



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Where to Find Information

Access project documents through the DECinfo Locator and at these locations:
<https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/755010/>

Tompkins County Public Library
101 East Green Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
(607) 272-4557

Who to Contact

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

Project-Related Questions
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For more information about New York's State Superfund Program, visit:
<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/brownfield-and-state-superfund-programs/state-superfund-sites>

FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

Morse Industrial Corporation
620 South Aurora Street
Ithaca, Tompkins County

SITE No. 755010
NYSDEC REGION 7

April 2025

Cleanup Activities Continue at State Superfund Site

Planned modifications and additional enhancements of remedial actions to address groundwater contamination are beginning at the Morse Industrial Corporation site (site), located at 620 South Aurora Street in Ithaca, Tompkins County, under New York's State Superfund Program. The cleanup actions will be performed by Emerson Electric Company (remedial party) with oversight from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) pursuant to the Amended Record of Decision issued in 2021. Please see the map below for the site location.

- Access project documents online through the DECinfo Locator:
<https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/755010/>
- Documents also are available at the location identified at left under "Where to find information."

The site is listed as a Class 2 site in the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites (list of State Superfund sites). A Class 2 site represents a significant threat to public health or the environment and requires action.

Highlights of the Upcoming Cleanup Activities: The goal of the cleanup action at the site is to achieve levels that protect public health and the environment. The amended site cleanup actions include:

- Expanding the existing groundwater extraction and treatment system.
- Containment and re-routing of three bedrock groundwater seeps to outfalls monitored under the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.
- Enhancing groundwater monitoring.
- Collection of petroleum in on-site wells for off-site disposal.
- Recording an environmental easement to control future land use and ensure implementation of the site management plan.

A site-specific health and safety plan and a community air monitoring plan will be implemented during remediation activities. Both plans establish procedures to protect on-site workers and residents and include required air monitoring as well as dust and odor suppression measures.

STATE SUPERFUND PROGRAM

Next Steps: After cleanup activities are completed, the remedial party will prepare a Final Engineering Report. The report will describe the completed cleanup activities and certify that cleanup requirements have been or will be achieved.

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

Site Description: The 60-acre former manufacturing plant site is comprised of two tax parcels located in the town and city of Ithaca. The site is bordered by Aurora Street to the east; undeveloped, steep woodlands to the south and southwest; and residential neighborhoods to the north and northwest. The site contains 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. The plant has been vacant since 2011, except maintenance and security staff.

The remedy for the site was amended in 2021 to allow for more restricted uses that align with the planned redevelopment of the site, which includes a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial uses. A majority of the site was cleaned up to restricted-residential use standards, while smaller areas of the site were remediated to commercial or industrial use standards. As described in the amended Record of Decision, the sitewide remedy will be protective for the various planned uses of the site. The amended remedy was developed following a comprehensive supplemental investigation completed in 2017 which identified additional areas of concern based on more stringent cleanup goals. Additional cleanup activities conducted based on the results of the supplemental investigation included the excavation and off-site disposal of over 8,600 tons of contaminated soil. The remaining components of the amended remedy described above are expected to begin in May 2025 and take approximately three months to complete.

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

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 and require cleanup before committing State funds.

For more information about the SSF, visit:
<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/brownfield-and-state-superfund-programs/state-superfund-sites>

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:

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/environmental-cleanup-email-newsletters>

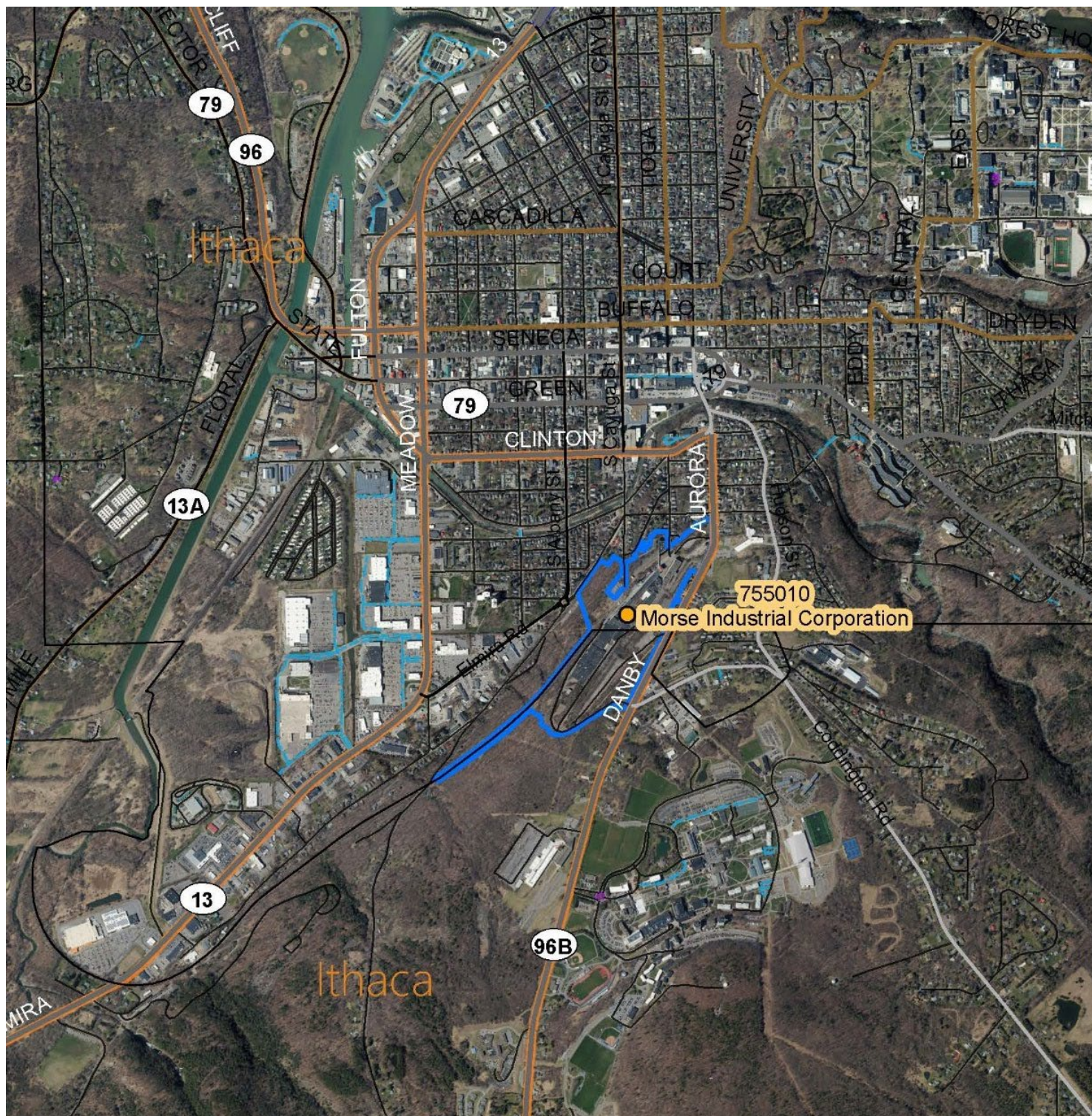
Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

DECinfo Locator

Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites: <https://dec.ny.gov/maps/interactive-maps/decinfo-locator>

STATE SUPERFUND PROGRAM

SITE LOCATION FIGURE



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