

## G.W. Lisk Site (C835026) Clifton Springs, NY: Community Availability Session Scheduled for Jan. 23

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Health (DOH) are holding a Community Availability Session on January 23, 2024, to answer questions regarding the recent announcement of cleanup investigation results and a Significant Threat determination for the G.W. Lisk Site at 2 South Street, Clifton Springs, Ontario County, NY.

This community update describes the investigations and actions taken at the site to prevent potential exposure to contamination and ensure protection of public health and the environment. In addition, to engage the community about ongoing investigative and remedial efforts to address contamination, **DEC and DOH are holding a community availability session on January 23, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Clifton Springs Library, 4 Railroad Avenue, Clifton Springs.**

At the availability session, State experts will be available to share information about the investigation, actions to date and answer questions one-on-one. Like a typical 'open house,' attendees can arrive and depart at any time during the session. Learn more about the Community Availability Session format here: [https://youtu.be/5XomDsUkc\\_k](https://youtu.be/5XomDsUkc_k).

### AVAILABILITY SESSION

**January 23, 2024, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.**  
Clifton Springs Library – 4 Railroad Ave, Clifton Springs, NY, 14432

Join DEC and DOH to learn about the ongoing investigations and cleanup efforts to address soil and groundwater contamination.

### Site Background

In 2019, G.W. Lisk voluntarily entered into the Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) to perform investigation and remedial activities at the property (DEC Site Number C835026).

In November 2023, DEC and DOH completed the review of a Remedial Investigation Report (RIR) performed by G.W. Lisk as part of the BCP requirements and determined the site posed a "Significant Threat" if not addressed.

The report describes the results of the investigation and recommends the development of a comprehensive remedy to address the contamination that was found to ensure protection of public health and the environment.

### What is a Significant Threat?

DEC is required by Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) to make a 'Significant Threat Determination' for all sites.

A site is generally considered a Significant Threat when the nature and extent of contamination resulted in or is reasonably foreseeable to result in significant adverse impacts to public health and/or the environment if not addressed.

The concept of "reasonably foreseeable" is intended to consider the possibility for contaminant migration, transformation, and accumulation, as well as the potential for changes in site use, or other changes that could result in releases or exposures that have a potential to create significant adverse impacts or damage.

For example, buried contamination at a given site may not present a current threat, but it could be reasonably foreseeable that future excavations for building foundations could expose the

contaminants or otherwise make them available as sources for human or environmental receptors. Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, the site has been designated a significant threat and DEC and DOH are overseeing the comprehensive investigation and cleanup to prevent potential exposure to contamination.

## Why is the G.W. Lisk site considered a Significant Threat?

DEC determined that the G.W. Lisk site is a Significant Threat for three main reasons:

**1 – Concentrations of TCE in Groundwater:** TCE and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs) significantly exceed DEC groundwater standards.

The majority of impacted groundwater is found within the boundaries of the G.W. Lisk site. Lower levels of groundwater contamination exist off-site. DEC has not identified potential impacts to drinking water nor have any private water supply wells been identified in the vicinity of the impacted groundwater plume at this time. Groundwater is not utilized by G.W. Lisk and the facility is served by a municipal water supply.

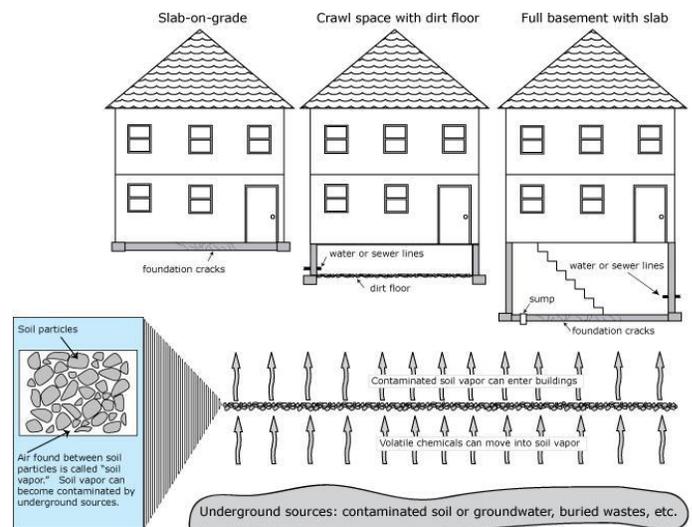
**2 – Soil Vapor Intrusion:** Soil Vapor Intrusion is a process where contaminants in the groundwater may move into soil pore spaces (the air spaces between the individual soil particles). Over time, these contaminated vapors may then move into overlying buildings and affect the indoor air quality. This process, which is similar to the phenomena of naturally occurring radon gas from the subsurface moving into indoor air of buildings, is referred to as Soil Vapor Intrusion (SVI).

Soil vapor sampling points were installed along the eastern and northeastern edge of the BCP boundary to evaluate whether VOCs are present in soil vapor near the boundary. The data do not suggest the potential for off-site SVI at this time. Throughout the project, additional data will continue

to be collected to evaluate this potential, if warranted.

SVI concerns for the G.W. Lisk Main Facility and Hundreds Building have already been assessed and mitigated. In those investigations, indoor air sampling showed that the building slab was an effective barrier. In addition, cracks were sealed, and ventilation was increased through the buildings. Where possible, potential sources of VOC cleaners have been replaced and TCE use is generally being phased out of the manufacturing processes. Site inspections (including inspections of the slab) are conducted on an annual basis and subsequent reports are submitted for State review.

### How Contaminated Soil Vapor Enters Different Types of Buildings



**3 – Local Geologic Influences:** The geology of Clifton Springs allows for groundwater to travel more quickly than in other areas of New York State. Soils in Clifton Springs primarily consist of coarser grained materials such as sand. Unlike clay, sand more easily allows for groundwater to flow. The underlying bedrock is Limestone from the Onondaga formation. Limestone is prone to long term chemical dissolution during contact with groundwater which allows for cracks and other pathways to form, allowing groundwater to flow more easily.

While not a concern at this time, it is reasonably foreseeable that, if not addressed, the continued migration of impacted groundwater could lead to exposure issues off-site.

**What about Sulphur Creek?** During the Remedial Investigation, several surface water and sediment samples were collected from locations upstream, downstream, and on-site.

No TCE, VOCs, or other contaminants of concern were detected. Final assessment of data included a review by DEC's Division of Fish and Wildlife.

**G.W. Lisk Air Emissions:** Impacted soil and groundwater, along with the associated soil vapor intrusion concerns, are being managed by DEC's Division of Environmental Remediation.

Air emissions from G.W. Lisk's manufacturing operations are regulated by DEC's Division of Air Resources. The Significant Threat determination is based solely on the impacted soil, groundwater, and soil vapor and is not related to air emissions from the manufacturing processes.

DEC understands that the community has expressed concerns about odors that may be associated with air emissions from the manufacturing process. G.W. Lisk identified a water evaporator as a potential source of the odors.

G.W. Lisk recently informed DEC that the evaporator is being sold and is not operating except for demonstrating it to potential buyers. These periodic demonstrations only use clean water. The public may see some water vapor in the air, but no odors are expected during these demonstrations.

G.W. Lisk is currently in compliance with all air requirements managed by DEC's Division of Air Resources.

## INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

Trichloroethene (TCE) and other Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) were observed exceeding state standards in soil and groundwater at the site.

TCE detections exceeded state standards in overburden (above bedrock) groundwater (up to 1,700 micrograms per liter- $\mu\text{g/L}$ ), and in bedrock groundwater (310  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ).

The State determined the site meets its definition for a "Significant Threat" in part due to the high concentrations of TCE observed onsite and due to the potential for Soil Vapor Intrusion to occur.

On-site soil vapor intrusion has already been mitigated through two Interim Remedial Measures completed by G.W. Lisk.

Sampling at the property border to date indicates that soil vapor intrusion is not currently a concern for off-site structures but could become a concern with plume migration overtime.

G.W. Lisk is currently conducting a State-approved Pilot Study to assess the feasibility of using bioremediation to break down the TCE and other VOCs. Bioremediation is a common, well-studied, effective, and environmentally friendly method for remediating TCE.

DEC and DOH will closely oversee implementation of this cleanup strategy and take all steps necessary to ensure protection of public health and the environment.



## What is the State and G.W. Lisk going to do to address impacts to soil and groundwater?

G.W. Lisk voluntarily entered into a BCA with DEC to perform investigations and remedial activities at the property. G.W. Lisk is currently implementing a Pilot Study that is scheduled to conclude in Fall 2024. The Pilot Study is being completed to assess the use of bioremediation to break down contaminants of concern.

Bioremediation is a remedial technology, which, when implemented successfully, can create conditions which encourage microorganisms to consume and detoxify organic contaminants.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in situ bioremediation has been around since at least the early 1980s and has become one of the most widely used technologies for in situ (or “in place”) groundwater remediation due to its relatively low cost, adaptability to site conditions, and efficacy if implemented properly.

## Hasn't a ban been proposed on TCE?

A New York State law passed in 2019 prohibited certain uses of TCE after Dec. 1, 2021. In October 2023, EPA announced a proposal to ban the use of TCE.

## Ongoing Community Engagement

DEC and DOH experts are available to answer questions from the community. Please see “Who to Contact” below for key points of contact.

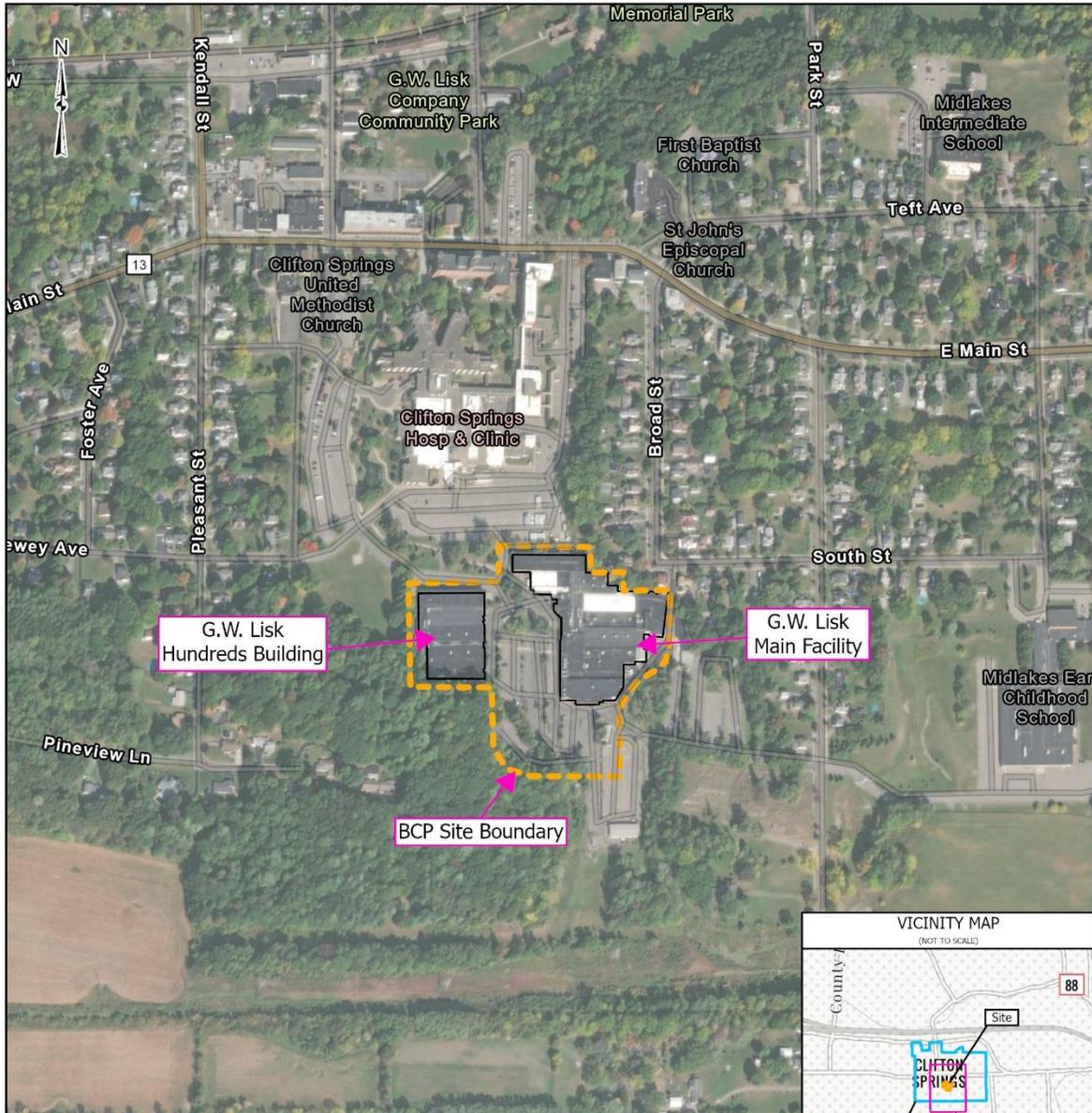
### WHO TO CONTACT

#### DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION – Project Manager

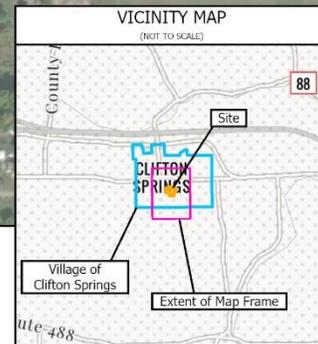
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## Site Location Map



### Notes

1. Base and Vicinity Maps developed using imagery from ESRI and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Site Name: G.W. Lisk  
 Site Number: C835026  
 Location: Clifton Springs, NY  
 County: Ontario County  
 Scale: 1" = 500 ft

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane New York Central FIPS 3102 Ft US