



FACT SHEET

Environmental Remediation Program

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Project Name: Study Area
NYSDEC Project #: 851046
Address: Corning Boulevard
Corning, NY 14830

Have questions?
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"Whom to Contact"
Below

Preliminary Findings at Study Area Bounded by Pyrex Street, E. Pulteney Street, Post Creek and Chemung River;

Study Identifies Areas with Contaminants in Fill

Public Meeting Announced

Thursday, October 30, 2014 – Radisson Hotel, 125 Denison Parkway East

Availability Session: 3:00 - 5:00 PM - for residents in the Study Area and other interested parties to speak one-on-one with State and Corning Incorporated representatives.

Public Meeting: 6:30 - 8:00 PM – for general information regarding the preliminary findings.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) invites you to an availability session and public meeting to discuss the preliminary findings of work completed to date in the Study Area. NYSDEC and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), in cooperation with Corning Incorporated, will present preliminary findings and invite your questions.

Corning Incorporated is currently undertaking a study of property located in the City of Corning, Steuben County. Please see the map for the site location. Documents related to the investigation of this site can be found at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information."

Scope of Work

Corning Incorporated, under a Consent Order with NYSDEC, has implemented the initial phase of work described in the "Study Area Characterization Work Plan," which was approved by NYSDEC. Corning Incorporated, with oversight by NYSDEC and the NYSDOH, has completed soil borings and collected and analyzed soil samples from various portions of the Study Area including the Corning-Painted Post High School (CPPHS), Memorial Stadium, Corning Christian Academy, land in front of the Firehouse, Houghton Park, residential properties on the east end of Corning Boulevard, and public rights-of-way in the residential area. Surface soil samples were recently collected from a majority of the residential yards in the Study Area. The final laboratory analytical results of these residential surface soil samples are expected to be available in January 2015, at which time additional availability sessions will be held to provide property owners the opportunity to discuss their results with State and Corning Incorporated representatives.

Summary of Preliminary Findings and Highlights of the Upcoming Work

Findings of the soil borings confirm the presence of fill containing ash, brick and glass at some locations in the Study Area including CPPHS, Memorial Stadium, Corning Christian Academy, and land in front of the City Firehouse. Similar fill was also found in the northwestern portion of the residential area (in one of the 24 public right-of-way borings) and on five residential properties in the southeast corner of the residential area. Subsequent shallow soil evaluation activities completed by NYSDEC at select properties within and nearby the Study Area confirm the presence of this type of fill at additional locations and this evaluation is on-going.

The first round of surface soil sampling in residential yards was recently completed pursuant to the Study Area Characterization Work Plan and a second round is planned to begin in early November. Additional soil borings and groundwater monitoring wells are planned in November to better define the limits of fill containing ash, brick or glass and to assess groundwater quality. NYSDEC is also continuing to evaluate areas outside the Study Area.

The ongoing study so far has identified limited areas where there are potential exposure concerns and affected property owners in these limited areas are being notified. The analyses of soil samples collected at these locations show the presence of lead, cadmium, and/or arsenic at concentrations above the State's soil cleanup objectives (SCOs) for residential settings. We are currently evaluating what action(s) may be appropriate to address the contamination in these properties.

Property owners should be aware that, in its current condition, contact with contaminated soils at these properties is possible in areas not covered with grass or pavement, especially in areas with visible ash, brick, and glass. We will continue to evaluate these areas and will address these issues, as necessary, to reduce the potential for exposure. Final results of the surface samples collected from the residential yards are still pending, and until those results are obtained and evaluated, we cannot determine whether there are exposure concerns for residents in the remainder of the Study Area. In the meantime, DOH recommends that property owners follow the best practices described below to reduce any potential for exposure:

- Wash with soap and water after gardening or any time before you eat.
- Minimize children's direct contact with bare soil by laying down wood chips or maintaining grass cover, especially if there is visible fill material containing ash, brick, or glass.
- Consider growing vegetables in raised beds with clean soil (at least 10 inches deep). Use untreated wood to make the beds. Pressure-treated wood and railroad ties contain added chemicals.
- Brush off your soil from your clothes and remove shoes and gloves before entering your home. You can find additional information about healthy gardening at:
<http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/1301/>.

For more information on exposure, visit the DOH website at:
<http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/about/exposure>.

Next Steps

Upon completion of the Study Area characterization, NYSDEC in consultation with NYSDOH, will evaluate the data and determine the next steps, including whether any cleanup measures or other remedial actions are necessary to protect public health and the environment. NYSDEC and NYSDOH are committed to working cooperatively with the community and Corning Incorporated to ensure the area is properly evaluated and that any necessary cleanup measures are taken.

Background

Location: The Study Area is located in the northeastern area of the City of Corning. It is bounded by Pyrex Street to the west, the Chemung River to the south, Post Creek to the east, and E. Pulteney Street to the north.

Site Features: The Study Area includes CPPHS, Corning Christian Academy, Houghton Park, and more than 200 residential properties.

The (former) Corning-Painted Post East High School was expanded to accommodate the consolidation of two former high schools at this location. Excavation work began in 2012 and the reconfiguration of the new CPPHS was largely complete at the outset of the 2014-2015 school year.

During the expansion work, fill containing ash, brick and glass waste was encountered in excavated soils. Some of this fill contained hazardous levels of lead and cadmium, which required special handling and disposal. In addition to lead and cadmium, much of the excavated fill contained elevated levels of other metals such as arsenic, barium, chromium, and mercury, which warranted additional characterization; however, these other metals were not considered hazardous waste. NYSDEC determined that the presence of this material warranted additional investigation at the school property and in nearby properties within the Study Area. NYSDEC asked Corning Incorporated to conduct an evaluation and Corning Incorporated entered into a Consent Order with NYSDEC to do so.

Current Zoning/Use(s): Current property uses and zoning in the area include residential and community services.

Historical Use(s): The CPPHS property and much of the surrounding neighborhood is a former low area along the river that has been extensively filled from the 1930s, or earlier, to the early 1960s when the school was constructed. Historic property deed records contain a condition that allowed Corning Glass Works to maintain ash dumps “as now located” in the Study Area in 1920.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

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

NYSDEC – Region 8 Office
6274 East Avon- Lima Rd.
Avon, NY 14414
M-F: 8:45am – 4:30pm
Contact: Linda Vera for an
appointment (585) 226 - 5324

Southeast Steuben County Library
300 Nasser Civic Center Plaza
Suite 101
Corning, NY 14830
phone: (607) 936-3713

Project documents are also available on the NYSDEC website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/97180.html>.

Whom to Contact

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

Project-Related Questions

Gregory B. MacLean, P.E.
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
6274 East Avon-Lima Road
Avon, NY 14414
585-226-5356
greg.maclean@dec.ny.gov

Project-Related Health Questions

Melissa A. Doroski, MPH
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Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower Room #1787
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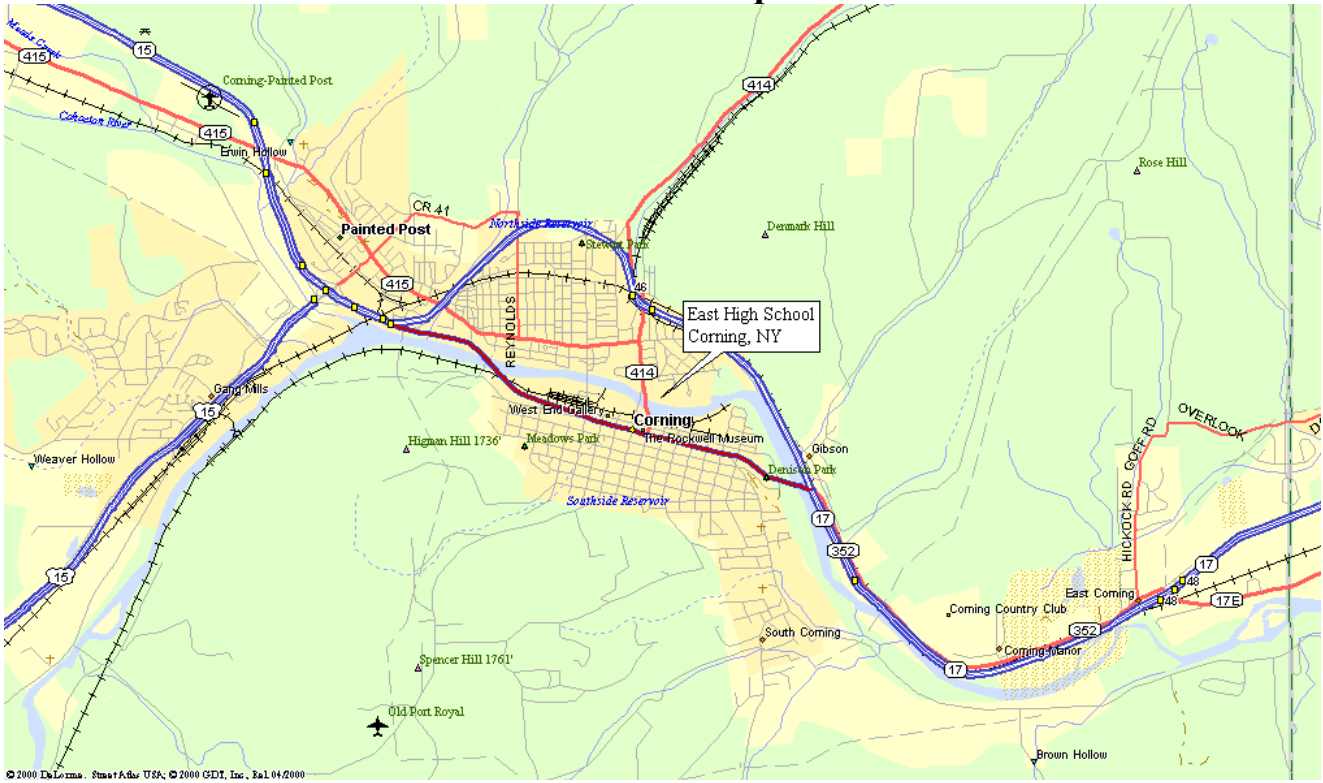
Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/97180.html>. It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you *better 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.

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.

Location Map



Study Area Map with Boundaries

