



FACT SHEET

Brownfield Cleanup Program

3807 Highland Avenue Site

January 2009

Site No. C932145

Niagara Falls, NY

Report on 3807 Highland Avenue Site Available for Public Comment

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) requests public comments as it reviews the draft work plan to investigate and implement a cleanup action, called an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM), at the 3807 Highland Avenue site, located at 3807 Highland Avenue in Niagara Falls, Niagara County, New York. See the map on page 4 for the location of the site. The draft "Remedial Investigation (RI) / Alternative Analysis Report (AAR) / Interim Remedial Measures (IRM) Work Plan" was submitted by Globe Metallurgical, Inc. (Globe) under New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP).

NYSDEC previously received an application submitted by Globe to participate in the BCP. The application proposes that the site will be used for industrial and commercial purposes. This application is currently under review.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT THE RI/AAR/IRM WORK PLAN

NYSDEC is accepting written public comments about the draft RI/AAR/IRM Work Plan for 45 days, from **January 7, 2009** through **February 20, 2009**. The draft RI/AAR/IRM Work Plan is available for public review at the locations identified on page 3 of this fact sheet as well as the DEC website.

Written comments should be submitted to:

Mr. Michael Hinton
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14203

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROPOSED RI

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

The remedial investigation has several goals:

- 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 support the development of a Remedial Work Plan, if required, to address any contamination that remains after the IRM.

The investigation will be performed by Globe with oversight by NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

This RI will include the following activities:

- Installing test pits and soil borings, and installing groundwater monitoring wells on-site;
- Collecting surface samples across the Site;
- Collecting waste samples from within the smoke stack;
- Analyzing surface and subsurface soil, sediment and groundwater samples to assess soil, sediment and groundwater quality and collecting site-specific hydrogeological data;
- Sampling contents of drums and other containers for waste characterization and disposal purposes; and
- Determining the potential for soil contamination to release vapors into onsite and adjacent buildings.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROPOSED INTERIM REMEDIAL MEASURES

In concurrence with RI activities, an IRM is planned to immediately address environmental concerns at the site. The planned approach to the IRM and related activities includes the following:

- Excavating and disposing stained surface soils, if encountered;
- Removing and disposing impacted sediments;
- Removing and disposing drums and other containers;
- Removing underground storage tanks (USTs), if encountered;
- Excavating and disposing petroleum-impacted subsurface soil/fill in the area of historic USTs, if encountered;
- Implementing a Soil/Fill Management Plan during redevelopment; and
- Placing a soil cover system, if required, to contain stack dust and waste material found in the onsite disposal and contaminated subsurface soil areas.

NEXT STEPS

NYSDEC will consider public comments as it reviews, revises if necessary, and approves the RI/AAR/IRM Work Plan. NYSDOH must concur in the approval of the Work Plan. The approved Work Plan will be available for public review at the locations listed below. After the Work Plan is approved, Globe may proceed with the remedial investigation and implementation of interim remedial measures at the site. It is estimated that the remedial investigation will take about two weeks and is anticipated to commence in February 2009. The IRM activities will also commence in February 2009 and be completed in Spring 2009. The applicant will develop an RI/AAR/IRM Report that summarizes the results of the site investigation and interim remedial measures. NYSDEC will keep the public informed during the investigation and remediation of the 3807 Highland Avenue site with fact sheets similar to this one.

BACKGROUND

Site Background and History

The Site is located in a heavily industrialized area of Niagara Falls and is surrounded by current or former heavy industrial sites. The Site is an approximately 20-acre portion of an existing 26-acre parcel. The Site is currently vacant and has not been in operation since 2003. The Site was used for heavy industrial

manufacturing since at least 1913; most recently the Site was used to manufacture silicon metal and ferrosilicon metal.

Environmental History

In September 2008, Globe's consultant performed an assessment of the subject property and identified several areas of concern. The site was used for heavy industrial purposes for approximately 100 years. Throughout its history, it was used as a railcar maintenance building; a machine shop; an electric shop; an oil house; a laboratory; a transformer room; a factory/furnace building; a waste battery storage area; an explosives area; an above-ground storage tank, underground-storage tank, and drum storage area; and a transformer and electrical sub-station. Activities at surrounding heavy industrial sites, including the Hazorb/Niagara Vest/Union Carbide site, may also have impacted the site. In addition, past studies identified a historic petroleum spill on the site and documented releases of hazardous material and/or petroleum products on several adjacent and nearby properties. The potential for further releases still exists.

Globe then conducted a preliminary site investigation in September 2008, which involved a soil boring investigation and collecting surface and sub-surface soil/fill samples for the subject site and the adjacent Sosil Inc. site (see map on page 4). Contaminants of concern detected during the preliminary investigation included polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and heavy metals. For more information on PAHs, see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry webpage, <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts69.html>.

The BCP application was submitted to the NYSDEC and deemed complete on November 13, 2008.

LOCATIONS TO VIEW PROJECT DOCUMENTS

A local document repository has been established at the following location to help the public to review important project documents. These documents include the draft RI/AAR/IRM Work Plan and the application to participate in the BCP accepted by NYSDEC:

The document repositories identified below have been established to provide the public with convenient access to important project documents:

Niagara Falls Public Library
Earl W. Brydges Building
1425 Main Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14304
Attn: Betty Babanoury, Director
Phone: (716) 283-8309
Hours: M - W 10-8
Th - Sat. 10-5
Sun. (closed)

NYSDEC Region 9 Office
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14203
Phone: (716) 851-7220
Hours: M-F 8:30am-4:45pm
(Please call for appointment)

You may also view the draft RI/AAR/IRM Work Plan by following the appropriate link in the information under the Globe Metallurgical entry on DEC's Region 9 - Environmental Remediation Project Information webpage:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37554.html>.

WHO TO CONTACT

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

Project Related Questions

Mr. Michael Hinton
New York State Department of Environmental
Conservation
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14203
716-851-7220

Health Related Questions

Mr. Matthew Forcucci
New York State Department of Health
584 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202
716-847-4385

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.

Site Location

