



FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

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

Site Name: Lackawanna Incinerator Site
DEC Site #: 915206 Operable Unit 01 *
Address: 2960 South Park Ave.
Lackawanna, NY 14218

Have questions?
See
"Who to Contact"
Below

Remedy Proposed for State Superfund Site; Public Comment Period and Public Meeting Announced

Public Meeting, Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 6:00 PM
Lackawanna Senior Center – 230 Martin Rd.

NYSDEC invites you to a public meeting to discuss the remedy proposed for the site. You are encouraged to provide comments at the meeting, and during the 30-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 Lackawanna Incinerator Site ("site") located at 2960 South Park Ave., Lackawanna, Erie 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." The estimated cost to implement the remedy is: \$1,307,000.

How to Comment

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan for 30 days, from **April 5, 2017** through **May 5, 2017**. The proposed plan is 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.

The site is listed as a Class "2" site in the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites (list of State Superfund sites). A Class 2 site represents a significant threat to public health or the environment; action is required.

Contaminants disposed of at the site, specifically inorganic compounds such as lead and arsenic contained in disposed incinerator ash, constitute a significant threat to public health and the environment. The contaminants at the site result in, or are reasonably foreseeable to result in, a significant adverse impact to public health where the site is near residences, recreational facilities, public properties, school facilities and other areas where individuals may be present. The contaminants at the site also result in, or are reasonably foreseeable to result in, significant environmental damage.

Proposed Remedial Action Plan

The remedy proposed for the site includes:

Department of Public Works (DPW) Incinerator Area:

The selected remedy entails placement of a cover system over all impacted soils exceeding commercial use Part 375 Soil Cleanup Objectives (SCOs). Generally, the cover will be comprised of 1-foot of soil placed over a demarcation layer. An environmental easement will be required to restrict groundwater and land use.

Smokes Creek Corridor:

The selected remedy entails the excavation and off-site disposal of the top one foot of soil atop the embankment to Smokes Creek and, at minimum, the top two feet of soil on the side slope (approximately 1,800 cubic yards). A soil cover, 1-foot minimum depth, will be placed over all remaining impacted soils exceeding commercial use SCOs. The existing asphalt trail will serve as a cover where the upper one foot of surface soil exceeds commercial use SCOs. An environmental easement will be required to restrict groundwater and land use.

Summary of the Investigation

The City of Lackawanna (City) owned and operated municipal incinerators from 1927 through 1980 which generated ash containing elevated levels of metals, primarily lead and arsenic. In 2005, the City conducted a Site Characterization using federal funds under the EPA Brownfield program to investigate soil and groundwater quality. In January 2006 the City requested funds from DEC's Superfund State Assistance Program to address contamination at the site. Based on the results of the 2005 investigation a reclassification package (Class 2) was developed (June 2006) to list the site on the NYS Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites.

NYSDEC developed the proposed remedy after reviewing the detailed investigation of the site and evaluating the remedial options in the "feasibility study" submitted under New York's State Superfund Program.

Next Steps

NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the remedy for the site. The selected remedy will be described in a document called a "Record of Decision" that will explain why the remedy was selected and respond to public comments. A detailed design of the selected remedy will then be prepared, and the cleanup will be performed.

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

Background

Location:

Currently the Lackawanna Incinerator Site consists of approximately 7.6 acres of city-owned land located at 2960 South Park Avenue and along the south embankment of the north branch of Smokes Creek in an urban area of the City of Lackawanna, Erie County, NY.

Site Features:

The site is comprised of two Areas of Concern, the DPW Incinerator Area and the Smokes Creek Corridor.

The DPW Incinerator Area's main structural features are two red-brick, multi-story buildings and associated chimneys that housed municipal solid waste incinerators. The southern incinerator building was constructed in 1927 and the northern incinerator building was constructed circa 1950. In the center of the site is a large ramp-like mound of fill (approximately 20 feet in elevation at its highest) that provides access to the northern incinerator's third floor. There is a primarily unpaved area on the southern portion of the property with a framed shed currently used to house equipment for the City DPW. The Smokes Creek Corridor comprises the northern portion of the site, where an asphalt paved recreational trail runs east to west along the top of the embankment to Smokes Creek.

The DPW Incinerator Area is enclosed and secured by varying heights of chain link fencing (4-8') with access via a locking gate at the southwest corner of the area, adjacent to the DPW garage. The Smokes Creek Corridor portion of the site is not fenced and is accessible by the public.

To the north of the site lies the north branch of Smokes Creek; to the east is a grassy field that is part of the Baker Hall School property; and to the west is a sports athletic field and stadium with a 70+ space asphalt parking area along South Park Avenue that serves the athletic field.

A storm sewer system exists on-site with two (2) catch basins on the east and west of the northern incinerator building. Two reinforced concrete conduits (one 12-inch, one 24-inch) carry storm water flow from the site to Smokes Creek.

Current Zoning and Land Use:

The on-site DPW Incinerator Area is zoned as Property Class 662 - Police Fire. The primary use of the DPW Incinerator Area is for commercial purposes, such as materials staging and equipment/vehicle storage for the City Department of Public Works. The city-owned Smokes Creek Corridor is zoned as Property Class 330 - Vacant Commercial. The primary use of the Corridor is for commercial purposes, i.e. passive recreation activities which include walking, cycling and fishing. The Office of Sanitation is housed across Reddon St. to the south. The basement of the north incinerator is currently being used by the City animal control officer for the temporary caging of animals. The site is immediately surrounded by mixed-commercial-residential space. A few commercial parcels are immediately adjacent to the site with numerous single-family residential properties just beyond to the west and south. To the north is Smokes Creek (flows west to Lake Erie) and then the Holy Cross Cemetery. To the east is the Baker Hall School. Immediately to the west is a recreational athletic field and stadium, currently known as Lackawanna's Veterans Stadium (formerly known as the Ron Jaworski Stadium and the South Park Stadium).

Past Use of the Site:

Operations at the site began in 1927 with the first fire of the municipal incinerator (southern). The southern incinerator operated until about 1950 when the second incinerator (northern) went into operation. Operation of the northern incinerator ceased in 1980. During construction of the northern incinerator fill was placed as a ramp to allow dump truck traffic to access the third floor of the incinerator. Initially the ramp was constructed from a mix of soil and steel foundry slag and was over time widened to the east and west through the addition of street sweepings and discarded refractory brick from the incinerator chimneys during routine repair and maintenance activities. The date of construction of the recreational trail along Smokes Creek is unknown.

In 2005 the City conducted an environmental investigation of the site with field activities taking

place in April, 2005. Results indicate the fill material in the ramp contain elevated lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Sampling and analysis detected lead concentrations in fill material up to 23,600 parts per million (ppm), however most of the samples contained levels of lead of around 1,000 ppm or less.

Site Geology and Hydrogeology:

Elevations of the Site range from approximately 585 feet to 615 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) with the native soil/fill interface consistently around 591-593 AMSL. The local water table exists from 586-589 feet AMSL, 6 to 10 feet below ground surface (excluding the area of the fill ramp). Generally, shallow groundwater flows to the north, but is influenced locally by fill material onsite, flowing radially outward from the ramp and then due north to Smokes Creek.

State Superfund Program:

New York's State Superfund Program (SSF) identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and/or the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds.

For more information about the SSF, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

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

Lackawanna Public Library
Attn: Jennifer Johnston
560 Ridge Road
Lackawanna, NY 14218
phone: 716-823-0630

NYSDEC Region 9 Office
Attn: Kristen Davidson
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
phone: (716) 851-7220
(kristen.davidson@dec.ny.gov)

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions

David Gardner
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7017
518-402-9818
david.gardner@dec.ny.gov

Site-Related Health Questions

Jacquelyn Nealon
New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental Exposure
Investigation Empire State Plaza, Corning
Tower, Room 1787
Albany, NY 12237
518-402-7860
BEEI@health.ny.gov

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.

