

Buffalo Central Terminal

Brownfield Cleanup Program

Site No. C915414

Buffalo, Erie County



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

July 2026

Draft Investigation Work Plan for Brownfield Site Available for Public Comment

The public is invited to comment on a draft work plan being reviewed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to investigate the Buffalo Central Terminal site ("site") located at 495 Paderewski Drive, Buffalo, Erie County. Please see the map for the site location.

Draft Investigation Work Plan

The draft investigation work plan, called a "Remedial Investigation Work Plan," (RIWP) was submitted to DEC under New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program. The investigation will be performed by Central Terminal Restoration Corp. ("applicant(s)") with oversight by DEC and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

How to Comment

DEC is accepting written comments about the Draft RIWP for 30 days, from **July 22 through August 21, 2026**.

- Access the RIWP and other project documents online through the DECinfo Locator: <https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C915414/>.
- Documents also are available at the location(s) identified under "Where to Find Information."
- Please submit comments to the DEC project manager listed under Project-Related Questions in the "Contact Information" area.

Highlights of the Proposed Site Investigation

The investigation will define the nature and extent of contamination in soil, groundwater, and any other parts of the environment that may be affected.

Previous investigations have detected semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) and metals in soil on site.

Key components of the investigation work include:

- Drilling and sampling soil borings to identify possible on-site sources and/or extent of contamination;
- Test pits will be excavated to identify possible on-site sources and/or extent of contamination in surface and shallow subsurface soil;
- Installing and sampling groundwater wells to monitor impacts from areas of concern on-site.
- A buried utility investigation to determine if buried features such as underground storage tanks , vaults, dry wells, etc. are present;

Next Steps

DEC will consider public comments, revise the plan as necessary, and approve the work plan. NYSDOH must concur with the plan. After the work plan is approved, the activities detailed in the work plan will be implemented.

When the investigation is completed, a report will be prepared and submitted to DEC that summarizes the results. DEC will review the report, make any necessary revisions and, if appropriate, approve the report.

After the investigation, a proposed cleanup plan, called a "Draft Remedial Work Plan," which includes a cleanup alternatives analysis, will be developed. This plan analyzes cleanup alternatives and recommends a final approach: either active cleanup, no action or no further action. The goal of the cleanup plan is to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. DEC will present the proposed cleanup plan to the public for its review and comment during a 45-day comment period.

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

Site Description

The 12.54-acre site includes one large building called the Main Terminal Building, which can further be sub-divided into the Garage building, The Plaza, Passenger Concourse, and The Tower; the Mail & Baggage building; and 5.7-acre green space known as the Historic Lawn. The site also includes a former gasoline filling station and vehicle maintenance service area. To the north and west of the site is residential, to the east and south are former freight and passenger rails. The site is located in a Disadvantaged Community and is vacant; however, it has been used occasionally for seasonal community events. These events occurred periodically, primarily between late spring and fall, and are postponed while the site is investigated and cleaned up.

It is anticipated that the site will be cleaned up to allow for Restricted-Residential use (i.e. multi-family housing). The completed project is expected to include mixed-income rental housing, a daycare, culinary education space, light industrial space, retail spaces, transportation linkages, and outdoor recreation.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on DEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, C915414) at:

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

Brownfield Cleanup Program

New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) encourages the voluntary cleanup of contaminated properties known as "brownfields" so that they can be reused and redeveloped. These uses may include recreation, housing, business or other uses. A brownfield site is any real property where a contaminant is present at levels exceeding the soil cleanup objectives or other health-based or environmental standards, criteria or guidance adopted by DEC that are applicable based on the reasonably anticipated use of the property, in accordance with applicable regulations.

For more information about the BCP, visit:

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/brownfield-and-state-superfund-programs/brownfield>

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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Project-Related Health Questions

Aaron Keegan, Project Manager
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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/C915414/>

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (Central)

1 Lafayette Square
Buffalo, New York, 14203
Attn: April Tompkins
(716) 858-8900

Site Location



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