

(Fact Sheet Begins Next)

Act Now to Continue Receiving Information About This Site!

DEC's Division of Environmental Remediation (DER) now distributes information about contaminated sites *electronically by email*.

If you would like to continue to receive information about the contaminated site featured in this fact sheet:

You must sign up for the DER email listserv:

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html

DER cannot register your email address - only the email address owner can do so. If you already have signed up for the listserv for the county in which the site is located, you need do nothing.



Why You Should Go “Paperless”:

Get site information faster and share it easily;

Receive information about all sites in a chosen county - read what you want, delete the rest;

It helps the environment and stretches your tax dollars.

If “paperless” is not an option for you, call or write to the DER project manager identified in this fact sheet. Indicate that you need to receive paper copies of fact sheets through the Postal Service. Include the site name in your correspondence. The option to receive paper is available to individuals only. Groups, organizations, businesses, and government entities are assumed to have email access.

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FACT SHEET

Brownfield Cleanup Program

Receive Site Fact Sheets by *Email*. See "For More Information" to Learn How.

Site Name: Portion of Former Vacuum Oil Refinery
DEC Site #: C828190
Address: Cottage St/Riverview Pl/Violetta St/S Plymouth Ave
Rochester, NY 14608

Have questions?
See
"Who to Contact"
Below

Draft Investigation Work Plan for Brownfield Site Available for Public Comment

The public is invited to comment on a draft work plan being reviewed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to investigate the Portion of Former Vacuum Oil Refinery site ("site") located at Cottage St/Riverview Pl/Violetta St/S Plymouth Ave, Rochester, Monroe County. Please see the map for the site location. Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information."

Draft Investigation Work Plan

The draft investigation work plan, called a "Remedial Investigation Work Plan," was submitted to NYSDEC under New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program. The investigation will be performed by City of Rochester ("applicant(s)") with oversight by NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

How to Comment

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the draft investigation work plan for 30 days, from **June 29, 2015** through **July 29, 2015**. The proposed plan is available for review at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information." Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area below.

Highlights of the Proposed Site Investigation

The investigation will define the nature and extent of contamination in soil, groundwater and any other parts of the environment that may be affected. The site is owned by the City of Rochester and includes a portion of a former oil refinery and associated support operations such as railroads. Soil and/or groundwater at the site has historically been shown to be contaminated with volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, and metals.

Proposed investigation activities include the following:

- clearing paths to provide access to test locations;
- electromagnetic testing to look for buried structures such as steel tanks;
- surface soil testing to evaluate potential human exposures;
- subsurface soil testing to evaluate buried structures and the depth of contamination; and
- groundwater testing to evaluate the extent of groundwater contamination.

Because the applicant (the City of Rochester), did not cause the contamination at the site, they are not required to define the extent of contamination off-site. Therefore, the proposed investigation does not include testing of off-site locations, including the Genesee River.

Additional Details

A separate Brownfield Cleanup Program project is being performed by a private developer on the adjacent 5 Flint Street and 15 Flint Street properties (NYSDEC Site No. C828162). The 5 & 15 Flint Street properties were also part of the Vacuum Oil refinery as shown on the attached map. Further information regarding the 5 & 15 Flint Street Brownfield Cleanup Program can be found at the Phillis Wheatley Community Library or by contacting the NYSDEC project manager listed in the "Who to Contact" area below. The NYSDEC project manager is the same for both projects.

Next Steps

NYSDEC will consider public comments, revise the plan as necessary, and approve the work plan. NYSDOH must concur with the plan. The approved work plan will be made available to the public (see "Where to Find Information" below). After the work plan is approved, the activities detailed in the work plan will be implemented.

When the investigation is completed, a report will be prepared and submitted to the NYSDEC that summarizes the results. NYSDEC will review the report, make any necessary revisions and, if appropriate, approve the report.

After the investigation, a cleanup plan, called a "Remedial Work Plan" will be developed and a Decision Document will be proposed. The cleanup plan will include an evaluation of the proposed site remedy, or recommend a no action or no further action alternative. The goal of the cleanup plan is to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. NYSDEC will present the proposed cleanup plan to the public for its review and comment during a 45-day comment period. NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

Background

Location: The Portion of Former Vacuum Oil Refinery site is located in an urban area. The 15.4 acre site is located in the southwestern quadrant of the City of Rochester in the Plymouth-Exchange (PLEX) neighborhood.

Site Features: The site is currently undeveloped except for an asphalt-paved recreational trail that runs through the entire eastern side of the site from north to south. A grass-covered area is located east of the trail. The rest of the site is wooded and contains remnants of structures from the former refinery.

Current Zoning/Use(s): The site is currently vacant except for a recreational trail. The site is zoned for single family residential houses. The Genesee River is just east of the site. Residential, commercial, and light industrial properties are located to the north, south, and west.

Past Use of the Site: The majority of the site was part of the former Vacuum Oil refinery which operated from about 1866 to 1930. Other historical uses included railroads and canals for the shipment of raw materials and finished products. The Vacuum Oil Company was a predecessor of ExxonMobil Corporation.

In 1989, a tar-like substance was encountered on property south of the site. NYSDEC excavated and properly disposed of the tar off-site. In 1990, the City of Rochester prepared a report that describes property and traces the history of the Vacuum Oil Company. In 2001, NYSDEC completed an investigation of a 24-acre portion of the former Vacuum Oil facility south of Flint St. In 2005 and 2009 ExxonMobil performed work that expanded on the NYSDEC investigation and in 2012 an additional site assessment report was prepared for the City of Rochester.

The results of these investigations indicate the presence of various contaminants in soil and/or groundwater including volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, and metals. Based on these results, the Portion of Former Vacuum Oil Refinery site entered the Brownfield Cleanup Program in April 2015.

Site Geology and Hydrogeology: Both native soil and fill materials are present at the site. Native soils consist of sands, silts, and clays. Fill consists of bricks, slag, cinders, gravels, wood, and miscellaneous debris and is present from the surface to depths of up to 16.5 feet. Groundwater is present at depths of approximately 3 to 8 feet. Groundwater flows to the southeast toward the Genesee River.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/external/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=C828190>

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed.

Phillis Wheatley Community Library
33 Dr. Samuel McCree Way
Rochester, NY 14608
phone: 585-428-8212

PLEX Neighborhood Association
Carlson Commons
70 Coretta Scott Crossing
Rochester, NY 14608
phone: 585-328-6916
email: info@pl-ex.org

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions

Frank Sowers
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
6274 East Avon-Lima Road
Avon, NY 14414
585-226-5357
frank.sowers@dec.ny.gov

Site-Related Health Questions

Bridget Boyd
New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation
Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, Room 1787
Albany, NY 12237
518-402-7860
BEEI@health.ny.gov

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 available at the following web page:
<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.

Legend

- City of Rochester
- Rochester Housing Authority
- Rochester Urban Renewal Agency
- New York State

0 125 250 500 750 1,000 Feet



Vacuum Oil
Refinery
(approx)

5 & 15 Flint Street
BCP #C828162
(pink shaded
parcels)

City of Rochester
Portion of Vacuum Oil
BCP #C828190
(blue shaded parcels)

Mt Hope
Cemetery

University
of Rochester

Genesee River

City of Rochester, Monroe County, NY
Vacuum Oil Brownfield Opportunity Area

OWNERSHIP

This map was made for the City of Rochester and the New York State Department of State with state funds provided by the Brownfield Opportunity Area Program.

MAP
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