



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

Morse Industrial Corporation
620 South Aurora Street
Ithaca, NY 14850

June 2021

SITE No. 755010
NYSDEC REGION 7

Where to Find Information

Access project documents through the [DECinfo Locator](#) and at this location:

Tompkins County Public Library
101 East Green Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
(607) 272-4557
askalibrarian@tcpl.org

Who to Contact

Comments and questions are welcome and should be directed as follows:

Project-Related Questions
Karen Cahill, Project Manager
NYSDEC Region 7
615 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, NY 13204
(315) 426-7551
Karen.Cahill@dec.ny.gov

Project-Related Health Questions
Anthony Perretta
NYSDOH
ESP Corning Tower, Rm 1787
Albany, NY 12237
(518) 402-1365
beci@health.ny.gov

For more information about New York's State Superfund Program, visit:
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html

NYSDEC Proposes Amended Remedy for State Superfund Site; Announces Public Comment Period and Information Session

Virtual Public Meeting, Wednesday July 7, 2021 at 6:00 PM

NYSDEC invites you to a public meeting to discuss the remedy proposed for this site. Participants are encouraged to provide comments at the meeting and during the 30-day comment period, which ends on July 23, 2021.

Location: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, DEC and DOH presentations will be conducted virtually through the Webex Events online platform or via conference call.

To join the virtual meeting online on July 7, 2021 at 6 p.m.:

- Link for Attendees : <https://on.ny.gov/3iYiSu> and click "Join"
- Event Number: 161 872 0431
- Password (if prompted): Morse1

To join by phone:

- Dial: 1-518-549-0500
- Access Code: 161 872 0431 #
- Press # again in lieu of an attendee I.D. number

For information on how to participate in a virtual meeting, go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/public/51805.html>

Interpreter services shall be made available to deaf persons, and language interpreter services for individuals with difficulty understanding or reading English, at no charge, upon request, at least ten (10) business days prior to the meeting. For interpreter service requests, please contact Kerry McElroy by phone at 315-426-7400 or email at info.r7@dec.ny.gov.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is inviting the public to comment on an amended remedy to address contamination related to the Morse Industrial Corporation site ("site") located at 620 South Aurora Street, Ithaca, Tompkins County. Please see the map below for the site location. The estimated cost to implement the remedy is \$5,602,200. Once a remedy has been selected, the responsible party, Emerson Electric Company, will be requested to implement the remedy under DEC oversight.

How to Comment: NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed amended remedy, called a Proposed Record of Decision Amendment, for 30 days, from **June 24** through **July 23, 2021**.

- Access the proposed ROD Amendment and other project documents online through the DECinfo Locator: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/755010/>
- Documents also are available at the location identified at left under “Where to Find Information.”
- Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project-Related Questions in the “Who to Contact” area at left.

The site is listed as a class 2 site in the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites (list of State Superfund sites). A class 2 site represents a significant threat to public health or the environment; action is required. NYSDEC is proposing the following amended remedy to address these threats:

Proposed ROD Amendment: The proposed remedy for the site includes:

- Expansion of the existing groundwater extraction and treatment system;
- Re-routing and monitoring three groundwater seeps;
- Monitoring groundwater for barium and cyanide;
- Construction of a collection trench for recovery of weathered petroleum product in Building 4;
- Passive collection and removal of separate phase petroleum product in on-site wells;
- Evaluation of the potential for soil vapor intrusion into on-site buildings;
- Replacement of a monitoring well to allow passive product recovery;
- Implementation of a Health and Safety Plan and Community Air Monitoring Plan during all ground intrusive activities;
- Implementation of a Site Management Plan; and
- Recording an Environmental Easement to ensure proper use of the site.

NYSDEC developed the proposed amended remedy after reviewing the detailed investigation of the site and evaluating the remedial options in the “Feasibility Study” submitted under New York’s State Superfund Program by Emerson Electric Co. (“remedial party”).

New Information Obtained: While the original remedial actions and additional design efforts for the on-site remedy were being conducted, Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) were conducted at the site by a private developer in support of a potential real estate transaction. Following the ESAs, a more comprehensive Phase II Supplemental Remedial Investigation (SRI) was completed

by 2017. During the SRI and due to more stringent cleanup goals that align with the new reuse plan, several areas of concern were identified with soil contamination and waste residuals that could effectively be cleaned up as interim cleanup actions. Those interim actions were completed by Fall 2019 and most significantly resulted in the removal and off-site disposal of 8,513 tons of non-hazardous contaminated soil and 97.6 tons of hazardous waste soil. A Feasibility Study (FS) was completed in 2020 to evaluate remedial elements that could be implemented as additions to the current site-wide remedy to achieve the protection goals necessary for current redevelopment and reuse plans. The proposed amended remedy was developed using information and evaluations presented in the FS.

Site Description: The site is a 60-acre former manufacturing site comprised of two tax parcels which transcend the Town and City of Ithaca. The site is bordered by Aurora Street to the west; undeveloped, steep woodlands to the south and southwest; and residential neighborhoods to the north and northwest. The site consists of a series of interconnected buildings constructed into a bedrock slope along with associated access roads and parking lots. The plant formerly manufactured steel industrial roller chain, bearing and clutching for the power transmission industry until operations ceased in 2009. With the exception of maintenance and security staff, the plant has been vacant since 2011.

Additional site details, including past investigations and cleanups, and environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, 755010) at: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/dereexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3>

Next Steps: NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the remedy for the site. The selected remedy will be described in a document called a “Record of Decision Amendment” that will explain why the remedy was selected and respond to public comments. A detailed design of the selected remedy will then be prepared, and the cleanup will be performed.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

State Superfund Program: New York's State Superfund Program (SSF) identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and/or the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination before committing State funds for investigation and cleanup.

For more information about the SSF, visit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html>

STATE SUPERFUND PROGRAM

We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.

Stay Informed With DEC Delivers

Sign up to receive site updates by email:

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

DECinfo Locator

Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>

SITE LOCATION FIGURE

