



## Frequently Asked Questions – Updated September 2020

### Former Sperry Remington Property - North Portion at Elmira High School

#### Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) Site #C808022

#### Acronyms

AAR – Alternative Analysis of Remedies  
BCP – Brownfields Cleanup Program  
CAMP – Community Air Monitoring Plan  
COPC – Contaminant of Potential Concern  
DEC – Department of Environmental Conservation  
DOH – Department of Health  
ECLP – Enhanced Community Liaison Plan  
ECSD – Elmira City School District  
EHS – Elmira High School  
IEC – Institutional and Engineering Control  
IRM – Interim Remedial Measure  
ISMP – Interim Site Management Plan  
PCB – Polychlorinated Biphenyls  
RI – Remedial Investigation  
RIWP – RI Work Plan  
SSDS – Sub-slab Depressurization System  
STRA – Short Term Remedial Action  
TCE – Trichloroethene  
VOCs – Volatile Organic Compounds

#### Overview

##### **1. What measures are in place to protect people from contact with contamination at Elmira High School?**

New York State (NYS) remains committed to overseeing a careful and thorough cleanup of the Elmira High School (EHS) property, and our top priority is ensuring that students, faculty and visitors do not come in contact with any of the contamination found below ground at EHS. Currently, while subsurface soil, groundwater and soil vapor contamination exist at the property, any potential exposure pathways where someone could encounter the contamination have been appropriately addressed:

- contaminated soil is below the ground's surface and cover systems (vegetated soil, wood chips, paving and building foundations);
- use of groundwater is not allowed other than non-contact cooling water; and
- EHS's sub-slab depressurization systems (SSDS) are operated in a manner intended to ensure that contaminants beneath the building are not affecting indoor air quality. Post-mitigation chemical monitoring results demonstrate that the SSDSs effectively control the potential for vapor intrusion related to exposure to Trichloroethene (TCE) and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs) at EHS. Air quality at the school has consistently been below NYS Department of Health (DOH) air guideline values and testing will continue to be conducted.



## 2. *What is the Schedule for Cleanup?*

The current schedule anticipates completing Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) soil cleanup work and the comprehensive Remedial Investigation in 2021 and finalizing a Site Remedy in 2022. A comprehensive environmental investigation is necessary to prepare and evaluate final site remedies for the EHS property. All cleanup and investigation work is being conducted by Unisys with strict NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and DOH oversight.

Priority has been given to completion of investigation activities, and completion of IRMs at EHS that are both protective of human health and the environment in coordination with ECSD capital improvement plans. This coordinated effort allows for cleanup that minimizes disruption to normal school operations. Actions to date include:

- July 2014 - Unisys conducted a vapor intrusion assessment and Site characterization inspections of EHS.
- August 2014 - Unisys, in coordination with DEC and DOH, installed an SSDS in the F Wing of EHS.
- March 2015 - Unisys, in coordination with DEC and DOH, installed temporary cover in the form of mulch beds adjacent to EHS as a short-term response action (STRA).
- Summer 2017 - Unisys conducted IRM #1 to remove impacted soil in coordination with EHS capital improvement projects at the EHS Tennis Courts and Main Parking Lot. In addition, Unisys conducted a shallow soil STRA in the southwest corner of the football field.
- Summer 2018 - Unisys conducted IRM #2 to remove impacted soil in coordination with EHS capital improvement projects at the Rear Parking Lot. Unisys completed a supplemental vapor intrusion assessment and floor crack sealing within the school building. Unisys, in coordination with DEC and DOH, installed an SSDS in the music wing of EHS in August 2018.
- April 2019 - Unisys prepared an Interim Site Management Plan (ISMP) for management of institutional and engineering controls during the remaining investigation and cleanup of the Site. This ISMP was approved by DEC and DOH in December 2019, replacing the EHS Environmental Management Plan.
- April and May of 2019 – Unisys conducted Pre-Design Investigations (PDIs) in the football field complex and areas to the southwest of the football field to support the design of IRMs #4 and #5.
- Summer 2019 - Unisys conducted IRM #3 at EHS to remove deeper impacted soils from portions of the Main Parking Lot and in an area southwest of the football field.
- July 2019 - The Site-wide RI Work Plan (RIWP) was approved and is currently being conducted. Amendments to the RIWP have been made as new information comes to light. Investigation activities include soil and groundwater.
- Summer/Fall 2020 - IRM #4 work consist of two (2) parts: IRM #4 and IRM #4A. The approved IRM #4 Work Plan which was designed to remove impacted soils immediately to the north and west of the EHS building was initiated in June 2020 and will be completed by the commencement of the 2020/21 school year. By completing IRM #4 during the summer of 2020 a “safe-corridor” between the EHS building and cleanup activities was established. IRM #4A, still in the approval process, will be a continuation of IRM #4 work to the north and this will be completed while EHS is in session.
- The volume of soil removed during IRMs #1-4 is approximately 41,000 cubic yards, which is the equivalent of approximately 3,500 dump truck loads of soil.

IRM #5 to remove impacted soils in the football field area is scheduled to be conducted in the latter half of 2020 and Spring 2021 pending work plan approval by DEC.



### **3. *What is Unisys's role?***

Unisys is the corporate successor to Remington Rand and therefore a responsible party having liability to complete the investigation and cleanup of the Site. In 2014, Unisys entered into an Order on Consent with the State to conduct a Site characterization of the school property. In 2017, Unisys entered into an agreement under the State's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) to complete the comprehensive environmental investigation and cleanup at the EHS property.

### **4. *In the past we were told that the school grounds were clean, what changed?***

Prior to Unisys' active involvement at the EHS Site, recognized below ground contamination was appropriately managed by ECSD in accordance with an Environmental Management Plan. In 2013, additional information related to past operations of the Remington Rand plant came to the attention of the DEC which prompted additional investigation work. Subsequently, discrete Areas of Concern were identified on the EHS property and a comprehensive environmental investigation began. According to DOH, this additional information and data were consistent with surface soil data previously collected by DEC/DOH and do not alter conclusions or recommendations presented in DOH's 2003 Health Consultation. The 2003 Health Consultation, in consultation with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, stated that well-established and maintained grass cover minimizes human exposures to soil by limiting direct contact with the soil.

Along with the additional investigation sampling, PCB soil removal measures are being conducted ahead of other EHS capital improvement projects. This multi-year investigation effort is expected to conclude in 2021. Work is being conducted by Unisys with strict DEC and DOH oversight.

### **5. *Why hasn't the Site been designated as a Class 1 clean-up project?***

Unisys is a participant under their Brownfield Cleanup Agreement and is responsible for completing a full investigation and remediation of the Site. A classification under Superfund is not applicable to the BCP. The State oversees all work under the BCP to ensure a complete and protective cleanup of the Site. A BCP cleanup is equivalent to the cleanup that would be done under the State Superfund Program in that Unisys will determine the full extent of the contamination and a remedy protective of public health and the environment will be selected by the State.

### **6. *What was known and/or investigated when the EHS property was originally purchased?***

The school property was purchased in the late 1970s prior to any DEC investigation work. The following presents known Site ownership and use prior to EHS construction:

- 1887 – 1909: B. W. Payne & Sons, manufacturer of high speed steam engines;
- 1909 – 1935: Morrow Manufacturing, manufacturer of drill chucks, machine parts and tools;
- 1935 – 1937: Elmira Precision Tool Company, manufacturer of typewriter parts for Remington Rand;
- 1936 – 1972: Remington Rand, manufacturer of typewriters and adding machines;
- 1974 – 1977: Westinghouse Electric Corporation occupied approximately ten (10) acres of the EHS property south of the City of Elmira-Town of Southport line, primarily for warehousing; and
- 1977 – Present: ECSD with construction of EHS in 1979.

Sperry Rand (successor to Remington Rand) conveyed the property to the Chemung County Industrial Development Agency on 28 December 1973. On 21 April 1977, Chemung County Industrial Development



Agency conveyed the property to Westinghouse and that same day Westinghouse conveyed that property to ECSD.

#### Site Remediation

**7. Will a full remediation with a complete removal of the contamination be evaluated as a final Site remedy alternative?**

A full remediation to remove all impacts at the Site must be evaluated as part of the final Site remedy selection process. After the DEC/DOH agrees the comprehensive remedial investigation is complete, a remedial Alternative Analysis Report (AAR) will be prepared by Unisys that evaluates multiple remedial alternatives (including full remediation) that are protective of human health and the environment. DEC and DOH will evaluate and propose a Site remedy for public review and finalize the remedy after the public has had the opportunity to comment.

**8. What is the schedule for completing the clean up on the high school property?**

The current schedule anticipates completing IRM cleanup work and the comprehensive Remedial Investigation in 2021 and finalizing a Site Remedy in 2022. IRM cleanups, with DEC approval and oversight will continue with IRM #4A, a continuation of IRM #4 work to the north and will be completed while EHS is in session beginning mid-September.

IRM #5, which will remove impacted soils in the football field complex is scheduled to be conducted in the latter half of 2020 and Spring 2021 pending work plan approval by DEC. Unisys and ECSD will be coordinating to facilitate ECSD's construction of the new sport complex at the conclusion of remedial work.

IRM #6 currently is planned to commence in summer 2021. IRM #6 is anticipated to remove contaminated soil on the eastern perimeter of the EHS building and isolated areas identified in the North Athletic Fields (baseball & softball field area). IRM #6 is expected to be completed prior to the end of 2021.

While the above described IRM activities are being conducted, Unisys will also be wrapping up the comprehensive Remedial Investigation (RI) for the entire Site. The RI is anticipated to conclude Spring 2021. Thereafter, Unisys will prepare alternative final remedies for EHS and recommend a proposed comprehensive Site remedy presented in an AAR which will be protective of human health and the environment for DEC and DOH review, and public comment. The Site remedy is anticipated to be finalized in 2022.

**9. What measures are in place to protect the surrounding community during the IRM work?**

DEC and DOH will continue to ensure the implementation of the IRMs occurs in a manner that protects the community. These measures include implementation of construction safety plans, air monitoring, distancing and fortifying work areas, dust control and enhanced communications. Work will be done under an approved Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) that requires continuous air monitoring during all excavation, backfilling and soil handling activities to ensure that no additional contamination is released to the environment or adjacent properties during cleanup. Air monitoring for PCBs will also be completed during impacted soil excavation and soil handling. Dust control measures (e.g., watering) will be taken to reduce dust on temporary dirt roadways and open excavations. Trucks will be covered to properly secure all material during transport. Trucks and equipment will be decontaminated prior to leaving the Site. Truck traffic patterns have been designed to maintain safety on local roadways. No visible dust should leave the work areas and if air monitors detect dust above action levels, work is stopped until corrective measures are in place. Further information on project status and protective measures can be found on the DEC project webpage at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/102390.html>.



#### ***10. Why can work proceed while school is in session?***

Four years of IRM summer work experience at EHS, enhanced safety and security, protective barriers, distancing work areas, robust air monitoring and enhanced communications will allow work to continue at EHS safely and will expedite the overall cleanup in conjunction with ECSD capital improvement plans. Unisys, DEC, DOH and ECSD have worked together to develop additional procedures for IRM #4A and IRM #5 to ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff while working at EHS when school is in session. This will allow for a smooth transition between the conclusion of cleanup actions in the football field area and ECSDs planned construction of the new football field/athletic complex. The additional measures summarized below are also designed to allow for the remedial effort to proceed while minimizing any interference to the students, faculty and staff.

##### *Coordination:*

The on-Site contractor (Remedial Construction Services, L.P. [RECON]) will coordinate weekly with ECSD administration to present the following week's work activities and schedule as it pertains to the EHS's operations and to discuss any concerns ECSD officials may have. RECON will also coordinate with ECSD administration regarding emergency planning and response procedures prior to beginning of the school year. Any concerns or complaints raised by the ECSD or the community when on school property will immediately be communicated to DEC.

##### *Site Access Limitations:*

Truck traffic associated with remedial activities will not be allowed in the parking lot and on local streets during scheduled hours for arrival and dismissal at EHS. RECON will honor requests by the ECSD to halt work that is disrupting both pedestrian and vehicle traffic as well as afterhours events.

##### *Safety and Security:*

The work zone will be surrounded by temporary security fencing to prevent pedestrians from inadvertently entering the area. Privacy screen will be used to reduce visibility into the work zone to limit curiosity of ongoing construction activities. All gates will be locked unless a RECON employee is in attendance to prevent unauthorized entry to the work zone. All fencing around construction activities, supplies, and debris will be inspected daily and repaired as needed. Warning signs demarcating the area as a construction Site will be placed around the perimeter of the work zone to warn onlookers of potential hazards. When school is in session, on-Site security will be present outside construction hours (as required for overnight, weekends, holidays) to ensure the integrity of the security fencing and report any suspicious activity to local authorities. Upon substantial completion of IRM #5, additional on-Site security will be discontinued.

No smoking will be allowed on school property. Chemical fumes, gases, and other contaminants produced by welding, gasoline, or diesel engines, roofing, paving, painting, etc. will be controlled to ensure they do not enter occupied portions of nearby school buildings or associated air intakes.

##### *Noise Monitoring:*

RECON will immediately respond to complaints related to excess noise in occupied spaces. Noise will be monitored using a type 2 sound level with measurements made directly outside of the occupied area nearest to the source of the noise; background noise level measurements in occupied areas will be taken for comparison

##### *Code of Conduct:*

DEC has zero tolerance for inappropriate behavior, compromising of student safety, or other situations which may give rise to complaints from ECSD related to contractor and subcontractor conduct. Site workers will be made cognizant of protecting students from the construction process and from themselves. Workers will not initiate conversations with students or allow them to gather near construction barriers. A code of



conduct for contractors and subcontractors will be posted in all on-Site job trailers and reviewed during daily safety meetings.

**11. Will there be additional investigation below the slab of the school building?**

The RIWP includes a provision for investigation below the school building as feasible, once exterior work is complete. A comprehensive soil vapor investigation was completed in 2014 and 2018, below the concrete floor slab of EHS.

**12. What happens to all the impacted dirt removed from the Site?**

Soil samples from the EHS Site are analyzed by an analytical laboratory and the data is used to characterize and determine how soil is properly moved off-Site. Soil characterized to be “hazardous” and requiring off-Site disposal is shipped in accordance with applicable regulations and approved work plans to the U.S. Ecology landfill facility in Plymouth, Michigan. Non-hazardous soils that exceed cleanup objectives are shipped to the Casella Chemung County, Hyland or Ontario County landfills, all in New York.

**Indoor Air Quality**

**13. What controls are in place to protect the indoor air quality at Elmira High School?**

Multiple vapor intrusion mitigation systems, commonly referred to as SSDS, are continuously operated in the school to prevent indoor air impacts from the potential for soil vapor intrusion. Five (5) systems are located in areas of the building where the volatile compound, trichloroethene (TCE), was detected at higher than expected background levels. Subsequent indoor air testing has shown the SSDS to be effective.

**14. How does the SSDS work?**

A SSDS vents contaminated soil vapor before it enters a structure. The system consists of PVC piping installed through the slab floor and a fan connected with the piping that draws vapor from beneath the building up to the roof where it is released to the outside air. It is designed to achieve lower sub-slab air pressure relative to indoor air. Thus, even if there are holes, cracks, or other pathways between the building and the subsurface, vapors flow downward, not upward. SSDS are a widely-used, effective method to prevent vapor intrusion into occupied building spaces. These systems operate continuously and require minimal maintenance.

**15. When were the controls related to the indoor air at the high school installed?**

The five (5) SSDS consist of: 1) an SSDS installed as part of the construction of the K-wing in 2009; 2) an SSDS installed in 2010 as part of the mercury abatement project in gymnasium; 3) an SSDS installed in the cafeteria in 2013 as part of the renovations and expansions; 4) an SSDS installed in the F-wing in 2014; and 5) an SSDS installed in the Music Wing in 2018.

**16. How come the entire school does not have SSDS?**

Several areas of the building (K-Wing, Cafeteria and Gymnasium) had SSDS installed proactively during the school’s expansion and renovation projects referred to in Question 15 above.

The installation of the F-wing system was driven by indoor air data obtained in 2014. Comprehensive testing of both the air underneath the slab of the building and indoor air was completed at EHS for areas outside



the range of the existing sub-slab mitigation systems (located in the K-wing, Cafeteria, and Gym). Sample locations included all previous sampling locations and new locations based on new information obtained regarding past uses of the Site. The results of this investigation documented that TCE was present at 8 of 23 locations in soil vapor below the floor slab, five of which were in F-wing. The remaining three locations had TCE concentrations below NYSDOH recommended action values. TCE was present at 8 of the 23 indoor air sampling locations, 6 of which were in F-wing. The levels of TCE detected in the indoor air are all below the NYSDOH Air Guideline Values; however, the level observed in Room 127 was higher than expected despite being less than the Air Guideline Value. As a result, a SSDS was installed in F-wing in 2014 and TCE is no longer detectable in the indoor air in Room 127. The sampling in Room 127 is conducted on an annual basis to continue to demonstrate the effectiveness of the system.

The installation of the Music Wing system in 2018, completed out of an abundance of caution, was based on the potential of soil gas to enter the EHS building rather than indoor air concentrations. A SSDS is a proven effective system to mitigate soil vapors and DEC/DOH has collected several years of indoor air data from this room to verify its effectiveness.

Annual indoor air testing continues to this day to ensure the effectiveness of the various SSDSs installed at EHS.

#### **17. What is TCE and why is it a contaminant of concern?**

Trichloroethylene also known as TCE, is a Volatile Organic Compound (VOC). VOCs are chemicals that easily enter the air as gases from some solids or liquids. They are ingredients in many commonly used products and are in the air of just about every indoor setting.

TCE is a human-made chemical. It is volatile, meaning it readily evaporates at room temperature into the air, where you can sometimes smell it. It is used as a solvent to remove grease from metal, a paint stripper, an adhesive solvent, an ingredient in paints and varnishes, and in the manufacture of other chemicals and products (for example, furniture and electric/electronic equipment).

People may be exposed to TCE in air, water, and food, or when TCE or material containing TCE (for example, soil) gets on the skin. TCE has been detected at the site in soil, groundwater, sub-slab soil vapor and indoor air. These potential routes of exposure have been addressed at Elmira High School through protective covers which prevent contact with soils, SSDS activation and use of public water supplies that are not affected by site contaminants. Additional information about TCE can be found at: <https://health.ny.gov/environmental/chemicals/trichloroethene/>.

A "contaminant of concern" is a contaminant that is sufficiently present in frequency and concentration in the environment to require evaluation for remedial action. Not all contaminants identified on the property are contaminants of concern. Based on the detections, TCE will continue to be evaluated as a contaminant of concern throughout the investigation and remedial actions.

#### **18. Is the HVAC system necessary to protect indoor air from vapor intrusion?**

Post-mitigation chemical monitoring results demonstrate that the SSDSs effectively control the potential for vapor intrusion related to exposure to TCE and other VOCs at EHS. Operation of the HVAC system to provide positive indoor air pressure for mitigation of potential vapor intrusion exposures is not necessary.



**19. How are the indoor air controls at the high school monitored and maintained?**

In accordance with the approved ISMP (discussed in greater detail in **FAQ 22**), the SSDSs are monitored daily to ensure the systems are operational. The systems are inspected quarterly and maintained by Unisys and ECSD in accordance with a maintenance plan in the ISMP. Annual indoor air sampling is also completed to monitor the effectiveness of the systems.

**20. Is it safe to have windows and doors open in the building?**

Yes. The effectiveness of the SSDS is not reduced by the opening and closing of doors and windows, as the system is capturing air beneath the slab to ensure it does not enter the building. In addition, outdoor air sampling does not indicate any issues with the quality of the outdoor air at the school property.

ECSD maintenance staff may direct teachers and other staff to refrain from opening windows and doors for other reasons, for example to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of heating and cooling.

**21. Are the cracks in the floor affecting the indoor air quality?**

Cracks in the school flooring do not represent a potential exposure pathway. In response to concerns raised by the faculty and out of an abundance of caution, a thorough inspection of cracks has been conducted. Floor cracks identified during this investigation were filled and sealed as necessary. Per the ISMP, inspection for floor cracks continues to occur on a regular basis and any cracks identified are sealed as necessary.

## School Grounds

**22. What measures are in place to protect people from contact with PCB-contaminated soils?**

Protective cover systems (vegetated soil, wood chips, pavement, buildings) are currently in place and reduce the risk of human exposure to PCBs in soils. An ISMP developed by Unisys and approved by DEC has been substituted for the Environmental Management Plan previously implemented by ECSD. The ISMP includes a series of institutional and engineering controls (IECs) that have been implemented as interim measures until a final Site remedy has been selected and to document required monitoring, operation and maintenance activities. IECs set forth in the ISMP include restricting the use of the Site; prohibiting the use of Site groundwater without DOH approval unless for non-contact cooling water; inspecting and maintaining cover systems; operation, maintenance and monitoring of the SSDSs; implementing DEC approved excavation work plans for any on-Site ground disturbance activities; and regular reporting requirements.

Moving forward, DEC and DOH will continue to work with the ECSD to oversee the careful and coordinated identification and removal of any additional contamination from the Site in a manner that is fully protective of public health and the environment and will keep the Elmira community, including EHS staff and students, informed of ongoing actions.

**23. What is a PCB and why is it a contaminant of concern?**

PCBs are a group of man-made organic chemicals consisting of carbon, hydrogen and chlorine atoms. The number of chlorine atoms and their location in a PCB molecule determine many of its physical and chemical properties. PCBs have no known taste or smell, and range in consistency from an oil to a waxy solid.





PCBs belong to a broad family of man-made organic chemicals known as chlorinated hydrocarbons. PCBs were domestically manufactured from 1929 until manufacturing was banned in 1979. They have a range of toxicity and vary in consistency from thin, light-colored liquids to yellow or black waxy solids. Due to their non-flammability, chemical stability, high boiling point and electrical insulating properties, PCBs were used in hundreds of industrial and commercial applications including:

- Electrical, heat transfer and hydraulic equipment
- Plasticizers in paints, plastics and rubber products
- Pigments, dyes and carbonless copy paper
- Other industrial applications

PCBs have been detected at the site in soil, and groundwater. Potential exposures to PCBs at Elmira High School have been addressed through protective cover systems which prevent contact to soils and use of public water supplies that are not affected by site contaminants. As discussed in Question 17, PCBs are a contaminant of concern because of the concentration and frequency of detections at the site. Additional information about PCBs can be found at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/faq.asp?id=140&tid=26>

**24. Can PCBs or other contaminants migrate upward?**

PCB and Metals impacted soils do not tend to migrate to other environmental media such as groundwater or soil vapor.

**25. Why is a piecemeal cleanup being done (IRMs, Short Term Response Actions and Protective Cover Systems) rather than a complete removal of the contaminated soil all at once?**

Even though the final cleanup plan is still in development and investigations are still underway, cleanup actions continue to advance in coordination with ECSD capital improvement projects for areas where there is known contamination. This is being done to ensure that areas of the Site get cleaned up efficiently and only need to be disturbed once, not because there is an immediate threat to the public for potential exposures.

The State intends to fully investigate and remediate the entire Site. Currently, as broader Site investigations are underway to delineate the nature and extent of the contamination found below ground on the Site, any potential exposure pathways where students, faculty or visitors could encounter contamination have been appropriately addressed. Protective cover systems (vegetated soil, wood chips, pavement, buildings) are currently in place and reduce the risk of human exposure to PCBs in soils allowing time to systematically design and plan for future cleanup actions. The proposed final remedy for the Site will be communicated to the community and include the opportunity for the public to provide comments.

While cleanup actions continue, DEC and DOH staff will continue to oversee and conduct additional inspections of the cover systems and air mitigation systems, including conducting additional sampling, to ensure these are functioning properly. Should any deficiencies be noted, immediate actions will be undertaken to ensure they are quickly addressed and eliminated. This commitment is incorporated into the approved ISMP.



## Off-Site Contamination

### **26. What is the extent of the off-Site contamination?**

Contaminants found at EHS are more concentrated south and east of the main grandstand area and have been determined to be migrating a short distance east of the Site in groundwater (Petroleum, PCBs, VOCs) and a greater distance to the southeast in Coldbrook Creek sediments (PCBs, Metals).

Elevated levels of contaminants have not been found along the western boundary of the school property and there is no evidence to suggest contaminant migration or disposal west of Main Street. Similarly, there is little evidence of industrial disposal and documented contamination north of the football field; however additional delineation of impacted soils west of the north athletic fields will be required to complete the investigation.

Unisys is responsible for the thorough investigation and remedy for all contaminants that have been disposed or have migrated from the Site, as a participant in the BCP at the school Site #C808022 and under a consent order for the Coldbrook Creek impacts under Site #808043. This includes any residual petroleum and two distinct groundwater contaminant plumes of limited extent east of EHS. The first is impacted with PCBs and is not known to extend east of the rail line, the second is a VOC plume which extends a short distance east of the rail line and is impacted with cis-1,2 Dichloroethane and Vinyl Chloride which are the natural degradation compounds of TCE found in the groundwater at EHS. Diminishing VOC plume concentrations were documented over a 10-year sampling program conducted by DEC from 1997-2007. Additionally, extensive soil vapor sampling conducted by DEC east of the VOC plume confirmed no VOC detections and no migration of these contaminants to soil vapor. The area is served with public water and so no one is drinking the groundwater.

### **27. What is known about Miller Pond?**

In 1994, Oil Seeps were reported to the NYSDEC Spills Division. The investigation conducted by that division traced petroleum contamination in groundwater back to the EHS where a source to that contamination was identified. Multiple rounds of sampling for PCBs resulted in no detections and it was concluded that the primary contaminant of concern was petroleum consistent with fuel oil. The source area at the EHS was successfully cleaned up using below ground bioremediation techniques and groundwater sampling to document completion. Investigation sampling data suggests that petroleum contamination in groundwater does not extend much beyond the rail line east of EHS.

### **28. Who can I contact to report a potential past hazardous waste disposal Site?**

Residents with information related to potential past disposal in the area can use the new Project Hotline on the DEC project webpage <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/102390.html> or contact the DEC project manager (see contact information below). This information will be evaluated, and additional steps will be taken as appropriate.

### **29. Are any impacts to neighboring residential areas to the west of Elmira High School?**

There's been no indication of disposal to the west of EHS and remedial investigation findings do not indicate that contaminants are migrating to the west. Groundwater flow in the area is toward the east/southeast.



### **For More Information**

#### **30. Where can I find more information?**

The ECSD maintains a web page with additional information:

<http://www.elmiracityschools.com/ehsenvironment.cfm>

The NYSDEC maintains a web page with additional information and an “Information Hotline” for questions:

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

DEC and DOH staff are always available to provide updates or answer any questions community members or faculty have.

#### **For project related question, please contact:**

Tim Schneider, P.E. NYSDEC 6274 East Avon-Lima Road Avon, NY 14414 Phone: 585-226-5480 [email:](mailto:timothy.schneider@dec.ny.gov)

[timothy.schneider@dec.ny.gov](mailto:timothy.schneider@dec.ny.gov)

#### **For health-related project questions, please contact:**

Sara Bogardus NYSDOH Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower Room #1787 Albany, NY 12237 Phone:518-402-7860 [beei@health.ny.gov](mailto:beei@health.ny.gov)

#### **31. How do I stay informed?**

DEC and DOH will continue to keep the public informed as this work progresses and as development of cleanup plans are finalized.

Sign up for the contaminated Sites county email listserv to receive Site-related information and announcements for all contaminated Sites in the county. Sign up for the listserv is available at the following web page: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>