FACT SHEET No. 2

February 2008

DAVIDS ISLAND
SITE No. E360077
New Rochelle, NY

Site Investigation Update – Davids Island

The City of New Rochelle (the City), in partnership with Westchester County, is conducting a detailed Site Investigation (SI) of Davids Island. The City is conducting the ongoing environmental studies initiated in Spring 2007 under the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) Environmental Restoration Program, with up to 90 percent of the funding provided by the 1996 Clean Water/ Clean Air Bond Act. This fact sheet will update the public about the progress of the SI.

Site Location and Description: Davids Island is an approximately 80-acre island in Long Island Sound located less than a mile east of the southern mainland of New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York (Figure 1). The Island was formerly the site of the U.S. Army post Fort Slocum, which served various needs of the Army and Air Force from the Civil War to its deactivation in 1965. More details about the Island's storied history may be found in NYSDEC's March 2007 Fact Sheet. The Island has remained vacant since the military left the facility in the 1960s. Many of the abandoned buildings and related infrastructure formerly present on the Island have been or are scheduled to be demolished by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Dense vegetation covers much of the Island including the former Parade Ground, roadways, and former building locations.

Previous investigations identified soil contamination in certain portions of the Island. Contaminants in the soil were attributed to a number of past uses, including the burning of coal to generate heat for the post's buildings, electrical transformers, incinerator-produced fly ash, drums containing various contents, and landfill activities. Contaminants present in the soils include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), specific metals (arsenic, copper, lead, and mercury), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Asbestos-containing material (ACM) was found within some Davids Island buildings as insulation, fire retardant siding, and other construction material. Two underground storage tanks (USTs) were also found on the Island. The USACE performed asbestos abatement and is currently completing demolition of deteriorated buildings on the Island.

Initial Phase of Site Investigation: The City is performing the SI to evaluate the nature and extent of contamination on the Island and to identify potential threats to public health and the environment. The initial phase of investigation was conducted from April through July 2007. Activities performed include the collection and analysis of surface soil samples, subsurface soil samples, and groundwater samples. The groundwater samples did not contain concentrations of contaminants above the applicable NYSDEC criteria. Results of the surface and subsurface soil sample analyses indicate the surface soil primarily contains concentrations of individual PAHs, pesticides, PCBs, and individual metals above the NYSDEC soil cleanup objectives (SCOs). PAHs consist of a group of chemical compounds often formed by the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing fuels such as wood, coal, diesel, fat, or tobacco. Tar also contains PAHs. Some PAHs are known or suspected cancer-causing substances (i.e., carcinogens). PCBs consist of a group of toxic, persistent chemicals used in transformers and capacitors for insulating purposes.

The sample results presented in the following sections are expressed as either parts per billion (ppb) or parts per million (ppm). A ppb is commonly used to express the concentrations of contaminants in water. For example, one drop of a chemical mixed in an Olympic-sized swimming pool would result in water that would contain about 1 ppb of the chemical. A ppm is commonly used to express concentrations of a contaminant in soil or sediment. One ounce of a chemical in 28 metric tons of soils or sediments is 1 ppm.

Groundwater: Groundwater samples were collected to assess if soil contamination has affected groundwater on

the Island. None of the samples contained any compounds exceeding the NYSDEC Water Quality Standards/Guidance Values for Class GA waters, the applicable standard for the groundwater at Davids Island.

Surface Soil: Surface soil samples were collected randomly throughout the Island and at areas where empty chemical drums and electrical transformers were identified. Samples were collected at locations such as the former officers' housing area (Officers' Row) on the west side of the Island, the support facilities located to the southwest of Officers' Row, the hospital and sewage treatment plant at the north end of the Island, and the enlisted men's barracks at the northeast portion of the Island. Additional surface soil sampling was performed in areas around the incinerator and small arms firing range, both located in the southeastern portion of the Island. The analyses and results of the surface soil samples indicate that concentrations of individual PAHs detected in surface soil ranged from non-detect to 37.7 ppm concentration of chrysene at CA3. Some of the detected concentrations were in excess of the applicable criteria. Concentrations of individual metals ranged from non-detect to 21,900 ppm concentration of lead. Some of these metal results exceeded the SCOs. Though PCB contamination was not widespread, PCBs were detected at concentrations ranging from non-detect to 16,300 ppm.

Subsurface Soil: Some of the locations where subsurface soil samples were collected include the former landfill at the southeastern edge of the Island, the former post cemetery previously located near the former hospital, the storm drain/sewer system at locations throughout the Island, and the sewage treatment plant at the north end of the Island. Subsurface soil samples contained similar contaminants to those found in the surface soil samples, but generally at concentrations less than those in the surface soil samples. Concentrations of individual PAHs ranged from non-detect to 4.9 ppm concentration of benzo(a)anthracene. Concentrations of individual metals ranged from non-detect to 3,080 ppm concentration of copper. The NYSDEC criteria for PAHs and metals were exceeded in a number of subsurface soil samples but at a much lower frequency than the surface soil samples. Concentrations of individual PCBs ranged from non-detect to 24,600 ppm.

Second Phase of Site Investigation: The review of the results of the initial phase of investigation indicated the need for a second phase of site investigation to further evaluate the extent of surface and subsurface soil contamination at the site. No further investigation of groundwater appears to be necessary at this time. The second phase of site field investigation was completed in January 2008. Data analyses and interpretation are currently underway.

Future Activities and Community Outreach: Following review of the data obtained from the first and second phases of site investigation, results will be presented to interested members of the public along with recommendations for future work. NYSDEC will host a Public Availability Session to give interested members of the public an opportunity to ask questions, receive responses, and express concerns in a relatively informal setting. NYSDEC will indicate a date, time and place in a subsequent public announcement.

Soon after the Public Availability Session, a SI report will be prepared that will describe the investigations performed, summarize the investigation results, and recommend appropriate follow-up investigations. A Remedial Alternatives Report (RAR) will then be prepared to evaluate potential remedies based on the results of the SI. The NYSDEC, in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), will develop a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) that will be available for review by the public. The public will have a 45-day comment period within which to provide comments about the remedial alternatives presented. During the Comment Period, a public meeting will be held in the City of New Rochelle to present the PRAP in detail. Following consideration of public comments on the PRAP, the NYSDEC will issue a Record of Decision (ROD) that formally selects a remedy for the site.

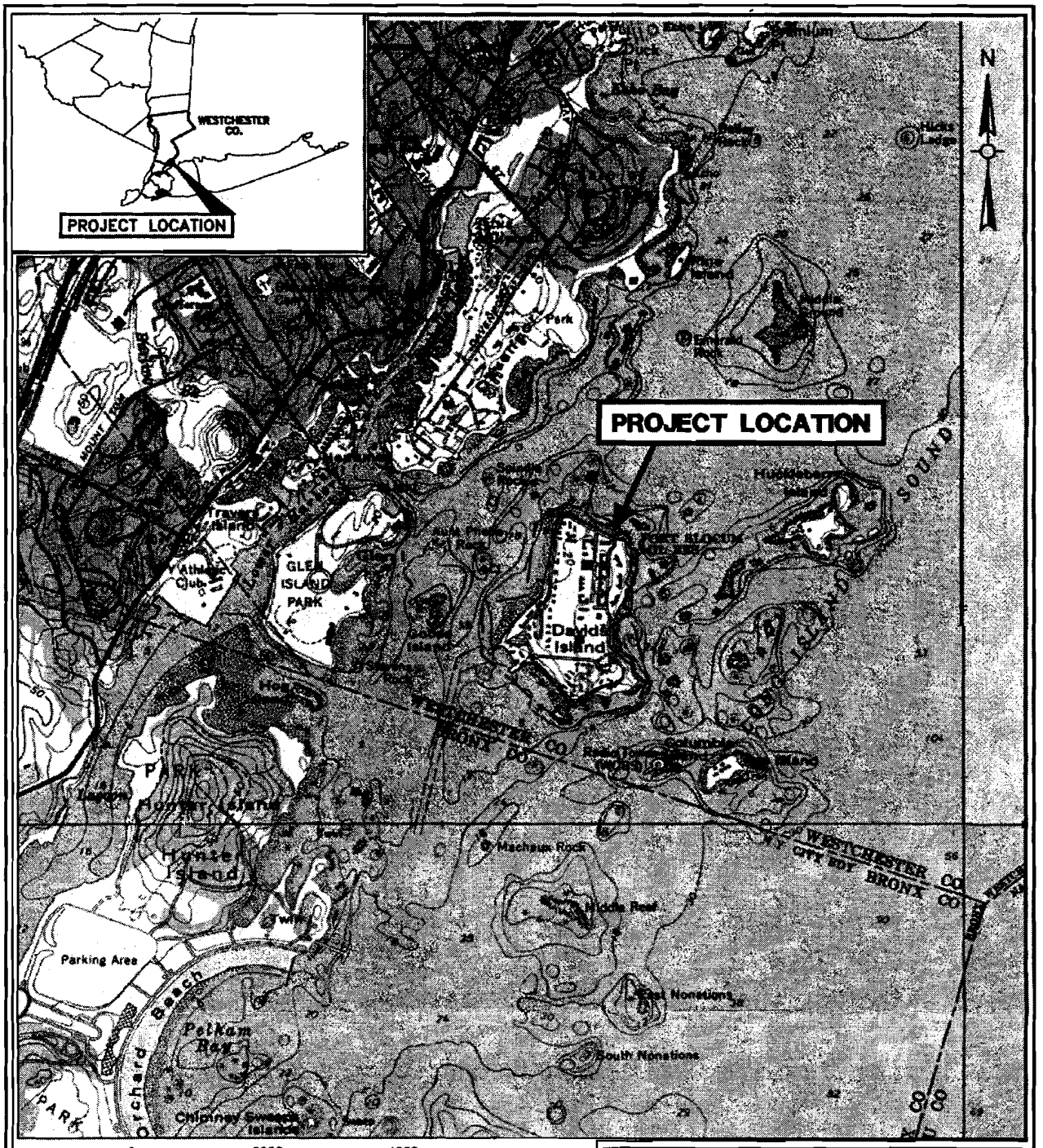
Document Repositories: The Site Investigation Work Plan and the Citizen Participation Plan are available for public review at the three listed locations. As additional documents are created, they will be placed in the project repositories.

Department of Public Works City Hall 515 North Avenue New Rochelle, NY 10801 Attn: Jeffrey C. Coleman P.E. Phone: (914) 654-2131 Hours: M-F, 8:30-4:30	The New Rochelle Public Library 1 Library Plaza New Rochelle, NY 10801 Attn: Barbara Davis Phone: (914) 632-7878 Hours: M-T 9-8, W 10-6, Th 9-8, F-Sa 9-5, Su 1-5	NYSDEC Region 3 Office 21 South Putt Corners Road New Paltz, New York 12561 Attn: Mr. Michael Knipfing Phone: (845) 256-3154 Hours: M-F, 9-4 By Appointment

The NYSDEC encourages your participation in the project. Your understanding and involvement help ensure a cleanup program that effectively protects public health and the environment.

For More Information:

Site Investigation Work Plan:	**Citizen Participation:**
Matthew Hubicki Project Manager NYSDEC 625 Broadway, 11th Floor Albany, New York 12233-7014 (518) 402-9564 mshubick@gw.dec.state.ny.us	Michael Knipfing Public Affairs Specialist NYSDEC 21 South Putt Corners Road New Paltz, New York 12561 (845) 256-3145
Health Related Information:	**Project Progress:**
Kristin Kulow Public Health Specialist NYS Department of Health 28 Hill Street, Suite 201 Oneonta, New York 13820-9804 (607) 432-3911	Mr. Kaz Orszulik Senior Engineer Department of Public Works City Hall, 515 North Avenue New Rochelle, NY 10801 (914) 654-2136
Environmental Restoration Program Website:	
http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8444.html	



Source:
USGS 7.5 Minute Series Topographic Maps: Mount Vernon, NY, 1966, photorevised 1979, Sea Cliff, NY, 1966, photorevised 1979, Mamaroneck, NY–CT, 1967, photoinspected 1975, and Flushing NY, 1966, photorevised 1979

City of New Rochelle

Davids Island
New Rochelle, NY

Figure 1
Project Location Map

TETRA TECH EC, INC.

CADDFILE: 2580–A001.DWG