

County Releases Draft Brownfields Grant Application for Public Review

MAYVILLE - Chautauqua County Executive Mark W. Thomas today announced that the draft copy of Chautauqua County's application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for funding the cleanup of the former Roblin Steel site in the city of Dunkirk is available for public review. Copies will be available starting Wednesday, November 26, 2003 at Dunkirk City Hall and the Dunkirk Free Library, both located on Central Avenue in Dunkirk.

"Chautauqua County, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), USEPA and the city of Dunkirk have been actively involved in seeking funding for the cleanup of this brownfield site for some time," said Thomas. "Previous grants from both New York State and the federal government have partially funded the environmental investigation portion of this project, which is now complete."

Thomas added, "We are very excited to have the city of Dunkirk as a full partner in this endeavor. We have long acknowledged the critical role that local governments and citizenry play in redeveloping key land parcels." The Dunkirk City Council has committed up to \$40,000 towards the project if the grant is awarded.

The former Roblin Steel site encompasses 12 acres on Roberts Road in the city of Dunkirk. The site was initially developed as part of a larger industrial complex operated by the American Locomotive Company in the early 1900s. The site was most recently occupied by a rolling mill that was closed and partially dismantled in the late 1980s. The site was the subject of an EPA removal action 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.

For more information on this site, or the County's Brownfields program, please contact Cheryl Ruth, Administrative Officer/Brownfields Redevelopment, at 661-8400.