

**NEW YORK STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF**



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION**

**Dear Interested Citizen:**

This Fact Sheet provides an update regarding cleanup activities near the Waterfront School, which will be closing soon for building repairs and renovation. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact one of the following:

**4<sup>th</sup> Street Site**  
**Mr. Vivek Nattanmai**  
Project Manager  
NYSDEC  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233  
(518) 402-9812

**Buffalo Service  
Center Site**  
**Mr. Jaspal S. Walia**  
Project Manager  
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

**DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES**

Your involvement is important to the clean up of these sites. If you would like more detailed information you are encouraged to visit the Document Repositories for both these sites. The 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

Please call Mr. Walia for an appointment.

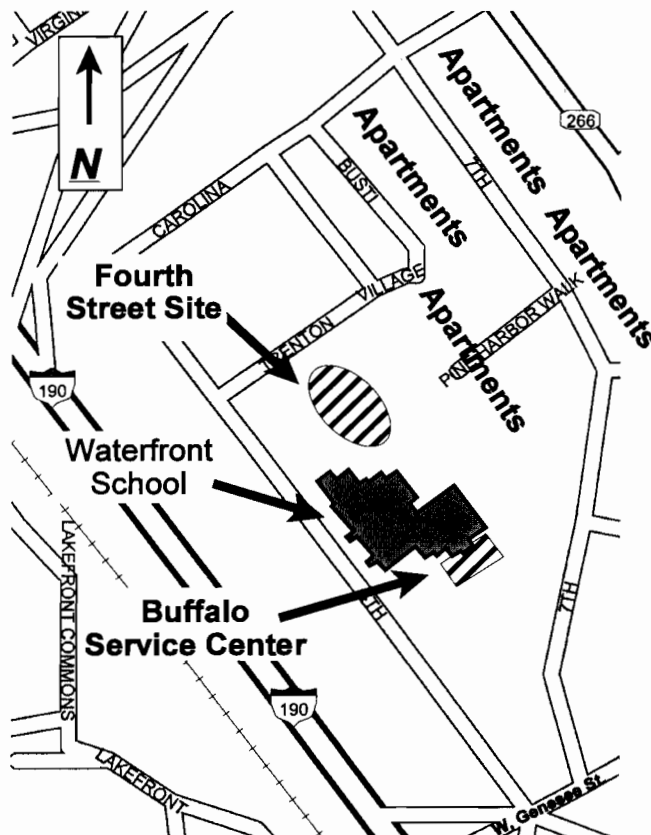
# FACT SHEET

**FOURTH STREET SITE  
&  
BUFFALO SERVICE CENTER  
PROJECT UPDATE- May 2005**

**INTRODUCTION**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is pleased to tell you that cleanup plans for contaminated areas near the Waterfront School are nearing completion. These plans are being given a top priority in order to take advantage of the school being closed for renovation.

The sites include the Fourth Street hazardous waste site and the Buffalo Service Center site. The sites are located near the Waterfront School in Buffalo (see map). A cleanup plan for the Fourth Street site was selected in 2001 which includes the excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil, collection and treatment of contaminated groundwater encountered during excavation, and long-term monitoring. A similar cleanup plan is currently being designed for the Buffalo Service Center site. These remedial plans will require cleanup of the sites to levels that will allow re-use of the property and are protective of human health and the environment.



## BACKGROUND

**Buffalo Service Center** site was the location of a Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) which was used from 1848 to the early 1900's to produce gas. This gas was provided to homes, businesses and industries for lighting, heating and cooking, much like natural gas is used today. As the current owner, National Fuel Gas (NFG) conducted a series of environmental investigations to determine the nature and extent of contamination on the property. Using this information, it was concluded that waste material is present and requires remediation. The studies also found that the waste has not impacted the indoor air quality of the adjacent Waterfront School. Currently the area is completely surrounded by a chain link fence.

Under the State's Voluntary Cleanup Program, NFG conducted further investigations in 2001 and 2004. These investigations included installing and testing groundwater monitoring wells and collecting a number of soil samples. Results of these investigations concluded that the soil and groundwater, both on and off-site, are contaminated with chemicals related to the MGP that formerly operated on the site prior to NFG's ownership. In 2002, air and sump water sampling in the school did not show any contaminants related to the Buffalo Service Center site.

On January 27, 2005, an agreement was reached between the NFG and the Department on a remedy for the Buffalo Service Center contamination on the school property. Currently, engineering designs for this work are being developed and should be completed by this Spring with construction expected to begin in July 2005. The remainder of the NFG property is being addressed under the State's Brownfield Cleanup Program. Additional information on the remedial alternatives for this area are being developed and more information will be available in the near future.

The **Fourth Street Hazardous Waste Site** is owned by the Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency (BURA). This site's history is similar to that of the Buffalo Service Center site's history (although it was never owned by NFG) and was used from the 1800s to the early 1900's to produce manufactured gas for lighting. 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 was found to contain contaminants associated with MGP operations.

The contaminants found included volatile organic compounds such as benzene, toluene and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) which are by-products of the burning of coal and oil. The NYSDOH has tested indoor air at the 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. A cleanup plan was selected in August 2001. The remedy, as described in the Record of Decision, includes the excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil, collection and treatment of contaminated groundwater encountered during excavation, and long-term monitoring.

The cleanup plans for the Fourth Street Hazardous Waste site are complete. Final preparations are underway and construction will begin in July 2005.

## CURRENT STATUS

Once all the final plans are complete, the next step in the cleanup process is construction of the remedy. Both clean up plans will address soil excavation, health and safety during construction, controlling odors and vapors during excavation, off-site disposal of contaminated soil, and other construction related activities. These plans will be discussed in a future Fact Sheet and a public meeting is planned before the start of construction; however, NO CONSTRUCTION will begin until the end of the school year when the school is closed for renovations.

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