



# FACT SHEET

## Brownfield Cleanup Program

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

**Site Name:** 500 Seneca Street Site  
**DEC Site #:** C915273  
**Address:** 500 Seneca Street  
 Buffalo, NY 14204

Have questions?  
 See  
 "Who to Contact"  
 Below

### Interim Remedial Measure Proposed; Public Comment Period Announced

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is proposing an expedited cleanup for the 500 Seneca Street Site ("site") located at 500 Seneca Street, Buffalo, Erie County. Please see the map for the site location. Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the locations identified below under "Where to Find Information." DEC is conducting a public comment period because this Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) is likely to represent a significant part of the cleanup for this site.

#### How to Comment

DEC is accepting written comments about the proposed IRM work plan for 30 days, from **January 12, 2015** through **February 12, 2015**. The proposed plan is available for review at the locations identified below under "Where to Find Information." Please submit comments to the DEC project manager listed under Project Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area below.

#### Draft Interim Remedial Measure Work Plan

An IRM is a cleanup activity that may be performed when a source of contamination or exposure pathway (the way in which a person may contact contamination) can be effectively addressed without extensive investigation and evaluation.

The draft IRM work plan describes the proposed cleanup activities that include:

Excavation of chlorinated volatile organic compound (cVOCs)-impacted soils to the extent feasible in the loading dock area within the northern-central portion of the facility. The extent of excavation may be limited to the top of the water table approximately 6 feet below ground surface or due to structural concerns relating to building walls and columns adjacent to the excavation.

As the excavation activities may not achieve the protection of groundwater soil cleanup objectives found in 6NYCRR Part 375-6.8(b) and residual groundwater contamination will likely remain, injection piping will be installed after the completion of the excavation activities to facilitate further in-situ groundwater treatment of the remaining cVOC-impacted soil/fill and groundwater. This will be done using commercially available amendments.

After excavation a sub-slab depressurization system will be installed within the bedding backfill and beneath the concrete slab to be replaced in over the cVOC-impacted excavation area in the loading dock.

#### *Summary of the Investigation*

Investigations have noted the presence of chlorinated volatile organic compounds including tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE) and cis-1,2 dichloroethene (DCE). These compounds exist in the soil and groundwater in a roughly 30 feet by 30 feet area within the north-central portion of the existing building in a loading dock area.

#### **Next Steps**

DEC will consider public comments, revise the plan as necessary, and approve the IRM work plan in consultation with New York State Department of Health (DOH). The approved work plan will be made available to the public (see "Where to Find Information" below). After the work plan is approved, the activities detailed in the work plan will be implemented. Upon completion of the work, a Construction Completion Report will be prepared that documents the activities that were performed.

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

#### **Background**

##### **Location:**

The 500 Seneca Street Site is located in an urban mixed use, commercial and residential area. The site is approximately 1.87 acres in size.

##### **Site Features:**

The site is comprised of a multi-story building with an attached single story garage/storage building and open lot on the western side of the parcel. The building was constructed from east to west with various additions and expansions as the facility grew from the original structure.

##### **Current Zoning and Land Use:**

Current use of the site is vacant commercial property. The future use of the site is intended for restricted residential and commercial.

##### **Past Use of the Site:**

The site originally housed the F.N. Burt Company, which utilized the property for box manufacturing from the point of the original building construction in the early 1900's until 1959. Between approximately 1968 and 1980, Wolkind Bros, Inc. clothing rental utilized the property. Between 1986 and 2004, the site was utilized for manufacturing, warehousing and shipping operations. The site has been largely vacant and underutilized since manufacturing operations ceased in 2004.

##### **Site Geology and Hydrology:**

The majority of the site is characterized by 6 inches of asphalt or concrete above 6 inches of gravel, with underlying fill soils comprised sand and brick from 4 to 4.5 feet below ground surface. Native soils are encountered about 4.5 feet below ground surface and generally consist of clayey silt with intermittent layers of silty sand and gravel.

Groundwater has been encountered from 6 to 10 feet below ground surface. The site is located approximately 0.8 miles northeast of the Buffalo River and local Site groundwater flow to the southwest with the upper horizon influenced by urban infrastructure.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on DEC's website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=C915273>

**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 include recreation, housing, business or other uses.

A brownfield is any real property that is difficult to reuse or redevelop because of the presence or potential presence of contamination.

For more information about the BCP, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html>

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Where to Find Information

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

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library  
Attn: Ms. Mary Jean Jakubowski  
1 Lafayette Square  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716-858-8900  
([jakubowskim@buffalolib.org](mailto:jakubowskim@buffalolib.org))

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Attn: Maurice Moore  
270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
716-851-7220

### Who to Contact

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

#### Project Related Questions

Maurice Moore  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Environmental Remediation  
270 Michigan Ave  
Buffalo, NY 14203-2915  
716-851-7220  
[maurice.moore@dec.ny.gov](mailto:maurice.moore@dec.ny.gov)

#### Site-Related Health Questions

Bridget K. Boyd  
New York State Department of Health  
Empire State Plaza Corning Tower, Rm. 1787  
Albany, NY 12237  
518-402-7860  
[BFEL@health.ny.gov](mailto:BFEL@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. 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.

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

