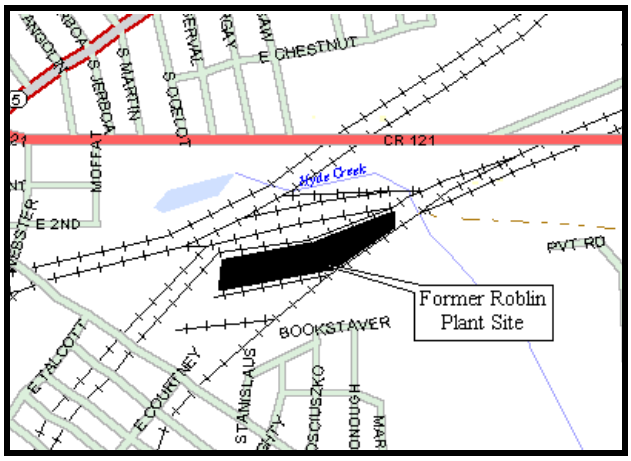
1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act Project Bulletin
Proposed Remedial Action Plan
Former Roblin Steel Site

February 2005 **Project No. B00173-9**

INTRODUCTION: The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and Chautauqua County, would like to tell you about the clean up plan for the Former Roblin Steel "brownfield" site. A brownfield is an unused or under utilized property which may be contaminated because of its industrial past. This plan was developed using funding from the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act of 1996. The site is located at 320 South Roberts Road in the City of Dunkirk.



The Bond Act, passed by the citizens of New York State, makes $200 million available to local governments through the Environmental Restoration Program to investigate and clean up municipally owned brownfields. Using this program, Chautauqua County has completed an environmental investigation of the site and, once remediation is complete, plans to market the site for industrial or commercial purposes.

BACKGROUND: This Roblin Steel brownfield site was initially part of a larger industrial complex operated by the American Locomotive Company in the early 1900s. The complex was subsequently subdivided into three separate parcels; the Roblin Steel site, the former Alumax Extrusions site and the Edgewood Warehouse site. The 12-acre Roblin Steel site was most recently occupied by a rolling mill that was closed and partially dismantled in the late 1980's. Since that time the Roblin Steel site has been vacant. The site was the subject of two EPA removal actions undertaken to address the presence of over 700 drums of hazardous waste, piles of hazardous emission control dust, and other hazardous materials, which were removed and properly disposed of off-site.

INVESTIGATION: In 2003 the County conducted an investigation of the site to determine the extent of contamination across the property and to assess and recommend a remedial plan for its clean-up. The results of these investigations confirmed the presence of contaminants in soil, sediment and groundwater at the site. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)s such as TCE (trichloroethylene) and Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs), encountered across the plant site. SVOCs are commonly associated with petroleum-based products, like asphalt, coal tar, and creosote and are also produced from the burning of fuels. Also detected were several petroleum related contaminants such as benzene, toluene, xylene, and ethylbenzene.

Metals such as copper, iron, lead, cadmium and chromium were detected at levels above guidance values in the fill layer across the entire plant property. These metals are likely residuals from the emissions control equipment (bag house dust) as well as the disposal of foundry sands, slag, scrap metal and other steel production wastes on the property. Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) were also detected in a small area of concrete where the former transformer room was located. A Radiological Survey was also conducted because of Western New York steel industry's historical involvement with the atomic arms development of the 1940's but no areas of radiation above normal background levels were detected.

PUBLIC MEETING, REVIEW AND COMMENT

A public meeting will then be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. in the City of Dunkirk, City Hall Conference Room, 342 Central Avenue. At the meeting representatives from Chautauqua County, NYSDEC and NYSDOH will make a short presentation summarizing the results of the investigation and the proposed remedial alternative and will be available to answer questions regarding the proposed work. Your comments regarding the PRAP are welcome during the meeting or written comments can be submitted until March 25, 2005.

REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVES: Using information from the Site Investigation, the NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health developed various possible remedial alternatives to address the contamination. These remedial alternatives included:

- No Action: This alternative would leave the site in its present condition.
- Exposure Pathway Removal: Installation of a soil cover; removal of contaminated sediment; and, limited asbestos removal.
- Containment: Installation of a soil or pavement cover; in-situ (in place) treatment of soil/fill impacted with chlorinated VOCs; removal of sediments from the sumps and piping; removal of asbestos and electrical components; and, installation of a sub-slab vapor venting system with natural attenuation for the groundwater.
- Excavation: Excavation and off-site disposal of all contaminated soil/fill and debris piles; removal of sump and pipe sediments; removal of asbestos and electrical components; removal of PCBs; and, enhanced natural attenuation of groundwater coupled with a sub-slab vapor venting system for the existing building.
- Limited Excavation: Excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil/fill above site clean-up goals and debris piles; removal of sump and pipe sediments; removal of asbestos and electrical components; removal of PCBs; and, treatment of groundwater using enhanced natural attenuation coupled with a sub-slab vapor venting system for the existing building.

PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN: From the information generated by the Site Investigation and Remedial Alternatives Report, the NYSDEC has prepared a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP). The PRAP proposes a remedy consisting of:

- disposal of surface debris and excavation and off-site disposal of surface soil/fill that exceed the Site Specific Action Levels (SSALs) and the installation of a soil cover and/or paving the remaining soil/fill that exceeds guidance values;
- excavation and off-site disposal of subsurface soil/fill impacted with chlorinated VOCs that exceed SSALs;
- excavate outfall piping to Hyde Creek;
- cover subsurface soil/fill contaminated with low levels of PAHs, metals, Petroleum Nuisance Characteristics (i.e., odor and/or sheen) through the installation of asphalt pavement or soil cover;
- remove contaminated sediment from interior building sumps and backfill with grout;
- removal of asbestos containing materials within the building, as necessary;
- treatment of groundwater containing VOCs using enhanced natural attenuation;
- site Management Plan for future soil management;
- placement of an environmental easement on the property; and,
- routine certification to Department that all institutional or engineering controls are in place and are being maintained; and, long term monitoring of site groundwater.

FOR MORE INFORMATION Copies of the Proposed Remedial Action Plan and Site Investigation Report are available for your review at the locations listed below.

NYSDEC Buffalo Office
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14203
For an appointment contact:
Gregory Sutton at (716) 851-7220

City Clerk's Office
Dunkirk City Hall
342 Central Avenue
Dunkirk, New York 14048

Dunkirk Free Library
536 Central Avenue
Dunkirk, New York

You are invited to review these documents, and to contact the county and state representatives listed below should you have any questions concerning the project.

The Site Investigation:	**Site-Related Health Concerns:**	**Site Redevelopment:**
Gregory Sutton NYSDEC 270 Michigan Avenue Buffalo, New York 14203 (716) 851-7220	Matthew Forcucci NYSDOH 584 Delaware Avenue Buffalo, New York 14202 (716) 847-4385	Cheryl Ruth Chautauqua County DPF 454 North Work Street Falconer, New York 14733 (716) 661-8400