

NEW YORK STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF



ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION



State of New York  
Department of Health

## Public Meeting Invitation

**Tuesday, February 24  
7:00 PM**

Schenectady County Public  
Library, McChesney Room  
99 Clinton Street,  
Schenectady  
(518) 388-4500

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health (DEC and NYSDOH) will discuss the proposed remedy for the Former Kenwood Cleaners Site. At the meeting, representatives from the DEC and NYSDOH will:

- Describe the results of the site investigations;
- Explain the proposed remedy;
- Answer questions about the remedy;
- Receive verbal or written comments about the proposal.

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**From:** February 9, 2009  
**To:** March 11, 2009

# FACT SHEET

FEBRUARY 2009

FORMER KENWOOD CLEANERS, SITE NO. 447032  
445 DUANE AVENUE, SCHENECTADY, NY  
NYSDEC, REGION 4, SCHENECTADY COUNTY

## STATE SUPERFUND REMEDY PROPOSED FOR THE FORMER KENWOOD CLEANERS SITE

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## Public Meeting, Comment Period Announced

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**The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), working cooperatively with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), has proposed a remedy designed to address contamination identified at the Former Kenwood Cleaners site in Schenectady, New York (see location map on page four).**

**The Proposed Action:** Highlights of the proposed remedy include construction of a groundwater and soil vapor extraction system with subsequent *in situ* groundwater treatment if necessary. This proposal is described in the site's proposed remedial action plan (PRAP). The PRAP was developed following a detailed investigation of the site. The PRAP evaluates different options to clean up the site and presents the alternative preferred by the DEC and NYSDOH.

See pages two and three of this fact sheet for a summary of the PRAP, site background, and summary of the site investigation. The full PRAP is available for your review at the document repositories listed on page four.

**Your Opportunities to Comment on the Proposed Remedy:** Release of the PRAP begins a process to finalize selection of the remedy for the site. Your comment and input about the proposed remedy are important and encouraged.

Oral and written comments about the PRAP are welcome at the **public meeting** (see sidebar) and during a **public comment period** which runs until March 11, 2009. Written comments also may be mailed or emailed until the end of the comment period to:

Ian A. Beilby, P.E.  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Environmental Remediation  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor, 625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-7016

**What Happens Next:** All comments received during the public comment period will be considered as the remedy for the Former Kenwood Cleaners Site is finalized. Public input will be factored into the record of decision (ROD) which will describe the remedy selected and why it was chosen. DEC will respond to comments in a responsiveness summary included in the ROD.

### **Site History**

The property was the location of various commercial operations including a tuxedo rental shop and dry cleaners. The dry cleaning business is known to have operated for some period between 1950 and 1964. Some evidence exists that the business may have operated into the 1980's. While the exact method of hazardous waste disposal is unknown, it is most likely that direct release to the ground of a commonly used dry cleaning solvent, tetrachloroethene (PCE), is responsible for the volatile organic compound (VOC) contamination found both on and off-site. It is also likely that underground fuel oil and/or gasoline spills contributed to additional VOC and semivolatile organic compound (SVOC) contamination.

An environmental investigation was performed in 1998 as part of a proposed property transfer. This investigation confirmed the presence of PCE and related VOCs in the soil and groundwater at the site.

### **Site Investigation**

The remedial investigation was performed to determine the nature and extent of the contamination confirmed to exist at the site. The investigation was initiated in 2007 and completed in 2008. Groundwater monitoring wells were installed to collect groundwater samples and to determine the groundwater flow direction. Soil samples were collected from the well borings as they were being drilled. In addition to the water and soil samples, soil vapor samples were collected from additional borings installed around the site and indoor air samples were collected from on-site and off-site structures. Some soil vapor samples were collected from below building foundation slabs to assess the potential for intrusion of the contamination into those structures via vapor intrusion.

Soil, groundwater, soil vapor, and indoor air were all found to be impacted by dry cleaning solvents to varying degrees depending on the location of the sample. Detailed results of all sample analyses and conclusions from the investigation are presented in the 2007 Remedial Investigation Report which is available in the document repositories.

### **Summary of Proposed Remedial Action**

The Former Kenwood Cleaners site is located at 445 Duane Avenue in the city of Schenectady. It is bounded a municipal parking lot to the south and residential properties to the north and east. The site includes the entire property and is located in a predominantly residential area of the city though some light industrial and commercial businesses are also present.

The PRAP identifies the remedy preferred by DEC and NYSDOH to remediate the dry cleaning solvent contamination in the soil and groundwater. The proposed alternative was chosen following a detailed investigation of the site and evaluation of alternatives for cleaning the site.

**The elements of the proposed remedy include:**

- Before finalizing the remedial design, a predesign study of groundwater and soil composition would be conducted to obtain data needed to complete a design of the remedy.
- Construction and operation of a dual phase vapor extraction system to collect and treat contaminated on-site soil and groundwater. Once treated, groundwater would be discharged to the sanitary sewer.
- Construction of a permeable reactive barrier (PRB) to treat contaminated groundwater migrating off-site if deemed necessary after the vapor extraction system has been operating for one year. The PRB would be installed along the south and west property boundaries.
- Imposition of an institutional control in the form of an environmental easement that would require (a) limiting the use and development of the property to commercial or industrial uses; (b) compliance with the approved site management plan; (c) restricting the use of soil excavated from the site for any off-site applications pending sampling and analysis to document conformance with applicable standards, criteria and guidance for contaminated media; and (d) restrict the use of groundwater as a source of potable or process water, without necessary water quality treatment as determined by NYSDOH.
- Development of a site management plan that includes the following institutional and engineering controls: (a) excavated soil would be tested, properly handled to protect the health and safety of workers and the nearby community, and would be properly managed in a manner acceptable to the DEC; (b) continued evaluation of the potential for vapor intrusion for any buildings developed on the site, including provision for mitigation of any impacts identified; (c) monitoring of groundwater and soil vapor, and potential for vapor intrusion on-site and at an off-site industrial building; (d) identification of any use restrictions on the site; and (e) provisions for the continued proper operation and maintenance of the remedy.
- The property owner would provide a periodic certification of institutional and engineering controls, prepared by an expert acceptable to DEC, until DEC notifies the property owner in writing that this certification is no longer needed. This submittal would: (a) contain certification that the institutional controls and engineering controls put in place are still in place and are either unchanged from the previous certification or are compliant with DEC-approved modifications; (b) allow DEC access to the site; and (c) state that nothing has occurred that would impair the ability of the control to protect public health or the environment, or constitute a violation or failure to comply with the site management plan unless otherwise approved by DEC.
- The remedy would continue until the remedial objectives have been achieved, or until DEC determines that continued operation is technically impracticable or not feasible.

**Costs and Funding for the Site Remedy**

The total cost of the proposed remedy, including construction, operation and future monitoring is estimated at \$1,732,000. This project would be funded through the State Superfund.

## Document Locations

The public is encouraged to review documents related to this project at the following regional locations:

### Schenectady County Public

#### Library

Duane Branch Library

1331 State Street

Schenectady, NY 12304

(518) 386-2242

Mon. – Sat. 12:00 pm -6:00pm

Sun. Closed

#### DEC - Region 4

1150 North Westcott Road

Schenectady, NY 12306

Mon. - Fri. 8:30am - 4:30pm by appointment.

Rick Georgeson

(518) 357-2075

#### DEC - Central Office

625 Broadway

Albany, NY 12233-7013

Mon. - Fri. 8:30am - 4:30pm by appointment.

Ian Beilby

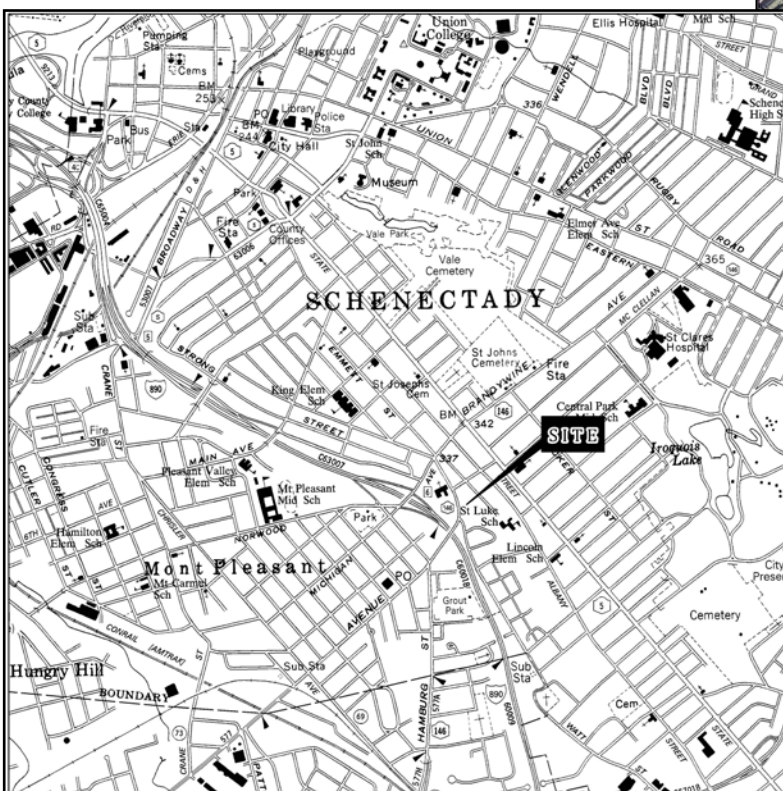
(518) 402-9767

## Questions

Any questions or concerns regarding the investigation can be addressed by contacting Mr. Ian Beilby of the DEC at (518) 402-9767 or (888) 459-8667.

For health related concerns regarding this site, please contact Mr. Albert DeMarco of the NYSDOH at (518) 402-7860.

### Site Location – Former Kenwood Cleaners



### Site Outline – Former Kenwood Cleaners