



REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/FEASIBILITY STUDY

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

WORK ASSIGNMENT D003825-28

**AMERICAN CLEANERS
CITY OF BINGHAMTON (C)**

**SITE NO. 7-04-030
BROOME (C), NY**

Prepared for:
NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York
John P. Cahill, Commissioner

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION

URS Corporation Group Consultants
282 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Final
November 2000**



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AMERICAN CLEANERS SITE
SITE # 7-04-030
BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK**

Prepared For:

**NYS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION
WORK ASSIGNMENT D003825-28**

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OCTOBER 2000

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in partnership with the New York State Departments of Health (DOH) and Law (DOL), is responsible for seeing that hazardous waste sites across the state are investigated and, if necessary, remediated. Under the State's Hazardous Waste Site Remedial Program, NYSDEC follows a path of thorough investigation, enforcement, remedial action selection, design and construction. Throughout this process, the NYSDEC conducts a citizen participation program.

In many instances, the NYSDEC is able to identify and enter into legal agreements with companies who owned or operated, or currently own or operate the facility identified as a hazardous waste site. These companies are called Potentially Responsible Parties, or PRPs.

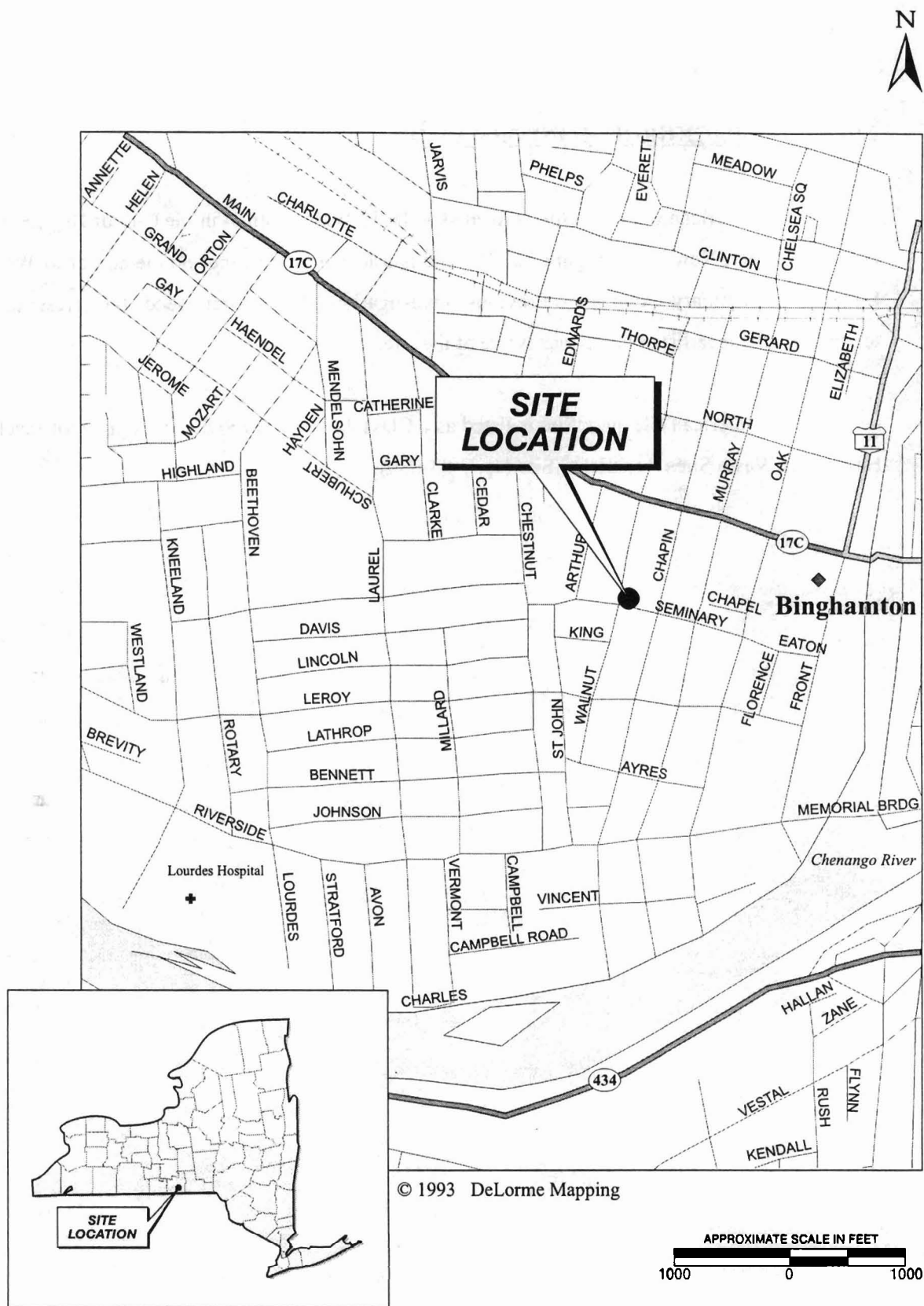
In cases where PRPs cannot be identified, are no longer in existence, or are not financially capable, the State conducts remedial activities under funding from the 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act (EQBA). Sites conducted with EQBA funds are commonly called State "Superfund" sites. The American Cleaners Site is a State-funded Superfund site.

Citizen participation is aimed at increasing public understanding of NYSDEC's responsibilities and the remedial activities at the site. The citizen participation program also opens up two-way communication, thus providing 1) an opportunity for NYSDEC to obtain site information from the public that enables the NYSDEC to develop a comprehensive remedial plan which is protective of both public health and the environment, and 2) a mechanism for NYSDEC to learn public concerns and answer questions about the site and the remedial process.

2.0 SITE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The American Cleaners Site is located at 48-50 Walnut Street in the City of Binghamton, Broome County, New York (Figure 1). The site is a former dry cleaner on the corner of Walnut Street and Seminary Avenue. Previous investigations have established the presence of tetrachloroethene, a listed hazardous waste at the site.

The American Cleaners Site is listed as a Class 2 site on NYSDEC's Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites (NYSDEC Site No. 7-04-030).



3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Project Objectives

NYSDEC, in cooperation with DOH, is undertaking a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the American Cleaners site. The objectives of the RI/FS are to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the site, assess the impacts of this contamination upon public health and the environment, develop and evaluate remedial alternatives for mitigating these impacts, and recommend a specific alternative for remediation of the site.

The Remedial Investigation (RI) involves primarily data collection, including field investigation activities, and data assessment. Information and data collected during the RI will be used during the Feasibility Study (FS) to determine the need for remediation, assess the degree of remediation required to protect human health and the environment, and identify/evaluate the types of remedial alternatives which can successfully achieve these objectives.

The FS will then be used as a basis to select the final remedial action for the site. Following completion of the FS, the State will select a preferred remedy (Proposed Remedial Action Plan) and seek public comment on that proposed remedy. All appropriate documents will be made available to the public, comments will be solicited and a public meeting will be held to discuss the results of the RI/FS and the proposed remedial action. Following public input, the State will make a final decision about what remedial action should be implemented. This decision will then be documented in a formal Record of Decision by the NYSDEC.

3.2 Description of Tasks

NYSDEC will hire a contractor to perform the Remedial Investigation. As part of the Remedial Investigation, the State's contractor will:

- survey the site and prepare a detailed map;
- install and sample groundwater monitoring wells and piezometers and determine the direction of groundwater flow;

- sample subsurface soils;
- sample water from the sumps on the site;

After NYSDEC determines that the site has been adequately investigated, NYSDEC will prepare a Feasibility Study to evaluate different methods for cleaning up the site. Once the RI/FS are complete, NYSDEC, in conjunction with DOH, will propose a final action plan for the site. This plan is called a Proposed Remedial Action Plan, or PRAP. The PRAP will compare different cleanup options that could be taken at the site and recommend a preferred cleanup option based on a series of criteria, such as short- and long-term permanence of the cleanup, cost, and ease of implementation. NYSDEC will solicit public input on the PRAP.

After considering all comments received from the public, NYSDEC will make a final decision on the cleanup plan and outline the decision in a document called a Record of Decision, or ROD. NYSDEC will include responses to comments they receive from citizens in an appendix in the Record of Decision. More details about the citizen participation activities that will take place during the investigation and selection of a cleanup plan can be found in the next section of this Citizen Participation Plan.

4.0 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES

This section describes specific citizen participation activities planned to be carried out during this RI/FS for the American Cleaners site. These activities will be developed in phases as the remedial program progresses, and may be modified as the NYSDEC Project Manager and Citizen Participation Specialist gain additional insight into local interest in citizen participation and the project, or as the technical program and information about the site changes.

Major elements of the site remedial program are listed below. For each program element, the preliminary citizen participation activities that will take place are listed. As previously noted, additional citizen participation activities may be added, and the plan revised to include Design and Construction, Operation and Maintenance activities, etc. as the site progresses through the remedial process.

4.1 Remedial Investigation

A mailing list has been prepared for the site. Included on the list are local residents, local and state government officials, and media. A document repository will be established near the site to provide interested parties with access to site documents and information.

An availability session will be held by NYSDEC prior to the commencement of RI field work. The purpose of the session will be to provide citizens with a brief description of upcoming field work, a schedule for the field work, and to learn their concerns and answer questions. NYSDEC will prepare a meeting announcement with input from NYSDOH. This notice will outline the investigation, inform the public of the availability of the RI work plan, and identify the official site document repository. Following completion of the RI, a fact sheet describing the results will be distributed to the mailing list.

4.2 Feasibility Study

RI results will be used to assess the need for remediation at the American Cleaners Site, and as a basis for the development, screening and evaluation of remedial alternatives. Once these results are available, NYSDEC will identify and implement project-specific citizen participation activities at key decision points during the FS.

4.3 Proposed Remedial Action Plan and Record of Decision

Based upon the results of the RI/FS, NYSDEC, in conjunction with DOH, will prepare a PRAP. A fact sheet describing the PRAP will be mailed to the Contact List (see Section 5.0), and the public will be allowed 30 days to comment on the plan. During this 30-day comment period, a public meeting will be held to discuss the PRAP and gather public comments. After considering all comments received from the public, NYSDEC will make a final decision concerning the selected remedy, and incorporate this into a document called a “Record of Decision” (ROD). The ROD will include an appendix called a “Responsiveness Summary,” which addresses significant comments received during the public comment period. A fact sheet describing the ROD will be mailed to the Contact List.

4.4 Citizen Participation Record

The citizen participation activities described above will be tracked and documented through a Citizen Participation Record. A copy of this Citizen Participation Record is provided on the following pages.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION RECORD FOR THE AMERICAN CLEANERS SITE

Part A. Activities During Site Investigations and Selection of a Remedy

1. Required Citizen Participation Activities

To enable citizens to participate more fully in decisions that may affect their health, NYSDEC affords several opportunities for citizen involvement during the investigation and clean up of inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. The table below outlines activities that will occur during the investigation and determination of a cleanup plan for the American Cleaners site.

Citizen Participation Activities			
The State will:	At this point in the investigation/ cleanup:	The activity is scheduled to be completed:	The activity was completed:
Set up Document Repositories, where citizens can review site-related documents, at the regional NYSDEC office and a public location near the site.	Before the remedial investigation starts	October 2000	
Create a list of people ("Contact List") interested in the site, including residents, government representatives, media, and any interested civic, environmental or business groups.	Before the remedial investigation starts	October 2000	
Create a Citizen Participation Plan and place it in Document Repositories	Before the remedial investigation starts	October 2000	
Mail a fact sheet to the Contact List describing activities proposed for the site	At the start of the remedial investigation	November 2000	
Mail a fact sheet to the Contact List describing results of the investigation	When the remedial investigation is complete	TBD	

Mail a fact sheet to the Contact List describing the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) and announcing a 30 day comment period	After all investigations are completed and the PRAP is written	TBD	
Allow the public 30 days to comment on the proposed clean up plan (PRAP)	After fact sheet announcing the PRAP is mailed	TBD	
Hold a public meeting to discuss the PRAP and gather public comments	During the 30-day public comment period	TBD	
Mail a fact sheet to the Contact List describing the selected remedy. NYSDEC will place the "Record of Decision," which outlines the final remedy, at the document repositories. The Record of Decision will include responses to significant comments received during the comment period. (These responses will appear as an appendix call a "Responsiveness Summary.")	When the Record of Decision is signed	TBD	

2. Additional Citizen Participation Activities

Depending on citizen interest, the State may also conduct more citizen participation activities than are required, such as holding additional public meetings or mailing more fact sheets to interested citizens. Community involvement is important to ensure that the State satisfies the needs of those living and working near the site. Any additional activities that are currently planned for this site are listed in the table below:

ACTIVITY:	This activity will be completed:	This activity was completed:

5.0 CONTACT LIST

A list of names and addresses of agency officials, local and/or elected officials, media representatives, residents and other interested parties are provided in the following pages.

AGENCY CONTACTS

✉ Mr. Gary Robinson
New York State Department of Health
■ 217 South Salina Street
✉ Syracuse, NY 13202

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225 Front Street
Binghamton, NY 13905

LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

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44 Hawley Street
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New York State Assembly
248 Main Street
Johnson City, NY 13790

Hon. Charles Schumer
United States Senate
Federal Building, Room B6
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Hon. Sherwod Boehlert
United States Congress
Alexander Pirnie Bldg.
10 Broad Street, Room 200
Utica, NY 13501-1270

Hon. James T. Walsh
United States Congress
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Federal Building
Syracuse, NY 13261

Hon. Maurice D. Hinchey
United States Congress
100-A Federal Building
Binghamton, NY 13902

Eric Denk, Councilman
City of Binghamton
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MEDIA

■ Binghamton Press & Sun Bulletin
4421 Vestal Parkway East
Vestal, NY 13850-3556

The Country Courier
The Vestal Town Crier
Windsor Standard
1035 Conklin Road
Conklin, NY 13748-1102

Deposit Courier
24 Laurel Bank Avenue
Deposit, NY 13754

■ The Oswego News
■ The Valley News
■ The Vestal News
■ 3128 Watson Boulevard
■ Endwell, NY 13760-3532

WIVT-TV 34
203 Ingraham Hill Road
Binghamton, NY 13903-5511

WBNG-TV 12
12 Gateway Plaza
Columbia Drive
Johnson City, NY 13790

■ WICZ-TV 40
■ 4600 Vestal Parkway East
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WSKG-TV 46
601 Gates Road
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32 Seminary Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13905

Resident
32 Seminary Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13905

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54 Walnut Street
Binghamton, NY 13905

Resident
54 Walnut Street
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52 Walnut Street
Binghamton, NY 13905

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Resident
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66 Walnut Street
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67 Walnut Street
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69 Walnut Street
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6.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Appendix A contain a hazardous waste site program glossary and acronym listing.

6.1 Agency Contact Persons

The following persons can be contacted for information concerning the project:

James Candiloro
Project Manager
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12233-7010
(518) 457-5636

Gina Alito
Citizen Participation Specialist
NYSDEC, Region 7
615 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, NY 13204-2400
(315) 426-7403

6.2 Document Repositories

Documents developed during the course of this project will be maintained on file and available for public review at the following repositories:

Attn: Gina Alito
NYSDEC Region 7 Headquarters
615 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, NY 13204
(315) 426-7403

Broome County Health Department
225 Front Street
Binghamton, NY 13905
(607) 778-8885

6.3 Registry Information

The American Cleaners Site is listed as Site No. 7-04-030 in the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites in New York State. The site's report form within the Registry is provided in Appendix B.

6.4 Fact Sheets: New York State Hazardous Waste Site Remedial Program

Appendix C includes NYSDEC's standard fact sheets which describe the different stages within the New York State hazardous site remedial program. The program begins with the discovery of potential hazardous waste site and follows a path of thorough investigation, enforcement, remedial action selection, design, construction and monitoring.

APPENDIX A

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE PROGRAM GLOSSARY AND ACRONYMS

Appendix

Hazardous Waste Site Program Glossary and Acronyms

GLOSSARY

This glossary defines terms associated with New York's hazardous waste site citizen participation program, and important elements of the hazardous waste site remedial program. Words in **bold** in the definitions are defined elsewhere in the glossary. A list of acronyms often used in the remedial program begins on page .

Administrative Record	Part of a site's Record of Decision which lists and defines documents used in the development of NYSDEC's decision about selection of a remedial action.
Availability Session	A scheduled gathering of program staff and members of the public in a casual setting, without a formal presentation or agenda but usually focusing on a specific aspect of a site's remedial process.
Citizen Participation	A program of planning and activities to encourage communication among people affected by or interested in hazardous waste sites and the government agencies responsible for investigating and remediating them.
Citizen Participation Plan	A document which must be developed at a site's Remedial Investigation stage. A CP Plan describes the citizen participation activities that will be conducted during a site's remedial process.
Citizen Participation Record	A document prepared at a major remedial stage which describes the citizen participation activities required at that stage. A CP Record also directs a scoping process to determine if additional citizen participation activities are appropriate and feasible.

Appendix Hazardous Waste Site Program Glossary and Acronyms

Citizen Participation Specialist	A staff member from an NYSDEC central office or regional office who has specialized training and experience to assist a project manager and other staff to plan, conduct and evaluate a site-specific citizen participation program.
Classification	<p>A process to place a hazardous waste site within a category which defines its hazardous waste status and its threat or potential threat to public health and the environment. Sites are listed along with their classifications in the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites.</p> <p>Class 1 - causing or representing an imminent danger of causing irreversible or irreparable damage to public health or environment -- immediate action required.</p> <p>Class 2 - significant threat to public health or environment -- action required.</p> <p>Class 2a - temporary classification assigned to a site for which there is inadequate or insufficient data for inclusion in any other classification.</p> <p>Class 3 - does not present a significant threat to public health or environment -- action may be deferred.</p> <p>Class 4 - site properly closed -- requires continued management.</p> <p>Class 5 - site properly closed -- no further action required.</p> <p>Delisted - site no longer considered an inactive hazardous waste disposal site.</p>
Comment Period	A time period for the public to review and comment about various documents and DER actions. For example, a 30-day comment period is provided when DER issues a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) , and when DER proposes to Delist a site from the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites.
Consent Order	A legal and enforceable agreement negotiated between NYSDEC and a responsible party. The order sets forth agreed upon terms by which a responsible party will undertake site investigation and/or cleanup, or pay for the costs of those activities. The order includes a description of the remedial actions to be taken by the responsible party with NYSDEC oversight, and a schedule for implementation.

Appendix Hazardous Waste Site Program Glossary and Acronyms

Contact List	Names, addresses and/or telephone numbers of individuals, groups, organizations, government officials and media affected by or interested in a particular hazardous waste site. The size of a contact list and the categories included are influenced by population density, degree of interest in a site, the stage of the remedial process and other factors. It is an important tool needed to conduct outreach activities.
Delist	Action by which DER removes a hazardous waste site from the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites upon determination that: the site contains inconsequential amounts of hazardous waste; or that a remediated site no longer requires Operation and Maintenance ; or that a remediated site does not require Operation and Maintenance . A proposal to delist a site triggers a public notification and comment period process.
Division of Environmental Enforcement (DEE)	A unit within the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation which works with the Division of Environmental Remediation and others to negotiate with responsible parties to achieve agreements for the investigation and remediation of hazardous waste sites. A negotiated agreement is contained in a consent order.
Division of Environmental Remediation	Formerly the Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation , a major program unit within the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation created to manage the hazardous waste site remedial program from site discovery through Operation and Maintenance activities. Staff include: engineers, geologists, chemists, attorneys, citizen participation specialists, environmental program specialists and support staff.
Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation	(See Division of Environmental Remediation .)
Document Repository	A file of documents pertaining to a site's remedial and citizen participation programs which is made available for public review. The file generally is maintained in a public building near the hazardous waste site to provide access at times and a location convenient to the public.
Enforcement	NYSDEC's efforts, through legal action if necessary, to compel a responsible party to perform or pay for site remedial activities. NYSDEC may perform this effort by itself or in concert with other agencies.

Appendix Hazardous Waste Site Program Glossary and Acronyms

Environmental Quality Bond Act (EQBA)	The 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act which gives New York State bonding authority of up to \$1.2 billion to fund the State's share of the total cost of remediating hazardous waste sites in New York State.
Fact Sheet	A written discussion about part or all of a site's remedial process, prepared and provided by DER to the public. A fact sheet may focus on: a particular element of the site's remedial program; opportunities for public involvement; availability of a report or other information, or announcement of a public meeting or comment period. A fact sheet may be mailed to all or part of a site's contact list, distributed at meetings, placed in a document repository and/or sent on an "as requested" basis.
Interim Remedial Measure (IRM)	A discrete action which can be conducted at a site relatively quickly to reduce the risk to people's health and the environment from a well-defined hazardous waste problem. An IRM can involve removing contaminated soil and drums, providing alternative water supplies or securing a site to prevent access.
National Priorities List	The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term remedial response using money from a special trust fund.
New York State Department of Health	Agency within the executive branch of New York State government which: performs health-related inspections at suspected hazardous waste sites; conducts health assessments to determine potential risk from environmental exposure; reviews Risk Assessments prepared during the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study; conducts health-related community outreach around sites; and reviews remedial actions to assure that public health concerns are adequately addressed.
New York State Department of Law	Agency within the executive branch of New York State government which takes the lead on hazardous waste sites requiring civil enforcement through court action. Litigation can involve negotiations and court action with responsible parties to clean up sites; natural resource damage claims, and recovery of remedial costs.

Appendix Hazardous Waste Site Program Glossary and Acronyms

New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites	The "Registry." A document which NYSDEC is directed by law to maintain and which lists and provides information about every hazardous waste site in New York State which meets criteria established through a definition of hazardous waste and a classification system.
Operable Unit	A discrete part of an entire site that produces a release, threat of release, or pathway of exposure. An Operable Unit can receive specific investigation, and a particular remedy may be proposed. A Record of Decision is prepared for each Operable Unit.
Operation and Maintenance	A period in which remedial action may be conducted following construction at a site (for example, operation of a "pump and treat" system), or which is performed after a remedial action to assure its continued effectiveness and protection of people's health and the environment. Activities can include site inspections, well monitoring and other sampling.
Preliminary Site Assessment (PSA)	A PSA is DER's first investigation of a site. A PSA is performed to determine if a site meets New York State's definition of an inactive hazardous waste disposal site by confirming the presence of hazardous waste and determining if the site poses a significant threat to public health or the environment.
Project Manager	An NYSDEC staff member within the Division of Environmental Remediation (usually an engineer, geologist or hydro geologist) responsible for the day-to-day administration of remedial activities at, and ultimate disposition of, a hazardous waste site. The Project Manager works with legal, health, citizen participation and other staff to accomplish site-related goals and objectives.
Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP)	An analysis by DER of each alternative considered for the remediation of a hazardous waste site and a rationale for selection of the alternative it recommends. The PRAP is created based on information developed during the site's Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. The PRAP is reviewed by the public and other state agencies.

Appendix Hazardous Waste Site Program Glossary and Acronyms

Public Meeting	A scheduled gathering of Division of Environmental Remediation staff with the affected/interested public to give and receive information, ask questions and discuss concerns about a site's remedial program. Staff from other NYSDEC divisions, legal and health staff, and staff from consultants and a responsible party often also attend. A public meeting, unlike an availability session, generally features a formal presentation and a detailed agenda.
Reclassification	A process by which DER redefines the threat posed by a hazardous waste site to public health and the environment by developing and assessing site information and, based on findings and conclusions, assigning a new classification code.
Record of Decision (ROD)	A document which provides definitive record of the cleanup alternative that will be used to remediate a hazardous waste site. The ROD is based on information and analyses developed during the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and public comment.
Remedial Construction	The physical development, assembly and implementation of the remedial alternative selected to remediate a site. Construction follows the Remedial Design stage of a site's remedial program.
Remedial Design	The process following finalization of a Record of Decision in which plans and specifications are developed for the Remedial Construction of the alternative selected to remediate a site.
Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS)	The RI fully defines and characterizes the type and extent of hazardous waste contamination at the site. The FS, which may be conducted during or after the RI, uses information developed during the RI to develop alternative remedial actions to eliminate or reduce the threat of hazardous waste contamination to public health and the environment.
Responsible Party	An individual or business who: currently owns or operates a hazardous waste site; or historically owned or operated a site when hazardous waste was disposed; or generated hazardous waste at a site; or transported hazardous waste to a site.
Responsiveness Summary	A written summary of major oral and written comments received by DER during a comment period about key elements of a site's remedial program, such as a Proposed Remedial Action Plan, and DER's response to those comments.

Appendix Hazardous Waste Site Program Glossary and Acronyms

Site Issues and Community Profile Scoping Sheet	A document prepared to support each Citizen Participation Record . Each Scoping Sheet identifies issues and information important to DER and the community and information that needs to be exchanged at a particular remedial stage. The Scoping Sheet also summarizes information about the surrounding community, including demographics, special needs, etc.
Superfund	The common name for the Federal program established by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended in 1986. The Superfund law authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to investigate and clean up sites nominated to the National Priorities List .
Title 3 Project	Remediation of a municipally owned site through the State Superfund Title 3 Program whereby New York State pays 75 percent of eligible costs for remediation and the municipality pays 25 percent.
Toll-Free "800" Number	An information line maintained by the Division of Environmental Remediation to provide convenient access for people who have questions, concerns or information about hazardous waste sites and their remedial programs.

ACRONYMS

AG	-- New York State Attorney General's Office
ARAR	-- Applicable, Relevant and Appropriate Requirement
C & D	-- Construction and Debris
CERCLA	-- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980
CO	-- Consent Order
CP	-- Citizen Participation
CPP	-- Citizen Participation Plan
CPS	-- Citizen Participation Specialist
CQC/CQA	-- Construction Quality Control/Construction Quality Assurance
DEE	-- Division of Environmental Enforcement
DER	-- Division of Environmental Remediation, formerly the Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation
DHWR	-- Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation, now the Division of Environmental Remediation
DOD	-- Department of Defense
DOL	-- Department of Law
DOW	-- Division of Water
ENB	-- Environmental Notice Bulletin

Appendix 1: Hazardous Waste Site Program Glossary and Acronyms

EQBA	-- 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act
EPA	-- Environmental Protection Agency
F & W	-- Division of Fish and Wildlife
FDA	-- Food and Drug Administration
FSF	-- Federal Superfund
FOIL	-- Freedom of Information Law
FS	-- Feasibility Study
FY	-- Fiscal Year
GPM	-- Gallons Per Minute
HeLP	-- Health Liaison Program
IRM	-- Interim Remedial Measure
mg/kg	-- milligrams per kilogram
NAPL	-- Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid
NPL	-- National Priorities List
NYSDEC	-- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSDOH	-- New York State Department of Health
O & M	-- Operation and Maintenance
OSHA	-- Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OU	-- Operable Unit
PAH	-- Poly-Aromatic Hydrocarbon
PCB	-- Poly-Chlorinated Biphenyl
PM	-- Project Manager
ppm/ppb/ppt	-- parts per million/parts per billion/parts per trillion
PRAP	-- Proposed Remedial Action Plan
PRP	-- Potentially Responsible Party
PRS	-- Priority Ranking System
PSA	-- Preliminary Site Assessment
QA/QC	-- Quality Assurance/Quality Control
RA	-- Remedial Action
RCRA	-- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RD	-- Remedial Design
RFP	-- Request for Proposals
RHWRE	-- Regional Hazardous Waste Remediation Engineer
RI	-- Remedial Investigation
RI/FS	-- Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
ROD	-- Record of Decision
RP	-- Responsible Party
SSF	-- State Superfund
TAGM	-- Technical and Administrative Guidance Memorandum
TCLP	-- Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure
TSDf	-- Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility
	-- micrograms per liter
USGS	-- U.S. Geological Service
VCP	-- Voluntary Cleanup Program
VOC	-- Volatile Organic Compound

APPENDIX B

INACTIVE HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL REPORT

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Environmental Remediation

Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Report

April 1, 2000

Site Name: American Cleaners	Site Code: 704030		
Class Code: 2	Region: 7	County: Broome	EPA Id:
Address: 48 - 50 Walnut Street	City: Binghamton	Zip: 13905	
Latitude: 42 6' 5"	Longitude: 75 6' 25"		
Site Type: Structure	Estimated Size: 0.1	Acres	

Site Owner / Operator Information:

Current Owner(s) Name: Henrietta M. Hardie	
Current Owner(s) Address: 38 Front Street	Binghamton NY 13905
Owner(s) during disposal: Mr. Charles W. Hardie & Mr. Sal Julian	
Operator(s) during disposal: *** Multiple Site Operators ***	
Stated Operator(s) Address:	
Hazardous Waste Disposal Period: From 1943	To 1982

Site Description:

The American Cleaners property consists of an old two story house that was converted to a laundry and dry cleaning business. The building is about 24 feet by 40 feet and has a basement. The first floor was used for retail customer space, and dry cleaning and laundering was done in the basement. American Cleaners went out of business in 1991, and the property has been abandoned since then. Over the years, vandalism had occurred, and now the building is boarded up. All of the dry cleaning machines and equipment have been removed. The solvent used in the dry cleaning machines was primarily tetrachloroethylene (PCE or "perc") which was stored in a 275 gallon tank in the basement. Other dry cleaning equipment and solvents were stored in a small cinder block building on the northeast corner of the property. Because of poor housekeeping practices, substantial amounts of dry cleaning solvent was spilled. The solvents leaked thru cracks in the basement floor and entered the groundwater. Some solvents entered the groundwater thru basement sump pits. The site was originally brought to the attention of the DEC from a nuisance complaint. A DEC spill inspector investigated the site in 1995 and confirmed that an unknown amount of PCE had spilled. The PRP then conducted an environmental audit in order to determine the extent of contamination. The audit did not include groundwater evaluation however. A NYSDEC investigation was conducted from January thru March of 1998 in order to better assess the extent of contamination. The investigation revealed that surface soils beneath the basement contained PCE at levels ranging from 6 to 4,400,000 ppb. Water in the basement sump pits was contaminated with PCE at levels of 8 to 24,000 ppb. One sump pit contained 1-1-1-trichloroethylene at 5,200 ppb. A groundwater monitoring well outside the building contained PCE at 41 ppb. This site is situated over a Federally designated "sole source aquifer" and the contamination definitely poses a threat to the aquifer. A State Superfund (SSF) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is planned for later in 2000.

Confirmed Hazardous Waste Disposal:

Tetrachloroethylene {(PCE or "perc")} (F001)
1,1,1-Trichloroethane

Quantity:

unknown
unknown

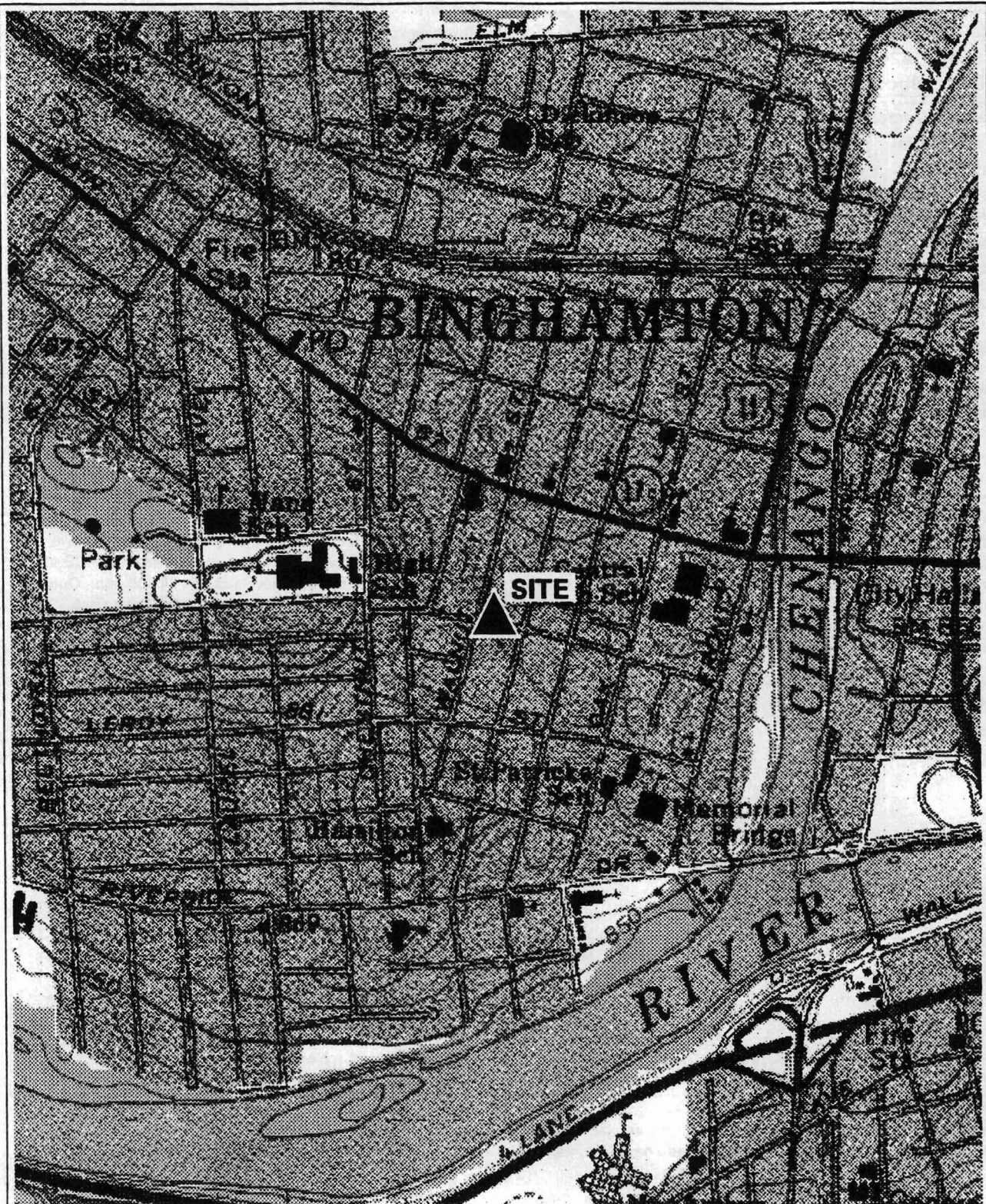
Analytical Data Available for:	Groundwater	Surface Water	Soil
Applicable Standards Exceeded in:	Groundwater	Surface Water	
Geotechnical Information:			Depth to:
Soil/Rock Type: Fill and gravel.			Groundwater: Range: 10 to 15 feet.
Legal Action: Type: State Consent Order -RI/FS			Status: Negotiations in Progress
Remedial Action:		Nature of action:	

Assessment of Environmental Problems:

The groundwater in a federally designated sole source aquifer has been contaminated by PCE. The extent of contamination has not yet been determined however. Site soils have also been heavily contaminated with solvents.

Assessment of Health Problems:

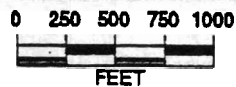
The area is provided water by the City of Binghamton municipal water supply, which utilizes a surface water source. There are no known downgradient potable water supply wells. Surface soils do not present an exposure issue at this site. The subsurface investigation on the site indicates that the relatively impermeable soils are restricting contaminant mobility. Surveys for volatile organic compound vapors potentially infiltrating the basements of nearby homes did not detect the presence of these vapors. Subsurface sampling in the vicinity of the suspect underground gasoline tank did not detect evidence of gasoline. The buildings have been secured against entry. Unauthorized entry by trespassers, before improvements to building security were provided, are alleged.



Site Location Map

704030 American Cleaners

Map source: USGS 1:24,000-scale topographic quadrangles



Scale 1:12,000
April 1, 2000



County: Broome

APPENDIX C

FACT SHEETS

NEW YORK STATE HAZARDOUS WASTE

SITE REMEDIAL PROGRAM

Fact Sheet Preliminary Site Assessment (PSA)

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), along with the Departments of Health (DOH) and Law (DOL), is responsible for ensuring the cleanup of inactive hazardous waste disposal sites across the state. Under New York State's Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site Remedial Program, the process begins with the discovery of a potential hazardous waste site and follows a path of thorough investigation, remedy selection, design, construction and monitoring. This fact sheet highlights one stage in the comprehensive process, the Preliminary Site Assessment (PSA).

DEC carries out a PSA to determine whether a site is a hazardous waste site, as defined by state law.

A Preliminary Site Assessment (PSA) is DEC's first investigation of a site where hazardous waste has or may have been disposed of illegally or improperly. The goal of the PSA is to determine whether a site meets the state's definition of a hazardous waste site by confirming the presence of hazardous waste and determining if the site poses a significant threat to public health or the environment. The PSA is performed by DEC or the potentially responsible party under DEC's oversight.

The PSA is a three-step investigation to determine if the site should be classified for remediation or delisted.

The PSA has three steps that combine the former Phase I and Phase II investigations:

1. **Records Search:** a thorough background review and record check into the past use and disposal activity at the site.
2. **Sampling/Surveys:** sampling of exposed wastes, drums, surrounding soil and surface water, performing geophysical and soil gas surveys.
3. **Groundwater Monitoring:** installing monitoring wells and analyzing water samples to check for subsurface contamination.

DEC evaluates PSA information to classify or delist a site.

Each PSA step ends with a decision point that can lead to one of two outcomes.

- If the presence of hazardous waste and the degree of health or environmental threat can be documented, a site is *classified* to:

Class 1 (imminent danger)
Class 2 (significant threat)
Class 3 (no significant threat)

- If hazardous waste cannot be documented, a site is *delisted*.

Built-in decision points help move sites through the remedial process.

The decision points allow DEC to classify or delist the site as soon as enough information exists to support or refute the state's criteria for defining a hazardous waste site. They provide a mechanism to move sites into remediation at the earliest opportunity. If DEC does not have enough information to make the decision to classify or delist, the PSA continues to the next step.

Complex sites may require all three PSA steps.

At complex sites where hazardous waste is difficult to confirm or where significant threat is difficult to determine, all three PSA steps may be required before DEC makes a decision to classify

or delist.

The PSA concludes with a decision to classify or delist a site.

DEC reviews the documentation and makes a decision supported by input from local government agencies, the Department of Health (DOH), DEC regional offices and the public. The PSA ends when a site is classified or delisted.

DOH plays an important role in the investigation of hazardous waste sites.

DOH participates with DEC in the PSA process. Through its own early site investigation and health assessment, DOH identifies potential impacts on public health. DEC incorporates DOH information into the PSA to ensure that public health concerns are fully investigated. DOH also helps DEC identify priority sites, reviews work plans and reports and contributes to the decisions to classify or delist a site.

DEC prioritizes sites for further investigation and remediation.

Once DEC decides a site needs remediation based on the PSA findings, the site is ranked for further remedial investigation using the state's Priority Ranking System. DEC uses this system to first focus remedial and enforcement resources on the most serious problems.

Further study and cleanup may follow a PSA.

Sites that become Class 1 or 2 move to the next stage of the remedial process - the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). During a RI/FS, the full nature and extent of contamination is defined. Sites may also be referred for Interim Remedial Measures (early cleanup actions that may not require a full-scale investigation and design). Delisted sites are removed from the registry. Some delisted sites may then be referred to other DEC programs or the Attorney General for action (e.g., closing construction and demolition debris sites or municipal landfills).

DEC can nominate a site for federal cleanup based on PSA findings.

Information collected during the PSA can also help DEC decide if a site should be nominated for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List (NPL). NPL site remediations may be paid for by the federal Superfund.

PRELIMINARY SITE ASSESSMENT STEPS/OUTCOMES

- **Records Search:** background review to document previous disposal practices and activities. Information that describes how the waste was handled, stored, transported and disposed of comes from a wide variety of sources including: industry disposal records, site inspections, local or county investigations and interviews with local haulers, nearby residents and others who may have witnessed activities at a site.
Decision Point - delist or classify and stop the PSA, or continue to the next step.
- **Sampling/Surveys:** conduct surficial environmental sampling (surface water, soil, waste piles, drums, etc.) and geophysical/soil gas surveys. Samples are sent to laboratories for analyses.
Decision Point - delist or classify and stop the PSA or continue to the next step.
- **Groundwater Monitoring:** install and sample monitoring wells to determine if groundwater is contaminated; may conduct additional surficial sampling.
Decision Point - delist or classify.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- About Preliminary Site Assessments, contact the:

Bureau of Hazardous Site Control
Division of Environmental Remediation
50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233-7010
telephone (518) 457-8807

- For general questions about the Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site Remedial Program, call DEC's 24-hour toll-free environmental remediation information line at 1 (800) 342-9296.
- For questions about the health impacts of hazardous waste sites, contact the Department of Health's Outreach Program at 1 (800) 458-1158.

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Fact Sheet Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), along with the Departments of Health (DOH) and Law (DOL), is responsible for ensuring the cleanup of inactive hazardous waste disposal sites across the state. Under New York State's Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site Remedial Program, the process begins with the discovery of a potential hazardous waste site and follows a path of thorough investigation, remedy selection, design, construction and monitoring. This fact sheet highlights one stage in the comprehensive process, the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS).

RI/FS begins when hazardous waste contamination is confirmed.

The RI/FS follows preliminary site investigations by DEC and DOH that verify hazardous wastes are present and that the wastes pose a significant threat to public health and the environment.

DEC and DOH gather detailed site information to work toward an effective remedial action.

DEC's Division of Environmental Remediation or the responsible party under an enforceable consent order carries out a Remedial Investigation (RI) to determine the nature and extent of contamination. DEC, along with DOH, uses the RI information to then perform a Feasibility Study (FS) that evaluates possible remedies. The FS becomes the basis for selection of a remedy that effectively eliminates the threat posed by contaminants at the site. The RI/FS results in a Record of Decision (ROD) describing the cleanup that will be carried out and documents the decisions that led to the chosen remedy.

The state initiates a variety of activities to inform and involve the public during the remedial process.

Throughout the remedial process, the state encourages public involvement. The public plays a key role in the RI/FS to help shape the remedy selection process. Public meetings, newsletters, fact sheets, and project documents contribute to the exchange of information and provide opportunity for comment.

The state achieves successful hazardous waste remediation with the cooperation of many groups.

State engineers, geologists, chemists, and health specialists work with consultants, contractors, municipalities, potentially responsible parties, and citizens to investigate the contamination and select an appropriate remedy. The RI/FS process requires a detailed examination of a site to fully understand its impact on public health and the environment before deciding on a remedy. The process can take up to two years to complete.

The sections below describe how the state reaches a decision on a remedy.

Remedial Investigation (RI)

The RI defines the threat to public health and the environment.

The responsible party or DEC performs an RI at each Class 2 inactive hazardous waste disposal site after preliminary investigations have shown that contaminants pose a significant threat to public health or the environment. Through extensive sampling and laboratory analyses, the RI identifies the length, depth and width of contamination, defines the pathways of migration and measures the degree of contamination in surface water, groundwater, soils, air, plants, and animals. Information gathered during the RI fully describes the hazardous waste problem at the site so that the appropriate remedy can be selected.

DOH evaluates ways people may be exposed to hazardous waste.

DOH reviews and recommends activities that will be performed during the RI to ensure that a complete picture of potential health impacts is understood. Such activities include identifying the ways contamination can reach people, either through direct contact, eating, drinking, or breathing.

Feasibility Study (FS)

Remedial action choices are developed during the FS.

The Feasibility Study uses RI information to develop alternative remedies that will eliminate the threat to public health or the environment posed by the site. Wherever feasible, the state selects a remedy that permanently reduces or eliminates the contamination.

The state evaluates the remedial alternatives to reach a balanced decision that protects people and the environment.

The responsible party and DEC screen each alternative to make sure the remedy is technically suitable for the site. Following the initial screening, DEC and DOH weigh the remaining alternatives against a number of other conditions, including:

- overall protection of public health and the environment;
- reduction in toxicity, mobility and volume of hazardous waste (e.g., by thermal destruction, biological or chemical treatments or containment wall construction);
- long-term effectiveness and permanence;
- short-term effectiveness and potential impacts during remediation;
- implementation and technical reliability;
- compliance with statutory requirements;
- community acceptance; and
- cost.

DEC prepares the proposed remedial action plan for public comment.

The outcome of the selection process is the recommendation of a remedy that best satisfies a combination of these conditions. The remedy becomes part of a proposal that is presented to the public for comment.

Proposed Remedial Action Plan and Public Comment

The state presents the proposed remedial action plan to the public.

After the RI/FS is completed, DEC and DOH hold a public meeting to propose the remedial solution. The Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) summarizes the decision that led to the recommended remedial action by discussing each alternative and the reasons for choosing or rejecting it.

Public comment can make a difference in the remedial action plan.

The public is encouraged to review the PRAP and make comments either at the meeting or during the comment period that follows. The comments are reviewed and compiled in a Responsiveness Summary and modifications to the proposed remedial action plan may be made. Additional public notice is required if a modified remedial action plan differs significantly from the earlier selection.

The final remedial decision is documented in the record of decision.

DEC drafts a Record of Decision (ROD) which includes the selected remedial action, the Responsiveness Summary and a bibliography of documents that were used to reach the remedial decision. DOH and DOL have an opportunity to comment on the draft ROD before final DEC approval. When the ROD is finalized, remedial design and construction can now begin.

For a full explanation of the ROD, see the companion fact sheet, "Record of Decision".

For more information

- about the RI/FS, remedy selection process, or citizen participation activities, call DEC's 24-hour toll-free environmental remediation information line at 1 (800) 342-9296.

about the health impacts of a hazardous waste site, contact the Department of Health's Outreach Program at 1 (800) 458-1158.

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Fact Sheet Record of Decision (ROD)

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), along with the Departments of Health (DOH) and Law (DOL), is responsible for ensuring the cleanup of inactive hazardous waste disposal sites across the state. Under New York State's Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site Remedial Program, the process begins with the discovery of a potential hazardous waste site and follows a path of thorough investigation, remedy selection, design, construction and monitoring. This fact sheet highlights one stage in the comprehensive process, the Record of Decision (ROD).

The ROD contains results of the remedial investigation and remedy selection process.

The Record of Decision (ROD) presents the remedial action plan for an inactive hazardous waste disposal site and documents the information and rationale used to arrive at the decision.

The ROD is the culmination of extensive investigations and a remedy selection that identifies a solution to remove the significant threat to the public health and the environment. (For more on this, see fact sheet *Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study*.) It serves as the definitive record of the remedy selection process for the site and as a convenient reference to other documents that were developed during the remedy selection process.

DEC gives the final approval to the ROD.

The final ROD is approved by the Department following public comment and review of the proposed remedial action plan. The project then moves on to remedial design and construction.

ROD Contents

The ROD summarizes information used to select the remedial action.

Each ROD produced for an inactive hazardous waste disposal site contains information about the site that identifies the problem and describes the remedial solution. In addition, the decision-making process that yielded the remedial action plan is documented to demonstrate that the appropriate solution was selected. The ROD contains:

- *Site location, description and history:* provides valuable insight into the previous use of the site and identifies vulnerable areas in the surrounding environment, such as residential areas and protected wetlands, groundwater, etc.
- *Problem identification:* describes the nature and extent of contamination and the pathways through which contaminants move in the environment.
- *Status of enforcement actions:* provides the enforcement history and current status for the site.
- *Goals for remedial action:* describes the overall goal of remediation, protection of public health and the environment, and remedial goals specific to each site - for example, preventing contaminated groundwater migration.
- *Discussion of remedial alternatives:* presents each potential remedial action, including a "no action" alternative, to show that technical, legal, environmental and public concerns are met.
- *The selected remedial action:* describes the planned remedy.
- *Responsiveness Summary:* documents public comments about the selected remedy. Modifications to the remedial action plan based on public comment are identified in the summary.
- *Administrative Record:* references reports and other documents developed during investigation and remedy selection.

Amendments to the ROD

Amended remedial decisions require additional review and public input.

Changes to the final remedial action plan may occur in two cases:

1. if the ROD specifically provides for later addition of documents and reserves a portion of the decision to a later time; or,
2. if new and significant information is received or generated after the ROD is finalized.

An amended ROD must go through additional review and public comment periods.

For more information

- about the Record of Decision, remedy selection process, or citizen participation activities, call DEC's 24-hour toll-free environmental remediation information line at 1 (800) 342-9296.
- about the health impacts of a hazardous waste site, contact the Department of Health's Outreach Program at 1 (800) 458-1158.

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Fact Sheet Design and Construction

New York State's Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site Remedial Program begins with the discovery of a potential hazardous waste site and follows a path of investigation, remedy selection, design, construction and monitoring. This fact sheet highlights the Design and Construction phase of the program.

The Remedial Design spells out the technical requirements of construction.

The remedial design details the size, scope and character of a site's remediation - the planned action that will, at a minimum, protect public health and the environment. It translates information from the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, the Record of Decision and additional data gathered during design preparation into clear, precise facts and numbers.

Key participants are RPs, state and federal agencies.

Responsible Parties (RPs) are legally responsible for site remediation. For many sites, remedial work is carried out by RPs with DEC oversight. The RPs are responsible for completion and long-term performance of the remedy. For other sites, remedial work is carried out by DEC or EPA.

DEC ensures that all remedial designs effectively protect the environment and conform to the recommendations of the Records of Decision and consent orders.

The NYS Department of Health (DOH) ensures that all remedial designs effectively protect the public and contain community health and safety considerations that must be implemented during construction.

Design elements include quality control, assurance and contingency plans.

Construction Quality Control (CQC)

A planned system of inspections that is used to directly monitor and control the quality of a construction project. CQC, usually carried out by the contractor, is necessary to achieve quality in the constructed system.

Construction Quality Assurance (CQA)

A planned system of activities to provide assurance to the owner and the permitting agency that all aspects of remedial construction meet design requirements. CQA includes inspections, verifications, audits, tests and evaluations of materials and workmanship to determine and document the quality of the remedial construction.

Contingency Plan

The contingency plan protects the local community which may be affected by an accident or emergency caused by remedial activities. Contingency plans may include:

- Name of person responsible for responding in an emergency.
- Schedule for meeting with local, state and federal agencies, the community, local emergency agencies and hospitals.
- First aid and medical information.
- Air monitoring plan if a human health risk exists through inhalation of specified pollutants.
- Spill control and countermeasures plan to prevent contamination of soil, water, air, structures, equipment or material from the discharge of wastes due to spills; to contain the spill and remove and properly dispose of media contaminated from the spill.

Citizen participation activities, which begin when the site is identified, continue through the Design and Construction phases.

When the remedial design is finalized, a fact sheet describing the proposed remedial action is distributed to the community and other interested people. The fact sheet also contains a construction schedule, explanations of the roles of the RP and DEC, details of the contingency plan and descriptions of potential inconveniences, such as excess traffic and noise. A public meeting or availability session may also be held to discuss schedules, changes in traffic patterns, location of monitoring equipment and how the public will be kept informed on progress. DEC staff ensure that all relevant documents about the site remediation are placed in repositories for public review.

At the completion of construction, another fact sheet announcing the end of construction and describing any Operation and Maintenance activities that may have been specified in the Record of Decision (ROD) is distributed to the community.

Remedial construction is carefully monitored.

Key Participants

DEC's remedial project manager attends progress meetings to discuss status of and changes in the project, test results, other findings and upcoming activities. The manager ensures that construction is not endangering public health, monitors quality assurance, coordinates remedial activities and promotes citizen participation.

The RP's or DEC's consulting engineer and inspectors test and inspect the constructor's work and confirm that test data are properly recorded and validated. Their main responsibility is to verify that construction conforms to the approved design documents.

DEC oversight ensures that the construction meets all the requirements of the approved design.

No work is performed at a site until DEC has approved the workplan. Oversight consists of two types - office and field. Office oversight includes the review, evaluation and comment on all submittals, reports, data, etc. generated by remedial activities. Field oversight is site-dependent and includes consent order requirements, construction according to approved plan, public health and environmental concerns, public sensitivity and the potential for pollutant migration.

Final inspection ensures that all aspects of the design have been met by the construction.

Acceptance of the remedial work signals the next step in the remedial program - site reclassification.

Sites are often reclassified after remedial construction.

Site reclassification signals the conclusion of the remedial construction.

Following remediation, a site usually is reclassified from Class 2, which called for remedial action to protect public health or the environment, to:

- Class 4, requiring continued operation, maintenance and monitoring, or
- Class 5, requiring no operation, maintenance and monitoring.

or if all hazardous wastes have been removed, the site may be removed (delisted) from the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites.

Operation and Maintenance may be included in the remedial program.

Included in some remedies are monitoring requirements which are included in Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plans. O&M includes visual inspections and upkeep and can include

sampling.

For more information

- about the Design and Construction for hazardous waste sites or citizen participation activities, call DEC's 24-hour toll-free environmental remediation information line at 1 (800) 342-9296.
- about the health impacts of a hazardous waste site, contact the Department of Health's Outreach Program at 1 (800) 458-1158.

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Fact Sheet
Interim Remedial Measures (IRM)

New York State's Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site Remedial Program begins with the discovery of a potential hazardous waste site and follows a path of investigation, remedy selection, design, construction and monitoring. This fact sheet highlights the Interim Remedial Measure (IRM), a remedial action.

IRM defined.

An IRM is a discrete set of planned actions, used for both emergency and non-emergency situations, that can be conducted without the extensive investigation and evaluation of a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS).

An IRM can be part of or the full remediation of a site.

An IRM is designed to be a permanent part of the final remedy. Sometimes, an IRM achieves the remedial goal for a site and no further action is required. When an IRM constitutes the entire remedy, DEC drafts a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) that proposes no further action at the site and solicits public comment.

An IRM provides a quick solution to a defined problem.

An IRM is extremely adaptable. It covers a variety of activities, large and small, to remediate an array of diverse, well-defined problems at a site. Some of these problems may be contaminated soils, surface and groundwater, debris, sediments and drinking water supplies and buried and abandoned drums of waste and bulk storage tanks.

Remedial activities carried out under an IRM include:

- Removing wastes and contaminated materials, including contaminated soil, sediments and groundwater.
- Erecting access controls, such as fences.
- Removing drums of waste and bulk storage tanks.
- Constructing diversion ditches, groundwater collection systems, leachate collection systems, gas venting systems.
- Pumping and treating contaminated groundwater.
- Treating contaminated soil onsite using innovative technologies such as soil vapor extraction.
- Installing individual drinking water filter systems.
- Demolishing and removing contaminated buildings.

IRMs provide better protection of public health and the environment.

Because of their versatility and the relative speed with which they are applied, IRMs accelerate remedial projects and the sooner sites are remediated, the sooner the public and the environment are protected. In addition, accelerated remedial projects often mean reduced remedial costs.

DEC discusses IRMs with the affected communities.

In emergencies, IRMs must be implemented quickly to be most effective, making it impractical to hold public meetings and comment periods prior to the IRM actions. For time critical IRMs, the Project Manager prepares a fact sheet describing the IRM for distribution to local officials. The fact sheet is sent to interested parties and residents adjacent to the site. If time does not permit mailing the fact sheet prior to implementation of the IRM, DEC staff may telephone the information to local officials and conduct door-to-door notifications to residents.

For non-time critical IRMs the Project Manager conducts an availability session or public information meeting to explain the proposed IRM and listen to comments from local officials and the public.

At the issuance of a Proposed Remedial Action Plan, DEC ensures that the document is available to residents and interested parties and invites them to comment on the proposed remedial action. A Responsiveness Summary is prepared and issued by DEC to reply to the public comments and the Record of Decision (ROD) is signed.

State and federal agencies and RPs carry out IRMs.

DEC carries out IRMs at State-funded sites. Responsible Parties (RPs) perform IRMs at their sites under consent orders. EPA (the federal Environmental Protection Agency) carries out IRMs, calling them Emergency Response Actions, at sites on the National Priorities List.

DEC also carries out emergency actions at non-registry sites.

DEC's emergency response actions, such as drum removals, are carried out to prevent, mitigate or remedy environmental damage at sites not listed in the registry of inactive hazardous waste disposal sites.

For more information

about Interim Remedial Measures or citizen participation activities, call DEC's 24-hour toll-free environmental remediation information line at 1 (800) 342-9296.

- about the health impacts of a hazardous waste site, contact the Department of Health's Outreach Program at 1 (800) 458-1158.

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