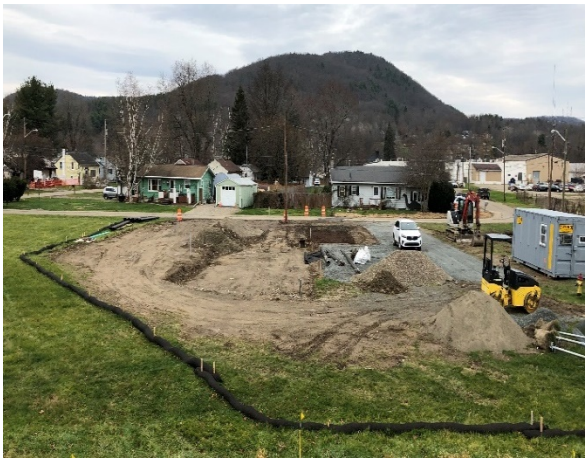
VINE STREET AREA
Village of South Corning (Corning, NY)

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the New York State Department of Health (DOH) are committed to a careful and thorough investigation of properties impacted with contaminated fill containing potentially hazardous ash, brick, and/or glass located in Corning, NY.

DEC is performing short-term response work in the Village of South Corning, New York (Village) to address ash, brick and/or glass (ABG) which has been visually observed in surficial soils in locations on the site and in the vicinity of Vine Street (see attached figure). The Village of South Corning performed excavations to install a sewage pump station, where ABG was visually identified (this material was placed in stockpiles, was removed by the Village of South Corning, and transported for off-site disposal). Similarly, ABG has also been identified adjacent to the roadway of Wicks Boulevard, Flower Avenue, and Garden Street (within the Vine Street site). A short-term response action plan has been put in place to address these areas, while a full site characterization is conducted in the area.



Photograph of excavation work in the Vine Street area

What is a Short-Term Response Action?

A **Short-Term Response Action (STRA)** is an interim remedial measure which may be undertaken at any time during the course of a remedial program, in response to actual or potential environmental or public health exposures identified at a site to ensure that a release or potential release does not threaten the health and safety of humans and/or the environment. It is triggered by the identification of materials at a site that may pose a potential threat to human health and safety and/or the environment. In the case of the Vine Street area, the constituents of potential concern are ash, brick, and/or glass, and the STRA is being performed by the DEC. Following this interim measure, further site characterization investigations are carried out to determine any further remedial work.

Upcoming Short-Term Response Action Planned in the Vine Street Area

The short-term response action plan developed for the site includes removals of ash, brick and/or glass from the surficial soil locations (see the attached figure).

Prior to mobilization, DEC, and their contractor (T&R) will survey the right-of-way, and identify any ash, brick and/or glass present to be removed within the right-of-way (or beyond, where applicable) within the project site. Erosion control measures will be established where needed, and air monitoring activities will be performed during the work in accordance with an established Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP).

The removal activities will consist of minor earthwork to collect and containerize the ash, brick and/or glass identified at the site (which will then be transported and disposed of off-site). Removals will be completed by excavating up to six inches of material in each area where the ash, brick and/or glass material is visible

on the surface. The containerized material will be staged at a location to be determined, with appropriate access, within the Vine Street Area. The container(s) will be labeled, samples will be collected for waste disposal characterization, and then they will be transported and disposed of in accordance with applicable DEC waste regulations. Representatives from DEC (and their respective contractors) will provide oversight during the removal of visually identified ash, brick and/or glass. Ash, brick and/or glass observed in the project area of Vine Street that lies within private properties will be removed subject to obtaining an access agreement with the property owner.

Finally, once the removals are completed, restoration activities will immediately follow. The excavated areas will be backfilled with clean topsoil and will be seeded. Where applicable, the restoration of the excavation within the area will include the replacement of the existing concrete curbs and the placement of pavement and/or gravel to match existing conditions. Monthly inspections will be performed to verify the integrity of the restored areas to ensure health and safety requirements are met.

What Are The Contaminants Previously Found In The Area?

After the ABG was identified in the Vine Street area, sampling was performed on surface soil and subsurface soils. The data taken showed the presence of arsenic, barium, cadmium, total chromium, lead, mercury, and Semi-volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs). Toxicity characteristic leaching procedure (TCLP) test results for these contaminants, or 'constituents of potential concern" (COPCs) exceeded state regulatory thresholds for hazardous waste in some locations, often correlating to the presence of ash, brick and/or glass (ABG). Given this, the identification of potentially hazardous ABG is a factor that DEC evaluates to determine the need for further investigation to identify and delineate potential hazardous material.

How are the contaminants determined?

Soil cleanup objectives (SCOs) in state regulations determine the remedial standards that apply to a property based on an appropriate land use category (e.g., commercial industrial, residential, restricted residential or unrestricted). A soil sample extraction sampling method called the "**Toxicity characteristic leaching procedure**", or **TCLP**, is used as an analytical method to determine if a waste is characteristically hazardous, i.e., classified as one of the "D" listed wastes under state regulation. The data collected leads to the definition of the constituents of potential concern at any given site, which then leads to the need for further investigation to identify the locations of potential hazardous material.

Next Steps

DEC is planning to conduct a Site Characterization (SC) of the Vine Street site area (DEC site #851067), the preliminary investigation of a site where hazardous materials have or may have been disposed. The goal of the SC is to determine whether a site meets the state's definition of a hazardous waste site by confirming or denying the presence of hazardous waste and determining whether the site poses a significant threat to public health or the environment.

This investigation work is going to be performed by DEC and may include surface soil, soil borings, surface water, and groundwater sampling efforts to determine the nature and extent of the contamination. After the initial sampling is complete, the data and other information gathered will be further evaluated to determine whether the site should be added to the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites.

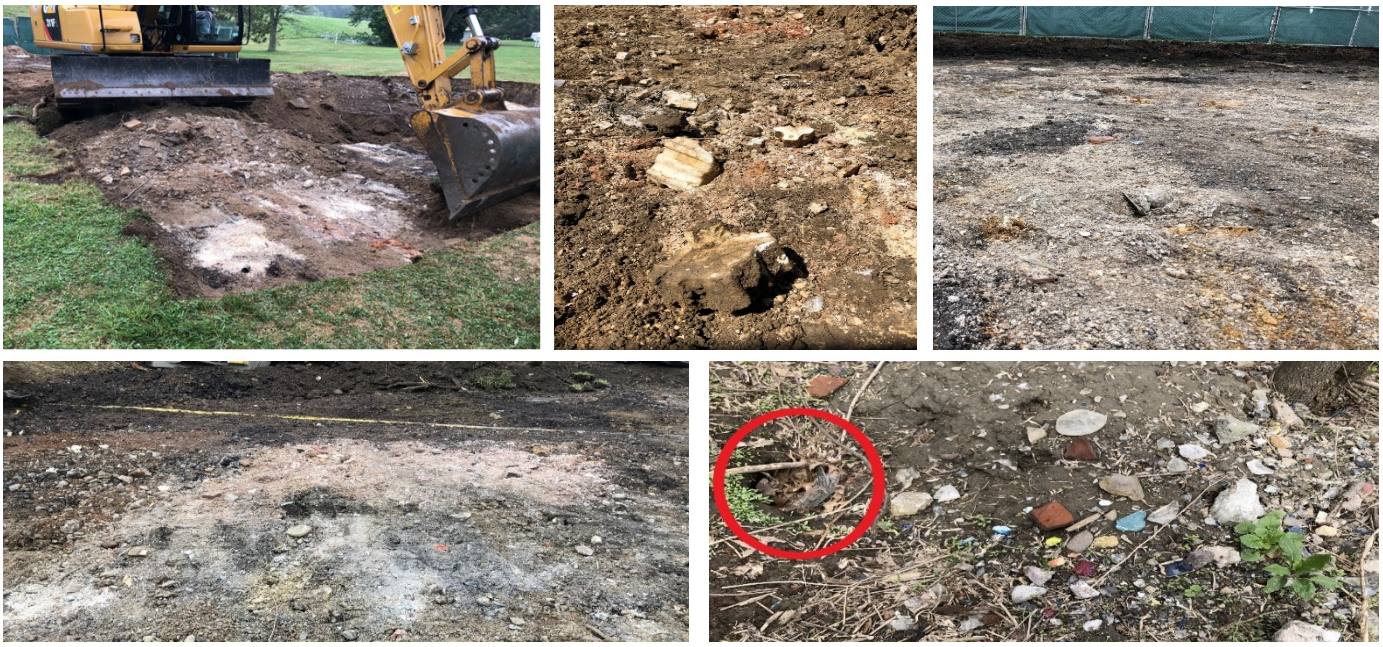
In order to complete the SC described above, drill rigs may be used to collect samples, and other contractors such as surveyors will visit the site to record site information. Conceptually, this SC would begin in 2022 with the initial evaluations with field investigations possibly extending into 2023. Once field activities have been completed and analytical results are received, a report will be developed.

Identifying Ash, Brick, and/or Glass waste

DEC will keep the public informed as additional investigation and cleanups are planned, with newsletters such as this one. To ensure the protection of public health and the environment, DEC will continue to evaluate any additional locations of possible historic waste disposal as their team becomes aware of them. To help with this endeavor, the public is requested to provide information on any possible ABG material encountered in the Corning NY area.

A complete identification manual can be accessed using the QR code provided, or at:
https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/851046/Report.HW.851046.2022-04-28.Industrial Waste Exhibit Corning NY.pdf

General "in-situ" waste in surface soils: These impacted soils include ash, brick, and/or glass (ABG), presenting characteristics such as ash colors (black, gray, orange, and white), various brick materials (red construction brick, white or yellow refractory brick, puzzle piece brick), various glass materials, and the soil is generally uncompacted, loose, and not odorous. ABG has been observed in other areas in discrete layers and discontinuous throughout a soil column, at various depths, have sometimes been observed in excavation areas where the soil is intermixed with ash and brick with trace or no glass.



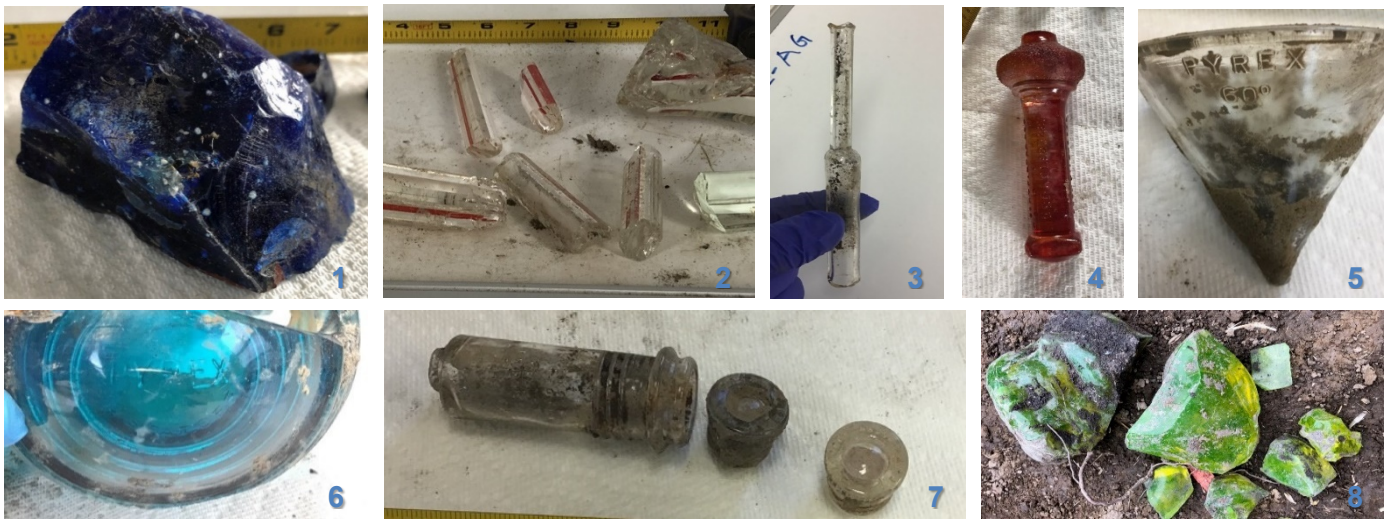
Examples of ash/brick/glass encountered in Corning NY
Top Left: Excavation heavily impacted with ABG
Top Center: Primarily ash and brick in a 2-ft excavation
Top Right: Excavation heavily impacted with ABG
Bottom Left: Comingled black ash and slag (top, along yellow gas line), cullet, refractory pieces, gray ash, and light orange ash
Bottom Right: Comingled red brick, refractory chunks, and cullet. ABG ejected from animal burrow (circled red)

Other glass waste: There is an array of different types of glass waste which align with the waste type materials commonly observed around the City of Corning, New York. These include:

1. Glass (cullet): Broken, fragmented, or discarded glass indiscernible from a final product, sometimes with air bubbles trapped within glass media, or speckled or fused with other colored glass.
2. Thermometer tubing: Tubing is generally smaller than 1-inch diameter, lengths of up to 1.5 feet. Clear glass makes up the majority of the tubing; colored glass is encased within the clear glass and extends along the length of the piece. Most pieces have a hollow center, extending the length of the tubing.
3. Hollow glass tubing: Hollow glass tubing with at least one open end, generally straight with lengths from 2 inches to 12 inches, diameter can vary for an individual piece, primarily clear and transparent but can be blue, orange, yellow, green, and red (opacity varies).
4. Glass filter rods: Unique shape with embossing "Cory Filter Rod" or "New Cory Rod" and US Patent

numbers, pieces usually have one broken end (side with rounded bulb shape), clear or reddish-brown color.

5. Pyrex and trademarked products: Unique embossed or engraved logo, often as “PYREX.”, embossing size varies, some glass pieces have patent numbers embossed on them, other trademarked names include Corningware, Flameware, Nonex, Macor, Multiform, Vycor, Corelle, and Fota-Lite.
6. Signal ware and lenses: Glass with a light-focusing purpose (e.g., for automobile headlights or lighthouses) or magnifying purpose (e.g., for eyeglasses or cameras), sometimes embossed with trademark names or magnification (e.g., Corning, +1.25), thickness generally less than 2 inches.
7. Electrical ware: Intact or recognizable pieces are usually embossed with “PYREX” and patent number, generally clear glass but may be opaque and opalescent.
8. Uranium glass: Generally colored yellow, yellow-green, or green, opacity varies, fluoresces green under ultraviolet light, generally observed as cullet (irregular pieces and chunks) but has been observed as hollow tubing.



How can I easily contact the DEC and DOH to express concerns or provide information?

If you have information about the possible ash, brick, or glass identified on a property, if you have encountered issues or have concerns after remedial activities have taken place on your property, if you would like to request an in-person meeting, or if you have any other comments regarding remedy and investigation areas, you can contact the DEC and DOH as shown in “Who to Contact” below. Similarly, if you have any questions regarding Corning Incorporated’s sampling, remediation, or restoration work, please contact DEC or Corning Incorporated and an assessment will be performed. DEC and DOH will continue to keep the community informed about area-wide activities throughout the process.

WHO TO CONTACT

FOR INQUIRIES DIRECTED TO THE AGENCIES:

- → **Email the DEC Team:** StudyArea.Corning@parsons.com
- → **Call the DEC hotline at the toll-free number: 833-770-1716**
- → **Filling out our online form at:** https://StudyAreaCorning.com/contact-us/

FOR INQUIRIES DIRECTED TO THE CORNING INCORPORATED TEAM:

Toll-Free Hotline: 866-256-1902;
Corning Incorporated Inquiry Email: StudyArea@Corning.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Project documents are made available at the Southeast Steuben County Library (607-936-3713) and Region 8 DEC Headquarters (585-226-5324).

For key project documents and more information:

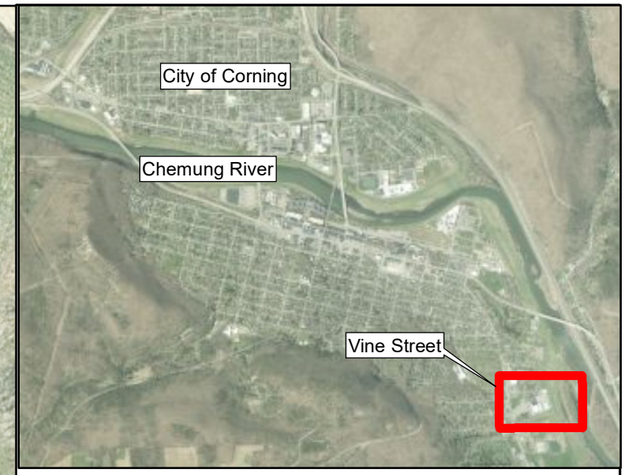
DEC Study Area Site Website: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/97180.html

DEC Public Availability Website: www.studyareacorning.com

DECinfo Locator (Online Repository): https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/851067

To Receive Periodic Fact Sheets by Email: https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html

Flower Ave
Unnamed Street
Vine St
Evergreen Dr
Park Ave
Wicks Blvd
Garden St
Tuxill Ave
Roberts Ave
Flood Control Levee



Ash, Brick, or Glass observed during site visit week of April 12, 2021

Previous observations of Ash, Brick, or Glass

Site Boundary

0 112.5 225 450
Feet

Region 8 Steuben County

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
Department of Environmental Conservation

Vine Street areas with known presence of ABG

Village of South Corning
Corning, NY

PARSONS
301 PLAINFIELD ROAD, SUITE 350, SYRACUSE, NY 13212 * 315-451-9560

Plotted By: CS
Plot Date: 5/16/2022

Document Path: Q:\GIS\NYSDEC\Corning\MXDs\Additional Properties\Vine Street ABG.mxd