

## New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Environmental Remediation

# SCOTIA NAVY DEPOT (BUILDING 15 AND VOC PLUME) REGISTRY #447023 SCHENECTADY COUNTY January 2000

#### Site Location and History

The Scotia Navy Depot is located in the Town of Glenville along north side of Route 5 west of Scotia, NY. The Scotia Navy Depot was constructed in 1942 in support of the U.S. Navy Military operations during World War II. The Navy used the depot for naval supplies and to store war damaged material. The Depot consisted of a 337 acre parcel purchased by the Government from the Scotia Sand and Gravel Company. Twenty-nine buildings, a railroad yard and numerous rail sidings were constructed on the site. In 1960, the Navy turned over 334 acres to the General Services Administration (GSA), retaining only 2.6 acres for Navy use. Since then, numerous parcel divisions and ownership changes have occurred.

#### Concerns at the Site

In 1991, the Town of Rotterdam community wells and 2 of the 12 City of Schenectady wells, which are located approximately 1.5 miles from the site, were also found to contain low levels of TCE but below NYSDEC groundwater standards. As a result, NYSDOH sampled home owner wells across Route 5 from the Scotia Navy Depot and found some to contain TCE as high as 320 ppb. During a subsequent site walk over it was discovered the Building 15 contained floor pits filled with waste sludge with a metal content that failed EP-tox testing. As a result litigation was pursued with Olivial Colors, Inc. for the illegal disposal.

#### Investigation History

The initial focus of investigative work by the NYSDEC centered around Building 15, located in Section II. It was found that the old septic system received used solvents and metallic glaze waste through the floor drains of Building 15.

The NYSDEC pursued a PSA investigation in 1995 to assess impact from waste disposal at Building 15. During this investigation, some effort was made to help determine the source and possible flow direction of the TCE plume. In 1997, additional work was conducted to further assess the TCE plume and findings showed it to be narrow and flowing in a southwestern direction across what is known as the 300 block area of the former Depot. The report for this investigation is currently finalized and is in the process of being copied for distribution to concerned parties.

### Status of Current Investigations

In August 1999, the tenant (Glenville Energy Park Holdings.) of the 300 block area of the Depot( currently a large field crossed with Niagara Mohawk Power lines) began their own environmental assessment of the property. The NYSDEC has been splitting samples and sharing information with the tenant's consultant, Earthtech.. The current data obtained from their consultant indicates a potential source of groundwater contamination emanating from the northeast end of the active portion of the Depot. The investigation of the 300 block area of Section II is still on going.

In May 1999, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) sent a draft sampling work plan to the NYSDEC for review. The focus of the sampling is around the various stockpiles of ores remaining on the DLA operated area to see if the outside storage of these material has lead to environmental impacts. Current stockpiles consists of zinc ingots and ferrochrome ore, previously lead ingots were also stored on site, the stockpiles of lead have subsequently been removed.

While conducting review of the submitted documentation and conducting a field visit to the subject area, it was discovered that the former Depot contained a landfill used during Depot operations (located shown on attached map). Responsibility for maintenance of this landfill falls under the GSA. Inquiries were made as to whether any preliminary investigative work was done in this area, and a copy of a July 1999 Phase II Site Assessment Report was sent to NYSDEC staff. This report contains soil sampling information pertaining to the landfill area which indicated VOC contamination (maximum values: PCE 3.2 ppm, DCE 19 ppm and TCE 2.1 ppm). In addition, a field visit conducted in November 1999, with representative of the NYSDOH and NYSDEC, revealed a fill area which was approximately 30 to 40 feet in height and extending for approximately 100 yards by 150 yards. The surface of this area contained construction and demolition material as well as numerous bulged and cracked 55 gallon drums; no intact drums were observed.



