

NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OFENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION**Public Meeting
Invitation****Wednesday,
February 13, 2008
7:00 PM**Schuyler Height Fire Station
900 First Street
Watervliet NY

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health (NYSDEC and NYSDOH) will discuss the proposed remedy for the Schuyler Heights Fire District Site. At the meeting, representatives from the NYSDEC and NYSDOH will:

- Describe results of the site investigations;
- Explain the proposed remedy;
- Answer your questions about the remedy;
- Receive your verbal or written comments about the proposal.

**PUBLIC COMMENT
PERIOD****From:** January 22, 2008
To: March 07, 2008**FACT SHEET**

January 22, 2008

**Schuyler Heights fire
District SITE**
SITE No. E401050
849 First St.
Watervliet, NY 12189**Remedy Proposed for the
Schuyler Heights
Fire District Site**

Public Meeting, Comment Period Announced

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), working cooperatively with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), has proposed a remedy designed to address contamination at the Schuyler Heights Fire District Site in Colonie, New York (*see location map on page 4*).

The Proposed Action: Highlights of the proposed remedy includes excavation of potential contaminant sources, installation of a soil cover, an environmental easement and a site management plan. This proposal is described in the site's Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP). The PRAP was developed following a detailed investigation of the site. The PRAP evaluates different options to clean up the site and presents the alternative preferred by NYSDEC and NYSDOH.

See pages two and three of this fact sheet for a summary of the PRAP, site background, and summary of the site investigation. The full PRAP is available for review at the document repositories listed on page 3.

Your Opportunities to Comment on the Proposed Remedy: Release of the PRAP begins a process to finalize selection of the remedy for the site. Your input regarding the proposed remedy is important and encouraged.

Your oral and written comments about the PRAP are welcome at the **public meeting** (see sidebar) and during a **public comment period** which runs until March 07, 2008. Written comments also may be mailed until the end of the comment period to:

Ian Beilby, P.E.
NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Remediation
12th Floor
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7016

What Happens Next: All comments received during the public comment period will be considered as the remedy for the Schuyler Heights Fire District site is finalized. Public input will be factored into the record of decision (ROD) which will describe the remedy selected and why it was chosen. NYSDEC will respond to comments in a responsiveness summary included in the ROD.

Site History

The Site has been the location of many activities since the early 1900s. Initially, the D&H Rail Yard extended onto the property with loading/unloading operations to transport various materials. Indications of this use include historic areal photos and discovery of railroad ties during investigation activities. More recently the site has been utilized by scrap metal salvage businesses which was evidenced by the unearthing of pieces of salvaged scrap metal, small amounts of solid waste and processed material, as well as some crushed and deteriorated metal containers.

At some time a large quantity of fill was placed at the site. The fill consists of slag, cinders, ash, brick, asphalt, wood, and metal. The origin of much of the fill is likely the former steel mills in the immediate vicinity as it resembles material observed at those sites.

Site Investigation

Soil and groundwater samples were collected to test for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides and inorganics (metals) to determine the presence and extent of contamination. Results show a site with sporadic contamination, the distribution which does not indicate a discrete, on-site source. The contamination at the site is due to past commercial activities and fill that exists at and below the ground surface. SVOCs, PCBs, pesticides, and metals were detected in the soil while metals were found in groundwater samples. Please see the documents in the repositories for details and the full results of the investigation.

Summary of Proposed Remedial Action

The 7.5 acre site is located at 849 First Street in the town of Colonie, Albany County. A chainlink fence and soil berm prevents access from the road and adjacent residences. It is currently vacant. The PRAP identifies the remedy preferred by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH to address the soil contamination. The proposed alternative was chosen following a detailed investigation of the site and evaluation of alternatives for remediating the contamination.

The elements of the proposed remedy include:

- A remedial design program would be implemented to provide the details necessary for the construction, operation, maintenance, and monitoring of the

remedial program.

- Potential on-site sources of contamination would be excavated and properly disposed of off-site.
- Clean soil would be placed over all vegetated areas to prevent exposure to contaminated soils. The one-foot thick cover would consist of clean soil underlain by an indicator such as an orange plastic snow fence to demarcate the cover soil from the subsurface soil. The top four inches of soil would be of sufficient quality to support vegetation. Clean soil would constitute soil that meets NYSDEC's criteria for backfill. Non-vegetated areas (buildings, roadways, parking lots, etc.) would be covered by paving or concrete at least six inches thick. To implement the cover system, the site will be graded and leveled.
- Imposition of an institutional control in the form of an environmental easement that would require (a) limiting the use and development of the property to commercial or industrial use; (b) compliance with the approved site management plan; (c) restricting the use of groundwater as a source of potable or process water, without necessary water quality treatment as determined by NYSDOH; and (d) the property owner to complete and submit to the Department a periodic certification of institutional and engineering controls.
- Development of a site management plan which would include the following institutional and engineering controls: (a) management of the final cover system to restrict excavation below the soil cover's demarcation layer, pavement, or buildings. Excavated soil would be tested, properly handled to protect the health and safety of workers and the nearby community, and would be properly managed in a manner acceptable to the Department; (b) continued evaluation of the potential for vapor intrusion for any buildings developed on the site, including a provision for mitigation of any impacts identified; (d) identification of any use restrictions on the site; and (e) provisions for the continued proper operation and maintenance of the components of the remedy.
- The property owner would provide a periodic certification of institutional and engineering controls, prepared and submitted by a professional engineer or such other expert acceptable to the Department, until the Department notifies the property owner in writing that this certification is no longer needed. This submittal would: (a) contain certification that the institutional controls and engineering controls put in place are still in place and are either unchanged from

the previous certification or are compliant with Department-approved modifications; (b) allow the Department access to the site; and (c) state that nothing has occurred that would impair the ability of the control to protect public health or the environment, or constitute a violation or failure to comply with the site management plan unless otherwise approved by the Department.

Costs and Funding for the Site Remedy

The total cost to construct and implement the proposed remedy is estimated at \$585,000. The 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act provides funding to municipalities for the investigation and cleanup of brownfields. Under the Environmental Restoration Program, the state provides grants to municipalities to reimburse up to 90 percent of eligible costs for site investigation and remediation activities. Once

remediated, the property can then be reused. The grant to the Schuyler Heights Fire District to conduct the investigation was \$105,300. The proposed future use of the site is commercial.

Health Issues

Direct exposure to contaminated surface soil is possible to those working, playing or trespassing within the fence line. The potential for inhalation, ingestion and dermal contact with surface and subsurface soils contaminated with metals would increase during construction and site maintenance activities. Exposure to contaminated groundwater is unlikely since the area surrounding and downgradient of the site is serviced by public water.

Document Repositories: *To review the complete PRAP and other site information:*

Watervliet Public Library
1501 Broadway, Watervliet, New York 12189
Telephone: (518) 274-4471
Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday 12:00pm-8:00pm, Friday 12pm-4pm

City of Watervliet (City Clerk's Office)
City Hall, Watervliet, New York 12189
Telephone: (518) 270-3810
Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Schuyler Heights Fire District
900 First Street, Watervliet, New York 12189
Telephone: (518) 271-7851

NYSDEC - Region 4
1130 North Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12306
Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (by appointment)
Contact: Chris O'Niel
Phone: (518) 357-2075

NYSDEC - Central Office
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-7016
Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm (by appointment)
Contact: Ian Beilby
Phone: (518) 402-9767

For More Information: *Call or write the following staff for more information about:*

Meeting/Comment Period/Technical Information:
Ian Beilby, P.E.
NYSDEC
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-7016
Phone: (518) 402-9767
E-mail: iabeilby@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Health-Related Information:
Bruce Donovan
NYSDOH
Flanigan Square
547 River Street
Troy, New York 12180
Phone: (518) 402-7860
(800) 458-1168

Citizen Participation:
Rick Georgeson
NYSDEC Region 4
1130 North Westcott Road
Schenectady, New York 12306
Phone: (518) 357-2075

Site Location

