



FACT SHEET

Brownfield Cleanup Program

Washington Street Former MGP Site,
Former Whele Electric Site
Site Numbers C704046 & C704047
24 Water St., Binghamton, NY

November 2009

Remedy Proposed for Brownfield Site Contamination Public Comment Period Announced

The public is invited to comment on a proposed remedy being reviewed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to address contamination related to the Washington Street Former MGP Site and the Former Whele Electric Site located at 24 Washington Street in Binghamton, Broome County. See map for site location.

The Proposed Remedy

The remedy, detailed in a document called a draft Remedial Work Plan, proposes excavating soils on the site that contain significant levels of contamination and capping the site with clean soil, pavement, or buildings. New York State Electric & Gas Corporation developed the proposed remedy after performing a detailed investigation of the site under New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program.

The proposed remedy is described in a draft cleanup plan called a "Remedial Work Plan" and in an accompanying draft Decision Document prepared by NYSDEC. The documents are available for review at the location identified below under "Where to Find Information". The draft cleanup plan and the draft Decision Document also are available on the NYSDEC web site at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37558.html>

How to Comment

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed remedy for 45 days, from **November 30th** through **January 14th**.

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 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

Submit written comments to:

Kiera Becker
Engineering Geologist
New York State Department of Environmental
Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway, 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7014
kabecker@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Summary of the Proposed Remedy

The site will be remediated to restricted residential levels. "Restricted residential," is a land-use category which includes restrictions on agricultural use and single family residences. Excavation will be performed to remove: (1) the former gas holders (including their contents, walls, and bottoms), (2) soil within the area of the former holders and on the former AAA property south of the site that exhibits visible coal tar; and (3) potentially the top two feet of soil from areas around the above described excavations if they contain contaminants at concentrations exceeding the restricted residential use soil clean up objectives. Excavated soils containing coal tar will be transported off-site for treatment or disposal. Other excavated soils will be stockpiled on site and tested to determine if they are suitable for deep backfill. A visible demarcation layer will be placed above any excavated soils that are re-used as backfill.

The site will be developed into a student housing apartment complex by an entity other than NYSEG. Clean imported soils, pavement, or buildings will cap the site. Institutional controls, which are non-physical means of enforcing restrictions on land use, will be developed for the site.

Next Steps

NYSDEC will consider public comments, revise the draft Remedial Work Plan as necessary, and approve the proposed remedy. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) must concur with the proposed remedy. After approval, the proposed remedy becomes the selected remedy. The selected remedy will be made available to the public (see "Where to Find Information" below) as the Final Remedial Work Plan. The applicant then may design and perform the cleanup action to address the site contamination, with oversight by NYSDEC and NYSDOH. It is estimated that activities to clean up the site will take about four months to complete.

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

Background

NYSDEC previously accepted an application from the applicant to participate in the Brownfield Cleanup Program. The application proposed that the site will be used for restricted residential purposes.

The site is approximately 1.4 acres in size and is located in a primarily commercial area of the City of Binghamton. The site was previously the location of a manufactured gas plant. Subsequent uses included a lumber yard, truck dealership and repair, electric supply showroom and warehouse, a gasoline station, and an automobile dealership and service station.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location to help the public stay informed. These documents include the draft Remedial Work Plan and draft Decision Document.

Broome County Public Library
185 Court Street
Binghamton, NY 13901
(607) 778-6407 (reference desk)
Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM-8:00 PM
Friday & Saturday 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions

Kiera Becker
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway, 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7014
518-402-9662
kabecker@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-Related Health Questions

Julia Kenney
New York State Department of Health
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180-2216
1-800-458-1158, ext. 27860
Jmg07@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.