



# FACT SHEET

## State Superfund Program

**Rochester Metal Etching**  
**Site No. 828100**  
**City of Rochester, NY**

**February 2011**

### **Remedy Proposed for State Superfund Site Public Comment Period and Public Meeting Announced**

The public is invited to comment on a remedy proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to address contamination related to the Rochester Metal Etching site (Site). The site is located at 100 Lake Avenue in the City of Rochester in Monroe County. See attached map for site location.

#### **The Proposed Remedy**

The remedy proposed for the site includes soil vapor intrusion mitigation, property restrictions, and site management.

Details of the proposed remedy are described in a draft cleanup plan called the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) developed under New York's State Superfund Program (see box below). The document is available for public review at the location identified on a page below under "Where to Find Information." The document also is available on the NYSDEC web site at

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37556.html>

**Public Meeting**  
**March 16, 2011**  
**6:30 – 8 pm**

**Rochester City Hall**  
**Conference Room 309A**  
**30 Church St.**  
**Rochester, NY 14614**

You will be able to obtain more information about the proposed remedy, ask questions, make comments and speak directly with the project's technical team.

#### **How to Comment**

NYSDEC is accepting written comments on the proposed remedy for 30 days, from February 22 through March 24. Submit written or emailed comments to:

**State Superfund Program:** New York's State Superfund Program identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and 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 State Superfund Program, visit:  
[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html)

Edward Hampston, P.E.  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, New York 12233-7017  
[exhampst@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:exhampst@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

#### **Summary of the Proposed Remedy**

The proposed remedy is the alternative preferred by NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to address site contamination. The draft cleanup plan has several goals:

- To identify cleanup levels to be achieved;
- To summarize other alternatives considered;
- To explain why the proposed remedy will protect public health and the environment; and
- To provide a detailed description of the proposed remedy.

The proposed remedy was chosen following a detailed site investigation and evaluation of alternatives to address contamination. This report is called a "Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study."

The September 2007 Feasibility Study evaluated alternatives to address both contaminated soil and groundwater. Soil cleanup goals for the site are the soil cleanup objectives for commercial soils included in 6NYCRR Part 375; for groundwater, the cleanup goals are New York State Groundwater Quality Standards. Four remedial alternatives were considered for the site. The alternatives included: 1) no further action; 2) institutional and access controls such as vapor control and groundwater use restrictions; 3) controls with containment (capping) of site soils; and 4) controls with excavation and off-site disposal.

The main source of contamination at this site is most likely the result of spills and leaks that occurred during the historical operation of the site as a former metal etching facility. Based on previous reports and investigations, metals and solvents were the primary chemicals handled at the site. The proposed remedy, to address this contamination, includes the following components:

- the installation, operation and maintenance of a soil vapor intrusion mitigation system for the on-site building;
- implementation of property use restrictions (groundwater use restrictions, land use restrictions, soil management plan);
- the maintenance of site engineering controls (site cover to prevent exposure to contaminated soil and groundwater); and
- site management.

The proposed cleanup plan, summarized above and described in greater detail in the Feasibility Study, would achieve the remedial goals identified in the Proposed Remedial Action Plan and do so in a cost effective manner. The proposed remedy will prevent exposure to groundwater and soil by land use restrictions and engineering controls, respectively, and prevent exposure to soil vapor through the required installation and operation of a sub-slab depressurization system within the on-site building. The building and site pavement currently provide a cover system over the contaminated soils which minimize the infiltration of water into the contaminated soil and ultimate migration into the groundwater. This also eliminates direct exposure. The proposed cleanup plan would be protective of public health and the environment and would be implemented at a considerably lower cost than the excavation and disposal alternative considered as a remedy. The cost estimate to implement this cleanup plan, developed as part of the PRAP, is approximately \$175,000.

#### **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" that will explain why the remedy was selected and respond to public comments. This document will be made available to the public (see "Where to Find Information" below) and notification will be sent to those on the Rochester Metal Etching Site mail list. NYSDEC will continue to keep the public informed during the cleanup of the site.

#### **Background**

In 2001, NYSDEC listed the site 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 and action is required.

The main feature of the 0.2 acre Rochester Metal Etching site is a two story building surrounded by paved parking areas and walkways. The site, currently used for commercial purposes by a recreational club, is located within the Community Center zoning district within a developed urban area of downtown Rochester and is bounded to the north by a mixed use building (commercial first floor/apartments upper floors) and a vehicle rental location across Spencer Street, to the west across Lake Avenue by parking lots, to the east by a frozen food facility, and to the south by a diner. From 1967 until 1996, when manufacturing operations ceased, the Site was reportedly owned and operated by Rochester Metal



Etching to manufacture etched and lithographed name plates. Prior historical site uses that appear to have led to the site contamination are manufacturing processes that include metal plating, machining and etching, and degreasing of the metal plates, and the improper disposal of process wastewater into a series of sumps, drains and trenches within the building. Site soils and groundwater are contaminated with metals including copper and chromium and the on-site groundwater is also contaminated with solvent compounds typically used for degreasing metal plates. Results from off-site investigations indicated limited impacts from hazardous waste. In 1998 and 1999, a Preliminary Site Investigation was completed for the Site by the State and the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study was completed in September 2007. Between 2005 and 2009, the owner took steps to eliminate exposure to hazardous waste on the property. This included concrete filling of sumps and trenches on the site, and covering remaining exposed surface soils with asphalt.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

### **Where to Find Information**

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public to stay informed. These documents include the proposed cleanup plan for the site, called the Proposed Remedial Action Plan.

Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County  
115 South Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14604  
Ph: (585) 428-7300  
Hours: Mon, Thurs: 9am-9pm  
Tues, Wed and Fri: 9am-6pm  
Sat: 9am-5pm [Closed July - Labor Day]  
Sun: 1pm-5pm [September - May]

NYSDEC Region 8 Office  
6274 East Avon-Lima Road  
Avon, NY 14414-9516  
Ph: (585) 226-5326  
Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30am-4:45pm  
Call Linda Vera for an appointment

### **Who to Contact**

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

#### Project Related Questions

Edward Hampston, Project Manager  
NYSDEC Central Office  
625 Broadway  
Albany, New York 12233-7017  
(518) 402-9814 or Toll free: (888) 459-8667  
Call for an appointment

#### Site-Related Health Questions

Ms. Melissa Doroski, Project Manager  
NYSDOH  
Flanigan Square, Room 300  
547 River Street  
Troy, NY 12180-2216  
Toll Free: (800) 458-1158, Option 6

Linda Vera, Citizen Participation Specialist  
NYSDEC Region 8  
6274 East Avon-Lima Road  
Avon, NY 14414-9516  
(585) 226-5324

**If you know someone who would like to be added to the site contact list, have them contact the NYSDEC Project Manager above. 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.**



