

Brownfield Cleanup Program

Citizen Participation Plan for North Aud Block

September 2024

C915406 p/o 130 Main Street City of Buffalo Erie, New York

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Note: The information presented in this Citizen Participation Plan was current as of the date of its approval by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Portions of this Citizen Participation Plan may be revised during the site's investigation and cleanup process.

Applicant: North Aud Owner, LLC ("Applicant")

Site Name: North Aud Block ("Site")

Site Address: p/o 130 Main Street, Buffalo, NY

Site County: **Erie County** Site Number: **C915406**

1. What is New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program?

New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) works with private developers to encourage the voluntary cleanup of contaminated properties known as "brownfields" so that they can be reused and developed. 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. A brownfield typically is a former industrial or commercial property where operations may have resulted in environmental contamination. A brownfield can pose environmental, legal, and financial burdens on a community. If a brownfield is not addressed, it can reduce property values in the area and affect economic development of nearby properties.

The BCP is administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) which oversees Applicants who conduct brownfield site investigation and cleanup activities. An Applicant is a person who has requested to participate in the BCP and has been accepted by NYSDEC. The BCP contains investigation and cleanup requirements, ensuring that cleanups protect public health and the environment. When NYSDEC certifies that these requirements have been met, the property can be reused or redeveloped for the intended use.

For more information about the BCP, go online at: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html .

2. Citizen Participation Activities

Why NYSDEC Involves the Public and Why It Is Important

NYSDEC involves the public to improve the process of investigating and cleaning up contaminated sites, and to enable citizens to participate more fully in decisions that affect their health, environment, and social well-being. NYSDEC provides opportunities for citizen involvement and encourages early two-way communication with citizens before decision makers form or adopt final positions.

Involving citizens affected and interested in site investigation and cleanup programs is important for many reasons. These include:

- Promoting the development of timely, effective site investigation and cleanup programs that protect public health and the environment
- Improving public access to, and understanding of, issues and information related to a particular site and that site's investigation and cleanup process
- Providing citizens with early and continuing opportunities to participate in NYSDEC's site investigation and cleanup process
- Ensuring that NYSDEC makes site investigation and cleanup decisions that benefit from input that reflects the interests and perspectives found within the affected community
- Encouraging dialogue to promote the exchange of information among the affected/interested public, State agencies, and other interested parties that strengthens trust among the parties, increases understanding of site and community issues and concerns, and improves decision making.

This Citizen Participation (CP) Plan provides information about how NYSDEC will inform and involve the public during the investigation and cleanup of the site identified above. The public information and involvement program will be carried out with assistance, as appropriate, from the Applicant.

Project Contacts

Appendix A identifies NYSDEC project contact(s) to whom the public should address questions or request information about the site's investigation and cleanup program. The public's suggestions about this CP Plan and the CP program for the site are always welcome. Interested people are encouraged to share their ideas and suggestions with the project contacts at any time.

Locations of Reports and Information

The locations of the reports and information related to the site's investigation and cleanup program also are identified in Appendix A. These locations provide convenient access to important project documents for public review and comment. Some documents may be placed on the NYSDEC web site. If this occurs, NYSDEC will inform the public in fact sheets distributed about the site and by other means, as appropriate.

Site Contact List

Appendix B contains the site contact list. This list has been developed to keep the community informed about, and involved in, the site's investigation and cleanup process. The site contact list will be used periodically to distribute fact sheets that provide updates about the status of the project. These will include notifications of upcoming activities at the site (such as fieldwork), as well as availability of project documents and announcements about public comment periods.

The site contact list includes, at a minimum:

- chief executive officer and planning board chairperson of each county, city, town and village in which the site is located;
- residents, owners, and occupants of the site and properties adjacent to the site;
- the public water supplier which services the area in which the site is located;
- any person who has requested to be placed on the site contact list;
- the administrator of any school or day care facility located on or near the site for purposes of posting and/or dissemination of information at the facility;
- location(s) of reports and information.

The site contact list will be reviewed periodically and updated as appropriate. Individuals and organizations will be added to the site contact list upon request. Such requests should be submitted to the NYSDEC project contact(s) identified in Appendix A. Other additions to the site contact list may be made at the discretion of the NYSDEC project manager, in consultation with other NYSDEC staff as appropriate.

Note: The first site fact sheet (usually related to the draft Remedial Investigation Work Plan) is distributed both by paper mailing through the postal service and through DEC Delivers, its email listserv service. The fact sheet includes instructions for signing up with the appropriate county listsery to receive future notifications about the site. See http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html .

Subsequent fact sheets about the site will be distributed exclusively through the listsery, except for households without internet access that have indicated the need to continue to receive site information in paper form. Please advise the NYSDEC site project manager identified in Appendix A if that is the case. Paper mailings may continue during the investigation and cleanup process for some sites, based on public interest and need.

CP Activities

The table at the end of this section identifies the CP activities, at a minimum, that have been and will be conducted during the site's investigation and cleanup program. The flowchart in Appendix D shows how these CP activities integrate with the site investigation and cleanup process. The public is informed about these CP activities through fact sheets and notices distributed at significant points during the program. Elements of the investigation and cleanup process that match up with the CP activities are explained briefly in Section 5.

- **Notices and fact sheets** help the interested and affected public to understand contamination issues related to a site, and the nature and progress of efforts to investigate and clean up a site.
- Public forums, comment periods and contact with project managers provide
 opportunities for the public to contribute information, opinions and perspectives that
 have potential to influence decisions about a site's investigation and cleanup.

The public is encouraged to contact project staff at any time during the site's investigation and cleanup process with questions, comments, or requests for information.

This CP Plan may be revised due to changes in major issues of public concern identified in Section 3 or in the nature and scope of investigation and cleanup activities. Modifications may include additions to the site contact list and changes in planned citizen participation activities.

Technical Assistance Grant

NYSDEC must determine if the site poses a significant threat to public health or the environment. This determination generally is made using information developed during the investigation of the site, as described in Section 5.

If the site is determined to be a significant threat, a qualifying community group may apply for a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG). The purpose of a TAG is to provide funds to the qualifying group to obtain independent technical assistance. This assistance helps the TAG recipient to interpret and understand existing environmental information about the nature and extent of contamination related to the site and the development/implementation of a remedy.

An eligible community group must certify that its membership represents the interests of the community affected by the site, and that its members' health, economic well-being or enjoyment of the environment may be affected by a release or threatened release of contamination at the site.

As of the date the declaration (page 2) was signed by the NYSDEC project manager, the significant threat determination for the site had not yet been made.

To verify the significant threat status of the site, the interested public may contact the NYSDEC project manager identified in Appendix A.

For more information about TAGs, go online at http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2590.html

Note: The table identifying the citizen participation activities related to the site's investigation and cleanup program follows on the next page:

Citizen Participation Activities	Timing of CP Activity(ies)				
Application Process:					
Prepare site contact list Establish document repository(ies)	At time of preparation of application to participate in the BCP.				
 Publish notice in Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) announcing receipt of application and 30-day public comment period Publish above ENB content in local newspaper Mail above ENB content to site contact list Conduct 30-day public comment period 	When NYSDEC determines that BCP application is complete. The 30-day public comment period begins on date of publication of notice in ENB. End date of public comment period is as stated in ENB notice. Therefore, ENB notice, newspaper notice, and notice to the site contact list should be provided to the public at the same time.				
After Execution of Brownfield S	Site Cleanup Agreement (BCA):				
Prepare Citizen Participation (CP) Plan	Before start of Remedial Investigation Note: Applicant must submit CP Plan to NYSDEC for review and approval within 20 days of the effective date of the BCA.				
Before NYSDEC Approves Reme	dial Investigation (RI) Work Plan:				
Distribute fact sheet to site contact list about proposed RI activities and announcing 30-day public comment period about draft RI Work Plan Conduct 30-day public comment period	Before NYSDEC approves RI Work Plan. If RI Work Plan is submitted with application, public comment periods will be combined and public notice will include fact sheet. Thirty-day public comment period begins/ends as per dates identified in fact sheet.				
After Applicant Complete	s Remedial Investigation:				
Distribute fact sheet to site contact list that describes RI results	Before NYSDEC approves RI Report				
Before NYSDEC Approves	Remedial Work Plan (RWP):				
 Distribute fact sheet to site contact list about draft RWP and announcing 45-day public comment period Public meeting by NYSDEC about proposed RWP (if requested by affected community or at discretion of NYSDEC project manager) Conduct 45-day public comment period 	Before NYSDEC approves RWP. Forty-five day public comment period begins/ends as per dates identified in fact sheet. Public meeting would be held within the 45-day public comment period.				
Before Applicant Starts Cleanup Action:					
Distribute fact sheet to site contact list that describes upcoming cleanup action	Before the start of cleanup action.				
After Applicant Completes Cleanup Action:					
Distribute fact sheet to site contact list that announces that cleanup action has been completed and that NYSDEC is reviewing the Final Engineering Report	At the time the cleanup action has been completed. Note: The two fact sheets are combined when possible if there is not a delay in issuing the COC.				
Distribute fact sheet to site contact list announcing NYSDEC approval of Final Engineering Report and issuance of Certificate of Completion (COC)					

3. Major Issues of Public Concern

This section of the CP Plan identifies major issues of public concern that relate to the site. Additional major issues of public concern may be identified during the course of the site's investigation and cleanup process.

North Aud Owner, LLC intends to perform the required BCP site investigation and remediation to create a property suitable for redevelopment and reuse. Investigation will include defining the nature and extent of contamination on-site, delineating the extent of soil/fill "hotspots" to be addressed, identifying source(s) of contamination, defining chemical constituent migration pathways, and qualitatively assessing on and off-site human health and ecological risks (if necessary). Ultimately, North Aud Owner, LLC intends to remediate the Site to achieve Unrestricted use cleanup objectives. The public can obtain information regarding investigation and remediation activities by visiting the Site's document repository, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (located at 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY) or by contacting the NYSDEC Project Manager identified in Appendix A of this document.

4. Site Information

Appendix C contains a map identifying the location of the site.

Site Description

The Site consists of a 1.87-acre portion of a greater parcel addressed at 130 Main Street (SBL No. 111.17-14-11), Buffalo, Erie County, New York. The Site is mostly vacant and covered with grass, light vegetation, and stone. The southern portion of the Site is developed with three structures associated with the Ice at Canalside, including a 2,012 square foot (SF) metal & fabric building used as a ticketing office, a 143 SF metal outbuilding used as restrooms and a 156 SF metal outbuilding used as a snack shack. Small areas of the Site are covered with concrete sidewalks/stairs associated with the adjacent ice rink. A wooden/sheet pile retaining wall is located proximate to the north, east, and west boundaries of the Site and a smaller concrete wall is located near the western Site boundary. A chain link fence surrounds the majority of the Site (excluding the southern portion associated with the adjacent ice rink), which restricts access.

History of Site Use, Investigation, and Cleanup

The Site was identified as having a history of the following noteworthy commercial industrial uses between at least 1889 and 1939, including a glue factory, a ship chandler (including a machine shop and a rigging and sail facility), a dental manufacturer, a paint company, a tin shop machine shop, and a shoe factory. In 1939,

existing buildings, streets, and portions of the Erie Canal were demolished and backfilled for construction of the Buffalo Memorial Auditorium ("The Aud"). The Aud was subsequently demolished in 2009. Previous environmental investigations completed at the Site have identified elevated levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and metals exceeding Parts 375 Industrial Soil Cleanup Objectives (SCOs) and are likely related to the historic operations and fill material of unknown origin as described above.

5. Investigation and Cleanup Process

Application

The Applicant has applied for and been accepted into New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program as a Volunteer. This means that the Applicant was not responsible for the disposal or discharge of the contaminants or whose ownership or operation of the site took place after the discharge or disposal of contaminants. The Volunteer must fully characterize the nature and extent of contamination onsite, and must conduct a "qualitative exposure assessment," a process that characterizes the actual or potential exposures of people, fish and wildlife to contaminants on the site and to contamination that has migrated from the site.

The Applicant in its Application proposes that the site will be used for unrestricted purposes.

To achieve this goal, the Applicant will conduct investigation and/or cleanup activities at the site with oversight provided by NYSDEC. The Brownfield Cleanup Agreement executed by NYSDEC and the Applicant sets forth the responsibilities of each party in conducting these activities at the site.

Investigation

The Applicant will conduct an investigation of the site officially called a "remedial investigation" (RI). This investigation will be performed with NYSDEC oversight. The Applicant must develop a remedial investigation workplan, which is subject to public comment.

The site investigation has several goals:

- 1) define the nature and extent of contamination in soil, surface water, groundwater and any other parts of the environment that may be affected;
- 2) identify the source(s) of the contamination;
- assess the impact of the contamination on public health and the environment;
 and

4) provide information to support the development of a proposed remedy to address the contamination or the determination that cleanup is not necessary.

The Applicant submits a draft "Remedial Investigation Work Plan" to NYSDEC for review and approval. NYSDEC makes the draft plan available to the public review during a 30-day public comment period.

When the investigation is complete, the Applicant will prepare and submit a report that summarizes the results. This report also will recommend whether cleanup action is needed to address site-related contamination. The investigation report is subject to review and approval by NYSDEC.

NYSDEC will use the information in the investigation report to determine if the site poses a significant threat to public health or the environment. If the site is a "significant threat," it must be cleaned up using a remedy selected by NYSDEC from an analysis of alternatives prepared by the Applicant and approved by NYSDEC. If the site does not pose a significant threat, the Applicant may select the remedy from the approved analysis of alternatives.

Interim Remedial Measures

An Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) is an action that can be undertaken at a site when a source of contamination or exposure pathway can be effectively addressed before the site investigation and analysis of alternatives are completed. If an IRM is likely to represent all or a significant part of the final remedy, NYSDEC will require a 30-day public comment period.

Remedy Selection

When the investigation of the site has been determined to be complete, the project likely would proceed in one of two directions:

1. The Applicant may recommend in its investigation report that no action is necessary at the site. In this case, NYSDEC would make the investigation report available for public comment for 45 days. NYSDEC then would complete its review, make any necessary revisions, and, if appropriate, approve the investigation report. NYSDEC would then issue a "Certificate of Completion" (described below) to the Applicant.

or

2. The Applicant may recommend in its investigation report that action needs to be taken to address site contamination. After NYSDEC approves the investigation report,

the Applicant may then develop a cleanup plan, officially called a "Remedial Work Plan". The Remedial Work Plan describes the Applicant's proposed remedy for addressing contamination related to the site.

When the Applicant submits a draft Remedial Work Plan for approval, NYSDEC would announce the availability of the draft plan for public review during a 45-day public comment period.

Cleanup Action

NYSDEC will consider public comments, and revise the draft cleanup plan if necessary, before approving the proposed remedy. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) must concur with the proposed remedy. After approval, the proposed remedy becomes the selected remedy. The selected remedy is formalized in the site Decision Document.

The Applicant may then design and perform the cleanup action to address the site contamination. NYSDEC and NYSDOH oversee the activities. When the Applicant completes cleanup activities, it will prepare a final engineering report that certifies that cleanup requirements have been achieved or will be achieved within a specific time frame. NYSDEC will review the report to be certain that the cleanup is protective of public health and the environment for the intended use of the site.

Certificate of Completion

When NYSDEC is satisfied that cleanup requirements have been achieved or will be achieved for the site, it will approve the final engineering report. NYSDEC then will issue a Certificate of Completion (COC) to the Applicant. The COC states that cleanup goals have been achieved, and relieves the Applicant from future liability for site-related contamination, subject to certain conditions. The Applicant would be eligible to redevelop the site after it receives a COC.

Site Management

The purpose of site management is to ensure the safe reuse of the property if contamination will remain in place. Site management is the last phase of the site cleanup program. This phase begins when the COC is issued. Site management incorporates any institutional and engineering controls required to ensure that the remedy implemented for the site remains protective of public health and the environment. All significant activities are detailed in a Site Management Plan.

An *institutional control* is a non-physical restriction on use of the site, such as a deed restriction that would prevent or restrict certain uses of the property. An institutional control may be used when the cleanup action leaves some contamination that makes the site suitable for some, but not all uses.

An *engineering control* is a physical barrier or method to manage contamination. Examples include: caps, covers, barriers, fences, and treatment of water supplies.

Site management also may include the operation and maintenance of a component of the remedy, such as a system that pumps and treats groundwater. Site management continues until NYSDEC determines that it is no longer needed.

Appendix A -**Project Contacts and Locations of Reports and Information**

Project Contacts

For information about the site's investigation and cleanup program, the public may contact any of the following project staff:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC):

Eugene Melnyk **Project Manager** NYSDEC Region 9 Division of Environmental Remediation 700 Delaware Avenue Buffalo, New York 14209 716-851-7000

Kayla Baker Regional Environmental Justice Coordinator NYSDEC Region 9 700 Delaware Avenue Buffalo, New York 14209

716-851-7000

New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH):

Christine Vooris Project Manager NYSDOH Empire State Plaza Corning Tower, Room 1787 Albany, NY 12237 518-402-7860

Locations of Reports and Information

The facilities identified below are being used to provide the public with convenient access to important project documents:

Buffalo and Erie County Public Library 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY Attn: Ms. April Tompkins Phone: 716-689-4922

Hours: Mon to Fri: 8:00AM to 7:00PM

Sat: 9:00AM to 5:00PM Sun: 12:00PM to 5:00PM NYSDEC Region 9 700 Delaware Avenue Buffalo, NY 14209

Attn: Eugene MelnykPhone: 716-851-

7000

Hours: Mon through Fri (call for

appointment)

Appendix B - Site Contact List

The following is the contact list for the Site. Each contact will be sent fact sheets throughout the project's duration.

Erie County Contacts:

Honorable Mark Poloncarz Erie County Executive 95 Franklin Street Buffalo, NY 14202

Mr. Daniel Castle, AICP Commissioner Erie County Environment & Planning 95 Franklin Street, 10th Floor Buffalo, NY 14202

Mr. Mark Rountree Chief Planner Erie County Environment & Planning 95 Franklin Street, 10th Floor Buffalo, NY 14202

Mr. Michael P. Kearns Erie County Legislature Clerk 92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor Buffalo, NY 14202

Gale Burstein Commissioner of Health Erie County Department of Health 95 Franklin Street Buffalo, NY 14202 Honorable James Malczewski District 10 Erie County Legislator Old Erie County Hall 92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor Buffalo, NY 14202

Mr. Thomas E. Baines, Esq.
Deputy Commissioner of Planning & Economic
Development
Erie County Environment & Planning
95 Franklin Street, 10th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Ms. Bonnie Lawrence Deputy Commissioner Erie County Environment & Planning 95 Franklin Street, 10th Floor Buffalo, NY 14202

Mr. John Cappellino
President & CEO
Erie County Industrial Development Agency
95 Perry Street, Suite 403
Buffalo, NY 14203

Mr. Daniel J. Neaverth, Jr.
Commissioner
Erie County Department of Homeland Security
& Emergency Services
45 Elm Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

Town of West Seneca Contacts:

Wallace Piotrowski, Mayor Town of West Seneca 1250 Union Road West Seneca, NY 14224 Jeffrey Piekarec, Town Councilman Town of West Seneca 1250 Union Road West Seneca, NY 14224

Supplier of Potable Water:

Erie County Water Authority 295 Main Street #350 Buffalo, NY 14203

Local News Media:

Buffalo News ATTN: Ms. Aaron Besecker 1 News Plaza Buffalo, NY 14240

WIVB - Ch. 4 ATTN: Ms. Lisa Fullone 2077 Elmwood Avenue Buffalo, NY 14207

WJYE ATTN: Environmental News Desk 1700 Rand Building Buffalo, NY 14203

WBEN News Radio 930 Entercom Radio of Buffalo 500 Corporate Pkwy, Suite 200 Buffalo, NY 14226

Nearby Schools:

Hamlin Park School 126 Donaldson Road Buffalo, NY 14208 WGRZ TV - Ch. 2 ATTN: Ms. Maria Sisti 259 Delaware Avenue Buffalo, NY 14202

WKBW News Channel 7 ATTN: Ms. Melanie Pritchard 7 Broadcast Plaza Buffalo, NY 14202

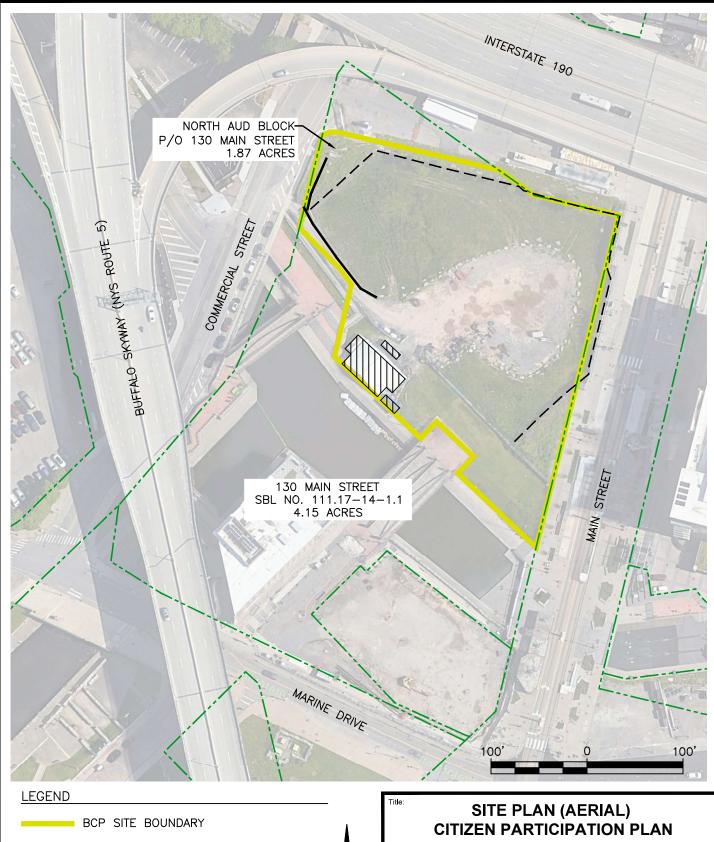
Business First ATTN: Anne Marie Franczyk 465 Main Street Buffalo, NY 14203-1793

WNED, Environmental News Desk ATTN: Mr. Michael Desmond P.O. Box 1263, Horizons Plaza Buffalo, NY 14240

PS 53 Community School 329 Roehrer Avenue Buffalo, NY 14208 Futures Academy 295 Carlton Street Buffalo, NY 14204 Buffalo Elementary School of Technology 414 S Division Street Buffalo, NY 14204

Document Repository:

Ms. April Tompkins Re: Document Repository Buffalo & Erie County Public Library 1 Lafayette Square Buffalo, NY 14203





PARCEL BOUNDARY - WOODEN/SHEET PILE RETAINING WALL CONCRETE WALL **NOTES**

AERIAL IMAGE SOURCE GOOGLE EARTH 2022.

NORTH AUD BLOCK

P/O 130 MAIN STREET BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Prepared for

NORTH AUD OWNER LLC

		ROUX	
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Compiled by: CNK	Date: JANUARY 2024	FIGUR		
Prepared by: CNK	Scale: AS SHOWN			
Project Mgr: BWM	Project: 4375.0001B000	2		
File: FIGURE 2: SITE PLAN (AERIAL) DWG				

Appendix D- Brownfield Cleanup Program Process

