

NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF



**ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION**

Dear Interested Citizen:

This Fact Sheet provides notification of the Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) proposed for the BASF South 40 site in the City of Rensselaer. From October 15th through November 12th there will be a 30-day public comment period for the RAWP. For more information, please contact:

Mr. Daniel Lightsey
Project Manager
NYSDEC

1150 N. Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12306
(518) 357-2374

drlights@gw.dec.state.ny.us

For health related questions, please contact the following NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) representative:

Mr. Joseph Crua
Environmental Health Specialist
NYSDOH
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180-2216
(518) 402-7890
or
1(800)458-1158, Ext. 27890

FACT SHEET

BASF South 40 Site Proposed Remedial Action Work Plan

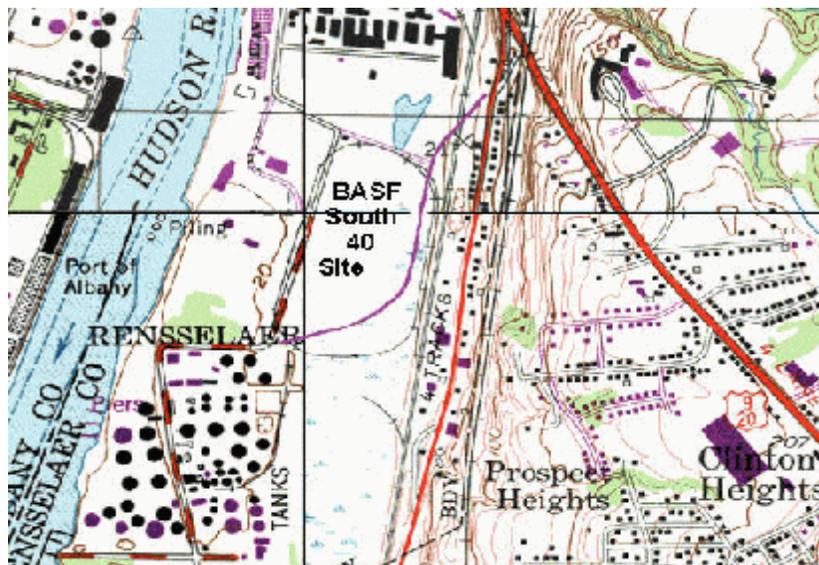
Site No. V00464-4
City of Rensselaer, Rensselaer County
October 2003

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is announcing the availability of a proposed Remedial Action Work Plan for the implementation of a remedial program at the BASF South 40 Site. The Site is located at 36 Riverside Avenue, in the City of Rensselaer. The Remedial Action Work Plan will address the soil and groundwater contamination at this site, and is being conducted as part of a voluntary cleanup agreement between BASF and the NYSDEC. The 30-day comment period starts October 15, 2003 and ends November 12, 2003.

BACKGROUND

The site is approximately 40 acres in size (hence the name South 40) and was the former drum storage/disposal area for the previous owner of the parcel (the GAF Corp.) up until the mid-1970s. It is bounded by Riverside Avenue to the west, by Conrail railroad tracks to the east, by the BASF manufacturing plant to the north, and by an abandoned railroad bed to the south. Since the Port Access Highway was built, a small portion of the site is located south of the highway. There are no residential properties adjacent to the site. The site is currently a Class 3 site in the NYS Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites. A Class 3 site has contamination present, but available data indicate that the site does not pose a significant threat to public health or the environment. Environmental investigations performed between 1986 and 2002 defined the extent of the on-site contaminants. The soil was tested for PCBs in 1988, but no detectable levels were found.



REMEDIAL INVESTIGATIONS

An Order on Consent led to a 1986 investigation, which found areas of possible environmental concern because they contained the remnants of metal drums and stained soils. To further assess the contamination, supplemental investigations were undertaken by BASF in 1990, 1991, 2000 and 2002. The investigations found significant magnetic anomalies in the central portion of the site where drum remnants were exposed at the surface. Arsenic, chromium, lead, and zinc were detected in the soil samples, but arsenic is considered the primary metal of concern due to the frequency of detection and concentration. A thin layer of blue and purple stained soils was observed near the surface in test pits, but could not be found in the 2002 investigation. Sampling of the groundwater from permanent monitoring wells along the perimeter of the site did not detect arsenic above water quality standards. Therefore, on-site metals are not impacting off-site areas. The nine acre portion south of the Port Access Highway was found to contain slight contamination, but is not migrating off-site.

PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTIVITIES

The Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) outlines the proposed remedial activities which would eliminate any potential exposures. We do not suspect any off-site migration, impacts, or potential for off-site exposures. The following activities would be conducted:

- The soil excavation task would target arsenic and assumes that achieving the proposed objective of less than 500ppm in the mounded area and two hot spots (outside the mounded area) will remove any significant pockets of the other metals and semi-volatile organic compounds because of the frequency of detection and concentration.
- The post excavation sampling results would be used to confirm that the soil excavation is complete.
- The drum removal task would locate the drum remnants with an electro-magnetic survey, excavate all accessible remnants, and associated contaminated soil, and send it to an appropriate off-site facility.
- An orange geo-membrane would be placed in all areas of excavation as a marker to separate the clean fill material from original material. All areas of excavation will be backfilled with at least one foot of clean fill material, and seeded to generate a vegetative cover.

DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES

Public understanding and involvement are important to the success of New York's Voluntary Cleanup Program. As the project progresses, the NYSDEC will distribute fact sheets, like this one, to keep you informed. In addition, the Department has also placed site documents in a document repository.

The NYSDEC has established a document repository for the BASF South 40 Site at:

Rensselaer Public Library
810 Broadway (old National Bank)
Rensselaer, NY (518) 462-1193
M-F: 10:00am to 5:00pm, then 6:00pm to 9:00pm **on M-W ONLY**
Saturday: 9:00 to 12 noon