



FACT SHEET

MARCH 2000



State To Use Innovative Cleanup Technology at North Franklin Street Hazardous Waste Site

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in conjunction with the New York State Department of Health (DOH), want to update you on activities related to an environmental cleanup at a former dry cleaner on North Franklin Street in Watkins Glen. The State is providing this fact sheet to explain why the cleanup is occurring, what activities are planned for 2000, and how to get more information.

Site Information and Background:

The North Franklin Street Site is a former dry cleaning facility located on a 0.35 acre parcel on North Franklin Street (see map). A 1991 environmental assessment of the site revealed that groundwater under the site is contaminated with dry cleaning chemicals. Therefore, the State added the site to its official list of inactive hazardous waste disposal sites as a class 2 site. A classification of 2 means the site poses a significant threat to public health and/or the environment, and action is required.

From 1992 to 1994, the State investigated the site to determine the extent of groundwater and soil contamination and developed a plan to clean up the site. The state began implementing the cleanup plan in 1996.

In 1996, the State installed and began operating a soil vapor extraction system (to remove contaminated vapors in soil) and a groundwater collection and treatment system at the site. Testing indicates that the operation of these systems has decreased contaminant levels in soil beneath the former antique car museum and the rear portion of the former dry cleaning building to levels established in the State's official cleanup plan (called a Record of Decision). Additionally, operation of the groundwater treatment system has been successful in decreasing contaminant levels toward cleanup goals.

However, in 1998 a small area of soil contamination was discovered extending from 2 to 14 feet below ground surface. The contamination primarily exists along and underneath the former dry cleaning building foundation. DEC determined that the existing soil vapor extraction and groundwater collection and treatment systems may not be sufficient to clean up the remaining contamination. Operation of the soil vapor and groundwater treatment systems was subsequently suspended until further evaluation of the contamination could be completed by DEC.

Upcoming Cleanup Activities:

From the fall of 1998 to the fall of 1999, DEC performed additional soil investigations and evaluated different cleanup technologies that might address this deeper soil contamination. DEC has determined that the site is a viable candidate for an innovative cleanup technology called chemical oxidation. Chemical oxidation involves injecting chemicals, commonly hydrogen peroxide, into contaminated soil and groundwater. The chemicals react with the contaminants and convert them to non-toxic compounds commonly found in nature. Chemical oxidation is often used for disinfection of drinking water and wastewater.

DEC has selected a company called ISOTEC, a vendor experienced with chemical oxidation, to perform a pilot study at the North Franklin Street site. ISOTEC will first perform a laboratory study using contaminated soil and groundwater from the site. The purpose of this initial study is to determine the optimum mix of chemicals needed for the pilot study and to further evaluate whether the process can satisfactorily destroy contaminants under conditions existing at the site.

Following a successful laboratory study, DEC will install up to 13 injection wells strategically located inside and adjacent to the former dry cleaning building. Groundwater samples will also be collected from all existing monitoring wells to characterize contamination within the groundwater prior to the pilot study. ISOTEC will then inject a proprietary blend of chemicals, including low concentrations of hydrogen peroxide, into the injection wells during two five-day periods.

Following the injections, soil and groundwater samples will be collected to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment. The treatment may sufficiently destroy the contaminants so that no further cleanup is necessary. A report will be prepared summarizing the data and recommending any necessary measures to complete cleanup at the site.

Pilot Study Schedule:

The laboratory study was initiated on March 16, 2000. Groundwater sampling is also scheduled to begin in March 2000. Assuming that the laboratory study is successful, the pilot test will begin in May 2000. After the pilot test is completed, the State will test the groundwater and soil to evaluate the success of the pilot study. A report on the study should be available in Fall 2000. The DEC estimates that it will cost approximately \$280,000 to complete the pilot study.

Additional Activities:

At the request of the local community, DEC will also make the northern portion of the site available to the Village of Watkins Glen during the upcoming tourist season. DEC will remove the chain link fence and the dumpster on the site in April 2000. Additionally, the on-site trailer that currently contains equipment related to the groundwater collection and treatment system will be taken to a DEC office for storage. The trailer will be stored until DEC determines whether future groundwater treatment is necessary.

Your Involvement:

DEC will send another fact sheet after the pilot study is complete and DEC has determined whether further cleanup of soil and/or groundwater is necessary. We encourage you to contact the representatives listed below with questions, comments or concerns. If you know someone who would like to be added to the mailing list, have them send in the attached mailer or contact one of the people listed below. You do **not** have to return the mailer if you received this fact sheet in the mail; your name will automatically remain on the mailing list.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

The workplan for the pilot study and other information about the North Franklin Street site is available for review at the following locations:

Watkins Glen Public Library
(documents above the magazine rack)
610 Decatur Street, Watkins Glen
(607) 535-2346

Hours: M, W, F 12-5 & 7-9

T, Th 10-5 & 7-9, Sat. 11-3, Sun. 2-4

DEC Region 8 Office
6274 E Avon-Lima Rd.
Avon, NY 14414
(716) 226-5326

(Contact Meaghan Boice-Green for an appointment)

> For Question About the Upcoming Pilot Test, Contact:

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Meaghan Boice-Green, Citizen Participation Office
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(716) 226-5326

> For Site-Related Health Questions, Contact:

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

Mark VanDeusen, Outreach Program
New York State Department of Health
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