



FACT SHEET

Brownfield Cleanup Program

Volunteers of America Back Lot Site
Site #C828126
City of Rochester, NY

June 2007

Remedial Investigation Field Work to Begin

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and Monroe County Health Department (MCHD), has approved a Remedial Investigation (RI) Work Plan for the Volunteers of America Back Lot Site located at 214 Lake Avenue in the City of Rochester, Monroe County. See the attached map for the location of the Site. The RI Work Plan, was submitted by Volunteers of America of Western New York, Inc. (VOA) under New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP). The investigation field work is scheduled to begin in early July and will continue until the end of September 2007.

NYSDEC previously accepted an application submitted by Volunteers of America of Western New York, Inc. to participate in the BCP. The application proposes that the site will be used for commercial purposes.

Public Comments About the Remedial Investigation Work

NYSDEC will accept public comments throughout the project and you can comment about the RI Work as it proceeds at the site (see Who to Contact on Page 3). The approved RI Work Plan and related documents will remain available for public review throughout the project at the document repository identified in this fact sheet.

Highlights of the Remedial Investigation

The remedial investigation has several goals, to:

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 and business.

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.state.ny.us/website/der/bcp

- 1) define the nature and extent of contamination in soil, surface water, groundwater and any other impacted media;
- 2) identify the source(s) of the contamination;
- 3) assess the impact of the contamination on public health and/or the environment; and
- 4) provide information to prepare a Remedial Work Plan to clean up the contamination if necessary.

The investigation will be performed by VOA with oversight by NYSDEC, NYSDOH, and MCHD.

Some or all of the previous site historic uses and operations, including an automobile dealership, coal pile storage, filling activities, barrel cleaning and reconditioning/storage, and automobile storage may have led to contamination. The contaminants of concern identified during previous environmental investigations (without NYSDEC oversight) at the site include: Volatile organic compounds (VOC's – petroleum chemical compounds and solvents), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOC's – petroleum chemical compounds), and metals. Additional sample collection and laboratory analysis will be conducted for the previously identified contaminants of concern (i.e., VOCs, SVOCs, and metals), as well as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) and pesticides, during the BCP Remedial Investigation.

Investigation activities will include:

- A geophysical investigation to locate potential underground tanks or other unknown subsurface structures;
- Surface soil sampling to identify and define potential contaminant exposure concerns;
- Test pit explorations for a visual and analytical evaluation of subsurface soils;
- Installation of soil borings and groundwater monitoring wells to evaluate physical properties of subsurface soil, bedrock, and groundwater and to collect samples for contaminant analyses.

Next Steps

After the RI work is implemented, Volunteers of America of Western New York, Inc. will prepare a Final Remedial Investigation Report which will summarize all the remedial investigation work performed at the Site and the sampling results. VOA will then submit a draft Remedial Work Plan that will detail how the site will be cleaned up if necessary. NYSDEC will announce the availability of the plan for public review and a 45-day comment period. NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and remediation of the site.

Background

The site is made up of approximately 3 acres of land in the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York. The site is bounded to the west by the VOA Human Service Complex, which includes VOA's administrative offices, a VOA thrift store and a day care center that serves the local community, to the north by a Monroe County right-of-way to the Purewaters Tunnel Structure 41, to the east by the former RAE Oil Company facility and to the south by Ambrose Street and commercial property. The site is a vacant lot used for parking and a roadway to access the rear of the VOA Complex.

Petroleum impacted soil and groundwater previously discovered on the adjacent VOA Human Service Complex property to the west was remediated prior to VOA's participation in the BCP Program for the subject site.

Historic information indicates that five former owners previously used the subject site with associated operations as follows:

- Heinrich Chevrolet and Bill Gordon Chevrolet parked cars on the site;
- Kaplan Container Corporation stored empty barrels on the site for a short period of time and its main barrel cleaning operations were conducted on a portion of the site; and
- RG&E's coal pile storage operations extended onto portions of the site and a portion of the Ambrose Street Coal Yard existed at the site for many years.

While there are no current plans for redevelopment on the site, its final use will be commercial and will likely be a storage warehouse for purposes of VOA's operations. VOA is a not-for-profit charitable organization that accepts donations of items such as clothing, toys and household items. They also accept donations of larger items such as household appliances, automobiles, and boats. VOA hopes to eventually raise enough money to construct a warehouse on the Site, which could house these larger donations.

Volunteers of America of Western New York, Inc. applied to the New York State Brownfield Cleanup Program on February 11, 2005. The application was approved by NYSDEC on April 26, 2005, and a Brownfield Cleanup Agreement was entered into on June 15, 2005.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Document Repository

A local document repository has been established at the following location to help the public to review important project documents. These documents include the approved RI Work Plan, Health and Safety Plan, Community Air Monitoring Plan, Citizen Participation Plan, and the application to participate in the BCP:

Rochester Public Library
115 South Avenue
Rochester, New York 14604
585-428-7300

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions

Greg MacLean, Project Manager
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
6274 East Avon-Lima Road
Avon, New York 14414-9519
(585) 226-5350
gbmaclea@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Health Related Questions

Melissa Menetti, Public Health Specialist
New York State Department of Health
Flannigan Square, 547 River Street
Troy, New York 12180-2216
(518) 402-7860 or (800) 458-1158 x 27860
mxm29@health.state.ny.us

Joseph Albert

Monroe County Health Department
111 Westfall Road - PO Box 92832
Rochester NY 14692
(585) 753-5904
jalbert@monroecounty.gov

If you know someone who would like to be added to the project mailing 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.

