



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

Tonawanda Coke  
3875 RIVER ROAD  
Tonawanda, Erie County

SITE No. 915055  
NYSDEC REGION 9

June 2024

## Notice of Availability: Amended Record of Decision

### Where to Find Information

Access project documents through the DECinfo Locator and at these location(s):  
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/915055/>

**Buffalo and Erie County Public Library  
– Central Library**  
One Lafayette Square  
Buffalo, NY 14203

**Buffalo and Erie County Public Library  
– Kenmore Branch**  
160 Delaware Road  
Kenmore, NY 14217

### Who to Contact

Comments and questions are welcome and should be directed as follows:

**Project-Related Questions**  
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Buffalo, NY 14209  
716-851-7220  
[benjamin.mcpherson@dec.ny.gov](mailto:benjamin.mcpherson@dec.ny.gov)

**Project-Related Health Questions**  
Angela Martin  
NYSDOH  
Empire State Plaza  
Corning Tower, Room 1787  
518-473-4671  
[beei@health.ny.gov](mailto:beei@health.ny.gov)

For more information about New York's State Superfund Program, visit:  
<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/brownfield-and-state-superfund-programs/state-superfund-sites>

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) announces that it has issued the Amended Record of Decision (AROD) for the Operable Unit 02 of the Tonawanda Coke site (“site”), also referred to as ‘Site 109’, located at 3875 River Road, Tonawanda, Erie County. Operable Units 01 and 03 of the Tonawanda Coke site will be addressed under separate decision documents. Operable Unit 02 is also adjacent to the related Riverview Innovation & Technology Campus (#C915353) that is being managed under the Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP). Please see the map for the site location.

The AROD presents the remedy selected to address contamination related to the site and why the remedy was chosen. The AROD also includes a Responsiveness Summary that addresses public comments received about the proposal. The estimated cost to implement the remedy is \$4,936,000.

On March 21, 2024 NYSDEC held a public meeting presenting the proposed AROD for the site. The comments received at this meeting and during the public comment period (February 28, 2024 through April 30, 2024), along with the administrative record, were considered in preparing the final AROD for the site.

- Access the AROD and other project documents online through the DECinfo Locator: <https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/915055/>.
- Documents also are available at the location(s) identified at left under “Where to find information.”

**Amended Record of Decision:** The following is a summary of the chosen remedy described in the AROD:

- Excavating contaminated soil which exceeds protection of ecological resources soil cleanup objectives in the area of an on-site drainage ditch. Excavated soil will either be managed on-site or off-site based on the level of contamination in the soil;
- Collecting and analyzing post-remedial soil samples and post-remedial groundwater samples to evaluate the effectiveness of the remedy;
- Importing clean material that meets the established soil cleanup objectives for use as backfill;
- Construction of a cover system over the entire site;
- Implementing a Site Management Plan (SMP) for long term maintenance and monitoring of the remedy; and
- Recording of an Environmental Easement to ensure proper use of the site may be necessary.

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**Site Description:** Operable Unit 2 is approximately 7.5-acres and corresponds with the Site 109 disposal area. It is located adjacent to River Road on the western side of the 3875 River Road parcel. The operable unit contains the paved access driveway for the entire property, a guard house, and the concrete settling ponds used to manage stormwater from the other portions of the former Tonawanda Coke property. The remainder of the operable unit is covered by grass, trees, or other vegetation. A drainage ditch used to convey stormwater is located near the southern boundary of the operable unit.

With the change of site use in 2018 a commercial use cleanup was evaluated for the AROD. Specifics of future development in the operable units are not known but will likely be part of the larger Riverview Innovation & Technology Campus (#C915353) redevelopment, which is expected to be related to data storage or other high-tech manufacturing. NYSDEC is overseeing a cleanup at the campus under the Brownfield Cleanup Program. NYSDEC is hosting a public meeting on June 25, 2024, at 6 P.M. at the Kenmore Branch Public Library to discuss the site's Alternatives Analysis Report, currently available for public comment until July 20, 2024. The proposed cleanup consists of multiple cleanup tracks that will result in areas suitable for unrestricted and commercial uses. Documents related to this portion of the former Tonawanda Coke facility may be accessed at: <https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C915353/>.

**Summary of the Investigation:** Investigations were conducted on-site to refine the nature and extent of contamination since the 2008 Record of Decision (ROD). The contaminants of concern in this operable unit are polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), though other contaminants are also present at low concentrations. Soil across the operable unit contain PAHs exceeding commercial soil cleanup objectives, particularly in the area of the southern drainage ditch. Groundwater has only limited impacts from the fill placed on the operable unit in few discrete locations.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, 915055) at:

[https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/cfm/extapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pa\\_geid=3](https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/cfm/extapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pa_geid=3)

**State Superfund Program:** New York's State Superfund Program (SSF) identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and/or the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination before committing State funds for investigation and cleanup.

For more information about the SSF, visit:

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/brownfield-and-state-superfund-programs/state-superfund-sites>

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## Stay Informed With DEC Delivers

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<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/environmental-cleanup-email-newsletters>

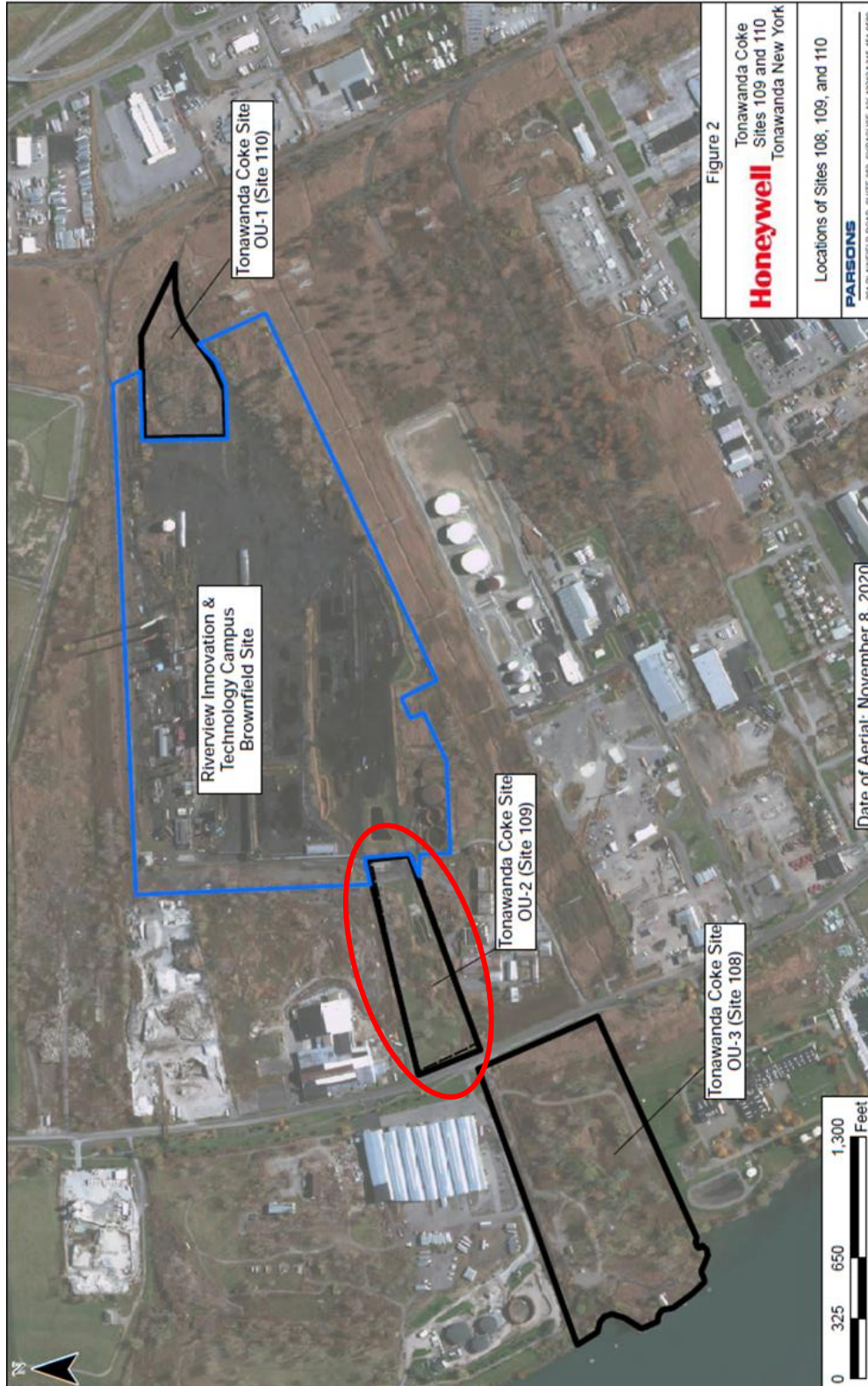
Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

## DECinfo Locator

Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites: <https://dec.ny.gov/maps/interactive-maps/decinfo-locator>

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Site Location





## Translation Available. Don't see your language? Ask!

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