



# FACT SHEET

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## Cleanup Plan Modified at Bausch & Lomb Frame Center Site

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### Off-Site Groundwater Investigation Underway

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The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in conjunction with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is sending you this fact sheet to announce changes in the cleanup plan and additional investigations ongoing at the Bausch & Lomb Frame Center inactive hazardous waste disposal site. The Bausch & Lomb Frame Center site is located at 475 Paul Road in the Town of Chili (see map).

#### Background

From 1961 to 1997, Bausch & Lomb produced plastic and metal eyeglass frames at the facility. After a series of investigations in the 1980s revealed contaminants in an on-site drainage ditch, NYSDEC added the site to its list of inactive hazardous waste disposal sites as a class 2 site. A classification of 2 indicates the site poses a significant threat to the environment and/or public health, and action is required.

Between 1990 and 1997, Bausch & Lomb performed a detailed environmental investigation approved by NYSDEC. Additionally, in November 1995, Bausch & Lomb removed and disposed of approximately 1,175 cubic yards of soil and sediment contaminated with metals and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) from the on-site drainage ditch. The environmental investigation revealed three areas of groundwater and soil on the Bausch & Lomb site are contaminated with solvents. The primary contaminants are volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including trichloroethene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane and chemicals that form when these solvents break down.

Based on the results of the investigations, NYSDEC proposed a cleanup plan and presented it at a public meeting in January 1998. After receiving comments from the public, NYSDEC finalized the cleanup plan in a February 1998 document called a Record of Decision. NYSDEC and Bausch & Lomb are in the final stages of negotiating an agreement for Bausch & Lomb to perform the cleanup. Bausch & Lomb is committed to addressing the remaining site environmental issues. According to the Record of Decision, Bausch & Lomb would:

- perform additional investigations to more accurately define the limits of groundwater contamination and plan for the excavation work (this is called the “pre-design investigation”);
- excavate and dispose off-site approximately 3,850 cubic yards of contaminated soil from three areas (referred to as “source areas”) believed to be the sources of the groundwater and soil contamination;
- remove and treat contaminated groundwater encountered during the excavation (the treated water would then be discharged to the local sewage treatment plant); and

- install “early warning” groundwater monitoring wells to allow sufficient time to install a groundwater collection and treatment system if groundwater monitoring indicates contaminants are moving off the site.

The Record of Decision also called for a long-term groundwater monitoring program to assess the natural breakdown of contaminants and the effectiveness of the remedy. Additionally, it required NYSDEC to evaluate the need for institutional controls, such as site fencing or deed restrictions, prior to changing the classification of the site.

### **Changes to the Cleanup Plan:**

At the request of NYSDEC, Bausch & Lomb recently completed additional testing to further characterize the source area soils for off-site disposal. The testing indicated a large amount of the soil originally expected to be excavated contained levels of contaminants near NYSDEC and NYSDOH soil cleanup goals; that is, the soil contained lower levels of contaminants than originally anticipated. Additionally, the testing indicated that most of the contamination was dissolved in the groundwater and not attached to soil particles. Based on the new information, NYSDEC concluded that the following changes to the cleanup plan are appropriate: 1) the amount of soil to be excavated was reduced from approximately 3,850 cubic yards to 400 cubic yards; and 2) a groundwater collection and treatment system will be installed to recover groundwater from the three contaminant source areas.

The other parts of the cleanup plan remain the same, including the installation of early warning groundwater monitoring wells and long-term groundwater monitoring. NYSDEC documented these changes in a document called “Explanation of Significant Differences,” which is available at the document repositories listed at the end of this fact sheet.

### **Off-site Groundwater Investigation:**

Bausch & Lomb recently completed the pre-design investigation required before the cleanup plan can be implemented. During this investigation, volatile organic compounds were detected in two groundwater monitoring wells which had not previously shown contamination. Newly installed groundwater wells confirmed that contaminated groundwater is present near the western site boundary and is likely moving off-site in a south westerly direction at the soil/bedrock interface (about 30 feet below ground). Bausch & Lomb has installed two groundwater collection wells to intercept the groundwater before it leaves the Bausch & Lomb site. Since August 1998, groundwater has been drawn into the wells and pumped to the surface where it is treated and then discharged to the sanitary sewer. Continued operation of this system is expected to be part of the long-term site cleanup program.

Bausch & Lomb has begun an additional investigation to determine the extent of off-site groundwater contamination and to evaluate the effectiveness of the groundwater collection and treatment system. The investigation includes installing additional on-site and off-site groundwater monitoring wells to determine how far the contamination may have moved. Results from recently installed wells near the fence line indicate contamination is not moving toward existing homes closest to the site. Once the investigation is complete, Bausch & Lomb will submit a report to NYSDEC, and the State will evaluate the results. Another fact sheet will be sent explaining the results of the off-site groundwater investigation.

## **For More Information:**

The Explanation of Significant Differences and other documents related to the site are available for review at:

Chili Public Library  
3235 Chili Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14624  
(716) 889-2200

Contact: Jeanne Austin

Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 10:00 am - 9:00 pm

Fri. 10 am - 6 pm; Sat. 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

NYSDEC Region 8 Office

6274 Avon-Lima Road

Avon, NY 14414

(716) 226-2466

Contact: Meaghan Boice-Green

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 am - 4:45 pm

(Please note that the Chili Public Library will be closing October 25 to move to the Chili Town Hall Complex, 3333 Chili Avenue. The library will reopen November 23, 1998.)

We encourage you to contact representatives of the NYSDEC or the NYSDOH anytime with questions, comments or concerns. You can also use the attached mailer to provide us with comments or to request a copy of the document "Explanation of Significant Differences." Additionally, if you know someone who would like to be put on the mailing list, have them send in the attached mailer or contact one of the State representatives listed below. (If you received this fact sheet in the mail, your name will automatically stay on the mailing list.)

## **For Questions About:**

### **➤ Site Investigations/The Cleanup Plan:**

Eric Hausamann, Project Manager

NYSDEC

50 Wolf Road

Albany, NY 12233

(518) 457-5636 or

1-800-342-9296 (leave a message and someone will  
return your call)

Todd Caffoe, Environmental Engineer

Meaghan Boice-Green, Citizen Participation Specialist

NYSDEC - Region 8

6274 East Avon-Lima Road

Avon, NY 14414

(716) 226-2466

### **➤ Site-Related Health Concerns:**

Lani Rafferty, Project Manager

Nina Knapp, Community Outreach Unit

NYSDOH

2 University Place

Albany, NY 12203

1-800-458-1158, ext. 6309 (Ms. Rafferty)  
ext. 6402 (Ms. Knapp)

# NYSDEC Mailer

Please feel free to use this mailer for any of the following purposes:

- \_\_\_ 1. You would like to request a copy of the Explanation of Significant Differences.
- \_\_\_ 2. You would like to be placed on the Bausch & Lomb mailing list.
- \_\_\_ 3. You would like to include the name and address of someone you know who may be interested in receiving future fact sheets.
- \_\_\_ 4. You would like to be taken off the Bausch & Lomb mailing list.
- \_\_\_ 5. You would like to provide us with a change of name or address.
- \_\_\_ 6. You would like to provide us with comments.

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Please complete the form as indicated below, fold and mail directly to the NYSDEC.

Add the following name(s):

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Delete the following name(s):

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Make the following changes:

(Old) _____	(New) _____
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Comments or Concerns:

Meaghan Boice-Green  
NYSDEC  
6274 East Avon-Lima Rd  
Avon, NY 14414-9519