NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Dear Interested Citizen:

The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to inform you of the completion of the additional remedial construction at the Leica, Inc. site. If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact:

Mr. Greg Sutton, P.E.
Project Manager
NYSDEC
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 851-7220
or
Michael Podd
Office of Public Affairs
NYSDEC
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 851-7220

For site related health questions, please contact the New York State Department of Health representative listed below:

Mr. Cameron O'Connor
Public Health Specialist
NYSDOH
584 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14203
(716) 847-4385

Fact Sheet

Leica, Inc. Site # 9-15-156
Cheektowaga, Erie County
January 2004

Additional Clean-Up Work is Completed at the Leica, Inc. Hazardous Waste Site

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is pleased to announce that the additional remedial work at the Leica, Inc. hazardous waste site has been completed. The site is located at the former Leica Inc. manufacturing complex on Eggert Road in the Town of Cheektowaga, Erie County.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

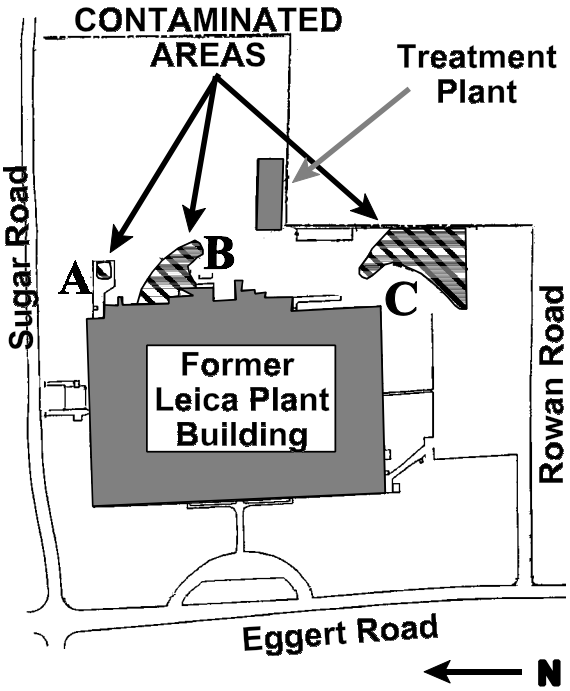
The manufacturing complex was built in 1938 by the Spencer Lens Company for the manufacture of scientific instruments and high quality optical devices. Since then, the property has been owned by various firms which also manufactured similar optical related products. Leica Inc. divested the principal portion of the site in 1993 and has ceased business operations at this site since that time. Leica Inc. has, however, retained ownership of part of the land parcel in which main portions of the contamination were identified. The majority of the site, including buildings and parking areas, have been utilized as warehouse and distribution facilities by the acquiring firm since 1993

PREVIOUS REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES

The Company entered into a Consent Order with the NYSDEC to investigate and remediate the site. The investigation found the contamination consisted of petroleum products, trichloroethylene (a common degreasing solvent) and other associated solvents. Three separate areas of the facility were contaminated:

Area A - a former drum storage area;
Area B - an area near the facility's loading docks; and,
Area C - an ash disposal area.

It is believed the contamination resulted from historical operations operation at the facility.



SITE REMEDIATION

The NYSDEC issued a Record of Decision (ROD) in March 1997. The ROD briefly summarizes results of the Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study and describes the Remedial Action Plan approved by the State to address existing contamination issues. The following remedial actions were required by the ROD:

- installation of a Dual Vacuum Extraction/Pneumatic Fracturing/Air Injection system to remove groundwater within the shallow groundwater zone and treat the soil;
- installation of a deeper Groundwater Extraction and Treatment System. The system was designed to collect groundwater using recovery wells and prevent the movement of contaminants off the property; and,
- implementation of a long term monitoring program to ensure the effectiveness of the selected remedy.

CURRENT STATUS

After two years and a half of treatment system operation, from December 1999 to June 2002, soil samples from all the areas were tested to determine the effectiveness of the system. Samples from Areas A and B showed that the soil in these areas had been adequately treated and met the remedial objectives for the project. Based on attaining these soil objectives, Leica discontinued operation of the soil treatment system in these areas. However, soil samples collected from Area C showed that the soil remedial objectives were still not met. Further investigation determined that the vacuum extraction method was ineffective in portions of Area C because groundwater within the soil had proved difficult to remove. This groundwater prohibited the soil from drying out enough so that the Vacuum Extraction system could operate effectively.

To address the remaining contamination, the Company proposed to excavate and dispose off-site all remaining soils that exceed the remedial objectives for the project in Area C. Excavation activities began in November 2002 and were completed in the summer of 2003. This phase of the project resulted in approximately 9,500 tons of contaminated soil being excavated and properly disposed of at permitted disposal facilities through January 2004.

As a result of the excavation, soil remediation at the site is now completed. While the majority of the contamination has been removed from the site, low levels of contaminants still exist within the groundwater below the site. This groundwater is located within the bedrock about 16 feet below the ground surface. To address this remaining contamination, the groundwater treatment system will continue to be operated on site until groundwater remedial goals have been achieved or until it can be demonstrated that the system is not feasible to operate. Thereafter, an alternative remedy would be implemented along with scheduled groundwater monitoring. Because the contaminants are deep within the bedrock, exist at low concentrations and the area is served by a public drinking water system, there is no immediate health threat to area residents.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Two locations have been established as document repositories to provide you with access to project information. All documents relevant to the site's remedial program are available for review at the following locations:

Reinstein Memorial Branch Library
Reference Department
2580 Harlem Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14227

NYSDEC Region 9 Office
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203-2999
(716) 851-7220
Attn: Greg Sutton

Your understanding and involvement in this project has helped to ensure an effective remedial program at the site. You are encouraged to contact the people listed on the front of this Fact Sheet at any time with questions, comments or concerns.