



# FACT SHEET

## Environmental Restoration Program

Former Karg Brothers Tannery  
Site No. E518022  
City of Johnstown, NY

August 2010

### Remedial Investigation/Alternatives Analysis Work Plan Availability

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), and the City of Johnstown, are pleased to announce the availability of the Work Plan for an environmental investigation at the former Karg Brothers Tannery site located in the City of Johnstown, Fulton County, New York (See figure below).



The City of Johnstown is participating in New York State's Environmental Restoration Program (ERP). This fact sheet highlights the planned remedial investigation activities and how to get more information. The study to be performed at the former Karg Brother site is called a "Remedial Investigation/Alternatives Analysis" (RI/AA). The RI will determine the nature and extent of the contamination at the site and identify any potential threats to public health and the environment. As part of

the investigation, various environmental media including soil and groundwater will be sampled on the site as well as the adjacent properties. An Alternatives Analysis (AA) will be conducted at the same time as the RI and will continue after the RI is complete. The AA will evaluate possible actions to clean up the site. A report on the investigation is expected to be available by Spring 2011.

**Environmental Restoration Program:** New York's Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) encourages the cleanup of contaminated properties known as "brownfields" so that they can be returned to productive use. 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 ERP, visit:  
[www.dec.state.ny.us/website/der/erp](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/der/erp)

The "Remedial Investigation/Alternatives Analysis Work Plan" (RI/AA Work Plan) was submitted by the City of Johnstown and is available for public review at the document repositories identified in this fact sheet.

#### Background

The site, located in the north-central portion of the City of Johnstown, consists of portions of the former Karg Brothers Tannery property with an area of approximately 5.3 acres, and the 10 adjacent properties shown above that have a total land area of approximately 2.6 acres. The former Karg Brothers facility was constructed in the early 1900s and operated until its closure in 1995, at

which time it had been treating approximately 5,000 hides each day. Treatment consisted of degreasing, pickling, beaming, tanning, and finishing of cow, deer, and sheep hides. At present, the site is vacant. Ground cover at the site largely consists concrete slab remains of the former buildings, that were removed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and areas of gravel, asphalt, or grass. Adjacent parcels are either undeveloped or residential, with the exception of two former gasoline stations on either side of East Fulton Street. Cayadutta Creek defines the southern boundary of the site. Previous sampling by the USEPA detected soil contamination associated with former tannery operations at the site and near the site boundaries.

### **Goals of the Proposed Remedial Investigation**

- 1) Define the nature and extent of contamination in soil, 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 an Alternatives Analysis to address the contamination.

As part of the site investigation and as described in the RI/AA Work Plan, the City of Johnstown will complete the following work:

- Surface Soil Sampling
- Subsurface Soil Sampling
- Groundwater Sampling
- Interim Remedial Measures (IRMs), such as soil excavation, to remediate grossly contaminated soil or groundwater, as warranted.

The remedial investigation activities will be performed by the City of Johnstown with oversight by NYSDEC and NYSDOH. The remedial investigation activities will begin the week of September 13 and will take approximately six months to complete.

### **Next Steps**

Based on the results of the RI/AA, the NYSDEC will propose a means for cleaning up the site and present a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) to the public. NYSDEC will keep the public informed during the remedial investigation through mailings and, as necessary, public meetings. NYSDEC will announce the time, date, and location of any public meetings by mail. The City of Johnstown, with guidance and input from the NYSDEC, has developed a Citizen Participation Plan for the former Karg Brothers Tannery site. This plan describes activities that will occur at different stages of the site investigation and cleanup process, including opportunities for public input. It also includes a glossary of terms and other useful information. The Citizen Participation Plan and other site related documents can be reviewed at the repositories listed below.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Document Repository

A local document repository has been established at the following location to help the public to review important project documents. These documents include the application to participate in the ERP accepted by the NYSDEC, and the Remedial Investigation Work Plan:

- City Hall  
 City Engineer's Office  
 33-41 E. Main Street  
 Johnstown, NY 12095  
 Phone: (518) 736-4014  
 Business Hours: Monday – Friday 8 am – 4 pm
- Johnstown Public Library  
 38 South Market Street  
 Johnstown, New York 12095  
 Phone: (518)762-8317 Fax: (518)762-9776  
 Hours of Operation:

WINTER HOURS (September-May)		SUMMER HOURS (June-August)
Sunday	1 pm - 4 pm	Closed
Monday	1 pm - 8 pm	10 am - 8 pm
Tuesday	10 am - 8 pm	10 am - 8 pm
Wednesday	10 am - 8 pm	10 am - 8 pm
Thursday	1 pm - 8 pm	12 pm - 8 pm
Friday	10 am - 5 pm	10 am - 5 pm
Saturday	10 am - 1 pm	Closed

- New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation  
 Region 5 – Warrensburg Office  
 232 Golf Course Road  
 Warrensburg, NY 12885  
 Telephone: (518) 623-1200  
 Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday 8:30am - 4:00pm

### Who to Contact

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

#### Project Related Questions

Alicia Thorne, P.E., Project Manager  
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 Conservation Region 5 – Warrensburg Office  
 232 Golf Course Road  
 Warrensburg, NY 12885  
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 Email: ajthorne@gw.dec.state.ny.us

#### Health Related Questions

Scarlett Messier, Project Manager  
 New York State Department of Health  
 Bur. of Environmental Exposure Investigation  
 547 River Street, Room 300  
 Troy, New York 12180  
 Phone: (518) 402-7860  
 Email: sem10@health.state.ny.us

If you know someone who would like to be added to the project mailing list, have them contact the NYSDEC project manager, Ms. Alicia Thorne, above. You do not have to contact NYSDEC if you have received this fact sheet in the mail as your name will automatically remain on the mailing list. 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.