

NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF



ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

Dear Interested Citizen:

This Fact Sheet provides an update regarding the Fourth Street Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact one of the following:

Mr. Vivek Nattanmai

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NYSDEC

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Albany, NY 12233-7013

(518) 402-9812

or

Mr. Michael Podd

Public Affairs
NYSDEC

270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203

(716) 851-7220

For site-related health questions, please contact the following New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) representative:

Mr. Cameron O'Connor

NYSDOH

584 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202

(716) 847-4385

FACT SHEET

FOURTH STREET SITE PROJECT UPDATE

SITE NUMBER 9-15-167

November 2003

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) would like to update you on the status of the Fourth Street hazardous waste site. The site is located north of the Waterfront School in Buffalo (see map). A cleanup plan was selected in August 2001. The remedy, as described in the Record of Decision (ROD), includes the excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil, collection and treatment of contaminated groundwater encountered during excavation, and long-term monitoring.

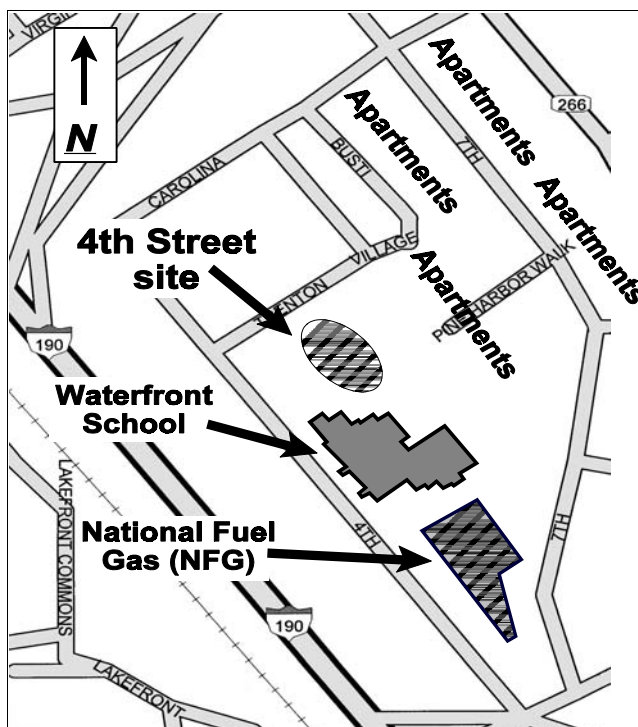
THE NEXT STEP

The next step in the remedial process is the design and construction of the selected remedy. Funds from the recently re-authorized State Superfund program will be used to complete the design. The design will involve the following two major tasks:

- 1) performing a pre-design investigation and,
- 2) preparing design specifications for the different components of the selected remedy.

The pre-design investigation involves the installation of several soil borings to further define the vertical and horizontal extent of soil excavation. The field work to install the soil borings at the site is scheduled to begin during November 2003 and will be completed in two weeks. All work will be done in accordance with an approved community health and safety plan.

The second task involves the preparation of design specifications for soil excavation, health and safety during construction, controlling odors and vapors during excavation, off-site disposal of contaminated soil, and other construction related activities. The design is expected to be completed by the summer of 2004, with construction beginning during the winter of 2004-05.



NOTE: In a separate study additional tar-like material was found between the school building and NFG's fence line, south of the school. The extent of this contamination will be determined by NFG's on going investigation.

BACKGROUND

The Manufactured Gas Plant formerly located at this site made gas by heating coal to high temperatures. This gas was provided to homes, businesses and industries for lighting, heating and cooking, much like natural gas is used today. Results from the investigation conducted at this site show that soil and groundwater at the site are contaminated with a mixture of contaminants derived from the coal gas making process.

The owner of the property, Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency (BURA), began a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) in 1998, under the NYSDEC's direction. During the RI, samples from surface soil, subsurface soil, and groundwater were collected and tested. The investigation defined a large subsurface area of tar-like contamination. This tar-like material contains contaminants associated with MGP operations and is acting as a source of contamination to the groundwater.

The contaminants found included volatile organic compounds such as benzene, toluene, xylene, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) which are by-products of the burning of coal and oil. The NYSDOH has tested indoor air at the Waterfront School for site-related contaminants. The tests found that the air in all the classrooms was within the range of expected background levels for these chemicals.

REMEDIAL GOALS

The remedial goals selected for this site are to eliminate to the extent practicable:

- the source(s) of contamination at the site;
- the potential for the ingestion of contaminated groundwater;
- off-site migration of contaminated groundwater;
- the potential for direct human contact with the contaminated soils; and
- the long-term threat of exposure to contamination to users of the School and/or nearby residential area.

SELECTED REMEDY

Based upon the results of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, the NYSDEC selected a remedy to address the soil and groundwater contamination found at the site. The main elements of the remedy include:

- excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soils (complete source removal);
- treatment of contaminated groundwater collected during excavation;
- removal of all Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) structures and piping;
- backfilling the excavated areas;
- groundwater monitoring with periodic evaluations (The results of this monitoring will form the basis for a decision about what, if any, active groundwater remediation will be undertaken.); and
- if removing all of the significant soil contamination is technically impracticable or if significant levels of site-related groundwater contamination remain after completion of the remedy, the NYSDEC will seek to have a deed restriction placed on the site. The purpose of the restriction is to prevent the use of groundwater and to prevent intrusive activities that could result in uncontrolled exposures to subsurface contamination.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Your involvement is important to the cleanup of this site. You will be sent additional Fact Sheets and, when needed, invited to meetings; however, if you would like more detailed information you are urged to visit the Document Repositories for this site.

The Fourth Street site's Document Repositories are located at:

Reference Section
Central Library
Lafayette Square
Buffalo, NY 14202;

or by appointment only,

NYSDEC's Region 9 Office
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 851-7220 and ask for Mr. Walia

If you have any, please feel free to contact the individuals listed on the front of this Fact Sheet.