



Plant

area one removal

51 fact sheet

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Formerly Used Defense Sites

November
2000

Holding Pond Removal Nearly Complete

The US Army Corps of Engineers has completed the majority of the removal action on a holding pond at Former Air Force Plant 51 in Greece, N.Y. The holding pond was built to store waste from manufacturing operations.

As part of the removal, water and sediment from the pond and surrounding area are being removed, as well as a storm water pipe going from the main building to the pond. City of Greece and New York Department of Environmental Conservation officials have been closely monitoring the cleanup. Max Streibel, Deputy Supervisor the Town of Greece said, "I'm very pleased with the way this removal is progressing. They are doing a very professional job."

During the removal action, the Corps of Engineers contractor, Roy F. Weston, Inc., brought in equipment to siphon off approximately 50,000 gallons of liquid. The liquid was placed in tanks and taken to a licensed disposal facility near Niagara Falls.

After the liquid was removed, sediments in the bottom and side of the

pond needed to be treated so they could be safely removed and disposed of. Lime was added to help remove water and make the sediment easier to transport.

So far, 45 large containers (similar to dumpsters) of material have been excavated from the pond. Each container holds about 18 tons of material. This accounts for approximately two-thirds of the total material that will be excavated.

All of the sediment in the pond is being removed down to the top of a more watertight clay layer that lies beneath it. They are also removing about a foot of soil on the side of the pond, and a swale that connected the pond to an adjacent wetlands area.

The primary contaminants in the pond water and sediments were cyanide, acetone, dichloroethane, tetrachloroethane, ethyl benzene, trichloroethene, and chromium. The pond area will be tested when all material has been removed to ensure that the contamination is no longer present.

The sediments are currently being stored at the Dewey Avenue site behind the warehouse area in storage containers called roll-offs. Each container is covered to keep the material from blowing away and to keep rain water out. The remaining sediments in the pond are covered with a tarp to keep water out. When a decision is made on



Moving sediment to roll-off

where the material will be disposed of, the additional sediment will be excavated from the pond and transported to the disposal area.

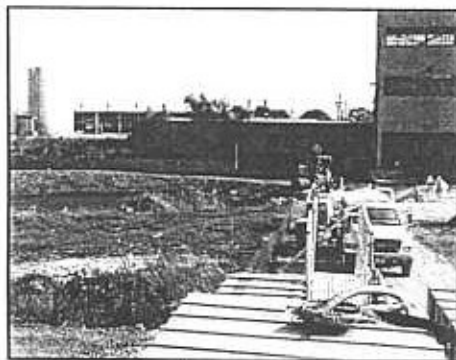
Air monitoring

Throughout the cleanup action, the contractor has continuously monitored the air at the pond to ensure that contamination from the pond did not go into the air. According to Denzie White, the Corps of Engineers site manager, "We monitor the air to ensure that our workers and the public are safe throughout this removal. The monitors have not detected any contaminant releases to the air."

Additional testing

When all of the sediment has been removed, sampling will confirm that no additional action is needed at the pond.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will confirm that the site is cleaned up and meets the state standard.



Water moved from pond to tanker

PLANT 51 fact sheet

Site History

The plant was built during World War II to produce ships and was later used to build B-52 bulkheads and Talos surface to air missile ground handling equipment. The property was owned or operated by the U.S. government through the 1950s.

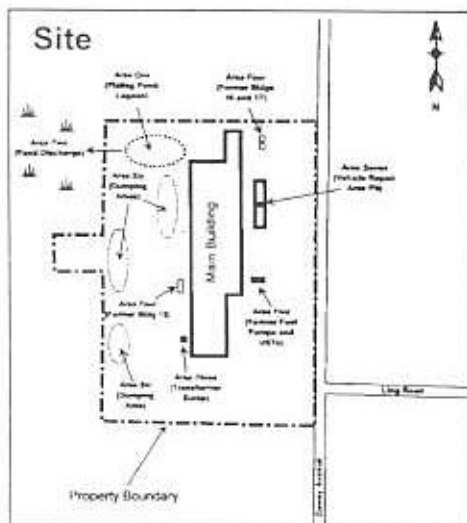
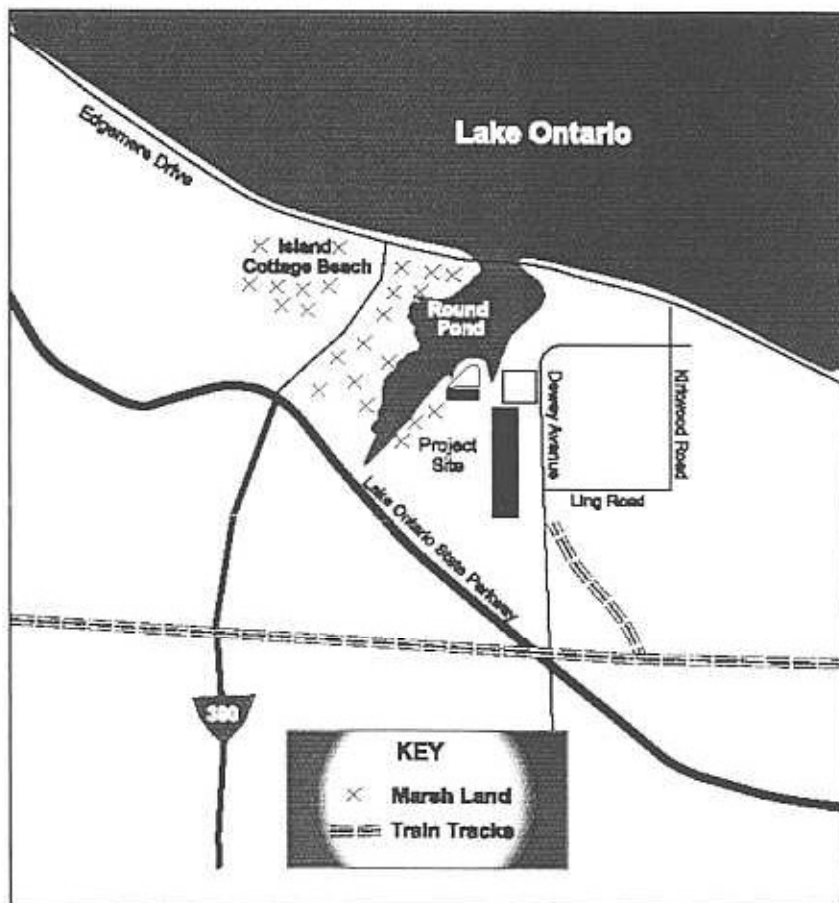
The approximately 45-acre plant was declared excess by the government. In 1961, the property was transferred by General Services Administration. In 1963, just over 36 acres of the former plant was transferred to 4800 Dewey Ave., Inc., which then transferred the property to 4800 Dewey Enterprise. The property is still owned by 4800 Dewey Enterprise who leases warehouse space at the site.

During the time Plant 51 was operated by the Department of Defense, metal plating, and other operations impacted several areas.

The Corps of Engineers conducted a site investigation to determine what areas of former Plant 51 may be contaminated. Seven areas of

concern were investigated. The site map shows where each area is located. Samples were taken in November 1999 to determine what contamination, if any, is present.

The sample results and other information can be found in the April 2000, Former Air Force Plant 51 Hazardous, Toxic and Radiological Waste (HTRW) Investigation report, at the Bernard Crossing Branch Library, 2780 Dewey Avenue.



Former Air Force Plant 51 Areas of Concern

contact information

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