



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

FACT SHEET BON TON CLEANERS SITE REMEDIATION WORK PLAN AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

**Bon Ton Cleaners Voluntary Cleanup Site
1932 Ralph Avenue
Brooklyn, New York
Site No. V-00512-2
June 2004**

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is soliciting comments on the proposed remedy to clean up the Bon Ton Cleaners Voluntary Cleanup Site. The proposed remedy is detailed in the Remediation Work Plan, which is available for public review at the document repositories listed below. The site is located at 1932 Ralph Avenue in Brooklyn and is owned by Ralph Associates. A shopping center and parking lot were built on the site in 1960. Bon Ton Cleaners is one of the stores in the shopping center. **See the map on page 3 showing the location of the site.** Previous studies found that the groundwater beneath Bon Ton Cleaners contained perchloroethylene (PCE) above groundwater standards. PCE is a chemical used in dry cleaning machines. Soil samples from the site also contained PCE, but at levels below the NYSDEC guidance value.

SITE INVESTIGATION

A “Voluntary Cleanup Investigation” was performed at the site to determine the nature and extent of contamination. The investigation results are documented in the Investigation Report, which can be reviewed at the repositories listed below.

The voluntary cleanup investigation revealed soil, soil gas, groundwater and indoor air contamination at the site. The soil beneath the basement floor of the dry cleaners had a PCE concentration of 0.259 parts-per-million (ppm). Although no soil contaminants exceeded NYSDEC guidance values, the presence of PCE in the unsaturated soil is evidence of past disposal. Standing water in a basement sump had 6,180 parts-per billion (ppb) of 1,2-dichloroethene, 439 ppb of trichloroethene and 201 ppb of PCE.

The groundwater beneath the site was also contaminated. Shallow groundwater (15 to 30 feet bgs) had PCE concentrations ranging from 20-761 ppb. The groundwater standard for PCE is 5 ppb. The upgradient shallow well had 4.1 ppb of PCE. Therefore, shallow groundwater contamination can be attributed to the site.

Deeper groundwater was contaminated with VOCs; however, upgradient VOC concentrations were the same order of magnitude as on-site concentrations. At 50 feet deep, the total VOC level for the upgradient groundwater sample was 534 ppb, compared to the highest on-site level of 154 ppb. At 90 feet bgs, the highest total VOC concentration on-site was 2,032 ppb, compared with 1,452 ppb in the upgradient sample. Therefore, the deeper VOC contamination appears to originate at an upgradient source.

New York City supplies homes and businesses with public water which comes from upstate reservoirs. Therefore, people are not being exposed to contaminated groundwater unless excavation greater than 15 feet deep is performed.

Soil gas and indoor air levels in the shopping center were also elevated. The stores located adjacent to the dry cleaners had indoor air PCE levels exceeding 100 micrograms per cubic meter, which is the New York State Department of Health's (NYSDOH) action level for PCE in indoor air. In addition, soil gas samples beneath the building slab revealed a soil vapor contamination plume under the building. The soil gas sampling results indicate the potential for additional indoor air contamination.

PROPOSED REMEDY

The proposed remedy is detailed in the Remediation Work Plan, which is available at the document repositories listed below. The proposal includes air sparge/soil vapor extraction (AS/SVE) and in-situ chemical oxidation. These two remedies would clean up the shallow groundwater contamination beneath and downgradient of the site. The SVE system would also be designed to remediate the soil gas contamination beneath the building slab.

YOUR OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INFORMED AND INVOLVED

The NYSDEC will be soliciting public comments on the proposed remedy from June 16, 2004 to July 16, 2004. After the comment period ends, the NYSDEC will review the comments and select a final remedy. The following three locations provide access to information about the site:

Paerdegat Library
850 East 59th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11234
(718) 241-3994
M-Tu 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Wed 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Th 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Fr 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed weekends

Mr. Jeffrey L. Dyber
Project Manager, NYSDEC
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7015
(518) 402-9621
M-F 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Mr. Dan Walsh
NYSDEC - Region 2 Office
47-20 21st Street
Long Island City, NY 11101
(718) 482-4599
M-F 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Any questions or concerns about the investigation can be addressed by contacting Mr. Jeffrey Dyber at (518) 402-9621. For site related health concerns, contact the New York State Department of Health's Ms. Krista Anders, Public Health Specialist, at (518) 402-7880 or 1-800-458-1158, Ext. 27880.

Location Map

