



EPA's Cleanup Actions at the Former Vibratex (aka Houdaille) Facility are Nearly Completed

Buffalo, New York

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Our Goal is to Keep You Informed

Public participation is essential to the success of EPA's community involvement program. If you have any questions regarding EPA's cleanup activities at this site, please contact one of the following:

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Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has nearly completed its cleanup actions within the buildings at the former Vibratex facility, located at 537 East Delavan Avenue, Buffalo, New York.

Current Activities

EPA started cleanup actions within the site buildings in late October 2008. The cleanup actions are expected to be completed by August 28, 2009. By this date, EPA will have removed all hazardous materials from the site buildings and has fenced and secured the site buildings. During the weeks of August 17 and 24, 2009, EPA will remove the site trailers, site security, and disconnect the utilities within the site property. During this time, EPA intends to meet with the City of Buffalo building inspectors and the local fire and police department to inform them of the site completion.

Over 20,000 linear feet of asbestos on pipes, 205 cubic yard boxes of PCB and asbestos debris, 2,000 cubic yards of contaminated building debris, over 1,500 cubic yards of other trash, PCBs, and asbestos have been removed from within the site buildings. EPA has also completed monitoring the air for asbestos, PCBs, and lead, and during the cleanup actions, sampling results have indicated the work was conducted in a safe manner for the community. Total cost of the cleanup was two million dollars.

Future Activities

EPA will continue to maintain the grass cutting around the site perimeter through the fall of 2009 which will complete their activities at the facility. The NYSDEC is currently assessing if future cleanup is required beneath the site.

Historical Background

The site had been utilized for the manufacture of automotive parts since about 1927. Operations consisted of metal turning, degreasing, plating, heat treating, and component assembly. Upon cessation of Vibratex's operations in 1997, the facility was taken over by World Series of Sports, Inc., an automobile disassembling and used parts operation. The automobile parts operation (essentially an indoor junk yard) was subsequently closed, having failed to secure the necessary operating permits from the City of Buffalo and having accumulated tens of thousands of old used tires. The tires and automobile parts were removed from the site buildings in 2000 and the site has been abandoned since.

The site consists of approximately twelve red brick and cement block buildings, ranging in height from one to three stories and creating a footprint approximately 320,000 square feet in size. Prior to the cleanup actions, EPA secured the facility and continued to monitor the site for vandalism and further deterioration.