

(Fact Sheet Begins Next)

Act Now to Continue Receiving Information About This Site!

DEC's Division of Environmental Remediation (DER) now distributes information about contaminated sites *electronically by email*.

If you would like to continue to receive information about the contaminated site featured in this fact sheet:

You must sign up for the DER email listserv:

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/environmental-cleanup-email-newsletters>

DER cannot register your email address - only the email address owner can do so. If you already have signed up for the listserv for the county in which the site is located, you need do nothing.



Why You Should Go “Paperless”:

- Get site information faster and share it easily;
- Receive information about all sites in a chosen county - read what you want, delete the rest;
- It helps the environment and stretches your tax dollars.

If “paperless” is not an option for you, call or write to the DER project manager identified in this fact sheet. Indicate that you need to receive paper copies of fact sheets through the Postal Service. Include the site name in your correspondence. The option to receive paper is available to individuals only. Groups, organizations, businesses, and government entities are assumed to have email access.

Site No. V00463

Gowanda, Cattaraugus County

March 2026

Environmental Cleanup to Begin at Former Habilitation Center Site

Action is about to begin that will address contamination related to the former Gowanda Day Habilitation Center site (“site”) located at 4 Industrial Place, Gowanda, Cattaraugus County. Please see the map for the site location. The cleanup activities will be performed by the New York State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (NYS OPWDD) with oversight provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The site is vacant and has not been in use by NYS OPWDD since 2001. NYSDEC has determined that the Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) protects public health and the environment and has approved the plan.

- Access the approved RAWP and other project documents online through the DECinfo Locator: <https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/V00463>.

Cleanup activities are expected to begin in Spring of 2026.

Highlights of the Upcoming Cleanup Activities

The goal of the cleanup action is to further progress the site cleanup since remedial actions began in 2005. The key components of the cleanup are:

- Partial demolition of the existing building to allow for access to subsurface contamination;
- Excavation of soil impacted with chlorinated volatile organic compounds near the southern extent of the existing building;
- Collection and analysis of post excavation soil samples to evaluate the effectiveness of the cleanup;
- Chemical injections north and south of the existing building to treat subsurface chlorinated volatile organic compounds impacts;
- Importing clean soil that meets the established Soil Cleanup Objectives for use as backfill; and
- Monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the remedial actions.

A site-specific health and safety plan (HASP) and a Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) will be implemented during cleanup activities. The HASP and CAMP establish procedures to protect on-site workers and residents and includes required air monitoring as well as dust and odor suppression measures.

Next Steps

After NYS OPWDD completes the cleanup activities, they will prepare a Final Engineering Report (FER) and submit it to NYSDEC. The FER will describe the cleanup activities completed and certify that the cleanup requirements have been achieved or will be achieved.

When NYSDEC is satisfied that cleanup requirements have been achieved or will be achieved for the site, it will approve the Final Engineering Report. NYSDEC will issue a fact sheet that describes the content of the Final Engineering Report. The fact sheet will identify any institutional controls (for example, environmental easements) or engineering controls (for example, injection wells) necessary at the site.

Site Description

The 6-acre site is located at the southwestern end of Industrial Place. The site is vacant and includes an existing building in disrepair, associated parking lots, and wooded area. The building was built in stages between 1948 and 1987 and was previously used by several manufacturing operations. New York State agencies occupied the building beginning in 1982 and acquired the parcel in 1989. The site was last operated as a day habilitation center by NYS OPWDD until it closed in 2001.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, V00463) at:

<https://appfactory.dec.ny.gov/DERExternalSearch/ERDSearch>

Stay Informed with DEC Delivers

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.

Sign up to receive site updates by email:

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/environmental-cleanup-email-newsletters>

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

DECinfo Locator

Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites: <https://dec.ny.gov/maps/interactive-maps/decinfo-locator>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Project-Related Questions

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WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

Access project documents through the DECinfo Locator and at these location(s):
<https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/V00463/>

Site Location

Former Gowanda Day Habilitation Center 4 Industrial Place	SITE BOUNDARY MAP	Fig. 1
	160 Feet	

Village of Gowanda, Cattaraugus County, New York





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