NUS CORPORATION

POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

Valenite Metals **Site Name**	NY New Site **EPA Site ID Number**
315 Waver Street Dewitt, NY **Address**	02-8406-02 **TDD Number**

Date of Site Visit: Off Site Reconnaissance, NUS FIT II, 6/12/84

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site, located outside Syracuse, N.Y. operated for approximately 20 years. It closed in 1981, in part, because of complaints by workers of bad working conditions. Valenite Metals manufactured industrial tools. As part of its processes, cobalt, titanuim and tungsten dusts were released into the air. Since the plant closing, numerous workers have been diagnosed as having heavy metal disease and two of the former employees have died. The parent firm, Valderone presently is under suit by their former employees for personal injuries suffered. A local pathologist has taken samples at the Valenite site. His analyses indicated excessive levels of cobalt in soil on the site and in the garden areas bordering the site. These cultivated areas are small vegetable gardens, on facility property approximately 200 feet behind the building, used by some residents of a nearby trailer park. All drinking water is obtained from Lake Ontario. Another company conducting unrelated activities now occupies the Valenite building.

PRIORITY FOR FURTHER ACTION: High X Medium ___ Low ___

RECOMMENDATIONS

A site inspection should be conducted at the Valenite Metals site. The investigation should include sampling of water and soil. Borings should be conducted to determine depth of contamination. Appropriate analytical methods should be employed to accurately detect cobalt, the primary contaminant.

Prepared by: Jerry Cirilli of NUS Corporation **Date:** 6/13/84

POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 1 - SITE INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT

EPA

I. IDENTIFICATION

01 STATE	02 SITE NUMBER
NY	New Site

II. SITE NAME AND LOCATION

01 SITE NAME (Legal, common, or descriptive name of site)	02 STREET, ROUTE NO., OR SPECIFIC LOCATION IDENTIFIER				
Valenite Metals	315 Waver Street				
03 CITY	**04 STATE**	**05 ZIP CODE**	**06 COUNTY**	**07 COUNTY CODE**	**08 CONG DIST**
Dewitt	NY	13210	Onondaga	67	27
09 COORDINATES LATITUDE: 43° 04' 49. N	LONGITUDE: 76° 06' 31" W				

10 DIRECTIONS TO SITE (Starting from nearest public road)

From N.Y.S. Thruway, U.S. 90, take exit 35. After toll, at circle make right turn at Carrier Parkway. Proceed to Court St., make right at Old Court Street. Waver St. is 2nd right, site is on left.

III. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

01 OWNER (If known)	02 STREET (Business, mailing, residential)			
Jacob Hafner	Fay Road			
03 CITY	**04 STATE**	**05 ZIP CODE**	**06 TELEPHONE NUMBER**	
North Syracuse	NY	13212	(315) 458-2504	
07 OPERATOR (If known and different from owner)	**08 STREET** (Business, mailing, residential)			
Valenite Metals	315 Waver Street			
09 CITY	**10 STATE**	**11 ZIP CODE**	**12 TELEPHONE NUMBER**	
Dewitt	NY	13212	( )	

13 TYPE OF OWNERSHIP (Check one)

☒ A. PRIVATE ☐ B. FEDERAL: _____ (Agency name) ☐ C. STATE ☐ D. COUNTY ☐ E. MUNICIPAL

☐ F. OTHER: _____ (Specify) ☐ G. UNKNOWN

14 OWNER/OPERATOR NOTIFICATION ON FILE (Check all that apply)

☐ A. RCRA 3001 DATE RECEIVED: ___/___/___ (MONTH DAY YEAR) ☐ B. UNCONTROLLED WASTE SITE (CERCLA 103 c) DATE RECEIVED: ___/___/___ (MONTH DAY YEAR) ☒ C. NONE

IV. CHARACTERIZATION OF POTENTIAL HAZARD

01 ON SITE INSPECTION

☐ YES DATE ___/___/___ (MONTH DAY YEAR)

☒ NO

BY (Check all that apply)

☐ A. EPA ☐ B. EPA CONTRACTOR ☐ C. STATE ☐ D. OTHER CONTRACTOR

☐ E. LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIAL ☐ F. OTHER: _____ (Specify)

CONTRACTOR NAME(S): _____

02 SITE STATUS (Check one)

☒ A. ACTIVE ☐ B. INACTIVE ☐ C. UNKNOWN

03 YEARS OF OPERATION

1961 (BEGINNING YEAR) 1981 (ENDING YEAR) ☐ UNKNOWN

04 DESCRIPTION OF SUBSTANCES POSSIBLY PRESENT, KNOWN, OR ALLEGED

Dusts of heavy metals, in particular, cobalt, titanium and tungsten, were blown out through exhaust vents onto the parking areas behind during the years of operation.

05 DESCRIPTION OF POTENTIAL HAZARD TO ENVIRONMENT AND/OR POPULATION

Under prolonged exposure, heavy metals pose serious health risks. At present, neighborhood residents have been using an open patch of ground approximately 200 feet behind the facility for growing vegetables.

V. PRIORITY ASSESSMENT

01 PRIORITY FOR INSPECTION (Check one. If high or medium is checked, complete Part 2 - Waste Information and Part 3 - Description of Hazardous Conditions and Incidents)

☒ A. HIGH (Inspection required promptly) ☐ B. MEDIUM (Inspection required) ☐ C. LOW (Inspect on time available basis) ☐ D. NONE (No further action needed, complete current disposition form)

VI. INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM

01 CONTACT	02 OF (Agency/Organization)			03 TELEPHONE NUMBER
Mark Haulenbeek	U.S. EPA Region II			(201) 321-6685
04 PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSESSMENT	**05 AGENCY**	**06 ORGANIZATION**	**07 TELEPHONE NUMBER**	**08 DATE**
Jerry Cirilli		NUS Corp. FIT II	(201) 225-6160	6 / 5 / 84 (MONTH DAY YEAR)

EPA FORM 2070-12 (7-81)

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POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 2 - WASTE INFORMATION

I. IDENTIFICATION	
01 STATE	02 SITE NUMBER
NY	New Site

II. WASTE STATES, QUANTITIES, AND CHARACTERISTICS

01 PHYSICAL STATES (Check all that apply)

- [X] A. SOLID
- [ ] B. POWDER, FINES
- [ ] C. SLUDGE
- [ ] E. SLURRY
- [ ] F. LIQUID
- [ ] G. GAS
- [X] D. OTHER: Particulate (Specify)

02 WASTE QUANTITY AT SITE (Measures of waste quantities must be independent)

- TONS: _____
- CUBIC YARDS: Unknown
- NO. OF DRUMS: _____

03 WASTE CHARACTERISTICS (Check all that apply)

- [X] A. TOXIC
- [ ] B. CORROSIVE
- [ ] C. RADIOACTIVE
- [ ] D. PERSISTENT
- [ ] E. SOLUBLE
- [ ] F. INFECTIOUS
- [ ] G. FLAMMABLE
- [ ] H. IGNITABLE
- [ ] I. HIGHLY VOLATILE
- [ ] J. EXPLOSIVE
- [ ] K. REACTIVE
- [ ] L. INCOMPATIBLE
- [ ] M. NOT APPLICABLE

III. WASTE TYPE

CATEGORY	SUBSTANCE NAME	01 GROSS AMOUNT	02 UNIT OF MEASURE	03 COMMENTS
SLU	SLUDGE			High levels of cobalt were detected in
OLW	OILY WASTE			soils adjacent to and on site. An
SOL	SOLVENTS			estimate of the quantity is not avail-
PSD	PESTICIDES			able. A claim that 20,000 pounds of
OCC	OTHER ORGANIC CHEMICALS			particulate material were blown out
IOC	INORGANIC CHEMICALS			through the exhaust system over 20
ACD	ACIDS			years of operation has been made by
BAS	BASES			Mr. Johnson of the Hard Metals Disease
MES	HEAVY METALS	Unknown		Committee.

IV. HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES (See Appendix for most frequently cited CAS Numbers)

01 CATEGORY	02 SUBSTANCE NAME	03 CAS NUMBER	04 STORAGE/DISPOSAL METHOD	05 CONCENTRATION	06 MEASURE OF CONCENTRATION

V. FEEDSTOCKS (See Appendix for CAS Numbers)

CATEGORY	01 FEEDSTOCK NAME	02 CAS NUMBER	CATEGORY	01 FEEDSTOCK NAME	02 CAS NUMBER
FDS	Cobalt	7440-48-4	FDS		
FDS			FDS		
FDS			FDS		
FDS			FDS		

VI. SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Cite specific references, e.g., state files, sample analysis, reports)

U.S. EPA files Mr. Bright, Water Superintendent, Dewitt (315) 446-3734
Chuck Chernoff, NYDEC Region 7 (315) 428-4484
Frank Johnson, Chairman, Hard Metals Disease Committee (315) 469-8737
Bob Burdick, Syracuse Health Dept. (315) 469-6955
Dr. Gerald Abraham, Pathologist, Upstate Medical School (315) 473-4750

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POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

I. IDENTIFICATION	
01 STATE	02 SITE NUMBER
NY	New Site

II. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

01 ☒ A. GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) — ☒ POTENTIAL — ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 0 — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

A potential exists for groundwater contamination. Particulate material may infiltrate the local water table. No groundwater wells are believed to be in the vicinity of the site.

01 ☒ B. SURFACE WATER CONTAMINATION — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) — ☒ POTENTIAL — ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: Unknown — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

A potential exists. South Creek, approximately ¼ mile to the east, could be affected.

01 ☒ C. CONTAMINATION OF AIR — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) — ☒ POTENTIAL — ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: Unknown — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

A strong potential exists. Particulate material can be picked up and transported by wind.

01 ☐ D. FIRE/EXPLOSIVE CONDITIONS — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) — ☐ POTENTIAL — ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____ — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

At present, no potential exists.

01 ☐ E. DIRECT CONTACT — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) — ☐ POTENTIAL — ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____ — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Building on site is occupied by a company performing unrelated activities. No potential exists for direct contact with waste material inside the building. The facility has been recently inspected by OSHA.

01 ☒ F. CONTAMINATION OF SOIL — 02 ☒ OBSERVED (DATE: March 1984) — ☐ POTENTIAL — ☐ ALLEGED
03 AREA POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: Unknown (Acres) — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Soil has been documented in a garden behind the rear of building and in the parking lot. Dr. Gerald Abraham, pathologist, has conducted sampling and detected up to 12,000 ppm of cobalt in the site soil and 1800 ppm in garden soil behind the facility.

01 ☐ G. DRINKING WATER CONTAMINATION — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) — ☐ POTENTIAL — ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____ — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

No potential exists. All drinking water for the town of Dewitt is generated by the Onondaga Water Supply Company which obtains their water from Lake Ontario, approximately 40 miles to the northwest.

01 ☒ H. WORKER EXPOSURE/INJURY — 02 ☒ OBSERVED (DATE: 1981) — ☐ POTENTIAL — ☐ ALLEGED
03 WORKERS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 70 — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Since the plant closed in 1981, numerous workers have been diagnosed as having heavy metal disease. Two former employees have died. Autopsy reports showed high concentrations of cobalt, titanuim and tungsten. Site is presently used by a non-related industry.

01 ☒ I. POPULATION EXPOSURE/INJURY — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) — ☒ POTENTIAL — ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 200 — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

A strong potential exists. Although located in an industrial area, there is a trailer park across the street from the rear parking lot of the site. Residents use property adjacent to site for vegetable gardens.

EPA

POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

I. IDENTIFICATION

01 STATE	02 SITE NUMBER
NY	New Site

II. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS (Continued)

01 ☒ J. DAMAGE TO FLORA — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) ☒ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Strong potential exists for a garden that is 200 feet behind the building. High levels of cobalt in soil from the garden has been reported. Uptake of metals by flora may be occurring at present.

01 ☒ K. DAMAGE TO FAUNA — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) ☒ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Include name(s) of species)

Strong potential exists. Soil uptake by plants could lead directly to ingestion by fauna.

01 ☒ L. CONTAMINATION OF FOOD CHAIN — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) ☒ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

A potential exist. Garden vegetables are grown for human consumption and may also be consumed by small wildlife.

01 ☒ M. UNSTABLE CONTAINMENT OF WASTES (Spills/runoff/standing liquids/leaking drums) — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) ☒ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: Unknown — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Waste was swept from building interior out to parking lot and property. Obsolete filtering system could not remove a particulate material in ventilation exhaust.

01 ☒ N. DAMAGE TO OFFSITE PROPERTY — 02 ☒ OBSERVED (DATE: March 1984) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Garden behind facility has been adversely affected. High levels of cobalt have been detected by Dr. Abraham, Pathologist. The cobalt dust may have contaminated a larger area than reported.

01 ☒ O. CONTAMINATION OF SEWERS, STORM DRAINS, WWTPs — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) ☒ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

A potential may exist although there are no past reported incidents.

01 ☐ P. ILLEGAL/UNAUTHORIZED DUMPING — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

No potential exists.

05 DESCRIPTION OF ANY OTHER KNOWN, POTENTIAL, OR ALLEGED HAZARDS

Cobalt, titanium, and tungsten, though not listed as hazardous wastes, are recognized by the medical community as posing serious human health risks after prolonged exposure.

III. TOTAL POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 200

IV. COMMENTS

The owner, Jacob Haffner, has apparently granted, to some residents of the adjacent trailer park, permission to use a small unpaved area for growing a vegetable garden.

V. SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Cite specific references, e.g., state files, sample analysis, reports)

US EPA Files
Chuck Chernoff, NYDEC Region 7 (315) 428-4484
Frank Johnson, Chairman, Hard Metals Disease Committee, (315) 469-8737
Bob Burdick, Syracuse Health Dept. (315) 469-6955
Mr. Bright, Water Superintendent, Dewitt (315) 446-3734
Dr. Gerald Abraham, Pathologist, Upstate Medical School (315) 4750