NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

March 2015

FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

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Site Name: ITT Automotive Fluid Handling System
DEC Site #: 828112
Address: 30 Pixley Industrial Parkway
Gates, NY 14624

Have questions? See "Who to Contact" Below

Investigation Completed at State Superfund Site; Results Will Help to Evaluate Ways to Address Contamination

An investigation has been completed for the ITT Automotive Fluid Handling System site ("site") located at 30 Pixley Industrial Parkway, Gates, Monroe County. Please see the map for the site location. Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information." The investigation was conducted by ITT Corporation with oversight provided by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

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; action is required.

NYSDEC has approved a report, called a "Remedial Investigation Report," that describes the results of the site investigation and recommends development of a remedy to address the contamination that was found.

Highlights of the Remedial Investigation Report

Remedial Investigation field activities were completed in multiple phases between 2004 and 2013. Activities included testing of soil, groundwater, soil vapor, indoor air, and bedrock. Testing was completed both on-site and on adjacent off-site properties to define the nature (type) and extent (location) of contamination. Geological testing was also performed to help explain how groundwater and contaminants move through the subsurface.

The results of the investigation indicate that the primary contaminants associated with the site are 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA) and associated degradation products. 1,4-Dioxane is also present, but to a lesser extent. TCA is a volatile organic compound that was used by industry to remove grease from parts. 1,4-Dioxane is not as volatile as TCA and was added to TCA as a stabilizer. A separate Remedial Investigation involving sources of TCA is being conducted at an adjacent property to the east under the NYS Brownfield Cleanup Program by that property owner.

In 1999 (before the start of the Remedial Investigation), ITT excavated approximately 968 tons of soil contaminated with TCA and 1,4-dioxane in the northeast portion of the site just north of the on-site building. The Remedial Investigation results indicate that some TCA remains in soil underneath the building close to where the contaminated soils were removed in 1999, but at levels that just slightly exceed soil cleanup objectives for unrestricted use.

Groundwater contamination is most significant in the shallow bedrock zone which is located at depths of about 15 feet to 34 feet below ground. The highest TCA concentrations in the shallow bedrock groundwater are located on an adjacent property and approximately 30 feet east of the 1999 soil excavation. TCA concentrations in this area significantly exceed New York State groundwater standards, but test results suggest that the groundwater may be getting less contaminated with time. TCA impacts in groundwater extend approximately 100 feet off-site to the north.

TCA contaminated groundwater is also present in two areas at depths of 100 feet to 150 feet below ground. The areas of deep groundwater impacts are associated with two open-hole storm water recharge wells that are about 150 feet deep. One of these recharge wells is located approximately 60 feet east of the 1999 excavation area on an adjacent off-site property. The other is located near the southwest corner of the site. These recharge wells appear to act as conduits for transporting contaminants from the shallow bedrock zone to the deep bedrock zone.

The recharge wells also influence the movement of TCA contamination in the shallow bedrock groundwater. Storm water that enters the recharge wells during a heavy rain or snow-melt acts like a plunger and pushes the TCA impacted groundwater in a nearly circular pattern away from the recharge well.

Bedrock testing was performed to determine if TCA was absorbed into the bedrock similar to water into a sponge. The results indicate that a significant amount of TCA is present within the bedrock itself in the northeast corner of the ITT property and the northwest corner of the adjacent property to the east. Bedrock impacts are primarily found in the shallow and intermediate bedrock zones. The TCA that was absorbed into the bedrock will slowly be released back into the groundwater over a long period of time. This process is expected to act as an on-going source of groundwater contamination for a long time.

Volatile organic compounds in the soil and groundwater may move into the soil vapor (air spaces within the soil), which in turn may move into overlying buildings and affect the indoor air quality. This process, which is similar to the movement of radon gas from the subsurface into the indoor air of buildings, is referred to as soil vapor intrusion. TCA is present at elevated levels in the sub-slab soil vapor (the air underneath the building) and indoor air of the on-site building. The on-site building has been vacant since 2004. At the adjacent off-site property to the east, TCA is present in the sub-slab soil vapor at elevated concentrations. This off-site property is occupied. The air quality inside the building has been tested periodically from 2005 until 2011, and annually from 2011 to present. The results indicate that TCA indoor air contamination is not a concern at this time.

Next Steps

A Feasibility Study will be conducted based on information obtained during the investigation to achieve the following:

1) define the objectives of the site cleanup program;
2) develop cleanup alternatives; and
3) screen and analyze the alternatives.

NYSDEC will then develop a draft cleanup plan, called a "Proposed Remedial Action Plan." This plan describes the remedy preferred by NYSDEC to address contamination related to the site. The draft cleanup plan will explain the decision that led to the preferred remedy by discussing each alternative and the reasons for choosing or rejecting it. The goal of the plan will be to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. NYSDEC will announce the draft cleanup plan in a future fact sheet and present it to the public for its review and comment during a 30-day comment period and at a public meeting.

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

Background

Location: The ITT Automotive Fluid Handling System site (ITT) site is located in a commercial/light industrial section in the Town of Gates, Monroe County. The site is approximately 0.25 miles west of the corner of Pixley Road and Pixley Industrial Parkway. The site is also referred to as the Former ITT Rochester Form Machine Facility (RFM) site.

Site Features: The main site feature is a 45,000 sq. ft building on an approximately 3-acre property. The building is surrounded by an asphalt covered parking area to the west and north, and a grass covered area to the east and south.

Current Zoning and Land Use: The site is currently inactive and zoned for manufacturing use. The surrounding properties are currently used for a combination of commercial, light industrial, and utility right-of-ways. The nearest residential area is approximately 0.25 miles west on Riviera Drive.

Past Use of the Site: The site was known as Rochester Form Machine, Inc. until 1994. ITT also owned and operated RFM where aluminum parts were produced. Uses that appear to have led to site contamination include degreasing with 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA). Between 1984 and 1987, four above ground TCA storage tanks were installed at the site and TCA was used for degreasing. The TCA also included 1,4-dioxane which was added as a stabilizer. TCA was no longer used at the site by the end of 1994. ITT shut down manufacturing operations at the site in late 2003.

In 1991, ITT performed an environmental investigation at the site. NYSDEC was not aware of the 1991 investigation until 1998 when NYSDEC initiated its own site investigation based on investigation results on an adjacent property which indicated the potential for TCA contamination to be present at the ITT site. TCA and 1,4-dioxane were the primary contaminants detected during the 1991 and 1998 investigations. The highest soil concentrations were detected outside the ITT building in the northeast corner of the site in an area where steam cleaning operations were reportedly performed. The southwest corner of the property was also identified as an area of concern. In 1999, ITT initiated their own environmental investigation in response to the 1998 NYSDEC investigation. The ITT investigation (performed without NYSDEC review, approval or oversight), indicated the widespread presence of TCA and 1,4-dioxane in the overburden at the northeast corner of the property. Based on these results, ITT excavated about 968 tons of soil from the northeast corner of the property in 1999.

NYSDEC sampled the groundwater approximately 1 year after ITT's soil removal. The results indicated the continued presence of TCA contaminated groundwater at the northeast corner of the ITT site and an adjacent off-site property to the east. Based on these results, NYSDEC listed the ITT property as an Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site in 2002. In 2003, ITT and NYSDEC signed an Order-on-Consent for a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS).

Site Geology and Hydrogeology: The site is generally flat with a gentle slope to the south.

Soil thickness at the site varies from 7 feet to 12 feet. The soil consists of fill materials to depths of up to 2 feet. Under the fill is a stiff, red brown, silty clay layer that varies in thickness from 2.5 feet to 6 feet and transitions to a soft, clayey silt with traces of sand and gravel.

The bedrock encountered under the soil layer was divided into three (3) zones. The upper most zone (from about 15 feet to 34 feet below ground surface) was designated the “shallow bedrock zone” and is comprised of a moderately fractured Eramosa Dolomite. The “intermediate bedrock zone” was defined as the bedrock between the shallow bedrock zone and the base of the Eramosa Dolomite at depths of up to 55 feet. The “deep bedrock zone” includes additional dolomite and shale formations to a depth of approximately 150 feet.

Groundwater is primarily present in the bedrock typically starting at depths of 10 to 15 feet. The shallow bedrock zone represents the primary zone of groundwater flow.

Groundwater from the site generally flows to the north and northeast, however this is complicated by the presence of storm water recharge wells at the site and an adjacent property. These storm water recharge wells are essentially open holes up to 150 feet deep which collect storm water runoff from parking lots and roof drains. Localized areas of elliptical groundwater flow are produced around the recharge wells during periods of rain and snow-melt.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's website at:
http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=828112

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: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed.

Town of Gates Public Library
902 Elmgrove Road
Gates, NY 14624
phone: 585-234-9190

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions
Frank Sowers
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
6274 East Avon-Lima Road
Avon, NY 14414
585-226-5357
frank.sowers@dec.ny.gov

Site-Related Health Questions
Julia Kenney
New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation
Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, Room 1787
Albany, NY 12237
1-518-402-7860
BEEI@health.ny.gov

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.

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html. It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you *better informed*.

As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

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

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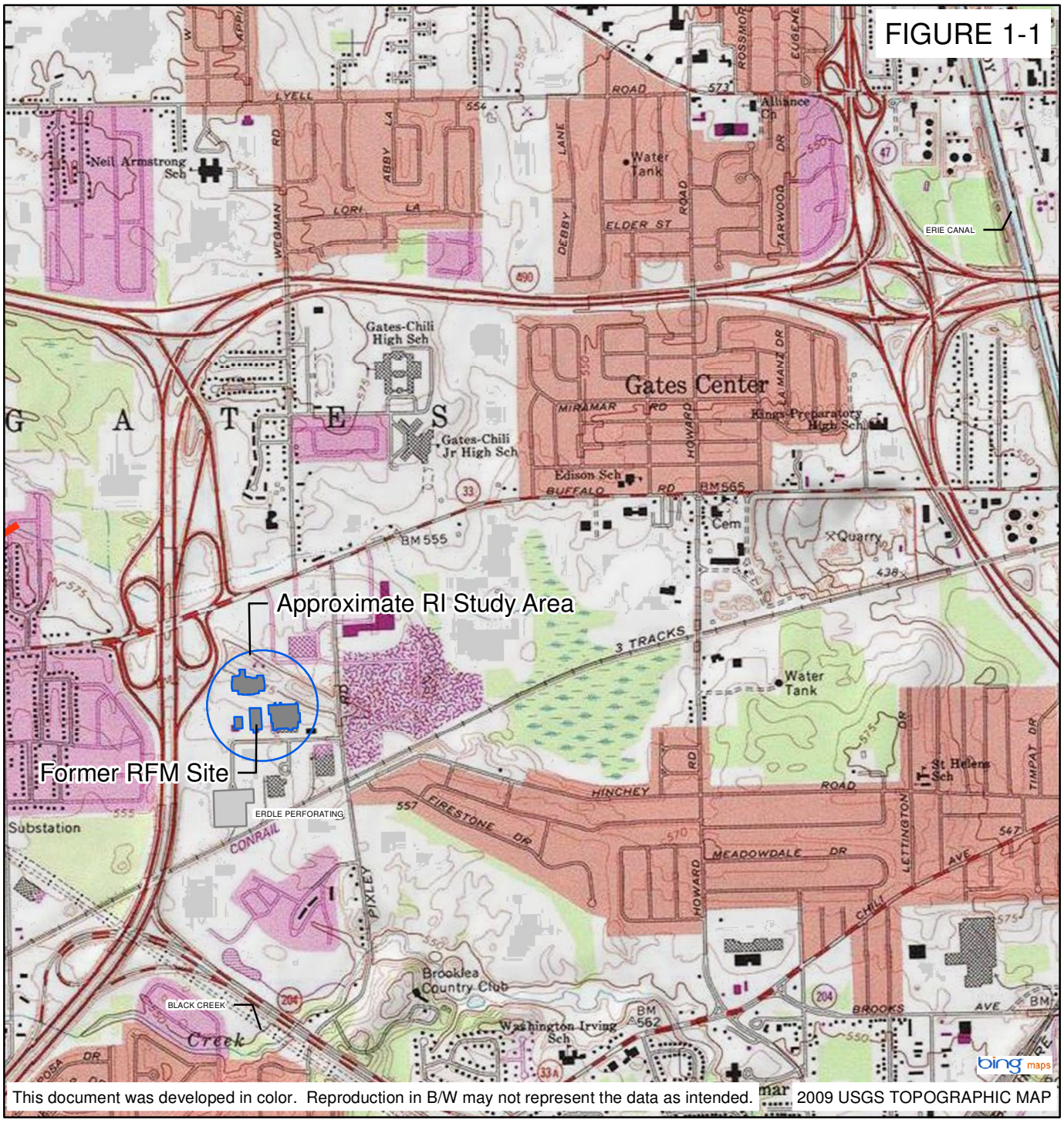
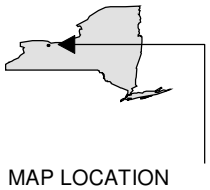
FIGURE 1-1



This document was developed in color. Reproduction in B/W may not represent the data as intended. 2009 USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

ADAPTED FROM: (BING) USGS ROCHESTER WEST QUADRANGLE

FORMER ITT ROCHESTER FORM MACHINE FACILITY
TOWN OF GATES, NEW YORK
SITE #8-28-112



MAP LOCATION

SITE LOCATION

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