



# Plant 51 fact sheet

area one removal

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

Spring 2001

## Removal Completed at Holding Pond

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the removal of hazardous soil and water from a holding pond at Former Air Force Plant 51 in Greece, N.Y. This was the portion of the facility known as Area 1, located northwest of the main building, that officials felt was most urgently in need of cleanup. The holding pond consisted of a surface impoundment that was used to collect discharges from electroplating operations.

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, excavation of the pond area was finished in February 2001. It involved removal of approximately 4,600 tons of sediment and 70,167 gallons of liquid from the holding pond between November 2000 and February 2001.

Several contaminants were found in the pond water and sediments onsite, including trichloroethene, cis-1,2-DCE, vinyl

chloride, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, nickel, zinc and cyanide.

The hazardous liquid was removed from the lagoon and staged in three onsite tanks beginning last October. The transporting of contaminated water offsite took a little over three months. It was eventually taken to CECOS International Inc. in Niagara Falls, N.Y. for disposal in 5,000 gallon shipments.

Corps contractors ended up taking even more sediment out of the pond than they had originally expected. High concentrations of TCE were found in five of six soil cells, based on soil boring data collected from the site. As a result, engineers kept digging to groundwater level in the five cells where high levels of TCE were discovered. (Additional excavation in Cell

6 wasn't required based on confirmatory data.) Using two excavators, engineers removed, solidified and loaded out the sediment in the lagoon, adding lime to the soil in order to reduce the moisture content for transportation and disposal. Also, one foot of soil was removed from the lagoon overflow swale.

The 18-inch influent pipe leading from the manufacturing plant to the lagoon and its

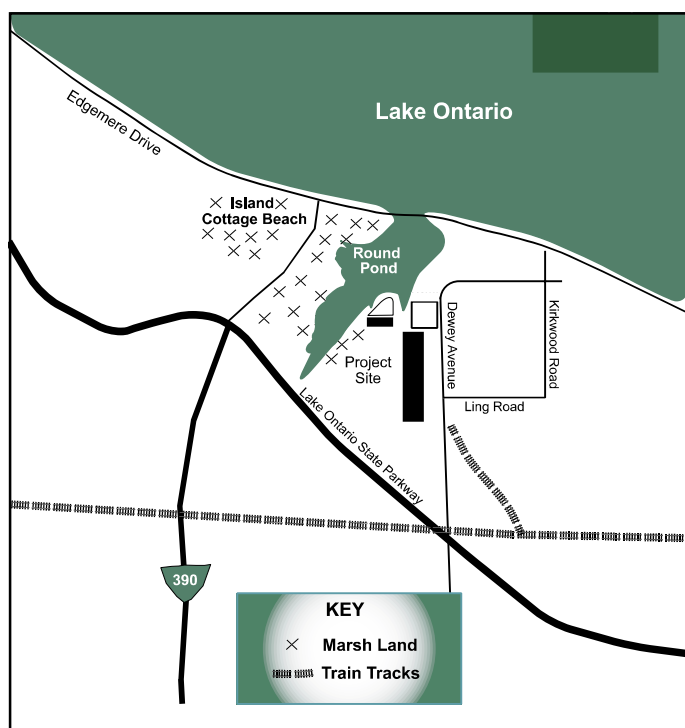


*Area One Pond*

concrete cradle below were also excavated, crushed, and disposed of with the stabilized lagoon sediments.

For the restoration of the excavated area, a permeable non-woven geotextile was placed over the fill material within the lagoon to separate the recharge area from the clean backfill material. Backfill material was placed and compacted on top of liner material until it reached the elevation at the top of the slope. Liner material was also placed in the trench to the wetlands and overlaid with backfill. Corps contractors used approximately 2,160 cylinders of clean fill material to backfill the excavation area to approximately one foot above the groundwater table. Field work was completed on February 22, 2001. Final grading and/or hydroseeding will be performed in late spring or as agreed upon with the Corps of Engineers.

The sediment removed from the area is subject to sampling to confirm that no additional action will be needed at the pond. New York State officials will confirm that the cleanup meets state standards.



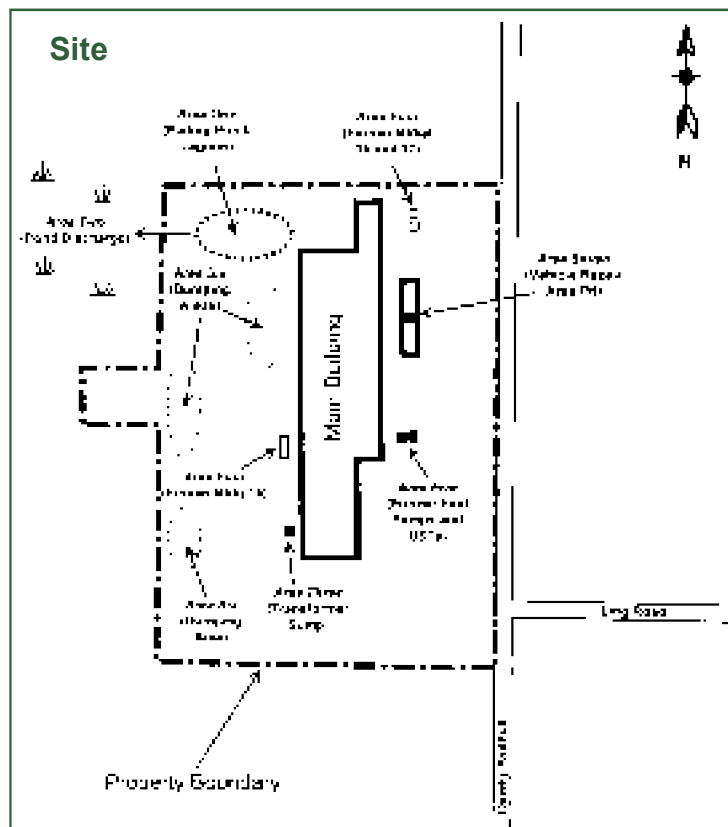
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## Site Background

The former Air Force Plant 51 is located in Greece, Monroe County, New York, north of the Lake Ontario State Parkway and adjacent to Dewey Avenue. The 45-acre plant was owned by the United States Air Force from 1953 to 1959 when it was transferred to the General Services Administration in 1959, Monroe County Water Authority in 1961, and finally to 4800 Dewey Avenue, Inc. in 1963. The property is currently being leased to Genesse Scrap and Tin Company, Inc. to repackage scrap metal.

When Plant 51 was operated by the Department of Defense, metal plating and other operations caused environmental impacts at several areas on site.

The Corps conducted a site investigation to identify what areas of the former plant site were contaminated. A report by Ogden (a Corps contractor) entitled, "Final Former Air Force Plant No. 51 HTRW Investigation", dated April 2000, identified seven areas of concern at the site. Sample results, the report, and other project information are available for public review at the Bernard Crossing Branch Library located at 2780 Dewey Avenue.



Former Air Force Plant 51 Areas of Concern

## What's Next?

The final report on the holding pond cleanup is being reviewed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Corps officials say a remedial investigation still must be conducted in the remaining six areas of concern that were identified in an earlier investigation. No definite timetable has been set for the other investigations due to lack of funding. But officials are confident they have effectively treated the area of the facility that represented the most pressing potential health threat.

## contact information

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