

# ELMIRA HIGH SCHOOL

## Former Sperry Remington Property Cleanup

Brownfield Cleanup Program

777 South Main Street, Elmira, NY 14904

### WHO TO CONTACT



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

#### PROJECT-RELATED QUESTIONS:

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#### HEALTH-RELATED QUESTIONS:

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#### FOR INFORMATION ON THE BROWNFIELD CLEANUP PROGRAM:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/102390.html>

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) continues to oversee the investigation and cleanup of portions of the Elmira High School (EHS) property. Our goal is to ensure a thorough and careful cleanup while keeping the Elmira community informed of our progress and next actions. Our top priority is ensuring that students, faculty, and visitors do not contact any of the site's below-ground contamination. Unisys, the corporate successor of the Remington Rand Company, is committed under its Brownfield Cleanup Agreement to fully investigate and implement a comprehensive cleanup of the site and any impacted off-site areas. The following update includes the latest information on work done over this past fall and winter months as we coordinate with New York State Department of Health (DOH), Unisys, and Elmira City School District (ECSD) to prepare work plans for the upcoming 2019 season.

You are encouraged to sign up for listserv to receiving updates and future public information sessions.

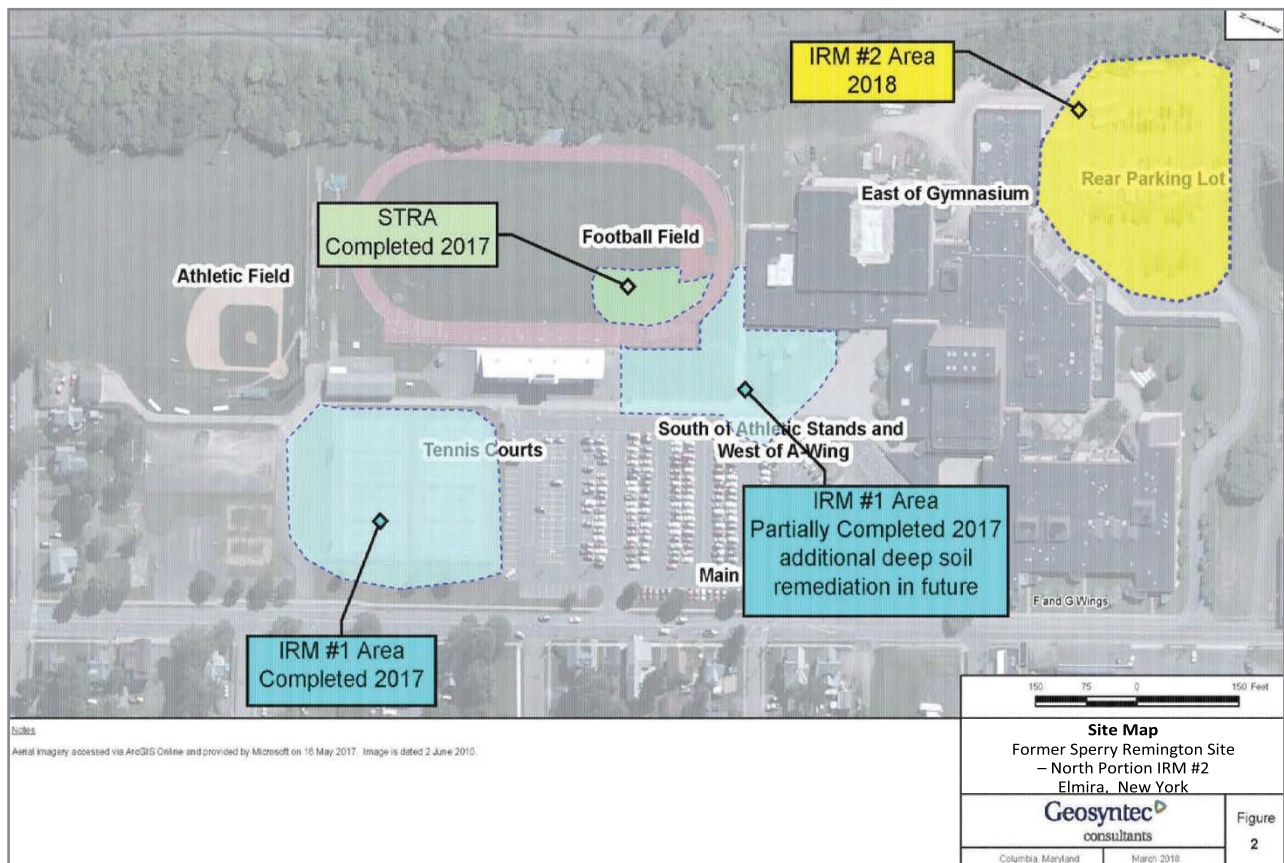
### Air Quality & Floor Crack Activities

During the 2018 summer recess, in coordination with DEC and DOH, Unisys and EHS staff completed a comprehensive building wide floor crack survey. All floor cracks were sealed and sub-slab vapor and indoor air were sampled. Performance testing was also completed on the new sub-slab mitigation system, which was installed beneath Room 148, out of an abundance of caution, before classes began in September. Performance testing was completed again in December. All indoor air sampling results demonstrate that the remedial systems are effectively addressing the potential for exposure associated with soil vapor intrusion.

# EHSFootballField Complex

During the summer of 2017, Unisys completed a Short-Term Response Action on the southern portion of the football field, at the direction of New York State. Subsequent data collected shows the turf and soil cover continues to prevent direct contact with contaminants beneath the surface; however, access to the athletic complex has been managed since the fall of 2018 to prevent exposure to the contaminants beneath the surface. Unisys will design a cleanup of the athletic complex (i.e., interim remedial measure or IRM #3), which is intended to dovetail with restoration of the athletic complex.

Sampling on the athletic complex is on-going in preparation for the anticipated cleanup. Beginning in July 2018, Unisys has completed more than 177 soil borings, collecting samples at 2-foot intervals during the initial phase of a comprehensive Remedial Investigation and Pre-Design Investigation of the athletic complex. More than 640 soil samples have been collected within the athletic complex to define the limits of the planned excavation. Additional sampling is scheduled for this spring to complete the delineation of the contamination and final extent of the excavation, which will then allow Unisys to complete the design over the coming months.



## Department of Health Outreach

On February 7, 2019, staff from the New York State Department of Health (DOH) held two meetings to discuss any health concerns and the possibility of conducting a health study of current and former staff. Current staff were invited to attend the afternoon session in the high school gymnasium. The evening meeting was targeted to former staff of the school and open to the public. The goal of these meetings was to identify specific concerns and determine how DOH can best address those concerns. During these meetings, DOH described the past health studies focusing on the Elmira school community, discussed the current and previous potential for exposure to contaminants on the property, listened to community concerns and discussed some possible next steps. Both sessions concluded with a question and answer period and the opportunity for one-on-one discussions with health experts. The meetings were well attended and DOH is evaluating the feedback received and plans to continue the dialog with the community about its concerns.

## Investigation of Properties Outside School

In addition to the cleanup efforts on the school property, DEC and DOH continue to oversee Unisys' ongoing investigation of potential off-site migration of contaminants in the surrounding community. Based on the findings to date, a primary focus of this off-site investigation is PCB and metals impacts in Coldbrook Creek sediments. Unisys and the State are finalizing work plans for additional investigation in Coldbrook Creek and the adjacent flood prone areas, as well as the cleanup of a former oil skimmer located on the STCC property known to contain PCB-contaminated sediments.





## Next Steps

DEC and DOH will continue to oversee Unisys' work and coordinate with the Elmira City School District to complete the Pre-Design Investigation and Remedial Design for IRM #3 and the comprehensive Remedial Investigation (RI) Work Plan for the entire site prior to implementing the full RI, which will address on- and off-site groundwater. DEC will keep the public informed throughout the additional investigation and cleanup of the site with newsletters such as this one during the 2019 season. Stay tuned for more details.

### WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION



Project documents are at these location(s):

Steele Memorial Library  
101 East Church Street  
Elmira, NY 14901  
(607) 733-9175

Region 8 NYSDEC  
Headquarters  
6274 East Avon Lima Road  
Avon, NY 14414  
(585) 226-5324  
(call for an appointment)

Project documents are available on the NYSDEC website at: [www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37556.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37556.html)

## In Case You Missed the September 2018 Availability Session

A public availability session was held on September 26th at Elmira High School to discuss the significant progress made over the summer months and the ongoing cleanup actions. Individual stations with information about various aspects of the cleanup and public health protection efforts were staffed by experts from NYSDEC, NYSDOH, and Unisys. The “open house” type format provided the opportunity for interested community members to stop in anytime during the three-hour session and have specific questions answered. Information also was presented through videos and posters. Visit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/102390.html> for copies of the materials presented.

### SIGN UP TO STAY INFORMED

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>

