

FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

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Site Name: Vibratech Inc.
DEC Site #: 915165
Site Address: 537 East Delavan
Buffalo, NY 14211

January 2012

Investigation to Begin at State Superfund Site

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) will soon begin a supplemental environmental study at Vibratech Inc. (“site”) located at 537 East Delavan in Buffalo, Erie County. See map for site location.

Highlights of the Site Investigation

The study to be done at the site will be performed under New York’s State Superfund Program.

The site investigation has several goals:

- 1) define the nature and extent of contamination in soil, groundwater and soil vapor.
- 2) identify the source(s) of the contamination
- 3) assess the impact of the contamination on public health and the environment
- 4) provide information to support the development of a proposed remedy to address the contamination.



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 the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

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

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

Background

The Vibratech site is located in a mixed industrial/commercial/residential area in the City of Buffalo. Two and three story brick buildings cover more than half of this 10.3 acre site.

The site was utilized for the manufacture of vibration dampeners and rotary shock absorbers for the truck and railroad industry. Specific operations at the plant included chip turning, assembly of components, heat treating and plating. The plant operated from 1927 through the mid 1990s.

In the early 1990's solvent contamination of shallow soil was identified in a railroad spur at the south end of the site. Groundwater down gradient of the rail spur was also contaminated with solvents. Vibratex Inc. excavated contaminated soil to bedrock, treated the soil using ex-situ vapor extraction and returned treated soil to the rail spur. A Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in March 1997 which documented the removal action and required routine groundwater monitoring.

Groundwater in the vicinity of the rail spur flows in a westerly direction, under the southern portion of the facility, infiltrating the Winchester Avenue sewer. Groundwater solvent concentrations steadily decreased following soil treatment. Low levels of solvent contamination remained in the groundwater requiring continued groundwater monitoring.

In 2002, oil product was identified in several monitoring wells at the facility. Since that time, several investigations have been completed to identify the source of the petroleum. In 2006 DEC removed one underground petroleum storage tank and cleaned out an adjacent underground petroleum storage tank. The source of petroleum contamination remains unknown.

In 2009, the United States Environmental Protection Agency removed hazardous materials from inside the site buildings including asbestos, PCB containing light ballasts and contaminated floor sweepings.

In 2010, the Department initiated an investigation to assess the potential for contaminated soil vapor at the site. Contaminated soil vapor can enter buildings through basements and crawl spaces, potentially contaminating indoor air. Additional investigation will be completed to further assess this potential route of exposure.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

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

NYSDEC Region 9 Office
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203

Please contact the NYSDEC project manager listed below to schedule a date and time to review documents. Project information is also available on DEC's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37554.html> .

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions

Mr. Chad Staniszewski, P.E.
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 851-7220
crstanis@gw.dec.state.ny.us
(Please call for an appointment.)

Site-Related Health Questions

Mr. Matt Forcucci
NYSDOH
584 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-847-4501
beei@health.state.ny.us

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: 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.

You may continue also to receive paper copies of site information for a time after you sign up with a county listserv, until the transition to electronic distribution is complete.

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.