



EPA to Oversee Cleanup Activities at the Peter Cooper Markhams Site

Community Update

JULY 2008

Recent activity:

- On February 19, 2008, the court entered an order approving the Remedial Design/ Remedial Action Consent Decree in *United States v. Wilhelm Enterprises Corp., et al* which require them to design, construct and implement the remedy selected for the Site.
- On March 12, 2008, Benchmark Environmental Engineering & Science, PLLC (Benchmark) was approved as the Supervising Contractor for the Peter Cooper Markhams Site remedial design and construction.

Planned Activities:

- Access Road Improvements;
- Site preparation;
- Regrading & consolidating waste/Fill; and
- Monitoring Well Abandonment/Replacement.

CURRENT STATUS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing this notice to inform you of the schedule of activities that are planned at the Peter Cooper Markhams Superfund Site located in the Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus County, New York.

This summer, EPA and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will provide oversight as the responsible parties environmental contractor will commence cleanup work at the site located off Bentley Road.

Site preparation work began in late July, 2008 and will include clearing, grubbing and access improvements required for consolidation and covering work. Trees, shrubs and brush will be removed to facilitate construction work. Waste and fill consolidation will involve relocating the waste piles presently located at various locations across the site into a single area. Construction of the cap over the landfill will begin in late August, 2008.

SITE BACKGROUND

The 103-acre site is located in a rural farmland area that was used for the disposal of wastes from a manufacturing process at the former Peter Cooper Corporation (PCC), a former animal glue and adhesives plant located in Gowanda, New York. This waste, known as "cookhouse sludge" because of a cooking cycle that occurred just prior to extraction of the glue, comes from chrome-tanned animal hides. This sludge and other waste material found at the site contain elevated levels of chromium, arsenic, zinc and several organic compounds.

EPA encourages public participation. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact:

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Hotline at 1-800-346-5009

From 1955 to 1971, approximately 9,600 tons of waste materials from the Gowanda plant were placed in a 15-acre area at the site. In 1971, PCC transferred approximately 38,600 additional tons of waste materials from the PCC Plant to the site. The site was added to the National Priorities List in February 2000. The investigation of the site was conducted under a Unilateral Order with 14 potential responsible parties under EPA oversight.

In December 2006 EPA issued a Record of Decision which outlined a plan to consolidate contaminated soil from a 15-acre area at the site and cover it with a protective cap. Containment of the waste will prevent it from contaminating other soils and groundwater.

On February 19, 2008 the court entered into an order approving the Consent Decree in United States v. Wilhelm Enterprises Corp et al which requires them to design, construct and implement the remedial measures selected for the site.

On March 12, 2008 Benchmark Environmental Engineering and Science PLLC (Benchmark) was approved as the supervising contractor to conduct the remedial design and construction work at the Peter Cooper Markhams Superfund Site.

All activities at the site will be conducted in a safe manner protective of human health and the environment.

