

# 1996 Clean Water - Clean Air Bond Act Project Bulletin

## FORMER ROBLIN STEEL PLANT RESTORATION BEGINS RECORD OF DECISION SIGNED IN FEBRUARY 2002

### Introduction:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the City of North Tonawanda, would like to inform you that Phase I of the clean-up plan for the Former Roblin Steel Plant "Brownfield" Site (Site # 9-32-059) is starting. The site is located on Oliver Street near East Avenue in the City of North Tonawanda. This plan was developed using funding from Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act of 1996 passed by the citizens of New York State. The Bond Act allows for funding of a variety of programs including the "Brownfields" Environmental Restoration Program. The Restoration Program makes \$200 million available to local governments to investigate and clean up municipally owned brownfields. A brownfield is an unused or under utilized parcel of property which may be contaminated because of its industrial past. Typically these sites no longer contribute to the tax base of a municipality.

### Background:

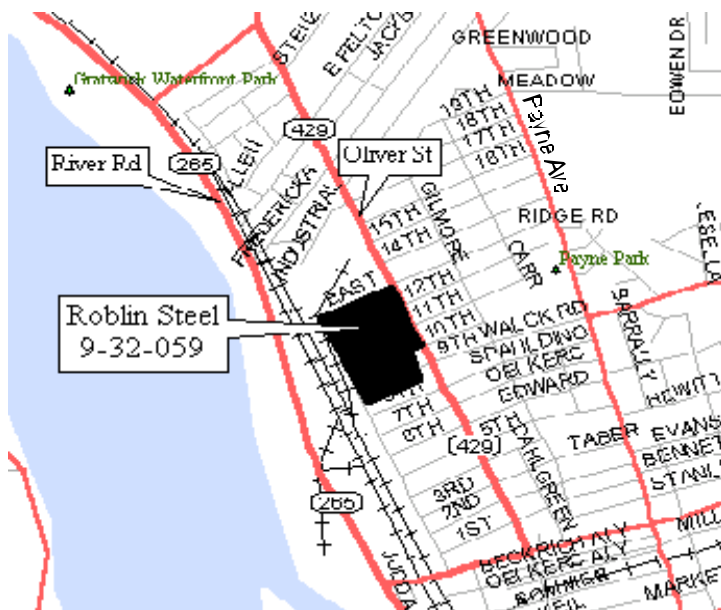
Using the Brownfields Program, North Tonawanda's Office of the City Engineer has completed an environmental investigation and Remedial Alternatives Report (RAR) of the site. The NYSDEC signed a Record of Decision (ROD) for the site in February 2002. The ROD includes a description of the required site remedy.

Manufacturing operations were begun at this site in 1918 by Buffalo Bolt Co., and were continued by Robinson Industries, Inc. from 1961 to 1987. Later, through foreclosure for back taxes, the City of North Tonawanda acquired the property.

### Investigation Results:

A Site Investigation (SI) was completed in May 2000. This investigation revealed that contaminants are present in soils at the site, in the wooden block flooring of the former wire mill building, in the shallow groundwater in the southeast portion of the property and, in drums and piles of debris at various locations of the property.

Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs) were encountered at levels above the NYSDEC Recommended Soil Cleanup Objectives in samples from an area where electrical transformers had been located. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were found in all soil samples taken and, metals; including antimony, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, mercury and lead were found in many of the samples. A significant number of these compounds were encountered in the samples at levels above the Cleanup Objectives. PAHs were also encountered at levels above the Objectives in samples of the wooden block flooring. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were found at levels above the limits set by N.Y. State Standards in groundwater samples taken in the southeast quadrant of the site.



## **Remedy Detailed in the February 2002 Record of Decision:**

Based on the investigation's findings and the Remedial Alternatives Report, the State Prepared a Proposed Remedial Action Plan. The Proposed Plan was presented to the public in late 2001. After considering public comments on the plan, the NYSDEC documented the selected remedial action plan in a Record of Decision (ROD) issued in February 2002. The selected remedy documented in the ROD includes the following:

- off-site disposal of miscellaneous waste drums, refuse and waste piles situated throughout site;
- asbestos removal and demolition of existing buildings and building ruins with recycle/re-use of materials as feasible, and off-site disposal of materials where not feasible;
- removal and off-site disposal of contaminated wooden block floors and residues within buildings;
- excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated site soils, with a deed restriction for areas with residual soil contamination;
- removal and off-site disposal of underground storage tanks, contents, and associated contaminated soils;
- long term monitoring of groundwater and imposition of a deed restriction to preclude future groundwater use;
- closure of the site cooling pond including sediment, refuse and waste removal and off-site disposal, and demolition and/of filling of the structure with clean material.

In 2000-2001, the underground tanks were emptied, removed, and cleaned. The tanks were properly disposed of off site. Some contaminated soils associated with the tanks was stockpiled on site for later disposal.

## **Phase I of the Remedy to begun in April 2003**

Demolition of site buildings is required as the first phase of the remedy due to the unsafe condition of the buildings and their close proximity to the adjacent Armstrong Pumps facility. The Phase I site work is expected to last about two months and includes:

- removal and off-site disposal of asbestos containing materials within buildings;
- demolition of site buildings and structures with recycling of steel and other salvage materials;
- off-site disposal of non-recycled material including wood block flooring and associated soils; and,
- segregation and staging of waste drums and other refuse within building areas for later disposal.

During building demolition, air monitoring will be performed continuously within the site and at the property boundary to ensure protection of the workers and the surrounding community. Dust suppression techniques will be utilized to minimize potential impacts. Trucks entering and exiting the site will use the 9<sup>th</sup> street entrance (off Oliver). The trucks and any other equipment used will be cleaned before leaving the site.

## **Phase II of the Remedy to begin later in 2003**

After completion of the Phase I work, a work plan will be prepared for Phase II activities such as: removal of waste piles, drums, impacted soils and liquids; and concrete slab and foundation demolition. The City will then hire a contractor to complete Phase II work. Phase II is expected to be complete by the end of 2003.

## **For More Information:**

Public understanding and involvement are important to the success of the Brownfields program. To keep you informed of this brownfield project, the City of North Tonawanda and the NYSDEC distribute bulletins, such as this one, and place the project reports in a local repository. The [Record of Decision](#), the [Remedial Design - Phase I Work Plan](#), the [Tank Closure Report](#), the [Site Investigation Report](#), the [Remedial Alternatives Report](#), and the [Proposed Remedial Action Plan](#) are available for your review at the North Tonawanda Public Library, 505 Meadow Drive, North Tonawanda, New York.

If you have any questions regarding this program or would like more information, please contact:

For information about future development for the site:	For information on remediation plans for the site:	For site related health concerns:
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