



FACT SHEET

February 2006

Final Cleanup Actions Proposed for Vanadium Hazardous Waste Site

Public Meeting Announcement

Site No. 9-32-001

You are invited to attend a

PUBLIC MEETING

Regarding the
**Vanadium Corp. of America
Hazardous Waste Site**
to be held

March 8, 2006

at

6:30 PM

at

**Niagara Town Hall
7105 Lockport Rd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14306**

Phone #: 297-2150

At the meeting, DEC will discuss and answer questions regarding the proposed cleanup plan for the Vanadium hazardous waste site. The meeting is also an opportunity to input your comments on proposed cleanup activities.

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) invites you to attend a public meeting at which a final proposed cleanup plan for the Vanadium Hazardous Waste Site in the Town of Niagara will be presented. At the meeting, representatives from DEC and New York State Department of Health (DOH) will be present to discuss the proposed plan and answer questions from the public. The proposed cleanup plan, called the "Proposed Remedial Action Plan" (PRAP), is available for your review at the locations identified at the end of this fact sheet. Public comments on the PRAP will be accepted through March 25, 2006.

Cleanup work at this site will be performed under New York State's Superfund Program, a program that works to identify, investigate and ensure the cleanup of sites where significant amounts of hazardous waste may exist.

This fact sheet is being provided to explain what cleanup activities at the Vanadium site have already occurred, what additional cleanup activities are being proposed, and how to obtain more information about the site.

SITE BACKGROUND

Located southeast of Witmer Road in the Town of Niagara, the Vanadium Hazardous Waste Site is approximately 150 acres in size. (See map below.) The Vanadium site consists of three sections or operable units:

- Operable Unit #1 is known as SKW Alloys and is now owned by CC Metals and Alloys Inc. and is about 37 acres in size
- Operable Unit #2 is owned by Airco Properties and is a 25 acre parcel; and
- Operable Unit #3 is known as N.Y.P.A.-NiMo and is owned by National Grid (formerly Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation) and the New York Power Authority, and is approximately 88 acres in size.

In addition to these site owners, the Cyprus Mineral Company has also been identified as a potentially responsible party (PRP) for environmental contamination at the site. The Cyprus Mineral Company is a successor to the Vanadium Corporation of America.



During its operations at the site, the Vanadium Corporation of America used portions of the property to dispose of wood, brick, ash, lime slag (hard, cinder-like byproduct of steel production), ferrochromium silicon slag and ferrochromium silicon dust. The Airco Properties Inc. and SKW facilities continued the same basic manufacturing processes as Vanadium, and therefore disposed of similar wastes at the site.

DESCRIPTION OF COMPLETED AND PROPOSED CLEANUP ACTIVITIES AT THE SITE

To address the contamination present at the site, a cleanup plan, called a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP), has been prepared for the entire site. The plan explains the cleanup activities that have been completed or that are proposed for each of the site's operable units. The specific details for each operable unit are summarized below.

Operable Unit # 1 – SKW Metals and Alloys Inc.

At Operable Unit #1, SKW Metals and Alloys Inc. completed a cleanup called an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) in 1998. The IRM met the cleanup objectives for Operable Unit #1's area of the site, which were to:

- determine if ferrochromium dust is present on the SKW property (outside of the landfill cells);
- isolate surface water so that it does not come in contact with underlying soil and groundwater;
- control off-site surface water runoff by re-grading the surface and constructing a berm (earthen wall or mound) on the SKW property;
- develop and operate a site drainage system that will control a 25 year storm event; and
- discharge surface water in a controlled manner.

As a result of the completion of these activities, DEC has removed a portion of the site from the NYS Registry of Hazardous Waste Sites. The site boundaries were redefined to include only the existing permitted landfill cells that cover about 10 acres. The remaining 27 acres of the of the original 37 acres SKW Alloys parcel have been found not to contain consequential amounts of hazardous waste. Although the amounts are not consequential, a deed notification was filed with the Niagara County Clerk's Office to advise future property owners of the site's conditions. DEC is requiring periodic site inspections and groundwater monitoring for these 27 acres.

Operable Unit # 2 – Airco Properties

In 2000, Airco Properties agreed to perform IRM cleanup activities. The IRM resulted in the Airco Properties closing the landfill located on their property. The landfill closure was completed in early 2001. Objectives of the IRM at Operable Unit #2 were to:

- eliminate exposure to trespassers (specifically children) who may enter the site and come in contact with exposed waste;
- eliminate the generation of high pH level leachate due to water filtering through the waste mass; and
- eliminate the movement of hexavalent chromium from the waste mass into the nearby stream and wetlands.

The cleanup objectives above were met with the completion of the Airco Landfill closure project. As part of the required site Operation Maintenance and Monitoring Plan, it was determined that groundwater contaminated with site related compounds continued to discharge from the landfill into the nearby wetlands. At the request of DEC, Airco Properties constructed a groundwater collection and treatment system to prevent further discharge. The system was completed in 2003.

Operable Unit # 3 – Airco Properties

Operable Unit #3 contains exposed and covered waste piles reportedly containing ferromanganese slag, calcium hydroxide, ferrochromium dust, fly ash, and cinder materials reportedly disposed of by Vanadium. DEC is pleased to inform you that the Responsible Parties (RP) have completed a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for Operable Unit #3. Cleanup objectives proposed in the cleanup plan for Operable Unit #3 of the site are to:

- eliminate exposures of people on or around the site;
- eliminate potential for movement of contaminants from soil/slag to surface water or sediments; and
- eliminate the release of contaminants from surface soil, exposed waste, leachate and sediments at the site into air and surface water through processes such as stormwater erosion and windborne dust.

Proposed cleanup activities for Operable Unit #3 are expected to begin in the summer of 2006.

NEXT STEPS

A public meeting will be held on March 8, 2006 at Niagara Town Hall to present the proposed cleanup plan for the Vanadium Hazardous Waste Site. (See meeting announcement on the front page for meeting details.) The proposed cleanup plan will address cleanup activities at all three operable units of the site. At the meeting, DEC and DOH representatives will be available to answer questions regarding proposed cleanup activities, as well as accept public input on the proposed plan.

Public Comments Accepted

DEC welcomes your input on the proposed cleanup plan for the Vanadium Hazardous Waste Site, and will accept comments on the plan at the public meeting to be held on March 8, 2006 (see front page for details) and in writing until **March 25, 2006**

Please send written comments to:

Michael J. Hinton, P.E., Project Manager
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
270 Michigan Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14203

LOCATIONS TO VIEW PROJECT RELATED DOCUMENTS

You may review the proposed cleanup plan and other site related documents for the Vanadium Hazardous Waste at the locations listed below.

Town of Niagara Town Hall
7105 Lockport Rd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14306
(716) 297-2150

or

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 851-7220
(Please call for an appointment.)

WHO SHOULD I CALL IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SITE?

Site Related Environmental Questions

Michael Hinton, P.E., Project Manager
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 851-7220

Site Related Health Questions

Matthew Forcucci, Public Health Specialist
NYS Department of Health
584 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 847-4385