New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

FACT SHEET

Voluntary Cleanup Program

Baumann Bus Site, Airport Development District **August 2010**
Site #: V-00576-1
Gabreski Airport, Westhampton Beach, NY

Cleanup Action to Begin at the Baumann Bus (Gabreski Airport) Voluntary Cleanup Program Site

Action is about to begin that will address contamination related to the Baumann Bus site located at Gabreski Airport in Westhampton, New York under New York's Voluntary Cleanup Program. See maps for site location.

The cleanup action for the site includes excavating and removing soils from the site that contain significant levels of petroleum contamination and capping the site with clean soil. The cleanup activities will be performed by Suffolk County ("volunteer"). The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) will provide oversight.

Highlights of the Upcoming Cleanup Activities
The goal of the action is to clean up the site to a level that protects public health and the environment for the site's proposed use.

Excavation vehicles will be removing and temporarily storing clean soil around the site to reach the petroleum contaminated soils which are located from 30 to 35 feet below the ground surface.

- Excavation should commence by the end of August but could start as late as September of 2010.
- Shoring will be put in place by cranes to protect the adjacent roads (Avenue B and Cook Street).
- Clean soils will be stockpiled on site for later re-use.
- Petroleum contaminated soil, once reached, will be removed and properly disposed.
- After removal of petroleum contaminated soil, clean soil will be returned to the excavation along gravel to replace the removed, contaminated soil.
- The entire process is scheduled to be completed by January 2011. This is subject to change due to the variant start date as well as unexpected issues regarding the excavation or removal process.
- All work activities are expected to occur in a designated work area which will be enclosed by a fence barrier.

Voluntary Cleanup Program: New York's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) was developed to encourage private sector volunteers to investigate and clean up contaminated properties and return these sites to productive use. Once cleaned up, the properties may be redeveloped for commercial, industrial, residential or public use.

For more information about the VCP, visit: **www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8442.html**

Next Steps
After the volunteer completes the cleanup activities, it

will prepare a Final Engineering Report and submit it to NYSDEC. This document will describe the cleanup activities completed and certify the soils specified for removal as per the remedial plan have been removed.

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 then will issue the volunteer a Closure Letter which would declare that the volunteer has met its obligations and that NYSDEC would not require the volunteer to perform additional investigation or cleanup at the site, subject to certain conditions.

Background
NYSDEC previously accepted an application from the volunteer to participate in the Voluntary Cleanup Program.

The site is 59 acres in size and is located in the Francis S. Gabreski Airport located on County Road 31 in the Town of Westhampton Beach, New York and is owned by Suffolk County. The area of concern is the former Baumann Bus site, located at the former location of Building 140 at the northwest corner of Avenue B and Cook Street. The site was historically used primarily for base personnel. This area included several types of housing and dormitories for personnel and their families. In addition, training and support services were located in the central portion of the site.

Investigations dating back to 1986 have identified petroleum contamination at the site. A groundwater treatment system was in operation at the site from 1986 to 1990.

An Interim Remedial Measure to address underground structures was completed in March 2010. Several subsurface structures were abandoned and soils were removed and appropriately disposed of to prevent movement of contaminants to the ground water.

A recent investigation performed in 2009 delineated the extent of soil impacts which exceed the restricted residential soil cleanup objectives (SCOs) as defined by 6 New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations (NYCRR) Part 375. Soils exceeding restricted residential SCOs were used to define the extent of soils requiring removal.

A Design for excavation of contaminated soil was completed in July 2010. According to this design, cover will be placed directly over the excavation area created by the soil removal, and will include clean soil for proposed vegetated areas, asphalt for roads and parking lots, and concrete for building slabs and in heavy-use areas.

Contaminated soils at concentrations exceeding 6NYCRR Part 375 soil cleanup levels for restricted residential, commercial, or industrial use will be disposed of at a facility off-site. 6NYCRR Part 375 contains the specific soil cleanup objectives and requirements for remedial programs conducted in New York State. At the time the Remedial Action Work Plan was developed for the site in 2004, the soil cleanup objectives were governed by NYSDEC Technical and Administrative Guidance. The soil cleanup levels for the site have since been replaced by the 6NYCRR Part 375 cleanup criteria which became effective on December 14, 2006. (This regulation and related documents can be found on the Division of Environmental Remediation's public website at: http://www.dec.ny.gov/regs/2491.html

Groundwater is not used at the site and therefore no direct contact with the groundwater is anticipated except during invasive construction activities. Removal of contaminated soil and a cover of clean soil, asphalt or concrete will eliminate the potential for direct contact and therefore be protective of public health. The potential for exposure to airborne contaminants migrating from the groundwater will be evaluated based on soil gas sampling data. The site will be limited to restricted residential, commercial, or industrial use through an environmental easement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public to stay informed. These documents include the cleanup plan for the site, called the "Remedial Design".

Westhampton Free Library
7 Library Avenue
Westhampton beach, NY 11978
631-288-3335
www.westhamptonlibrary.org
Hours: M-F 9:30am-9:00pm
Sat 9:30-5:00 & Sun 1:00pm-5:00pm

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions
Heather Bishop
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12233
Phone: (518) 402-9620
hlbishop@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-Relate Health Questions
Steven Karpinksi
New York State Department of Health
Flanigan Square
547 River Street, Room 300
Troy, NY 12180-2216
Phone: 1- (800) 458-1158 ext27880
Sxk23@health.state.ny.us

If you know someone who would like to be added to the site contact list, have them contact the NYSDEC project manager above. 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.