

NEW YORK STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF



ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION



State of New York  
Department of Health



*Broome County  
Health Department*

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# Public Information Session

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21**

You are invited to attend a public information session on **Wednesday April 21, 2004 at the Union-Endicott High School Cafeteria, 1200 East Main Street, Endicott, NY, from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.** regarding ongoing environmental projects in the Endicott area. You may come at any time during these hours. Representatives from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Health, Broome County Health Department and IBM Corporation will be on hand to provide an update on project activities, findings to date, and next steps.

## BACKGROUND

In the past, IBM used certain solvents in manufacturing operations at its former Endicott facility. Those solvents are no longer used at the facility. Historically, as a result of leaks and spills, contaminants entered the groundwater located 18 to 30 feet below the ground surface. In 1980, IBM began cleaning up and monitoring the contaminants associated with its former plant. Since the fall of 2002, there has been an extensive effort to assess impacts associated with migration of contaminant vapors from the groundwater through the soil and into buildings in the Village of Endicott and the Town of Union. IBM has implemented the agencies' approved work plan; collecting vapor samples from within, beneath and outside of buildings throughout the study area and installing mitigation systems at structures that meet the project criteria. IBM has also implemented the Supplemental Groundwater Assessment program to evaluate options for accelerating the clean up of groundwater contamination.

## IBM GROUNDWATER VAPOR PROJECT

Based on the results of vapor sampling which was performed between January and May of 2003, IBM offered mitigation systems to 480 property owners. Installation of the systems has now been completed at most of these properties. In order to define the limits of mitigation, an additional 93 properties were sampled in January 2004. The results were mailed to the property owners in March 2004. Based on these results, mitigation systems were offered to three additional property owners. IBM will perform sampling at 21 properties during March and April, 2004 to confirm the limits of mitigation.

The approved Groundwater Vapor Action Plan requires IBM to perform post-mitigation physical sampling at all mitigated structures and vapor sampling at ten percent of the mitigated structures. The sampling results indicate that the mitigation systems are effective at eliminating vapor intrusion into the buildings. IBM will perform additional post-mitigation sampling during the 2004 heating season.

## IBM SUPPLEMENTAL GROUNDWATER ASSESSMENT

The agencies have completed a review of IBM's Supplemental Groundwater Assessment Report. As a result of this review, IBM will be submitting and implementing several work plans for further investigation and clean up of the groundwater contamination, including plans to perform additional groundwater recovery from new pumping wells, and plans for evaluating source area contamination. This spring, IBM will install additional groundwater recovery wells in the vicinity of North Street. They will also install additional monitoring wells to gather information that will be used to guide further remedial efforts in the area south of Monroe Street.

## AMBIENT AIR ASSESSMENT PLAN

In March 2004, the NYSDEC sent IBM an ambient air assessment plan for implementation. The plan identifies several tasks that will need to be completed by IBM over the next several months. The goal of this investigation is to determine whether the operation of mitigation systems has impacted ambient air. The plan requires IBM to perform community air quality monitoring for pollutants of concern related to the clean up effort.

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## **NYSDEC AREA WIDE STUDY**

The NYSDEC has begun field work to investigate other potential sources of contamination in Endicott and the surrounding area. The indoor air sampling began in late March. The NYSDEC expects to receive analytical results beginning in late April. Homeowners will be notified of the results as soon as the data is validated. A records review has commenced to help determine what other sources may be contributing to observed groundwater and indoor air impacts. A Geographic Information System (GIS) database is being constructed for the Department to use in its efforts.

## **SITE RECLASSIFICATION**

The NYSDEC completed the reclassification of the IBM site from a Class 4 (Site Properly Closed - Requires Continued Management) to a Class 2 (Significant Threat to Public Health or Environment - Action Required) on the NYS Registry of Inactive Hazardous Disposal Sites. Adjacent property owners have been notified.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Documents related to this project are available for review at the George F. Johnson Memorial Library, Village of Endicott, 1001 Park Street, Endicott, NY 13760.

Additional information may also be found at: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dshm/sldwaste/endicottfacts.htm>

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