New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

August 2013

FACT SHEET

Environmental Restoration Program

Receive Site Fact Sheets by *Email.* See "For More Information" to Learn How.

Site Name: 68 West First Street (Former Flexo Wire Site)
DEC Site #: E738040 Operable Units 01, 02 *
Address: 68 West First Street
Oswego, NY 13126

Have questions? See "Who to Contact" Below

Remedy Proposed for Municipal Brownfield Site; Public Comment Period and Public Meeting Announced

Public Meeting, Thursday, 9/12/2013 at 6:00 PM
Oswego Public Library, 120 East Second Street, Oswego, NY 13126
NYSDEC invites you to a public meeting to discuss the remedy proposed for each operable unit* of the site. You are encouraged to provide comments at the meeting, and during the 45-day comment period described in this fact sheet.

The public is invited to comment on a remedy proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) related to the 68 West First Street site (Former Flexo Wire site) ("site") located at 68 West First Street, Oswego, Oswego County. Please see the map for the site location.

Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information."

How to Comment
NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed remedy (referred to as the proposed remedial action plan) for each operable unit for 45 days, from **August 30, 2013** through **October 14, 2013**. The proposed plans are available for review at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information." Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area below.

Proposed Remedial Action Plan
The remedy proposed for the site includes:

Summary of the Remedy for Operable Unit (OU) 01:
The proposed remedy for the on-site area (OU 1) includes excavation of soil that is a source of groundwater contamination, treatment of groundwater to destroy contamination, and implementation of controls to prevent exposure to remaining contamination.

Excavation of soil on-site will be conducted in several areas including: in and around the sumps within the current on-site building (sumps are areas of a floor that are lower than the rest of the floor in order to collect liquids); around the process lines connecting the sumps and a former underground storage tank; in an area to the east of the southern building sump; and in an area

**Operable Unit:* An administrative term used to identify a portion of a site that can be addressed by a distinct investigation and/or cleanup approach. An operable unit can receive specific investigation, and a particular remedy may be proposed.

with elevated lead contamination. Groundwater treatment will be conducted on-site by injecting chemicals into the subsurface which will react with the contaminants to create non-toxic byproducts.

Exposure to remaining on-site soil contamination will be prevented by a cover system which will prevent direct contact with remaining contamination. The potential for soil vapor intrusion will be evaluated for any new buildings proposed on-site, and if necessary, systems will be installed in the buildings to prevent infiltration of contaminated soil vapor. If the present building is not demolished, a system will be installed to prevent soil vapor intrusion.

Use of groundwater from the site will be restricted without proper treatment. Usage of the site will be limited to "restricted residential use" through an environmental easement, which will also require compliance with a Site Management Plan. Restricted residential use allows for apartments or condominiums. It also allows for active recreational uses (such as ball fields); however, it does not allow for single family homes or vegetable gardens. The Site Management Plan will include: protocols for any future excavations at the site; requirements for monitoring groundwater; and protocols for operating and maintaining any remedial systems at the site, such as any systems installed to prevent intrusion of contaminated soil vapor into buildings and the groundwater treatment system.

Additional Project Details
It is anticipated that the remedy for OU 01 will be implemented under the Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP). Information about the BCP can be found at http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html.

Summary of the Remedy for OU 02:
The proposed remedy for the off-site area (OU 2) involves treating groundwater so that the contamination is destroyed. This will be accomplished by injecting chemicals into the subsurface that will react with the contaminants to create non-toxic byproducts. The potential for soil vapor intrusion at off-site buildings will be evaluated, and if necessary, systems will be installed at the buildings to prevent infiltration of contaminated soil vapor. A Site Management Plan will be developed which will include requirements for monitoring groundwater and protocols for operating and maintaining any remedial systems, such as the groundwater treatment system and, if necessary, any soil vapor intrusion mitigation systems.

Summary of the Investigation for OU 01:
The investigation of OU 1 identified contamination in soil, soil vapor and groundwater. Soils are contaminated across the site by metals (including lead, mercury and copper), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and certain volatile organic compounds (VOCs). PAHs can be formed by incomplete combustion of wood, coal, tar, etc. and are often associated with historic industrial fill material. The VOCs present at the site include trichloroethene, tetrachloroethene, and their breakdown products, including dichloroethenes and vinyl chloride. Soil vapor at the site contains elevated levels of these VOCs, as does groundwater, which was encountered in the bedrock. Bedrock is present across the site at depths less than ten feet. Groundwater contamination is present in shallow bedrock groundwater and deeper bedrock groundwater. Groundwater flow at the site is to the east-northeast towards the Oswego River.

Summary of the Investigation for OU 02:
The investigation identified groundwater and soil vapor contamination off-site. Off-site groundwater and soil vapor are contaminated by the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) trichloroethene, tetrachloroethene, and their breakdown products, including dichloroethenes and vinyl chloride. Groundwater is present in bedrock, which was encountered at depths ranging from two feet to 7.5 feet below grade. Groundwater contamination is present to the east of the site in shallow bedrock groundwater (just below the bedrock's surface) and deeper bedrock groundwater (approximately 30-35 feet below grade). Groundwater flow is to the east-northeast towards the Oswego River.

NYSDEC developed the proposed remedy after reviewing the detailed investigation of the site and evaluating the remedial options in the "analysis of alternatives" submitted under New York's Environmental Restoration Program by the City of Oswego.

Next Steps
NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the remedy for the site. The selected remedy for each operable unit will be described in a document called a "Record of Decision" that will explain why the remedy was selected and respond to public comments.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

Background
Location: The 68 West First Street site (Former Flexo Wire site) is located in an urban area of the City of Oswego, Oswego County. It covers approximately 1.8 acres and consists of the block bounded by West First Street to the east, West Second Street to the west, West Schuyler Street to the south, and a grassy area and West Van Buren street to the north. The site is owned by the City of Oswego.

Site Features: The northwestern portion of the site is covered by a one-story concrete slab-on-grade, steel-framed masonry building which covers approximately 20,900 square feet. There is also a one-story building that connects to, and extends east from, the northeastern corner of the main building. This smaller building covers approximately 780 square feet. The rest of the site is paved with the exception of a small grassy area on the northeastern corner of the site, which measures approximately 2000 square feet.

There are two former sumps located in the buildings. They were filled with concrete prior to the site entering the remedial program. Formerly there was a 15,000-gallon underground storage tank located in the northeastern portion of the site. The tank was removed in September 2009. The tank was connected to at least one of the sumps by sub-surface utility lines which are still present.

Current Zoning and Land Use: The site is currently utilized by the City of Oswego Department of Public Works (DPW), which operates a metal fabricating workshop, a woodworking shop and an automobile maintenance shop at the site. The DPW also utilizes the site for seasonal storage of equipment, trucks and supplies.

The site is currently zoned for commercial use (B2 – Central Business); however, the proposed reuse of the site includes apartments or condominiums, which would be a restricted residential

use.

The Oswego River is located approximately 390 feet to the east of the site and flows north into Lake Ontario, which, at its nearest point, is located approximately 250 feet north of the site. The area to the west of the site is primarily residential. The area to the south contains a mixture of residential and commercial properties, and to the north there is a municipal parking area, a boat launch, a marina, a United States Coast Guard facility, and a marine museum located on property owned by the Oswego Port Authority. To the east and northeast are industrial properties, including a major oil storage facility, the City of Oswego West Side Excess Flow Management facility and a cement shipping terminal.

Past Use of the Site: The site has been used for industrial purposes since at least 1880. Past industrial operations at the site include: a tinware manufacturing facility, lumberyards, a planing mill, Oswego Casket Company, Global Match Company, machine shops and a wire manufacturing facility, which was owned and/or operated by the Flexo Wire Company in 1960 and the Copperweld Steel Company, Flexo Wire Division in 1972. Prior uses that appear to have led to site contamination include: solvent usage and disposal, reportedly associated with the wire drawing operations; coal storage, usage and coal ash disposal; and metal working operations, including machining and annealing.

Operable Units: The site was divided into two operable units. An operable unit represents a portion of a remedial program for a site that for technical or administrative reasons can be addressed separately to investigate, eliminate or mitigate a release, threat of release or exposure pathway resulting from the site contamination. Operable Unit (OU) 1 is the on-site area. OU 2 is the off-site groundwater plume and off-site soil vapor contamination.

Site Geology and Hydrogeology: Soil at the site consists of historic fill, which consists of a mixture of sand, silt, ash, wood, brick and other debris. Fill was present below the paving or concrete down to the top of bedrock. Bedrock was very shallow on the western side of the site (zero to two feet below the ground surface), and somewhat deeper on the east side of the site (four to ten feet below the ground surface). It was encountered at depths ranging from directly below the building slab, to a depth of approximately ten feet in the northeast corner of the site. The ground surface and bedrock surface slope down to the east-northeast.

Groundwater was generally not encountered in the overburden. Groundwater flow is to the east-northeast towards the Oswego River in both the shallow bedrock groundwater and deeper bedrock groundwater. The shallow bedrock groundwater is located directly below the top of bedrock, up to fifteen feet below the bedrock surface, which is at a maximum of 18.5 feet below the ground surface. The deeper bedrock groundwater was monitored from approximately 30 to 35 feet below the ground surface.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's website at:
http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=E738040

Environmental Restoration Program: New York's Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) reimburses municipalities for their costs to investigate and clean up municipality owned contaminated properties. Once cleaned up, the properties may be redeveloped for commercial, industrial, residential or public use.

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: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8444.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed.

City of Oswego
Attn: Mary Vanouse
20 West Oneida Street, 3rd Floor
Oswego, NY 13126
phone: 315-343-3795
(mvanouse@oswegony.org)

NYSDEC
Attn: Joshua Cook
615 Erie Blvd West
Syracuse, NY 13204
phone: 315-426-7411
(jpcook@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Oswego Public Library
Attn: Edward Elsner
120 East Second Street
Oswego, NY 13126
phone: 315-341-5867

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions
Joshua Cook
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
615 Erie Blvd W
Syracuse, NY 13204
315-426-7411
jpcook@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-Related Health Questions
Richard Jones
New York State Department of Health
217 South Salina St
Syracuse, NY 13202
315-477-8148
BEEI@health.state.ny.us

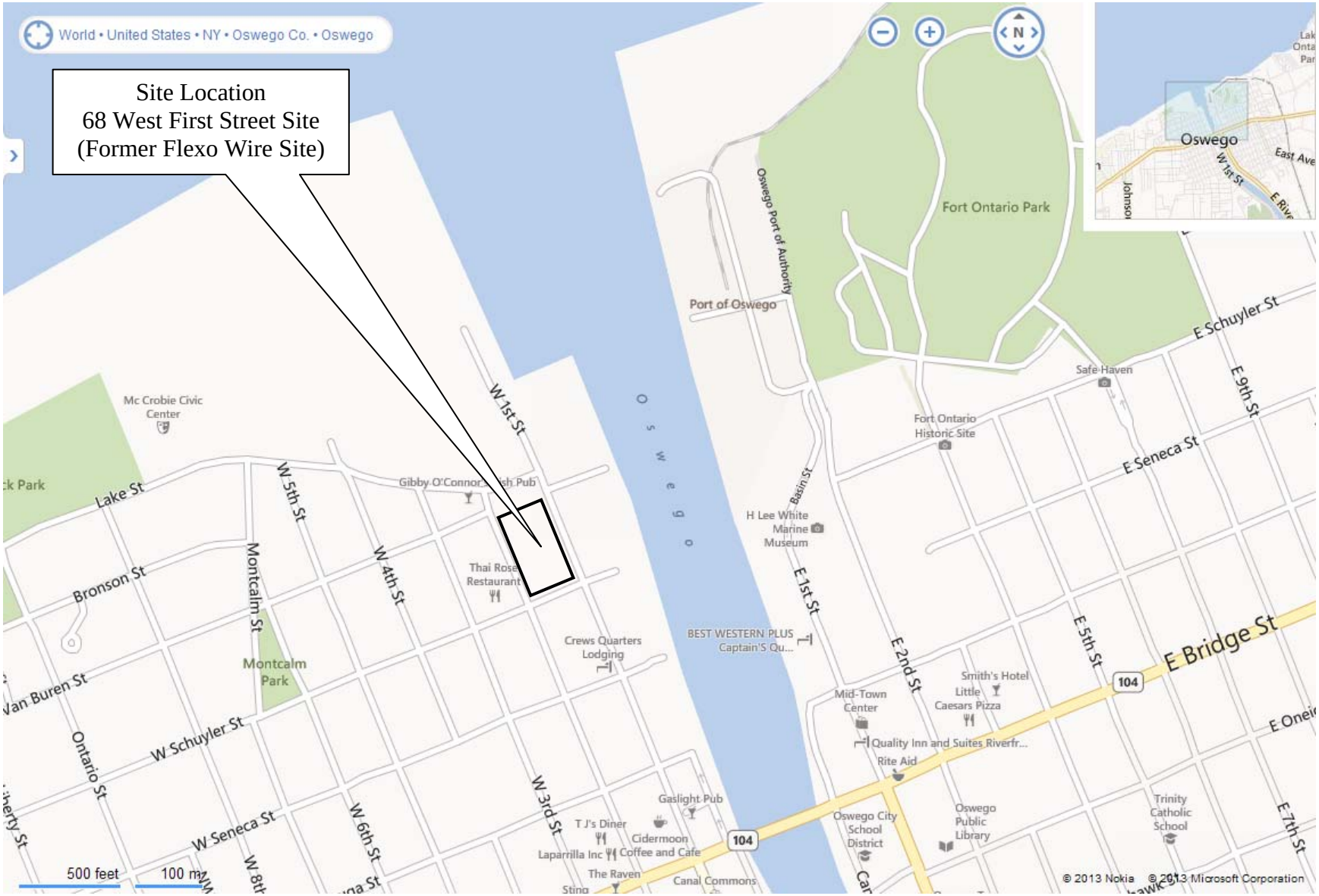
We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html. It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you *better informed*.

As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.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Site Location
68 West First Street Site
(Former Flexo Wire Site)
Oswego
Fort Ontario Park
Port of Oswego
Oswego Port of Authority
Mc Crobie Civic Center
Lake St
Bronson St
Montcalm St
W 5th St
W 4th St
W 1st St
Gibby O'Connor Irish Pub
Thai Rose Restaurant
Crews Quarters Lodging
Montcalm Park
Van Buren St
Ontario St
W Schuyler St
W Seneca St
W 6th St
W 3rd St
Gaslight Pub
T J's Diner
Cidermoon Coffee and Cafe
Laparrilla Inc
The Raven
Canal Commons
104
Oswego City School District
Oswego Public Library
Trinity Catholic School
E 7th St
Rite Aid
Quality Inn and Suites Riverfr...
Mid-Town Center
Smith's Hotel
Little Caesars Pizza
E 2nd St
E 5th St
E Bridge St
E Schuyler St
E 9th St
E Seneca St
Safe Haven
Fort Ontario Historic Site
H Lee White Marine Museum
Basin St
E 1st St
BEST WESTERN PLUS Captain'S Qu...
500 feet
100 m
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