



FACT SHEET

November 2008

Cleanup Activities Complete and Building Demolition to Begin at Former Roblin Steel Site in Dunkirk

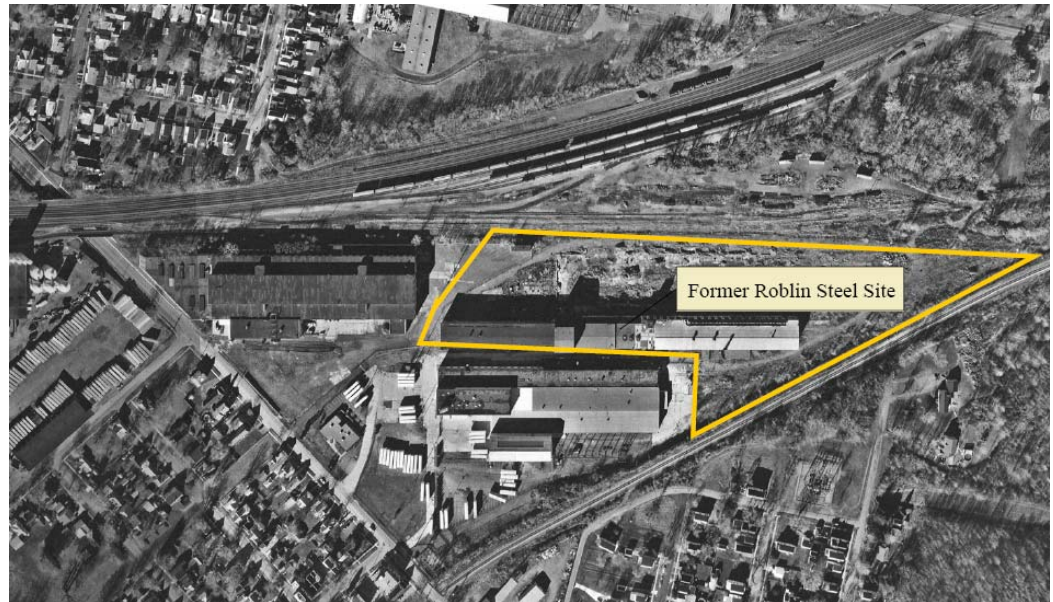


Environmental Restoration Program

Project No. B00173

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) would like to update you on cleanup activities at the former Roblin Steel Site in the City of Dunkirk, Chautauqua County. Cleanup work at the site is being performed under the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) authorized by the New York State Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act of 1996. The ERP provides financial assistance to local governments for the cleanup and restoration of brownfield sites. A brownfield is any property that is difficult to reuse or redevelop because of the presence or potential presence of contamination.



SITE BACKGROUND

The Former Roblin Steel Site is located at 320 South Roberts Road in the City of Dunkirk. It was initially part of a larger industrial complex operated by the American Locomotive Company in the early 1900s. The 12-acre site was most recently occupied by a rolling mill that was closed and partially dismantled in the late 1980s. Since that time the Roblin Steel Site has been vacant.

An investigation of the site was performed on behalf of Chautauqua County and is documented in a Site Investigation report dated May 2003. Field observations and geologic samples collected during the investigation indicated the presence of fill material consisting of slag, foundry sand soil, gravel, brick and concrete across the project site. Eleven newly-installed groundwater monitoring wells and 4 existing on-site wells were used to investigate groundwater contamination. Contaminants detected in the soil fill included cadmium, copper, lead, silver, zinc, chlorinated hydrocarbons, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and some polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The groundwater contained volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as trichloroethylene (TCE). For more information on these contaminants, visit the ToxFAQs page on the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry website at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html>.

Surface water from Hyde Creek was also sampled, but no contamination originating from the site was detected.

DETAILS OF COMPLETED SITE CLEANUP ACTIVITIES

Environmental cleanup activities at the site began in January 2006. The completed work involved:

- Disposing of surface debris and surface soil/fill that exceeded acceptable levels of contaminants;
- Excavating the outfall pipe to Hyde Creek;

- Cleaning and filling drainage features, such as sumps;
- Treating groundwater containing volatile organic compounds (VOCs); and
- Closing in ground storage tanks.

NEXT STEPS

The remaining work at this site to be performed by Chautauqua County includes:

- Removing asbestos-containing materials;
- Demolishing the large industrial building on-site;
- Finalizing the Site Management Plan (SMP) for future maintenance of the site;
- Placing an environmental easement on the property. An environmental easement is a legal tool that places restrictions/prohibitions on the use of the land; and
- Certifying to NYSDEC that all institutional or engineering controls are in place and are being maintained. An institutional control is any non-physical means of enforcing a restriction on the use of property in order to protect public health and the environment. An engineering control is a physical barrier or method employed to actively or passively contain, stabilize, or monitor contamination, restrict the movement of contamination to ensure the long-term effectiveness of a remedial program, or eliminate potential exposure pathways to contamination. The engineering control at the Roblin site is a sub-slab venting system that will prevent harmful vapor exposure to future occupants of the site.

The County is currently planning a time table for the remaining work. Once the work is complete, DEC must approve a Final Engineering Report which will be placed at the locations for public review listed below. The community will be notified about future project milestones through fact sheets similar to this one.

LOCATIONS TO VIEW PROJECT DOCUMENTS

Public understanding and involvement are important to the success of New York's environmental cleanup programs. To keep you informed, Chautauqua County and NYSDEC have established the following locations where you can view project documents:

Dunkirk Free Library
536 Central Avenue
Dunkirk, NY 14048

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

NYSDEC
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 851-7220
(Please call to set up an appointment.)

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

You are welcome to contact the following agency staff if you would like more information:

Project Questions

Cheryl Ruth
Chautauqua County DPF
454 North Work Street
Falconer, NY 14733
(716) 661-8400

Environmental Questions

Linda Ross
NYSDEC
270 Michigan Ave
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 851-7220

Health Questions

Matthew J. Forcucci
NYS Department of Health
584 Delaware Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 847-4385