



FACT SHEET



April 2000

State Issues Record of Decision for the Former Voplex Site

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Groundwater Collection and Treatment System Will Continue to Operate

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The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in conjunction with the New York State Department of Health (DOH), is responsible for addressing contamination at inactive hazardous waste disposal sites, including the former Voplex site in Canandaigua (see map). Based on environmental investigations and previous cleanup actions taken at the site, the State has determined that no further cleanup is required at this time other than continued operation of the groundwater collection and treatment system to control the migration of contaminated groundwater. Monitoring of the site will also continue.

After seeking public comment on this determination, the State recently finalized this decision in a document called a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD also summarizes site investigations, cleanup actions implemented at the site, and responses to comments received from the public.

The Record of Decision and other site-related documents are available at DEC's Region 8 office and at the Wood Library, 134 N. Main Street, Canandaigua, (716) 394-1381. This fact sheet also provides background information about the site.

Site Background Information:

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 for bankruptcy. The building was purchased by Cambridge Industries, Inc. in 1994 and is currently used for storage.

A series of environmental investigations beginning in 1988 revealed two areas of contamination at the site. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and metals were found in parts of a drainage system formerly used to drain wastes from paint stripping and other operations. VOCs are chemicals that contain carbon and evaporate readily. In 1989, Voplex removed and disposed of visible residue in a portion of the drainage system.

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

Further investigation in 1992 showed elevated levels of VOCs in subsurface soils and groundwater in the loading dock area. Additionally, elevated levels of metals were found in drainage ditch sediments along the eastern side of the site. 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 action is required.

Cleanup Actions Taken:

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 drainage system and removed metal-contaminated sediments from the drainage ditch. Cambridge also installed a system to pump out 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 intercept contaminated groundwater. Groundwater collects in the trench and is then pumped into a treatment system and discharged to the sanitary sewer.

In 1999, Cambridge excavated contaminated soils and treated them with a mechanical volatilization system that pulverized and agitated the soil to remove the volatile contaminants. About 1600 cubic yards of contaminated soils were excavated and treated. After treatment, the soils were backfilled into the excavations. To address residual contamination which remained after excavation (such as adjacent to and below building foundation structures), iron filings were added to the backfilled soils along the exterior building foundation to form a VOC treatment wall. Iron filings (iron metal particles) react with the volatile contaminants dissolved in groundwater, essentially destroying the contaminants in place. These cleanup actions removed a source of groundwater contamination and mitigated the significant threat posed by the site.

Based on the investigations and completed cleanup activities, the State has determined no further cleanup actions are necessary other than continued operation of the groundwater collection and treatment system to control the migration of contaminated groundwater. Additionally, a long-term groundwater monitoring program will be instituted to ensure the effectiveness of the system.

What Happens Next:

A legal agreement to formalize the operation and maintenance of the groundwater collection/treatment system and long-term monitoring will be negotiated with Cambridge. Under the agreement, Cambridge will submit an operation and maintenance plan for the DEC review and approval. Additionally, notification will be placed on the property deed to indicate the presence of contamination at the site.

For More Information:

Please do not hesitate to contact the following staff if you have questions about:

The Record of Decision:

James Craft, Project Manager (716) 226-5352
Meaghan Boice-Green, Citizen Participation Office (716) 226-5326
DEC - Region 8
6274 East Avon-Lima Road
Avon, NY 14414

Site-Related Health Questions:

David Napier
Regional Toxics Coordinator
New York State Department of Health
42 South Washington Street
Rochester, New York 14608
(716) 423-8071

Mark VanDeusen, Outreach Program
New York State Department of Health
Flanigan Square
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180
1-800-458-1158 ext. 27530

Location of Former Voplex Corp. Site, Canandaigua



Former Voplex Site
103 North St

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332

332

Sucker Brook

ARINGTON

ARRINGTON PARK

Sucker Brook

WILSON LN