



FACT SHEET

Brownfield Cleanup Program

December 2010

Site Name: ALCO-Maxon Site, Parcels A, B and C

Site Nos: C447042, C447043, and C447044

Location: Schenectady, NY

Draft Investigation Work Plan for Brownfield Site Available for Public Comment

The public is invited to comment on draft work plans being reviewed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to investigate the ALCO-Maxon Site ("Site") located at 301 Nott Street, in Schenectady. See map for site location. The draft investigation work plan, called a "Remedial Investigation Work Plan," was submitted to NYSDEC by Maxon ALCO Holdings LLC ("Applicant") under New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP).

How to Comment

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the draft investigation work plan for 30 days, from January 5, 2011 through February 4, 2011. The draft investigation work plan is available for review at the Schenectady County Public Library, 99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, identified below under "Where to Find Information".

Submit written comments to:

John R. Strang, P.E.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation – Region 4

Division of Environmental Remediation

1130 North Westcott Road, Schenectady, NY 12306

jrstrang@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Brownfield Cleanup Program: New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) encourages the voluntary cleanup of contaminated properties known as "brownfields" so that they can be reused and redeveloped. These uses may include recreation, housing, business or other uses.

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 BCP, visit:

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html

Highlights of the Proposed Site Investigation

The site investigation has several goals:

- 1) define the nature and extent of contamination in soil, surface water, groundwater and any other parts of the environment that may be affected
- 2) identify the source(s) of the contamination
- 3) assess the impact of the contamination on public health and the environment
- 4) provide information to support the development of a proposed remedy to address the contamination.

NYSDEC previously accepted an application from the Applicant to participate in the BCP. The remedial investigation will be performed by the Applicant with oversight by NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

Location

The ALCO-Maxon Site is located between Erie Boulevard and the Mohawk River. It is bounded by the Mohawk River to the west and Mohawk Avenue, Front Street and Nott Street to the southeast and Erie Boulevard and Maxon Road to the east. This approximately 57.5-acre former industrial park is situated in an urban area of mixed land use with a long industrial history extending over 150 years. The Site has been separated into three Parcels, [A, B & C], which are expected to have different uses: Parcel A is generally located along the Mohawk River and is planned for restricted residential use; Parcel B is generally located in the interior of the Site and is planned for commercial use, and Parcel C is generally located along Erie Boulevard and is planned for commercial use.

Site History

The Site was used for manufacture of railroad locomotives and military hardware throughout its history from 1849 through 1969. The Site continued to be used for industrial purposes from 1971 to 1985. Since 1985, Site activities began to be discontinued although small industrial, manufacturing and fabrication companies have occupied various buildings within the Site.

Chemical contaminants within soils and groundwater at the property have been detected during prior investigations at the Site. The majority of the contaminants come from petroleum products, oils, lubricants, heavy metals, and chlorinated solvents. These contaminants were released to the environment through normal operations, leaks or spills. Contamination could also have come from off-site spills that entered the property via buried utility pathways.

Previous environmental assessments have been completed within the Site and were submitted to the NYSDEC with the BCP Applications. Underground storage tank (UST) removals and cleanup activities have also taken place at the property. The Remedial Investigation to be conducted, following these Work Plans, is intended to more fully characterize the nature and extent of contamination, in all three parcels of the Site.

The RI Work Plans for Parcels A, B and C include:

- Soil and Groundwater Assessments which will involve soil sampling and test pit excavations, along with the installation of groundwater monitoring wells to evaluate and monitor groundwater quality and flow direction;
- Soil Vapor Assessments which will involve the installation of soil vapor probes and ambient air sampling;
- Geophysical Survey Techniques which will evaluate whether there are any remaining storage tanks, or other structures still in the ground.

The investigation activities to be undertaken on each of the Parcels are fully described in the Remedial Investigation Work Plans that are located in the document repository at the Schenectady County Public Library, 99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, NY.

Next Steps

NYSDEC will consider public comments, revise the plan as necessary, and approve the investigation work plans. NYSDOH must concur with the plans. The approved investigation work plan will be made available to the public (see “Where to Find Information” below). After the investigation work plans are approved, the Applicant may proceed with the site investigation.

It is expected that the final investigations to be undertaken at all three parcels may be phased over time to coordinate with building demolition and construction planning. As such, it is anticipated that the final investigation program for all three parcels may take more than one year. The site investigation activities are expected to start after the demolition of on-site buildings, although some of the sampling may take place concurrently with the demolition program.

When the investigation is completed, the Applicant will prepare and submit a report that summarizes the results and recommends a cleanup alternative for the site. NYSDEC and NYSDOH will review the report, make any necessary revisions and, if appropriate, approve the investigation report.

The Applicant may then develop a cleanup plan, called a “Remedial Work Plan”. The cleanup plan will include an evaluation of the proposed site remedy, or recommend a no action or no further action alternative. The goal of the cleanup plan is to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. NYSDEC will present the draft cleanup plan to the public for its review and comment during a 45-day comment period.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available for review at the following location to help the public stay informed. These documents include the draft investigation work plan and the application to participate in the Brownfield Cleanup Program.

Schenectady County Central Library
99 Clinton Street
Schenectady, NY 12305
Tel: 518.388.4500 Fax: 518.386.2241

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 9:00 pm
Friday - Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Who to Contact

Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

Project Related Questions

John R. Strang, P.E.
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
1130 North Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12306-2014
(518) 357-2390
jrstrang@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-Related Health Questions

Albert DeMarco
Public Health Specialist
New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental Exposure
Investigation
Flanigan Square, Room 300
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180-2216
(518) 402-7860
BEEI@health.state.ny.us

If you know someone who would like to be added to the site contact list, have them contact the NYSDEC Project Manager above. 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: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html . 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.

You may continue also to receive paper copies of site information for a time after you sign up with a county listserv, until the transition to electronic distribution is complete.

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

