



FACT SHEET

May 2006

Public Meeting to Address Environmental Investigation of the Former Bethlehem Steel Lackawanna Site



You are invited to attend a
PUBLIC MEETING

Regarding the former
**Bethlehem Steel
Lackawanna Site**
to be held

June 13, 2006

at

6:30 PM

at

**Lackawanna Senior Citizens Center
230 Martin Road
Lackawanna, NY 14218**

At the meeting, EPA and DEC representatives will summarize environmental investigation results for the site and will be available to answer questions from the public about this work.

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) invite you to attend a public meeting to discuss environmental investigation results for the former Bethlehem Steel Corporation site located along the Lake Erie shoreline, in the City of Lackawanna, Erie County. See box at left for additional meeting details.

EPA and DEC believe that site investigations required under an EPA administrative order have been completed. At the meeting, EPA and DEC will propose that the administrative order can now be terminated. The meeting will focus on this proposal, but will also include an opportunity for you to ask questions about this work and to comment on the proposal. If time allows, updates on site redevelopment activities (brownfield projects, wind farm) will also be provided.

This fact sheet explains the proposed action, how to provide comments, and how to obtain more information.

SITE BACKGROUND

In 1990 EPA and Bethlehem Steel Corporation signed an agreement (administrative order) requiring investigation of environmental conditions at and near the approximately 1600 acre Lackawanna site. The investigations were conducted primarily by Bethlehem Steel Corporation, before the company filed for bankruptcy in 2001. In 2003 International Steel Group (ISG) purchased Bethlehem Steel Corporation's assets. Tecumseh Redevelopment Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of ISG, completed and submitted the final site investigation report in 2005.

The investigation focused on 104 areas where waste management or disposal reportedly occurred and six water courses within or next to the site. The investigation was completed in several phases and involved groundwater,



Bethlehem Steel Lackawanna Site

surface water, waste, soil and sediment testing at the site and in adjacent water courses, including Smokes Creek, Blasdel Creek and Lake Erie.

Investigation results indicate that significant groundwater contamination is present in several areas of the site including the area near the coke ovens, the area near the mouth of Smokes Creek, and the area near a former tank farm north of Smokes Creek. Waste and contaminated soil are mainly in the slag fill area in the western part (Lake Erie side) of the site, where Bethlehem disposed waste from iron, steel making and the coking operation. Contaminated sediment was also found to be present in several of the water courses, including Smokes Creek and Blasdel Creek.

The investigation identified a number of areas of soil, groundwater and sediment contamination that will require clean up. As an interim cleanup action, Tecumseh Redevelopment, Inc. (the current owner of most of the site) installed a groundwater collection and treatment system in the benzol yard, near the south end of the coke batteries, that began operating in 2005.

WHAT IS THE PROPOSED ACTION?

- EPA plans to approve the site investigation report and terminate the consent order that required the investigation.

The EPA order only addressed the investigation phase of the cleanup activities at the site. DEC will be the lead agency for future site cleanup activities.

NEXT STEPS

Based on the investigation results, EPA and DEC recommend that 43 waste management areas and 5 water courses be further evaluated to identify possible cleanup methods. Future cleanup of the site is anticipated and will be planned and overseen by DEC. DEC is currently working with Tecumseh Redevelopment Inc. to prepare legal agreements directing cleanup work. DEC expects to finalize the cleanup agreement during 2006.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT

EPA and DEC welcome your input on the tentative determination that the site investigation required under EPA's consent order has been completed. A public meeting will be held on June 13, 2006 at 6:30 PM at the Lackawanna Senior Citizens Center on Martin Road in Lackawanna to discuss the proposed action. At the meeting, EPA and DEC representatives will be available to answer questions and accept public comments. Written comments regarding the proposed action can also be sent to EPA at the address listed below. In order to be considered, comments need to be received by EPA by **July 10, 2006**.

WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SITE

For more information about activities at the site, we encourage you to contact the representatives listed below with any questions, comments or concerns. If you know of anyone who would like to be added to the mailing list to receive project updates, please have them contact one of the representatives listed below. Project documents can also be viewed at the locations listed under "Site Related Project Questions." To view documents, please call for an appointment.

Site-Related Project Questions

Mr. Stanley Radon
NYS DEC Region 9 Office
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 851-7220

Mr. Larry Thomas
NYS DEC Central Office
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7258
(518) 402-8594

Mr. James Reidy
US EPA Region 2 Office
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866
(212) 637-4172

Site-Related Health Questions

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