



# FACT SHEET

April 2007

## Environmental Cleanup Plan Finalized for Six Lots Site



April 2007

Project No. E915188

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the City of Lackawanna are pleased to announce that an environmental cleanup plan has been finalized for the Six Vacant Lots on Ridge Road Site (Six Lots site) located in the City of Lackawanna.

A public meeting was held on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at Lackawanna City Hall, during which representatives from DEC and City of Lackawanna reviewed cleanup activities completed at the site and presented a proposed site cleanup plan to the public.

After seeking public comment on the proposed cleanup plan, DEC finalized the plan in a document called a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD also

summarizes site investigations and responses to comments from the public regarding the cleanup plan. The ROD and other documents related to the Six Lots site are available for your review at the locations identified on the back of this page.



### SITE BACKGROUND

The Six Lots Site is a vacant 0.77 acre parcel of property located at 113, 117, 121, 125, 129 and 135 Ridge Road near the intersection of Ridge Road and Wasson Avenue in the City of Lackawanna. (See map above for details.)

The site was used for a variety of commercial activities from at least 1915 through the 1960s. In the 1970s, commercial activities at the site ceased, and the on-site commercial buildings were demolished. Since that time, the site has remained vacant. The Six Vacant Lots properties were acquired by the City of Lackawanna in the 1970s. Currently, the site consists of a vacant lot covered with dirt and gravel, and has no above ground structures. The City identified the site as a priority community brownfield during its EPA Brownfields Assessment Pilot program.

To determine the type and location of contamination at the site, a Remedial Investigation (RI) was conducted by the City of Lackawanna in 2005, and a Remedial Alternatives Report (RAR) was completed to evaluate potential cleanup alternatives. These reports are available for your review at the locations listed on the last page of this fact sheet.

The RI documented the presence of fill material throughout the site. The fill was found to contain contaminants such as semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) and metals. SVOCs are chemicals that are commonly produced during the combustion of fossil fuels and do not readily evaporate. Environmental investigations indicated that groundwater at the site was not significantly contaminated.

## **IRM CLEANUP ACTIVITIES**

At a site where the source of contamination is evident, an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) is undertaken to quickly minimize the risks to public health and the environment, before an in-depth evaluation of cleanup alternatives is completed. For the Six Lots site, an IRM was carried out in two small areas to remove soil/fill material that contained elevated levels of metals. IRM cleanup actions took place in the spring of 2006 and included:

- Excavating approximately 263 tons of soil/fill and transporting it to an approved landfill for proper disposal;
- Backfilling of the excavated area with 189 cubic yards of clean soil; and
- Planting grass to restore and cover the disturbed area.

The IRM cleanup is described in detail in the “Final Site Investigation/Remedial Alternatives Report – May 2006” which is also available for your review at the locations identified at the end of this fact sheet.

## **DESCRIPTION OF SELECTED CLEANUP ACTIVITIES**

Further cleanup activities for the site that are finalized in the ROD include:

- Implementing a site management plan to address residual contamination by requiring that the surface area of the site to be covered during development by buildings, roads, or vegetated soil (12 inches of clean soil);
- Maintaining the soil cover for areas not covered by buildings or parking lots;
- Limiting the future use of the site to commercial or industrial use;
- Imposing an environmental easement that will restrict future site use to commercial and industrial purposes; and
- Periodically certifying that cleanup remedies remain effective.

## **LOCATIONS TO VIEW PROJECT DOCUMENTS**

Public understanding and involvement in this project is valued and appreciated. You may review the ROD and reports on the site investigations and cleanup of the Six Lots site at the locations below:

Lackawanna Public Library  
560 Ridge Road  
Lackawanna, NY 14218  
(716) 823-0630  
See reference desk.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
(716) 851-7220  
*(Please call for an appointment.)*

## **WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS**

Should you have further questions regarding the Six Lots Environmental Restoration Project, you are welcome to contact the following representatives:

### Site-Related Project Questions

Mayor Norman Polanski  
City of Lackawanna  
Lackawanna City Hall  
714 Ridge Rd.  
Lackawanna, NY 14218  
(716) 851-6587

### Site-Related Environmental Questions

Mr. Thomas Biel  
Project Manager  
NYSDEC  
270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
(716) 851-7220

### Site-Related Health Questions

Mr. Cameron O'Connor  
Public Health Specialist  
NYS Department of Health  
584 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 847-4385

## **ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (ERP)**

Environmental investigation and cleanup work at this site was completed through the “Environmental Restoration Program” (ERP) under the New York State 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act. Through the ERP, DEC provides local governments with up to 90% reimbursement for on-site eligible costs for the cleanup and restoration of brownfield sites. A brownfield is currently unused or under-used property that is difficult to reuse or redevelop because of the presence or potential presence of environmental contamination. The City of Lackawanna applied for the environmental investigation and cleanup of the Six Lots site through the ERP Program, and has sponsored 10% of the project’s \$140,000 total cost.

Thank you for your interest in this project.