



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# FACT SHEET

## Brownfield Cleanup Program

Former TRW Union Springs Facility  
13 Salem Street  
Union Springs, NY 13160

May 2019

**SITE No. C706019**  
**NYSDEC REGION 7**

### **Where to Find Information:**

*Project documents are available at the following location to help the public stay informed.*

**Springport Free Library**  
171 Cayuga Street  
Union Springs, NY 13160  
315-889-7766

### **Who to Contact:**

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

**Project-Related Questions**  
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NYSDEC Region 7  
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Syracuse, NY 13204  
315-426-7411  
[joshua.cook@dec.ny.gov](mailto:joshua.cook@dec.ny.gov)

**Project-Related Health Questions**  
Jacquelyn Nealon  
NYSDOH  
Bureau of Env. Exposure Investigation  
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Albany, NY 12237  
518-402-7860  
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For more information about New York's  
Brownfield Cleanup Program, visit:  
[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html)

## **Pilot Study to Begin**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is announcing the start of a pilot study to evaluate the potential for using phytoremediation (using plants to clean up contamination) as a component of the cleanup of contamination at the Former TRW Union Springs Facility ("site") located at 13 Salem Street, Union Springs, Cayuga County. Please see the map below for the site location.

Documents related to the cleanup of this site, including the Phytoremediation Pilot Study Work Plan, can be found at the location identified to the left under "Where to Find Information." Field work for the pilot study is expected to begin in May and last about three to four weeks. The pilot study will also include periodic monitoring for several years. The activities will be performed by TRW Automotive U.S., LLC ("applicant") with oversight provided by NYSDEC.

**Phytoremediation Pilot Study Work Plan:** The pilot study will be performed to determine if phytoremediation techniques can be an effective component of the overall site cleanup. The work plan describes upcoming activities that include planting several trees over an area measuring approximately 120 feet by 40 feet (0.1 acre) and monitoring the effects for several years. The tree species that will be planted will include one or more of the following: hybrid poplar; weeping willow; honey locust; sweet gum; and/or longleaf pine, with hybrid poplar being the most likely species to be utilized. The goals of the study are to determine if the plantings can:

- prevent contaminated groundwater from migrating beyond the northern site boundary as the trees naturally extract groundwater from the subsurface; and
- treat contaminated groundwater through the trees' natural processes and bioremediation (breakdown of contaminants by microorganisms) conducted by the microorganisms supported by the trees.

**Site Description:** The site covers approximately 11.8 acres and is generally bounded on the east by Salem Street and a pond (the mill pond); on the south by Chapel Street; on the west by Frontenac Park and the Village of Union Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant; and on the north by wetlands. It is currently developed with a large industrial building that is used primarily for warehousing and office space. Previous use of the site included manufacturing of electrical components for the automotive industry from 1932 until 1997. Prior site uses were also industrial.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the Site ID, C706019) at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/external/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3>

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**Summary of the Investigation:** The primary contaminants of concern at the site are chlorinated volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polychlorinated naphthalenes, pesticides, semivolatile organic compounds, and metals. Site contaminants are impacting soil, groundwater, sediment, surface water, and soil vapor.

The contaminants of concern in the pilot study area are chlorinated VOCs in groundwater and subsurface soil.

A remedial investigation report is being developed by the applicant.

**Next Steps:** When the pilot study is completed, a report will be prepared that summarizes the results of the pilot study and makes a recommendation as to whether phytoremediation would be an appropriate technology for the remediation of the pilot test area, and potentially other areas of the site.

The applicant is also planning interim remedial measures (IRMs) to clean up other areas of the site, which are currently expected to be conducted within the next 12 to 18 months. An IRM is a cleanup activity that may be performed when a source of contamination or exposure pathway (the way in which a person may contact contamination) can be effectively addressed without extensive investigation and evaluation. Details of the IRMs will be announced in the coming months.

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

**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 site is any real property where a contaminant is present at levels exceeding the soil cleanup objectives or other health-based or environmental standards, criteria or guidance adopted by DEC that are applicable based on the reasonably anticipated use of the property, in accordance with applicable regulations.

For more information about the BCP, visit:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html>

***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 at:

[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html](http://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.

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



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Site Location Map

