



# FACT SHEET

February 2007

## Environmental Cleanup Activities Proposed for Special Metals Site

**Project Start: Spring 2007**

**Site # 907031**

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is pleased to announce that environmental cleanup activities will begin in the spring of 2007 at the Special Metals Corporation site on Willowbrook Avenue in Dunkirk. Upcoming activities will involve a cleanup effort called an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM), and an environmental site investigation called a Remedial Investigation (RI).

Proposed cleanup activities will involve the assessment and removal of on-site contamination, and are described in greater detail in a document called the "IRM Work Plan" which is available for public review and comment until **March 27, 2007**. (See back of this page for details.)

Cleanup work at the site will begin in late March and is expected to take approximately one week to complete. Environmental investigation and cleanup work at the Special Metals site will be performed by an engineering consultant hired by Special

Metals under an Order on Consent through New York State's Superfund Program. New York State's Superfund Program oversees the identification, investigation, and cleanup of sites where significant amounts of hazardous waste may exist. A Consent Order is a legal and enforceable agreement between DEC and responsible parties, (in this case Special Metals, the current owner of the site), where responsible parties agree to undertake environmental investigation and cleanup activities, or pay for the cost of environmental investigation and cleanup work at a site.

This fact sheet is being provided to explain why cleanup and investigation will occur at the site, what cleanup and investigation activities will involve, how to comment on the proposed cleanup activities, and how to obtain more information.

### SITE BACKGROUND

The Special Metals site is an 8 acre industrial property located at 100 Willowbrook Avenue in the City of Dunkirk, Chautauqua County. (See map above.) Properties surrounding the site are mainly industrial to the north, east and west. Properties located along the south side of the site on Willowbrook Avenue are residential.

The Special Metals site contains a manufacturing facility in which metal products are made for use in the aerospace industry. Special Metals began a plant expansion at the western end of the existing building during 2006. During the course of construction and excavation for building expansion, contaminated soils were encountered and an underground storage tank (UST) was discovered. The soils, containing primarily petroleum contamination, were properly cleaned up and the UST was removed.



In addition, contaminated soil was found in a small area in the west section of the property during excavation for building expansion. Through investigation, the contaminated area was delineated into an Area of Concern (AOC) and the soil was found to be contaminated by chemicals known as Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs). Contamination at the site is associated with the former use of the property.

In February 2007, Special Metals signed a Consent Order to clean up the PCB-contaminated soil through an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM), and to perform additional environmental investigation in the area of concern.

### **CLEANUP AND SITE INVESTIGATION DETAILS**

Cleanup activities proposed in the IRM Work Plan for the Special Metals site include:

- Excavating contaminated soil in the Area of Concern;
- Disposing of contaminated soil at an off-site, permitted landfill; and
- Sampling soil after removal to determine if additional soil removal is necessary.

All cleanup work will be performed in accordance with a Work Plan that has been approved by DEC. The goal of IRM activities is to clean up the site to standards appropriate for industrial use. Soil contamination at the Special Metals site appears to be contained within the boundaries of the Special Metals property, and does not extend to off-site properties.

### **YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED CLEANUP ACTIVITIES**

Proposed cleanup activities for the Special Metals site are described in greater detail in the IRM Work Plan, which is available for public review and comment at the locations identified below under the heading "Locations to View Project Related Documents." DEC welcomes public comments on the proposed IRM Work Plan for the Special Metals site, and will accept comments for 30 days, from **February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007**.

*Please direct comments to:*

Mr. Eugene Melnyk, P.E., Project Manager  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
(716) 851-7220

### **WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP?**

Following the close of the public comment period, IRM cleanup activities will begin in spring of 2007. After completing the required IRM activities, a Remedial Investigation (RI) will be conducted. Upon receiving necessary data from the laboratory, Special Metals' engineering consultant will prepare an Interim Remedial Measure, Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (IRM, RI/FS) Report that summarizes the results of the cleanup and investigation activities. This report will be reviewed by Special Metals, DEC and New York State Department of Health (DOH), and will determine if additional cleanup is needed, and what, if any, additional cleanup activities will involve.

### **LOCATIONS TO VIEW PROJECT RELATED DOCUMENTS**

The IRM Work Plan is available for public review and comment at the locations identified below. When completed, copies of the RI/FS Work Plan, and the IRM RI/FS Report will be also be available for public review at these locations.

Dunkirk Free Library  
536 Central Avenue  
Dunkirk, NY 14048  
(716) 366-2511  
(See reference desk.)

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
(716) 851-7220  
(Please call for an appointment.)

## **WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SITE?**

Questions regarding the cleanup of this site are welcome. Should you have any questions, please contact the following representatives:

### Site-Related Environmental Questions

Mr. Eugene Melnyk, P.E., Project Manager  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
(716) 851-7220

### Site-Related Health Questions

Mr. Cameron O'Connor, Public Health Specialist  
NYS Department of Health  
584 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 847-4385