A Property Owner's Guide to Best Management Practices for Ash, Brick and Glass (ABG) in Corning, New York

Have immediate questions or concerns? Call the project hotline at 833-770-1716

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

This guide provides a summary of the Best Management Practices (BMP) that describes BMPs for encounters with ABG throughout Corning and highlights information especially relevant to property owners and utility providers. Some properties are subject to a site-specific Site Management Plan that would override these BMPs.

Best Management Practices for ABG

The primary types of industrial wastes that have been identified throughout the Corning area are referred to as ABG because it consists of ash, brick, and glass. These materials are of concern to the DEC because they represent a potential human health hazard and require special waste handling. If you observe ABG on your property or elsewhere in the area, please do not disturb the material and contact the DEC immediately.

Contact information

Email: PublicAvailability.Corning@Parsons.com

Project Hotline: 833-770-1716

Thoren Giannuzzi, DEC Project Manager

(518)402-8246 thoren.giannuzzi@dec.ny.gov

Scott Williams, DEC Construction Inspector

(585)773-8034 scott.williams@dec.ny.gov

John Robinson, DOH Project Manager

(518)402-7881, john.robinson@health.ny.gov

What is ABG?

ABG waste is usually uncompacted and loose and can appear both concentrated in layers and distributed sporadically throughout the soil column.









Ash: colors vary and may include black, gray, orange, and white.
Brick: types include red construction brick, white or yellow refractory brick, and puzzle-piece brick.
Glass: highly variable and may include glass fragments, tubing, lenses, electrical ware, uranium glass (yellow, yellow-green, or green cullet that fluoresces green under ultraviolet light), and trademarked/patented products (embossed with “Pyrex,”“Corningware,” or other trademarks or patent numbers).

Use this QR code to view comprehensive identification manual.

Where did ABG come from?

The source of this material is the glass manufacturing facilities in Corning.

The large glass manufacturing facilities used coal-fired pot furnaces for producing coal and refractory materials. The waste material consisting of ash, brick, and glass was then commonly often used as fill to improve drainage throughout the Corning area, fill in low lying areas, as an aid to development or to address flood impacts.

Today, this ash, brick, and glass consisting thermometer tubing, filter rods, glass lenses, uranium glass, glass cullet, ash, slag, furnace brick and other waste materials generated from these facilities has been found in numerous offsite locations.

Smaller facilities such as those that performed glass cutting and engraving used cutting wheels and water baths and did not use any furnaces that produced this waste material.

What does this waste look like when it is found?

Here are some examples of what the ABG found in the greater Corning area looks like.

What precautions should I take?

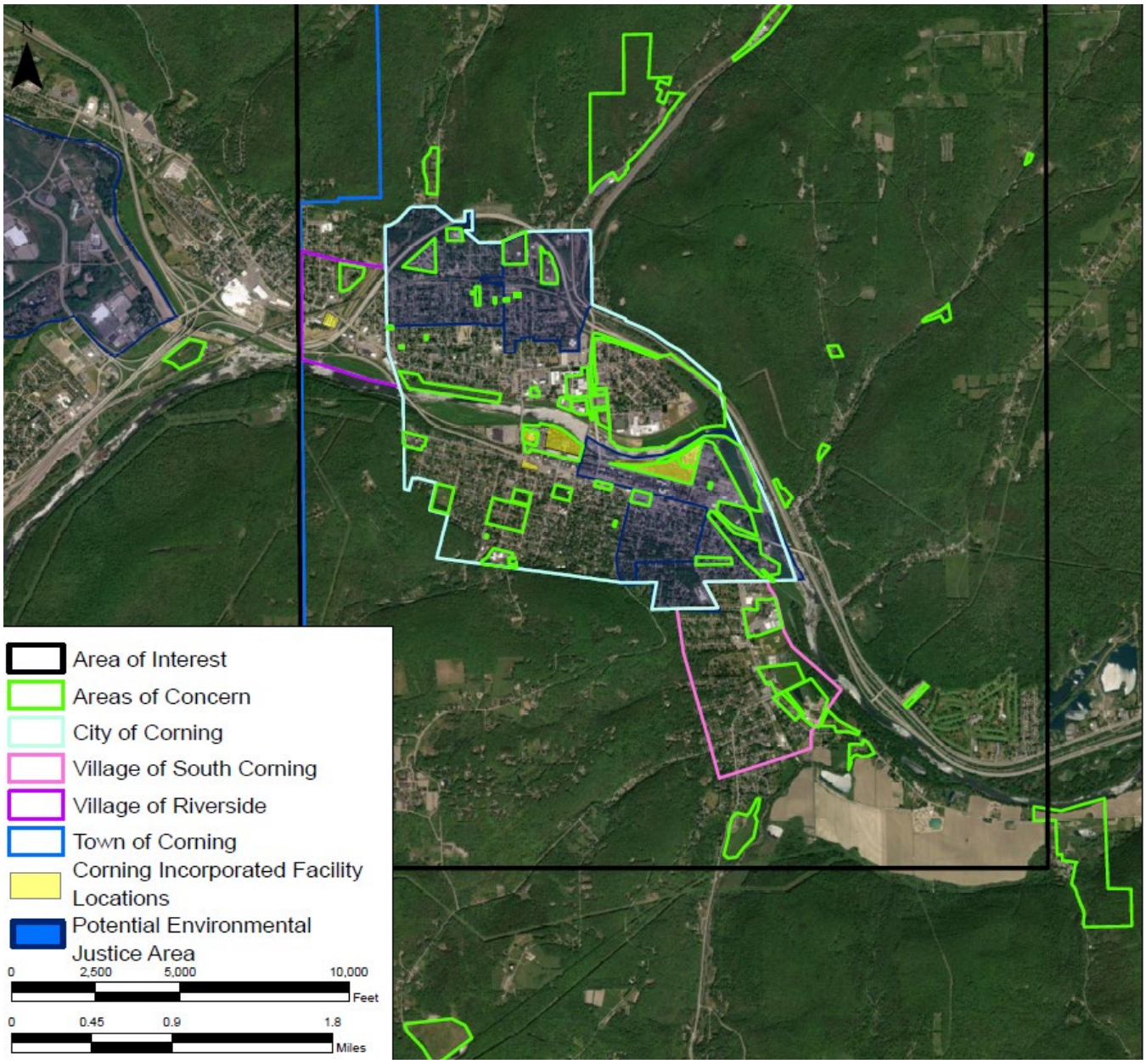
You can reduce the chances for exposure to these contaminants by taking reasonable and practical steps to minimize direct and repeated contact with bare soils (particularly by young children).

- Maintain grass or mulch covers.
- Avoid unnecessary digging. Wash hands after outdoor activities.
- Using doormats and damp mopping can help with soil that might be tracked indoors.

It's important to note that all soils contain at least trace metals and microorganisms, and therefore it is always a good idea to minimize getting soil into your body.

What is the Area of Interest?

More than 60 other properties in the City of Corning, Town of Corning, South Corning Village, Riverside Village, and surrounding areas have been brought to NYSDEC's attention due to the confirmed or suspected presence of ABG material. Property owners may encounter ABG present in soils through -maintenance and recreational activities. Workers may also be exposed to ABG present in soils during infrastructure repairs and/or upgrades. Exposure is possible through contact, incidental ingestion, and through breathing airborne dust. Drinking water has not been found to be impacted from ABG in the area of interest



Why is this material being investigated?

ABG and nearby soil contain contaminants (such as arsenic, boron, cadmium, lead, and certain semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs)) at levels above New York State guidelines. Contaminants of concern related to ABG include arsenic, barium, boron, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, and semi-volatile organic compounds.

What are SCOs?

Soil cleanup objectives are contaminant-specific soil concentrations that are protective of public health and the environment for specified uses of a property (e.g., residential, commercial). SCOs are used to guide decisions about the need to reduce exposure to environmental contaminants. The SCOs are contained in NYSDEC's Environmental Remediation Program regulations. Scan the QR code or visit this site: https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup

Why is this material called "hazardous waste"?

The term hazardous waste is a regulatory designation. In New York State, hazardous wastes are defined by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and NYSDEC regulation. Scan the QR code to the right or visit this site: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/100401.html. Soil and ash, brick, and/or glass has been tested to see if it should be designated hazardous waste by using a test known as the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP). TCLP is a soil sample extraction method employed to simulate leaching through a landfill and to assess the potential for contamination in the material being tested (soil) to get in groundwater.

Designation of the soil and/or ash, brick and/or glass as hazardous waste is not directly related to the potential for human exposure or health risks; rather, it tells us that the materials if removed require special handling and disposal in a hazardous waste landfill.

What about my garden?

The New York State Department of Health recommends best practices that can be followed to reduce the potential for exposure any time people are concerned that soil may contain man-made or naturally occurring contaminants.

To help reduce any exposures you might have from vegetable gardening:

- Grow vegetables in raised beds with clean soil (at least 10 inches deep). Use untreated wood to make the beds. Pressure-treated wood and railroad ties contain added chemicals.
- Wear gloves when working in the garden and avoid bringing soil into the house.
- Brush off your clothes and remove shoes and gloves before entering your home.
- Wash with soap and water after gardening or any time before you eat.

Additional information about healthy gardening may be found by scanning the QR code or visiting http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/1301/

Best Management Practices for Projects that involve Digging

Equipment Decontamination. At a minimum, decontamination will consist of removing accumulated soil from equipment surfaces, tracks and/or tires prior to leaving the excavation area.

Personnel Decontamination. At a minimum, decontamination will consist of removing soil from footwear and washing hands prior to leaving the area of excavation.

OSHA 40-Hour Hazardous Waste Operator (HAZWOPER). If OSHA considers a worksite response activity a "HAZWOPER Emergency Response," then employers with employees at the site performing emergency response must comply with HAZWOPER paragraph (q) and all other General Industry (1910) or Construction Industry (1926) standards. Although routine excavation that encounters ABG may not meet the above criteria, employers may see a benefit to having employees complete training seen as relevant.

Documentation. The location and type of material encountered and contained shall be documented with sufficient photographs and notations, as well as costs related to storage, sampling, analytical, transportation and disposal of ABG.