

# FACT SHEET

## Environmental Restoration Program

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email. See "For More Information" to Learn How.

Site Name: Pan American Tannery DEC Site No: B00175 Address: 312 West Fulton Street Gloversville, NY 12078 Have questions? See "Whom to Contact" Below

### Remedy Proposed for Municipal Brownfield Site; Public Comment Period and Public Meeting Announced

Public Meeting, Tuesday, 2/5/2013 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM City of Gloversville, Council Chambers, 3 Frontage Rd, Gloversville, NY 12078 NYSDEC invites you to a public meeting to discuss the remedy proposed for the site. You are encouraged to provide comments at the meeting, and during the 45-day comment period described in this fact sheet.

The public is invited to comment on a remedy proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) related to the Pan American Tannery site ("site") located at 312 W. Fulton Street, Gloversville, Fulton County. Please see Figure 1 for the site location.

Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information."

#### How to Comment

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed remedial action plan for 45 days, from **January 30, 2013** through **March 15, 2013**. The proposed plan is available for review at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information." Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area below.

#### **Proposed Remedial Action Plan**

The PRAP indentifies the remedy preferred by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH to address the residual surface soil, subsurface soil and groundwater contamination on-site. The proposed alternative was chosen following a detailed investigation of the site and evaluation of alternatives for remediating the contamination.

The elements of the remedy include:

• Installation of a one-foot thick soil cover system to be constructed over all vegetated areas in the undeveloped portion of the site;

• Imposition of an institutional control in the form of an environmental easement that would

limit the use of the site to commercial or industrial uses (in accordance with local zoning) and impose groundwater restrictions;

- Development of a site management plan; and
- Periodic certifications that required institutional and engineering controls are in place.

#### **Summary of the Investigation**

A May 2005 site walkthrough by the City's engineer revealed extreme deterioration of the main tannery building, determining it was near collapse and very dangerous the City deemed the building unsafe for on-site investigation workers. Subsequently, it was determined that the main tannery building needed to be demolished in order to safely investigate the areas adjacent to and underneath the building. An Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) for an asbestos abatement and demolition of the main tannery building was performed in 2007. Several IRM activities were performed as part of and in preparation of the building demolition. These activities included the installation of chainlink fencing to secure the site, removal of one underground storage tank (UST) and three aboveground storage tanks (ASTs), removal and proper disposal of PCB laden transformers, and removal and proper disposal of tanning wastes throughout the main tannery building.

After the IRM activities were completed, the Remedial Investigation was performed to define the nature and extent of any remaining contamination resulting from previous activities at the site. The RI was conducted between June 2008 through March 2012. RI activities included surface soil sampling and analysis, soil boring and monitoring well installation, subsurface soil sampling and analysis, and groundwater sampling and analysis. In addition, the RI included the collection and analysis of surface soil samples and sediment samples from off-site in the vicinity of Mill Creek and the former Mill Pond area.

As further described in the RI reports, the main contaminants of concern detected on-site include inorganic compounds (metals) and low level semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) in surface soil, inorganic contamination in subsurface soil, and inorganic and low level volatile organic compound (VOC) groundwater contamination. Cleanup of the site is required to prevent potential exposure to the surface soil, subsurface soil and groundwater contamination on-site.

NYSDEC developed the proposed remedy after reviewing the detailed investigation of the site and evaluating the remedial options in the "analysis of alternatives" submitted under New York's Environmental Restoration Program by the City of Gloversville.

#### **Next Steps**

NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the remedy for the site. The selected remedy will be described in a document called a "Record of Decision" that will explain why the remedy was selected and respond to public comments.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

#### Background

Location: The site is a former tannery facility located on the northern side of West Fulton Street in a primarily residential area of the City of Gloversville, Fulton County.

Site Features: The 4.8 acre site, bordered by vacant undeveloped land (formerly West Mill Pond, now Mill Creek) to the north, residential and vacant undeveloped land to the west, residential land to the south (Beyond West Fulton Street) and commercial use and vacant land to the east.

Current Use/Zoning: The site is currently vacant, and owned by the City of Gloversville, which obtained it through tax foreclosure. The site is currently zoned industrial. The City of Gloversville entered into the Environmental Restoration Program in 2002 to investigate whether the historical tanning operations had contaminated the abandoned tannery site.

Historic Uses: Historically, the site was comprised of six abandoned tannery buildings of various sizes and states of disrepair. The tannery facility operated from at least 1912 until the mid-1990s as primarily a re-tanning and finishing facility. These historical tanning operations may have contributed to environmental contamination on site.

Geology/Hydrogeology: The surficial geology of the site is mapped as Kame and Kame Moriane. The site soils are generally composed of granular fill materials overlying soils composed of brown fine sand and silt, brown sand and gravel, and brown to fine to coarse sand. Depth to bedrock is unknown, and was not encountered during the RI. The depth to groundwater on site ranges from approximately 1 ft to 9 ft deep, and the groundwater flow is generally to the north towards Mill Creek.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's website at:

http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=B00175

**Environmental Restoration Program:** New York's Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) reimburses municipalities for their costs to investigate and clean up municipality owned contaminated properties. Once cleaned up, the properties may be redeveloped for commercial, industrial, residential or public use.

A brownfield is any real property that is difficult to reuse or redevelop because of the presence or potential presence of contamination.

For more information about the ERP, visit: <u>http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8444.html</u>

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed.

City of Gloversville, Clerks Office City Hall 3 Frontage Road Gloversville, New York 12078 Telephone: (518) 773-4542 Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Gloversville Public Library 58 E. Fulton Street Gloversville, New York 12078 Telephone: (518) 725-2819 Hours of Operation: Monday: 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm Tuesday & Wednesday: 10:00 am - 7:00 pm Thursday & Friday: 10 am – 6 pm Saturday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

#### Whom to Contact

Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed to:

Project Related Questions Alicia Thorne, P.E. NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation Region 5 232 Golf Course Rd Warrensburg, NY 12885 518-623-1272 ajthorne@gw.dec.state.ny.us <u>Site-Related Health Questions</u> Ian Ushe New York State Department of Health Empire State Plaza - Corning Tower RM 1787 Albany, NY 12237 (518) 402-7860 BEEI@health.state.ny.us

## 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. NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page: <a href="http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html">http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html</a>. 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.

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

