp
Address: Same

Resident
1433 Tenth Ave.
Schenectady, NY 12303
Second Resident

- (3) Resident
1427 Tenth Ave.
Schenectady, NY 12303
Reported Owner: Maria Carusone
Address: 16 Summit Trail
Mechanicville, NY 12118

Resident
1429 Tenth Ave.
Schenectady, NY 12303
Second Resident

- (4) Resident
1423 Tenth Ave.
Schenectady, NY 12303
Reported Owner: Raul Class
Address: Same

- (5) Resident
1419 Tenth Ave. Apt 2
Schenectady, NY 12303
Reported Owner: P. & M. Carnivale and Diane Williams Att
Address: Same

Resident
1421 Tenth Ave.
Schenectady, NY 12303
Second Resident

(6 &7) Resident
1254 Congress Street.
Schenectady, NY 12303
Reported Owner: V. & J. Ferrari
Address: Same

8. Adjacent Properties

(8) Resident
1381 Tenth Ave
Schenectady, NY 12303
Reported Owner: Bholanauth Ragnunath
Address: Same

(9) Resident
1378 Tenth Ave
Schenectady, NY 12303
Reporter Owner: Basoondai Alli
Address: Same

Resident
1376 Tenth Ave.
Schenectady, NY 12303
Second Resident

(10) Resident
1370 Tenth Ave
Schenectady, NY 12303
Reported Owner: Hazrat & Amzad W. Alli
Address: Same

(11) Empty Lot
Tenth Ave
Schenectady, NY 12303
Reported Owner: Anthony Riccio
Address: 1888 Fiero Ave
Schenectady, NY 12303

(12) Empty Lot
1265 Congress Street
Schenectady, NY 12303
Reported Owner: Dennis Carringi
Address: 968 Francis Ave

Schenectady, NY 12303

- (13) CSX Rail Line
Kevin Boland, P.G.
Environmental Consultant
CSX Transportation, Inc.
500 Water Street, J-275
Jacksonville, FL 32202
- (14) Empty Lot (No Mailing)
Reported Owner: City of Schenectady
- (15) Empty Lot
Reported Owner: Mary Laurenzo
Address: 2534 N 38 Ave
Hollywood, FL 33021
- (16) Empty Lot (No Mailing)
Reported Owner: City of Schenectady
- (17) Empty Lot (No Mailing)
Reported Owner: City of Schenectady
- (18) Resident
1150 Cutler St.
Schenectady, NY 12303
Reported Owner: Benwa Equities Inc.
Address Same
- (19) Empty Lot
1145 Cutler St.
Schenectady, NY 12303
Reported Owner: Tauram & Pramela Sarju
Address: 116-56 130th Street
S. Ozone Park, NY 11420

9. Repositories

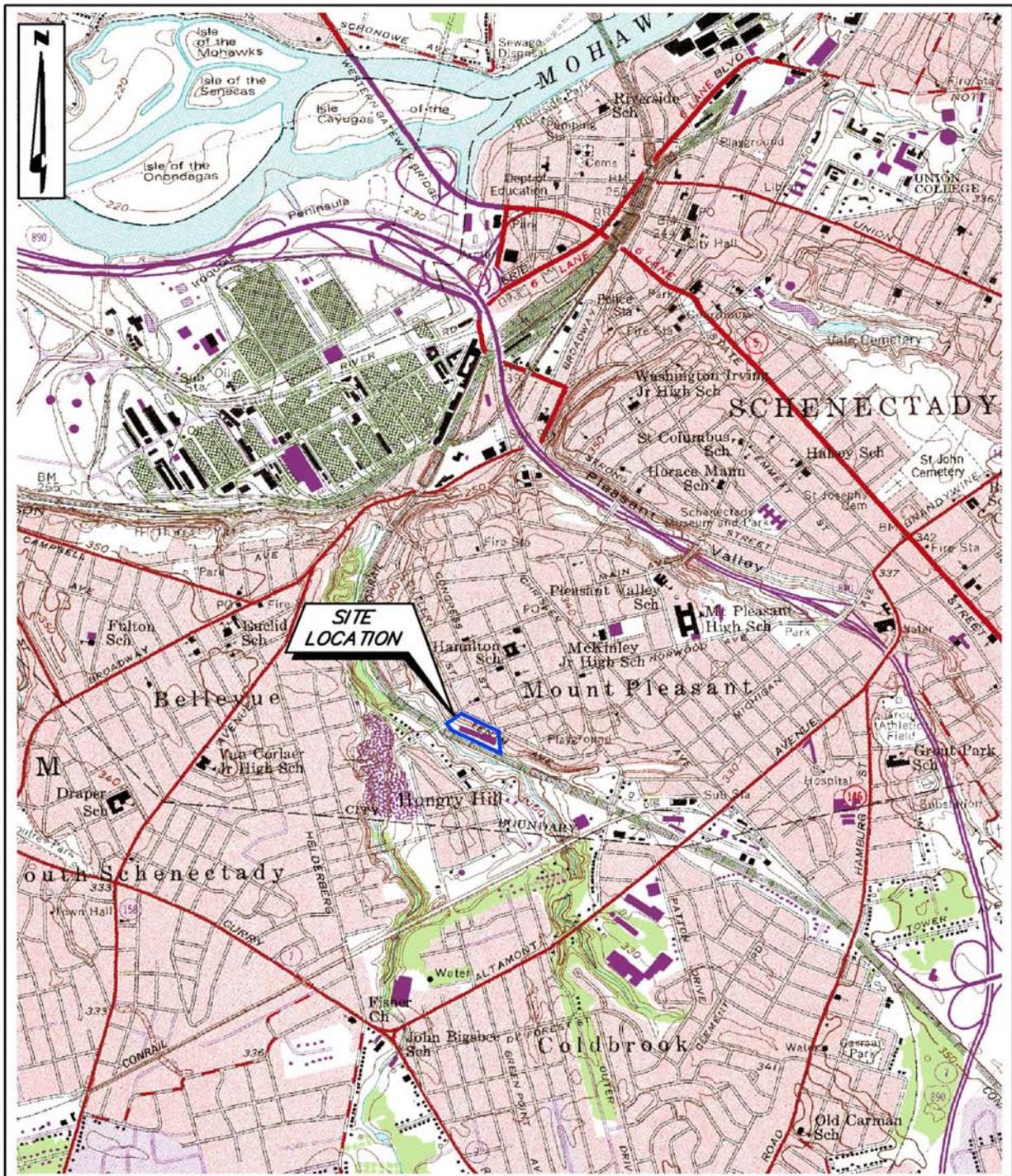
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
1130 North Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12306
Attn: Howard S. Brezner

Schenectady County Library
Central Branch
99 Clinton Street
Schenectady, NY 12305-2047

10. Other

Maureen E. Schuck
Project Manager
NYSDOH
Center for Environmental Health
NYS Department of Health/ BEEI
Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza,
Albany, NY 12237

Appendix C – Site Location Map



File: M:\15091\CS\FEASIBILITY STUDY\ACAD\ACAD\Figure 1.DWG Saved: 4/15/2009 3:23:59 PM Plotted: 4/15/2009 3:25:59 PM User: Weatherby Jr., Bill

 <p>III Winners Circle, PO Box 5269 - Albany, NY 12205-0269 Main: (518) 458-4500 • www.chaconpanies.com</p>	<p align="center">SITE LOCATION UPDATED FEASIBILITY STUDY CONGRESS STREET FACILITY SI GROUP INC. SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK</p>	<p>PROJECT NO. 15091.2010.1102</p> <p>DATE: 02/25/09</p> <p align="center">FIGURE 1</p>
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