

FACT SHEET

Environmental Investigation to Begin at Former Flex-O-Wire Site

The City of Oswego has been awarded funding to conduct a remedial investigation at 68 W. First Street, Oswego, New York (Site), through the New York Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) Environmental Restoration Program (ERP). The purpose of the grant is to provide funding to further investigate the property, characterize the environmental conditions and evaluate remediation alternatives. An additional funding source for this Brownfield Project is through Oswego County's (County) United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Brownfield Assessment Grant. The overall goal for the Site is to eliminate the existing environmental concerns to enable redevelopment of property. Work is scheduled to begin in August 2009 (after Harborfest). NYSDEC is providing this fact sheet in cooperation with the USEPA, New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Oswego County, and the City of Oswego. The purpose of this fact sheet is to notify nearby residents and other interested parties of the planned investigation and to identify ways to obtain more information relating to the site.

About the New York State's Environmental Restoration Program

A brownfield is an abandoned or under-used property where redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. In an effort to spur the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields, a \$200 million Environmental Restoration Fund was enacted as part of the \$1.75 billion Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act of 1996. Enhancements to the program were enacted on October 7, 2003. Under the enhanced Environmental Restoration Program, the State provides grants to municipalities that own brownfields, but are not responsible for the contamination, to reimburse up to 90 percent of on-site eligible costs and 100 percent of on-site eligible costs and 100 percent of off-site eligible costs for site investigation and remediation activities.

Upcoming Investigation

The purpose of the upcoming investigation is to define the nature and extent of contamination at the site. Starting later this summer, the City's consultant, CHA will perform a number of investigative tasks at the site. The initial fieldwork should be completed by mid September 2009. Previous investigations at the site identified three areas of concern: an underground storage tank (UST) with an estimated volume of 1000 gallons, an above ground storage tank (AST) with a volume of 500 gallons and the previous site use as numerous industries. These areas will be investigated by a variety of field tasks. This will be followed by the installation of soil borings (drilling to collect soil samples) and groundwater monitoring wells. Samples of soil and groundwater will be collected at the site and submitted for laboratory analyses of a comprehensive list of contaminants, including: volatile and semi volatile organic compounds (petroleum-and-solvent-related), metals, and PCB's.

Soil vapor samples will also be collected. As part of the Environmental Restoration Program, soil vapor must be assessed as an environmental medium at the site. Soil vapor is air existing in void spaces in the soil between the groundwater table and the ground surface. These gases may include vapor of hazardous chemicals such as volital organic compounds (VOCs). Petroleum-impacted soils remaining at the site, and other impacted soils not presently identified, may be acting as a source area for VOCs in soil gas. VOC vapors in soil gas can enter and accumulate in structures, adversely affecting indoor air quality. Soil vapor sampling and analysis at the Site will confirm or deny the presence of contaminated soil vapors to evaluate the potential for current off-site exposures.

During the investigation activities, air monitoring will be conducted to ensure that site-related contaminants are not migrating offsite through the air. The area near the Site is served by public water; therefore, exposure to site-related contaminants in drinking water is not expected.

Prior to the start of subsurface work at the site, CHA will contact Dig Safely NY to locate public utilities present at the site. Final determination of the location of the borings and monitoring wells will be dependent upon the confirmed utility locations.

Tank Removal

In addition to the remedial investigation activities, an interim remedial measure will be conducted and remove the (1000-gallon) UST, which are a potential source of contamination on the property. The NYSDEC approved the removal of these tanks as part of the investigation. This work is also expected to be completed during August 2009.

What Happens Next:

When the investigation is complete, the City will submit a report to the NYSDEC and the USEPA summarizing the investigation, evaluating the potential exposure pathways, and presenting remedial alternatives. If cleanup actions are necessary, the NYSDEC will propose a remedial plan and present it at a public meeting. Additionally, the NYSDEC will have a 45-day public comment period on the plan before the final remedy is selected. The City of Oswego will be eligible to apply for additional funds to help pay for the cleanup if required. At this time, the City is planning on immediately redeveloping the Site after cleanup is complete.

About the Site

The site is located in a commercial area near a residential neighborhood, and is currently occupied by the City of Oswego Department of Public Works.

The occupied Site is approximately 2.0 acres in size, and consists of a one-story concrete slab-on-grade, steel framed masonry building (approximately 22,300 square feet). The remainder of the Site consists of grassy lawn areas and a paved parking lot for open parking. The main entrance consists of two bay doors on the north side of the building.

The northern and northwestern portions of the property were industrialized. The northeast portion of the property was occupied by Oswego Gasket Company while the northwest corner of the property was occupied by Jason Malone Lake Ontario Planning Mill and the Global Match Company. The southern portion of the property was occupied by Oswego Machine Works. The site was later occupied by the Flex-O-Wire Company.

For More Information:

Documents related to this investigation, include the Work Plan for Remedial Investigation/Remedial Alternative Report and Citizen Participation Plan, are available for review at:

Oswego Public Library

120 East Second Street

Oswego NY 13126

Phone (315) 341-5867

Hours: Monday-Thursday: 10:00am-8:00pm

Friday 10:00am-5:00pm

Saturday, Sunday: Noon-5:00pm

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Region 7 Offices

615 Erie Blvd. West

Syracuse, NY 13204

Phone (315) 476-7403

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30-4:45pm

For Questions About the Investigation:

The City of Oswego and Oswego County have identified individuals knowledgeable about the proposed remedial investigation activities. These individuals are identified below. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact any of the following people:

The City of Oswego

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Oswego County

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Associate Planner

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New York State Department of Environmental Conservation:

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**United States Environmental
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