



FACT SHEET

Environmental Cleanup Activities Completed at the Envirotek II/ Roblin Steel Site

February 2008

Site Number 9-15-056

Town of Tonawanda, Erie County

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) are pleased to announce the completion of environmental cleanup activities at the Envirotek II/Roblin Steel Site in the Town of Tonawanda, Erie County. The site has been reclassified from Class 2 to Class 4 in the NYS Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites. A Class 4 site is one that has been remediated and/or closed but requires continued operation, maintenance, and/or monitoring to achieve and/or maintain protection of public health and the environment (as defined by the Record of Decision). Site related documents are available for public viewing at the locations (document repositories) identified at the end of this Fact Sheet.

BACKGROUND

A steel making facility operated on the site from the early 1900's through the mid 1960's. During this time, steel making wastes, such as spent pickling liquors and slag, were disposed of on site. In the 1980's, Envirotek Limited, Inc. leased a portion of the site to operate a hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facility. While operating, Envirotek disposed of hazardous substances and wastes in various pits and buildings throughout the Roblin Steel property. Lead-contaminated ink waste was disposed of in the Boiler House. In addition, the handling and storage of hazardous substances and wastes resulted in numerous leaks and spills that contaminated the fill, soil, and groundwater near and under the former Envirotek II facility with chlorinated solvents.

During the early 1990's, under an EPA Consent Order, a group of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) consisting of former Envirotek customers who sent wastes to the facility, completed an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) to address waste left on the site by Envirotek. This IRM, completed in 1993, addressed the immediate concerns related to improper storage and disposal of hazardous wastes by:

- Removing 980 drums, 3,500 gallons of liquid wastes, 725,000 pounds of solid wastes, and 146 laboratory pack containers;
- Removing waste from process vessels, tanks and concrete pits for off-site disposal;
- Decontaminating process vessels, tanks, concrete pits, buildings and process equipment; and
- Removing approximately 175 tons of contaminated soil.

Between August 1999 and June 2001, the PRPs completed a Remedial Investigation (RI) to define the nature and extent of soil and groundwater contamination remaining on-site. In 2003, the PRPs completed two additional IRMs to remove and properly dispose of ink waste, waste fill and contaminated soil. The PRPs also completed additional groundwater monitoring and assessment in 2004.

In March 2005, the NYSDEC issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Envirotek portion of the Roblin Steel Site that determined no further action was required for Operable Units 1 (ink waste and waste fill) and 2 (contaminated soil). The ROD also selected Monitored Natural Attenuation for Operable Unit 3 (groundwater). Natural attenuation refers to the process whereby an impacted environment naturally recovers from contamination.

In 2007 NRG Thermal completed a Remedial Investigation at areas of the Roblin Steel Site that were not impacted by Envirotek operations. While minor contamination typical of steel making operations was documented, the presence of hazardous waste was not. As a result, further remediation of the site was not required.

THE FINAL ENGINEERING REPORT

NRG Thermal submitted a Final Engineering Report (FER) to NYSDEC and NYSDOH in August 2007. The revised FER, approved by the Departments in November 2007, concludes that all remediation requirements to protect public health and the environment for commercial or industrial use have been achieved. The FER also contains a Site Management Plan (SMP) that includes a Soil Management Plan, a Groundwater Monitoring Plan and an Institutional and Engineering Control Plan. An *institutional control* is a non-physical restriction on use of the site, such as an environmental easement, when the remedial action leaves residual contamination that makes the site suitable for some, but not all uses. An *engineering control* is a physical barrier or method to manage contamination, such as a cap or vapor barrier.

An Environmental Easement filed with the Erie County Clerk's Office (1) limits the use of the site to commercial or industrial purposes; (2) restricts the use of site groundwater as a source of potable or process water; (3) requires adherence to the Site Management Plan; and (4) requires an evaluation of the potential for vapor intrusion into any building developed on the site.

SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The components of the SMP are listed above. The purpose of the Soils Management Plan is to provide environmental guidelines for (1) managing subsurface soils and fill during any future intrusive work at the site and (2) dealing with the potential for vapor intrusion into new buildings constructed on the site. On an annual basis, an Institutional Control/Engineering Control certification will be prepared and submitted to the DEC and DOH that will confirm that the controls put in place are unchanged from the previous certification, and that nothing has occurred to impair the ability of the controls to protect public health and the environment. Long term groundwater monitoring, which has been underway since 2005, will continue at this site until the year 2025 or until site conditions warrant its discontinuation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Public understanding and involvement are important to the success of New York's hazardous waste remedial program. To keep you informed, NYSDEC distributes site related documents in a local repository. The NYSDEC has established Document Repositories for the Envirotek II/Roblin Steel Site at:

Kenmore Library
160 Delaware Road
Kenmore, NY 14217
(716) 873-2842

NYSDEC's Buffalo Office
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 851-7220
(By appointment only)

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact the following staff:

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