



FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

***Receive site fact sheets by email. See For More Information to learn how.**

Site Name: 318 Urban Street

September 2012

DEC Site #: 915151

Site Address: 318 Urban Street; Buffalo, NY 14211

Urban Street Update: DEC Certifies Cleanup Requirements Achieved at State Superfund (SSF) Site



Before remediation: Debris and soil piles on west end of building



After remediation: Panoramic photo of west end of Urban Street site following grass seeding

Urban Street By the Numbers:

Superfund Numbers:
2.5 acres – area of site

Cleaned Facility Numbers:
130 cubic yards – removal of debris
345 linear ft – repaired sewer lines
440 cubic yards – soil used for fill
555 cubic yards – of excavated soil for disposal
1,700 cubic yards – disposal from main building
22,250 sq ft – area of restored roof (main building)
26,000 sq ft – area of pressure treated walls
31,000 sq ft – asphalt pavement

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has determined the cleanup requirements to address contamination related to 318 Urban Street (“site”) located at 318 Urban Street, in Buffalo, Erie County under New York’s State Superfund Program (SSF) have been or will be met. Please see the **Site Location** for the map.

DEC has approved the Final Engineering Report and reclassified the site. A copy of the Final Engineering Report is available to the public at the location identified below under **Where to Find Information**.

The cleanup activities were performed by General Electric Co./GE International, Inc. with oversight provided by DEC.

Institutional and Engineering Controls

Institutional controls and engineering controls generally are designed to reduce or eliminate exposure to any remaining or residual contamination. An institutional control is a non-physical restriction on use of the site, such as a deed restriction, when contamination that remains after the cleanup makes the site suitable for some, but not all uses. An engineering control is a physical barrier or method to manage contamination such as a cap or vapor barrier.

The following institutional controls have been put in place on the site:

- Ground Water Use Restriction
- Site Management Plan
- Soil Management Plan
- Institutional Control/Engineering Control Plan
- Deed Notice
- Landuse Restriction
- Local Groundwater Restriction



During remediation: Removing debris and floor waste inside building



During remediation: Excavation along fence line, using water for dust control

The following engineering controls have been put in place on the site:

- Cover System
- Fencing/Access Control

Next Steps

DEC reclassified the site from a Class 2 to a Class 4 site based on review and approval of a Final Engineering Report. The Final Engineering Report includes:

1. A description of the cleanup activities completed;
2. Certification that cleanup requirements have been or will be achieved for the site;
3. A description of any institutional/engineering controls to be used; and
4. A certification that a site management plan for any engineering controls used at the site has been approved by DEC.

Background

Location:

The former General Electric (GE) Service Center is located at 318 Urban Street, in Buffalo, Erie County. The site is located in a mixed residential/industrial section of the City of Buffalo's east side. The site is bounded by residential homes along French Street to the north, Urban Street to the south, apartments and a playground to the east, and railroad tracks/corridor border to the west. A public school is located diagonally across Urban Street to the southeast.

Site Features:

The site is former industrial property approximately 2.5 acres in size and contains a brick/block high bay industrial use building. Asphalt pavement for access, parking and storage borders the northern, eastern and western sides of the building. All other areas are covered with turf grass. The entire parcel is secured with a chain link fence and driveway gate. The topographic land features are relatively flat, typical of the local area. The western side of the site is bounded by an elevated grade developed for the rail corridor. The site and local area is serviced with public water and sanitary sewer utilities.

Zoning/Use:

The site is zoned an M1-Light Industrial district that extends partially to the north, south and to the west. An R1-residential district is adjacent to the east and partially to the north.

Urban Street Site Timeline:

1921 – 1968

GE owned and operated as electrical equipment service and repair shop

1985

Pyramid Steel Corporation/Sweeney Steel Service purchased site and used as machine shop and warehouse for steel fabrication and supply

1992 – 1999

IRM and remedial work

2000

Property vacated

2007

Sewer monitoring completed

2011

Environmental Notice filed

2012

September: Final Engineering Report approved

Historic Uses:

GE owned and operated the site from 1921 to 1968. GE used the building as a service shop to repair electrical equipment and transformers and to machine parts. A transformer pit was used for operations including draining oil from transformers.

Pyramid Steel Corporation (a.k.a. Sweeney Steel Service, Corp.) purchased the site in 1985 and used the building as a machine shop and warehouse for steel fabrication and supply. Pyramid vacated the property in the 2000s where it has sat vacant for a number of years. Several industrial tenants have used the building and site intermittently in the ensuing years.

Site Geology and Hydrogeology:

The surface soils consist primarily of poorly drained silts and clays. Based on the USGS topographic map, there are no surface water bodies within a one-mile radius of the site. The nearest surface water body shown on the map is Scajaquada Creek, which is one and one-half miles northwest of the site. The creek flows northwest, away from the site, and ultimately discharges into the Niagara River. However, Scajaquada Creek is reportedly contained within a tunnel approximately 2,000 feet north of the site.

Drinking water is supplied to the surrounding neighborhood by the City of Buffalo, which draws surface water from Lake Erie. There are no known drinking water wells near the site.

Storm water runoff enters on-site catch basins and is directed through storm drains to a publicly owned combined storm and sanitary sewer on French Street. During normal flow conditions, the flow is discharged to the publicly-owned treatment works (POTW) on Squaw Island. During heavy storms, the combined sewer overflow discharges directly to Scajaquada Creek.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on DEC's website at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/85052.html> and at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/dereexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=915151>

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.

DEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds. GE, the responsible party for this site, bore all costs for the investigation and remediation of the site. For more information about the SSF, visit:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html>.



After remediation: Panoramic photo of building interior after debris removed, new floor and interior painting

Where to Find Information

Public interest in this project is valued and appreciated. Project documents are available at the following location to help the public stay informed. For more information about the State Superfund Program, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html>.

NYS DEC Region 9 Office
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14203
716-851-7220
(Call for appointment)

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions:

Eugene Melnyk, P.E.
NYS DEC, Division of Environmental Remediation
270 Michigan Ave
Buffalo, NY 14203-2915
716-851-7220
ewmelnyk@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-Related Health Questions:

Deanna Ripstein
NYS DOH, Bureau of Environmental Exposure
Investigation
Empire State Plaza, Coming Tower, Room 1787
Albany, NY 12237
518-402-7860
beej@health.state.ny.us

Site Location



For More Information

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. DEC 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. 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.

