



Department of Environmental Conservation

NYSDEC REGION 4

HOOSICK AREA CLEANUP

Summer 2019

WHO TO CONTACT

Comments and questions are always welcome.

PROJECT-RELATED QUESTIONS:

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FOR DETAILED INFORMATION ON ALL SITES AND THE REMEDIATION PROJECT, GO TO:

www.dec.ny.gov and type "Hoosick Falls" in the search box.



New York State is committed to overseeing a careful and thorough cleanup of PFAS contamination and keeping the community informed of our actions. DEC is dedicated to ensuring that all area residents have access to clean drinking water.

As part of this commitment, DEC entered into legally binding consent orders with Saint-Gobain, Honeywell, and Oak-Mitsui to implement a comprehensive cleanup program. The following update includes the latest information on the progress of that work.

State Superfund Process

Under the State Superfund Program, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is overseeing the investigation of sites in and around the village of Hoosick Falls to determine if any of these areas contain hazardous waste that could present potential health or environmental risks.

The first step under the State Superfund program is a Site Characterization (SC) investigation to determine if hazardous waste is present and whether it poses a significant threat to public health or the environment. Based on these findings, DEC can initiate a Remedial Investigation to determine the breadth of contamination, and develop a plan to clean up the site.

Currently, sites in the Hoosick area are in varying stages of their respective investigations. To ensure that residents understand this process, below is a summary of the Superfund Program. During this process, community members can receive concise updates of ongoing site investigations. The information below will help explain DEC's ongoing actions within the broader context of the Superfund Program.

When a site is first investigated, it is classified as a potential hazardous waste site, or P-site. Site Characterization investigations are conducted at P-sites to determine if the site conditions are such that it should be listed as an inactive hazardous waste site. See sidebar at left.

A typical Site Characterization investigation will take up to two years. If sampling during the Site Characterization investigation determines that a consequential amount of hazardous waste is NOT present, no further action is taken under the Superfund Program.

Currently, River Road, First Street, and Mechanic Street are in the Site Characterizations stage. To date, these sites have not been classified as posing a significant threat. Additionally, the Site Characterization of the Hoosick Landfill is complete. Once a site is classified as a Class 2 inactive hazardous waste site, a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is performed. Through the RI/FS, DEC and the State Health Department (DOH) gather detailed site information though activities such as on-site sampling and laboratory analyses, which provide a complete picture of the contamination, including its extent and potential affect on resources like streams, water supplies and public health. Data from the RI allows DEC and DOH to assess potential, effective remedial actions, which could be undertaken in the next stage, a Feasibility Study.

A typical Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study will take two to four years to collect and assess the data necessary to define health and environmental threats, though complicated sites can take longer to investigate. Factors such as site geology, transport of contaminants, and exposure pathways must be accurately assessed to design remedies to clean up the contamination and protect public health and the environment.

Currently three sites in the Hoosick area are in the Remedial Investigation phase: McCaffrey Street, Liberty Street, and John Street.

In some cases, Interim Remedial Measures (IRM) can be taken prior to the completion of a full site investigation. An IRM provides an immediate solution to a defined problem – such as eliminating existing exposure pathways - prior to the extensive investigation and evaluation under a RI/FS. An IRM can be implemented in both emergency and non-emergency circumstances and can become part of the final remedy. Currently an IRM is being implemented for McCaffrey Street to prevent contaminants from flowing toward the village



well field. An IRM is also planned for John Street to prevent the off-site migration of volatile organic compounds (VOC) contaminants in the shallow aquifer.

During the Feasibility Study, DEC evaluates alternatives to determine an appropriate cleanup plan. The evaluation includes:

- DEC prepares a proposed remedial action plan for public comment;
- DEC presents the plan to the public and accepts comments.;
- DEC evaluates comments to determine if modifications to the remedial action plan should be made;
- The final remedial decision is documented in the Record of Decision; and
- Once the Record of Decision is finalized, remedial design and construction can begin.

Currently, no sites in the Hoosick area are in the Feasibility Study stage of evaluation.

DEC Fish Sampling in Hoosick

DEC sampled fish from three locations near Hoosick Falls in fall 2017, and spring 2018. DEC collected 25 sportfish samples from the Hoosic River downstream from Oak Materials, 40 sportfish samples from the Hoosic River downstream from the Hoosick Falls landfill, and 32 sportfish samples from Thayers Pond. DEC analyzed the fillet (edible portion) of each fish for 13 PFAS including PFOA. DEC provided the results to DOH. DOH did not issue a consumption advisory for PFAS in fish from the Hoosic River, but did issue "don't eat" advisories for fish from Thayers Pond due to high concentrations of PFAS, primarily PFOS. In addition to the sportfish, DEC collected 11 samples of forage fish from each of these three areas. DEC analyzed the entire fish from these samples and also analyzed the remainder of the sportfish. DEC plans to use these whole fish concentrations to evaluate whether fish-eating wildlife might be affected by the PFAS concentrations in the fish.

Woods Brook Improvement Project

DEC is working in partnership with the village of Hoosick Falls to advance flood resiliency efforts in the community. DEC will hire an engineering consultant to design a flood mitigation project that involves "daylighting" Woods Brook and installing associated floodplains as it flows through the village. Woods Brook currently flows through an old and crumbling brick and stone-land culvert pipe. This culvert pipe is undersized and cannot effectively convey flood waters, resulting in devastating flooding as experienced in the summer 2017. DEC is coordinating this design project with the village's and New York State Homes and Community Renewal's efforts to purchase targeted flood-damaged structures adjacent to Woods Brook. Once these structures are removed and stream daylighting design is complete, the village can seek additional State and federal grant funding to construct this project.

Hoosick Falls Stack Testing

Active stack testing performed through a joint DEC Division of Air Resources and EPA Office of Research and Development effort was completed on March 23. EPA is completing the analysis and results will be provided to the community when they are available.

Site Updates



Saint-Gobain ~ McCaffrey Street (442046) Class 2

DEC entered into a consent order with Saint-Gobain and Honeywell for implementation of a remedial program. In February 2016, the Saint-Gobain McCaffrey Street Site was listed on the NYS Registry of Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites as a Class 2 site; and in July 2017, the EPA added the site to the Federal National Priorities List (NPL). **Current status:**

Remedial Investigation

• A work plan detailing the next phase of supplemental work for the ongoing remedial investigation was approved on December 7, 2018. Field work and sampling activities continue.

IRM - Groundwater Capture and Treatment

• The IRM to intercept, capture, and treat contaminated groundwater near the site boundary was approved in April 2019. This will prevent further migration of additional PFOA contamination from the project site toward the village of Hoosick Falls' Municipal Water Supply Wellfield. Site work is anticipated to begin in June 2019.

Municipal Water Supply Study

- The current Draft Municipal Water Supply Study Report for Hoosick Falls was submitted on January 29, 2018, but additional research was necessary to determine a feasible plan. A full Water Supply Study Report is anticipated this year, soon after the Supplemental Groundwater Source Investigation for the Hoosick Valley Aquifer is complete. DEC is working with the companies to accelerate the time frame, where possible.
- On June 20, 2018, DEC approved the work plan to further evaluate the potential for developing a new groundwater source within the Hoosick Valley Aquifer. A test production well was installed in April 2019 and aquifer testing was completed.

Saint-Gobain ~ Liberty Street (442048) Class 2

DEC entered into a consent order with Saint-Gobain and Honeywell for implementation of a remedial program. In February 2016, the Saint-Gobain Liberty Street Site was listed on the NYS Registry of Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites as a Class 2 site. **Current status:**

Remedial Investigation

 A work plan detailing the next phase of supplemental work for the ongoing remedial investigation was approved on December 7, 2018. Field work is underway.

Former Oak Materials ~ John Street (442049) Class 2

In July 2017, the Former Oak Materials John Street site was listed on the NYS Registry of Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites as a Class 2 site and the existing consent order includes provisions for Honeywell to implement the remedial program at the site. **Current status:**

Remedial Investigation

- A portion of the remedial investigation has been completed and DEC is reviewing additional remedial tasks.
- An interim remedial measure (IRM) to address VOCs in groundwater is planned and implementation is anticipated in mid-summer 2019.

Oak Materials ~ River Road (442008) P-site

The Oak Material River Road site is a potential hazardous waste disposal site (P-site) currently in the site characterization phase of investigation. Upon completion of the site characterization, DEC and DOH will determine the need for a remedial investigation and feasibility study. **Work to date:**

Site Characterization

• Supplemental site characterization work is being completed, and related sampling was conducted in December 2018. Preliminary results have been presented to DEC and additional onsite work is proposed to further define onsite contamination. A scope of work for Phase 2 of the Site Characterization was submitted to DEC on May 22, 2019 and is under review.

Allied-Signal Laminate Systems - Mechanic Street (442050) P-site

DEC entered into a consent order with Honeywell for implementation of investigations of the Allied-Signal Laminate Systems - Mechanic Street site. This is a potential hazardous waste disposal site (P-site) and is in the site characterization phase of investigation. Upon completion of the site characterization, DEC and DOH will determine the need for a remedial investigation and feasibility study. **Work to date:**

Site Characterization

• Site characterization field work was completed in April 2019 and a report is being prepared.

Former Oak-Mitsui ~ First Street (442052) P-site

DEC entered into a consent order with Oak-Mistui for implementation of investigations of the Former Oak-Mitsui – First Street site. This is a potential hazardous waste disposal site (P-site) and is in the site characterization phase of investigation. Upon completion of the site characterization, DEC and DOH will determine the need for a remedial investigation and feasibility study. **Current status:**

Site Characterization

- The initial phases of the approved Soil Investigation Program are complete. Some preliminary results were submitted and reviewed by DEC. A report is being prepared.
- The Groundwater Investigation Program is underway.

Hoosick Landfill (442007) Class 2

The Hoosick Falls Landfill is a Class 2 inactive hazardous waste site. The site characterization report was finalized in January 2019.

- Groundwater, nearby surface water, and fish are contaminated with PFAS.
- The DEC is identifying potentially responsible parties to perform the remedial investigation.

Former Columbia Corporation (442005) P-site

The Former Columbia Corporation has historically been operated as a paper mill and landfill. Elevated levels of PFAS were detected during sampling related to the statewide Inactive Landfill Initiative.

- Potential hazardous waste disposal site;
- Site characterization planned

NEXT STEPS



DEC will continue to oversee cleanup work and coordinate with the town of Hoosick, village of Hoosick Falls, Rensselaer County, and neighboring communities to ensure a thorough job is done. DEC and DOH will keep you informed throughout the process and host another public availability session this fall to discuss the progress so far and what is ahead.

Stay tuned for more details on the meeting and DEC hopes to see you there.

Schmigel Site (442002) Class 2

The Schmigel Site is an existing class 2 site being investigated for PFAS related contamination.

- Previously remediated for other non-PFAS contamination.
- Supplemental sampling proposal approved to evaluate potential PFAS contamination.

Interface Solutions (442059) P-site

Interface Solution is a manufacturer of fiber composite material. Manufactured materials have reportedly been coated with PFAS containing solutions.

- Potential hazardous waste disposal site.
- Site characterization planned.

Former Dodge Machine (442053) P-site

This Church Street building is the former workshop of Cleveland Dodge, a pioneer in the Teflon coating industry.

- Potential hazardous waste disposal site.
- Site characterization is being planned.

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION



Project documents are on the DEC website: www.dec.ny.gov Search for "Hoosick Falls"



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION WORK GROUP



The Hoosick Area Community Participation Work Group met for the first time in May 2019. This group will serve as liaison between the community and the involved agencies to facilitate communication and community involvement. All meetings are open to the public and the meeting schedule can be found on the Village of Hoosick Falls website: http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/. Information about the CPWG is also available on the NYSDEC website where Hoosick Falls Area updates are posted: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/108791.html.