



FACT SHEET

July 1999



Cleanup to Begin at Former Voplex Site

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in conjunction with the New York State Department of Health (DOH), wants to inform you about upcoming cleanup activities at the Former Voplex Corporation site. DEC is providing this fact sheet to explain what will happen, why cleanup work will be done, and how to get more information.

Background:

The site is a manufacturing/office building at 111 North Street in Canandaigua (see map). From 1973 to 1981, North American Philips Corporation (NAPC) produced electronic components at the site. In 1981, NAPC subleased the facility to Voplex Corporation (Voplex). Voplex used the building as a warehouse, to produce Nerf® cars, and for assembling automobile bumper trim. Voplex purchased the building in 1990 and subsequently filed bankruptcy. The building was purchased by Cambridge Industries, Inc. in 1994.

A series of environmental investigations beginning in 1988 revealed two areas of contamination at the site. The first area is a process drainage system located in the northeast corner of the building. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and metals were found in parts of the system. VOCs are chemicals that contain carbon and evaporate readily. Based on this data, in 1989 Voplex removed and disposed of visible residue in part of the drainage system.

The second area is a loading dock and former chemical storage area on the east side of the building. A floor drain from the chemical storage area exited the building at the loading dock. VOCs, primarily trichloroethene and tetrachloroethene, were found in this area. Trichloroethene and tetrachloroethene were commonly used as solvents in degreasing processes.

Further investigation in 1992 showed elevated levels of VOCs in subsurface soils and groundwater in the loading dock area and metals in drainage ditch sediments. Based on this information, DEC added the site to its list of inactive hazardous waste disposal sites as a class 2 site. A classification of 2 means that the site poses a significant threat to public health and/or the environment and that remedial action is required.

In 1994, Cambridge Industries (Cambridge) signed an agreement with DEC to perform a series of actions to address contamination at the site. Cambridge cleaned the process drainage system and removed metal-contaminated sediments from the drainage ditch. Cambridge also installed a system to pump and treat contaminated groundwater in the loading dock area.

In 1996, Cambridge installed a soil vapor extraction system to remove VOCs from shallow soils under the former chemical storage area of the building. Cambridge also installed a groundwater interceptor trench southeast of the building to contain groundwater contamination. Groundwater collects in the trench and is then pumped into a treatment system and discharged to the sanitary sewer.

Upcoming Actions:

To address VOC contamination in soils below the water table, Cambridge is planning to excavate and treat contaminated soils onsite with a mechanical volatilization system. Soil will be passed through a machine called a hammermill that will pulverize and agitate the soil to release contaminants. About 1200 cubic yards of contaminated soils is expected to be excavated at the loading dock area and under the former chemical storage area inside the building. After treatment, the soils will be backfilled into the excavations. Cambridge will monitor the air during this work to protect workers and the surrounding community.

This cleanup action is expected to remove the source of groundwater contamination and to eliminate the significant threat posed by the site. Cambridge originally planned to begin the soil excavation and treatment in November 1998. However, due to concerns about unpredictable winter weather, they delayed beginning treatment until this summer. Work should begin in July and be completed in about a month.

What Happens Next:

After cleanup of the contaminated soils, all known contaminated media (sediments, groundwater, soils) will have been addressed. Continued operation of the groundwater interceptor trench will be required to control the migration of contaminated groundwater. In concert with groundwater collection, a long-term groundwater monitoring program will be instituted. DEC will incorporate these completed and planned actions into a proposed remedial action plan (PRAP) which will be made available for public comment.

For More Information:

A copy of the workplan for the soil cleanup and other site-related information is available at:

City Clerk's Office
Canandaigua City Hall
2 North Main Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424
(716) 396-5017
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9 - 5

DEC Region 8 Office
6274 E. Avon-Lima Rd.
Avon, NY 14414
(716) 226-5326 (Contact Meaghan Boice-Green)
Hours: Mon.- Fri. 8:30 - 4:45

We encourage you to contact any of the following staff at any time with questions, comments or concerns about:

► **The Site Cleanup:**

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► **Site-Related Health Questions:**

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You can also contact DEC toll-free at 1-800-342-9296. Leave your name, number and a brief message and someone will call you back.

Location of Former Voplex Corp. Site, Canandaigua

