

FACT SHEET (12/87)

Site: Columbia Mills NYS 738012

Location: Town of Minetto, Oswego County

Registry Classification: Class 2

Responsible Party: Columbia Mills Company (no longer in business in the United States, but there is still a parent company in Canada).

Site Ownership: Town of Minetto and Oswego County

Enforcement Status: DEC - Region 7 has retained the enforcement lead and Columbia Mills has informally agreed to pay for investigations to determine the nature and extent of the contamination. There is no formal Consent Order.

Technical Review and Oversight: Provided by DEC Region 7 and Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation, Bureau of Eastern Remedial Action.

Site History:

1976 - Columbia Mills ceased operation and sold the plant to a salvage company.

1980 - DEC arranged for manifested removal of numerous drums.

1984 - Evaluation of the site's potential for reuse for Oswego County documented potential hazards at the site due to left-over chemicals and/or wastes.

1986 - Phase II Site Investigation prepared for Bond, Schoeneck, & King (Attorney for Columbia Mills Company).

Following DEC review and comment, Columbia Mills agreed to fund additional Phase II investigations and pursue a number of interim remedial measures.

December 1986 Work Plan Scope and Status:

- Reviewed and approved by DEC March, 1987
- Cleaning and removal of buried tanks and contaminated soil - tanks pumped out in November 1987 and removal of tanks and soil scheduled for spring 1988.
- Installation of temporary fencing and warning signs around drum burning area - installed May 1987.

- Inventory of asbestos materials - completed August 1987.
- Gathering further information on soils, groundwater, surface water, and sediments to refine Hazardous Ranking Score - completed autumn of 1987.
- removal of overpacked drums from main plant area - removed September 1987.
- Report submittal - Malcolm Pirnie (engineering consultant hired by Bond, Schoeneck, & King) has proposed to Bond, Schoeneck, & King that the report on the field investigations carried out under this work plan be in the form of a Remedial Investigation Report rather than a Supplemental Phase II Report. This proposal is currently under review by Bond, Schoeneck, & King and the Columbia Mills Company.

February 1988 -

Malcolm Pirnie submitted a revised work plan for removal of buried tanks and aeration of contaminated soils. After several revisions the work plan was approved by the Department in July 1988.

July 1988 -

Eight underground tanks were removed from the site to an approved disposal facility. The contaminated soils collected from around the tanks were piled on site and covered. The holes in the ground left by the tank removals were backfilled with clean fill.

August 1988 -

Malcolm Pirnie sampled soils removed during tank excavation. Disposal of the soils is pending further investigation.

August 1988 -

Division of Air Resources with cooperation from Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation, performed an ambient air investigation for asbestos.

November 1988 -

Malcolm Pirnie submitted Draft Remedial Investigation Report based on previous Phase II investigations and subsequent soil, groundwater and surface water investigations. The report is currently being reviewed by the Department.