



# FACT SHEET

## State Superfund Program

\*Receive site fact sheets by *email*. See **For More Information** to learn how.

Site Name: Durez North Tonawanda Facility  
DEC Site #: 932018  
Site Address: 700 Walck Road; North Tonawanda, NY

September 2012

## Durez Update: Drainage Improvement and Wildlife Revitalization



A drainage improvement and wildlife revitalization project is planned for the former Durez Plastics Site located at 700 Walck Road in the City of North Tonawanda, Niagara County, New York. The site is currently operated by Glenn Springs Holdings, Inc., an affiliate of Occidental Chemical Corporation (OCC). This work is being performed as part of the Site's Operation, Maintenance, and Monitoring (OM&M) requirements and will improve area surface drainage, reduce/eliminate potential surface runoff from the Site to off-site locations, remove trees and vegetation that

could impact the perimeter interceptor trench, which provides groundwater containment for the site, and provide a response to neighborhood concerns regarding surface runoff from the site.

### Highlights of the Scope of Work

The scope of work to be completed at the site is comprised of the following primary tasks:

1. Clearing of standing trees and underbrush along the northern and eastern property lines
2. Excavation and stone lining of the drainage ditch along the eastern property line
3. Excavation and installation of a subsurface flow engineered wetland along the northern property line
4. Regrading of ground surface areas along the perimeter of the site to prevent potential for surface runoff from the site to off-site areas
5. Regrading of interior locations to prevent on-site ponding of surface runoff
6. Replanting of approximately 4.9 acres of cleared area with native wetland vegetation, native prairie grass mixtures, native hardwood trees, shrubbery, and evergreens
7. Installation of Eastern Bluebird boxes and bat boxes

### Durez By the Numbers:

#### Brownfield Numbers:

**2** – # of brownfields in site, 'Durez' and 'PCF Inlet'

**5.5** acres – area of PCF Inlet

**4.9** acres – replanting area with native vegetation

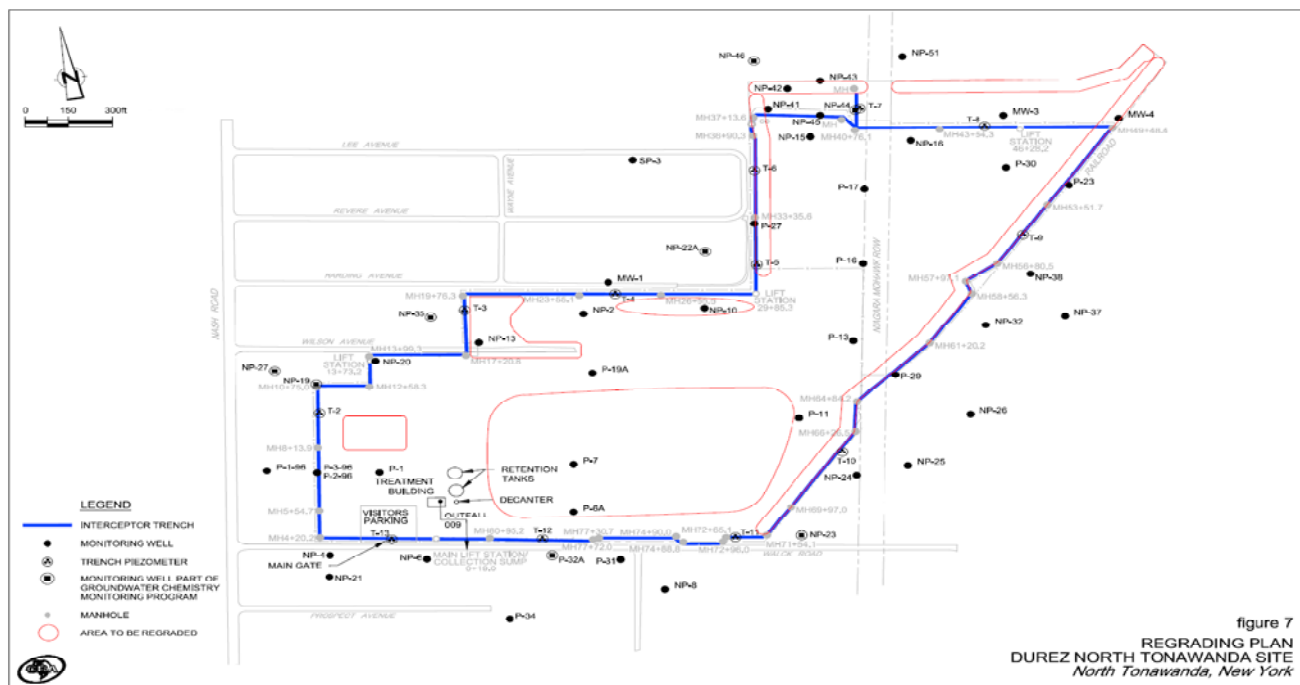
**6 to 8** weeks – length of project

**15** years – length site has remained vacant

**67.8** acres – total area of site

**2,500** feet – length of tree line clearing along CSX line

**90,000** sq. ft. – area of proposed new wetland



## Scope of Work Details

The project work will include grubbing and clearing activities along the northern and eastern borders of the site. The grubbing and clearing activities will result in the removal of all trees and underbrush from the drainage ditch along the eastern property line adjacent to the former CSX rail line (approximately 2,500 feet in length). It will also result in the removal of all trees and underbrush along the northern property line to facilitate the installation of a 90,000-square foot subsurface flow (SSF) engineered wetland. Flow through an SSF wetland is designed to occur below the surface and results in little to no standing water visibly present. These clearing activities are necessary to prepare the areas for improvement and to create a more level surface within the site and along the borders of the property in order to discourage ponding of surface water and storm water. The SSF wetland will be installed in the northern portion of the property. This feature will provide a subsurface pathway for storm and surface water that enters the site from the north to move across the property and into the eastern drainage ditch. The wetland will include plants that will consume large volumes of water and are native to the Western New York area. The use of a SSF wetland will further prevent the ponding of water along the northern property boundary as well as reduce the presence of nuisance insects. The drainage ditch along the eastern property line, once cleared, will be regraded to have the proper slope and relined with construction fabric and stone to prevent surface erosion and the regrowth of woody vegetation in the ditch.

Within the northern area of the property adjacent to the newly installed wetland, a variety of tree and shrub plantings will be installed over a 4.9-acre area. The plantings that are planned for this area include tree and shrub species that are commonly found in northeastern United States

## Durez Site Timeline:

### 1921 – 1926

General Plastics founded, name changed to Durez

### 1950 – 1960

Site becomes Hooker Chemical then OCC

### 1980s

OCC begins shutting down operations at site

### 1995 – 1996

Operations ceased at site

### 1997 – 2012

Vacant site currently groundwater collection and treatment system year round

### 2012

**September:** construction activities starting

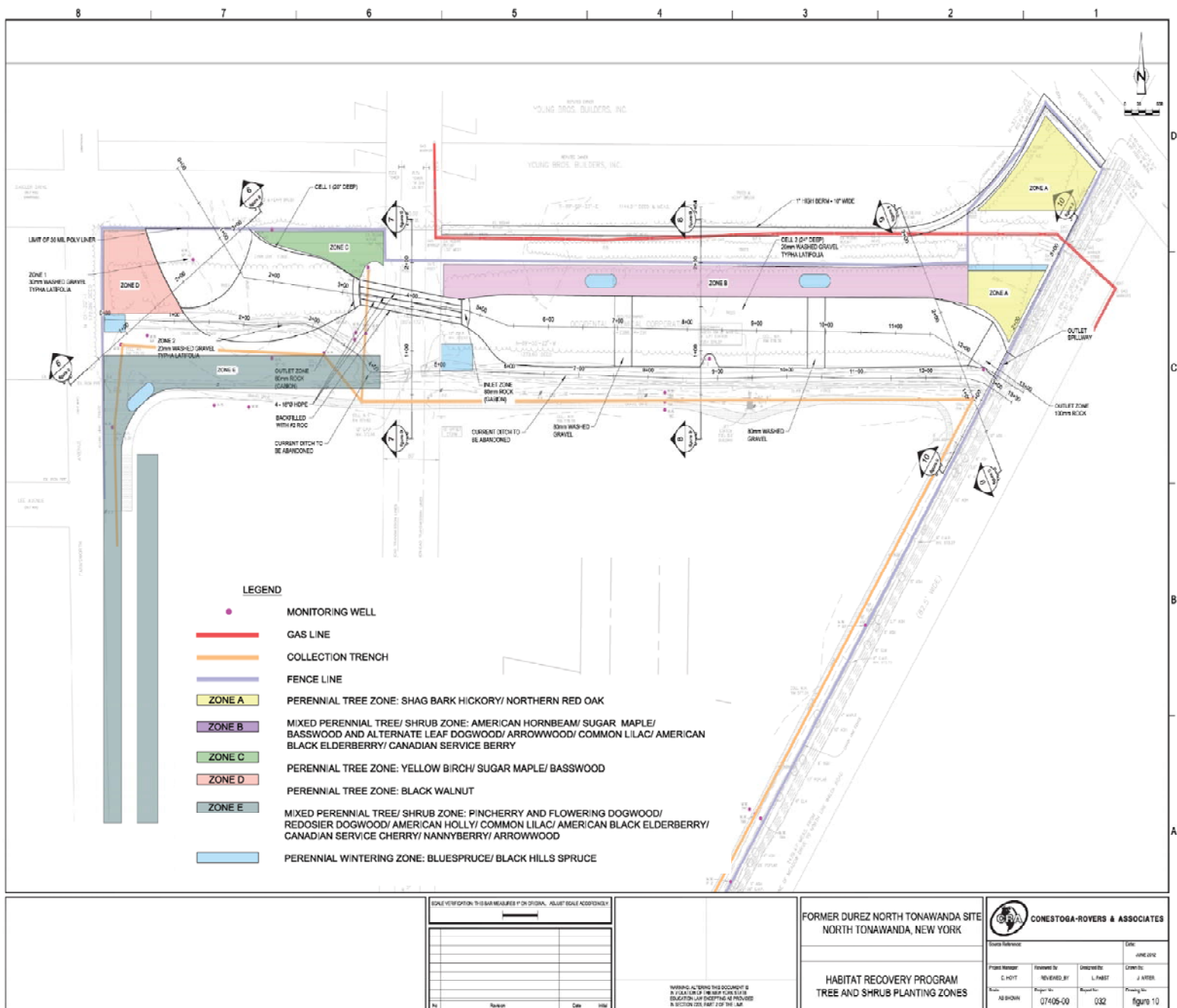
**Fall:** native wetland vegetation and prairie grass mixtures planted

### 2013

**Spring:** native tree and shrub planting to be completed

forestland and provide wildlife value and cover. In the fall of 2012, native wetland vegetation and native prairie grass mixtures will be planted. The tree and shrub plantings will be completed in the Spring of 2013 and will include hardwood trees such as Yellow Birch, Red Oak, Sugar Maple, Walnut, Shagbark Hickory, native eastern shrubbery such as Nannybark, Dogwood, Common Lilac, American Black Elderberry, Arrowwood Viburnum, and evergreens such as Colorado Blue Spruce and Black Hills Spruce.

A series of Eastern Bluebird boxes will be installed within this area to encourage the establishment of this valuable bird species, which is also the State Bird of New York. Additionally, bat boxes will be installed to promote the reduction of nuisance insects.



This work is being performed as a sustainable, cooperative effort among Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, Glenn Springs Holdings, Inc., and DEC. All materials grubbed and cleared from the work will be chipped and reused on site. All soils that are excavated during the project will be reused at the site for regrading low-lying areas and to prevent surface runoff to off-site areas. Trees that will be cut down during the regrading activities will be replaced with native Western New York plantings on the site.

The containment and treatment system that is currently operating at the facility is fully functional and will not be affected by this work. Construction activities will be commencing in September 2012 and will occur from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, so that a disturbance to the surrounding community does not occur. Work activities are expected to take approximately 6 to 8 weeks to complete.

## **Background**

Founded in 1921 by Harry M. Dent as General Plastics, Inc., the site changed its name to Durez Plastics and Chemical Co. in 1926. In the mid 1950s, the company joined Hooker Chemical until Hooker Chemical was purchased by OCC in the mid 1960s. OCC operated the facility until it began slowly shutting down operations in the mid to late 1980s and ceased operations in 1995/1996. The site manufactured various chemicals and plastics for use by industry. The primary chemicals used at the site were phenol and formaldehyde. These chemicals were used largely for the production of phenolic resins and molding compound products.

During the period that the plant was operating, there were several areas where waste material was buried or where spills from operations had occurred that resulted in impacted surface and subsurface soils, as well as groundwater beneath the facility.

Demolition of all plant structures was completed in December 1997. The site is currently a vacant field with a groundwater collection and treatment system in operation 365 days a year. All approved remedial activities have been completed, and the site is in the OM&M phase of the Remedial Action.

In 1977, OCC and the DEC entered into negotiations regarding concerns over impacted surface sediment, site soils, and groundwater. To address the DEC's concerns, OCC entered into several agreements with the DEC, including a Partial Consent Judgment (PCJ). The PCJ defined the site as those properties located at 700 Walck Road (approximately 67.8 acres), the City storm sewer system known as the Pettit Creek Flume (PCF), and the discharge point of the PCF known as the PCF Inlet or Cove (approximately 5.5 acres in area). Following the execution of the PCJ, OCC engaged in multiple environmental investigations culminating in the Remedial Action for the site in 1989/1990 with the installation of the site's Interceptor Trench (IT) and an activated carbon water treatment system. Since 1989/1990, the site has operated in accordance with the PCJ and the site's OM&M requirements.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on DEC's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/85092.html> and <http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/dereexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=932018>.

## Where to Find Information

Public interest in this project is valued and appreciated. Project documents are available at the following location to help the public stay informed. For more information about the State Superfund Program, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html>.

### NYS DEC Region 9 Office

270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14203  
716-851-7220  
(Call for appointment)

## Who to Contact

Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

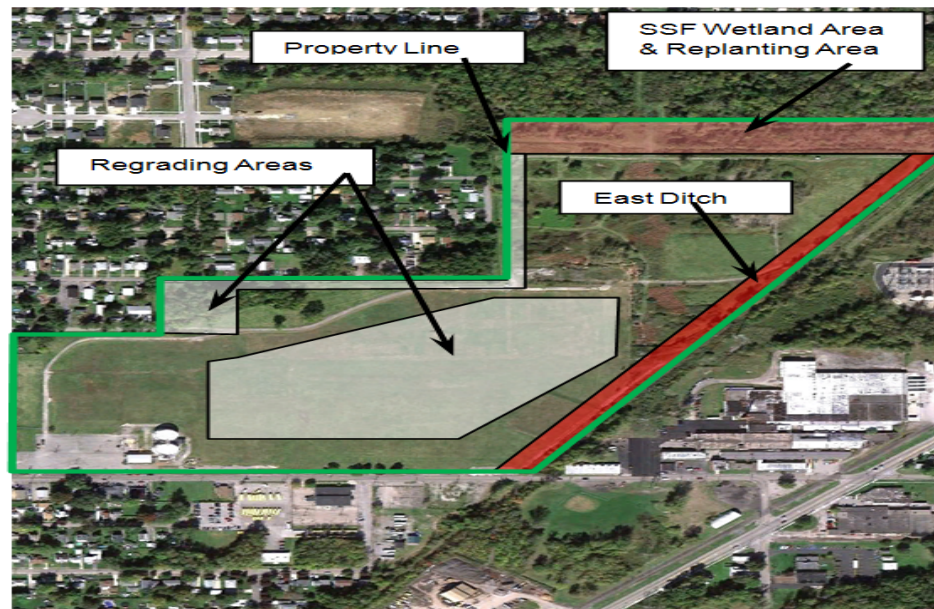
### Project Related Questions:

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### Site-Related Health Questions:

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[BEEI@health.state.ny.us](mailto:BEEI@health.state.ny.us)

## Site Location



## For More Information

**We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.**

### **\*Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email**

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. DEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>. It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you better informed.

As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select. You may continue also to receive paper copies of site information for a time after you sign up with a county listserv, until the transition to electronic distribution is complete.

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

