

An Electronic Newsletter of EEA's Environmental Consulting Activities

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EEA services include
Phase I ESAs, Haz-Mat
Testing and Remediation,
Wetlands Delineation and
Creation, Natural
Resources Inventories, Marine
Ecology Studies, Air Quality and
Noise studies, and
Environmental Management
System (ISO 14000)
implementation.

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IN SIGHTS

EEA Hazmat Team at Work: NYSDEC Brownfield Remediation Horace Harding Blvd, Queens, New York

(printer friendly version uses Acrobat Reader)

EEA has launched an investigation and remediation on a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Brownsfield Redevelopment Site in the Fresh Meadows section of Queens. Under New York State's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP), the 1.67-acre property, located on the northern side of Horace Harding Expressway and 183rd Street, was part of a strip mall containing a movie theater and a dry cleaner. The dry cleaner was the source of a significant chlorinated solvent spill. Groundwater was contaminated with tetrachloroethane (PEC).



Under the BCP, cleanups are fully protective of public health and the environment. Once the problem was identified, the site was labeled as a NYSDEC Brownfield Cleanup site. EEA was called in to conduct a remediation of the contaminated area, both on and off site.

EEA initiated remediation procedures tailored for this site. Subsurface investigations have identified that the contaminated

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EEA, Inc. – Founded in 1979 Principals

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NYSDEC Brownsfield Legislation

2003

The Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) was authorized in statute under Title 14 of Article 27 of the Environmental Conservation Law as part of the 2003 Superfund/Brownfield Law.

2004

groundwater has migrated off site. The on-site source has been identified and the extent of the contamination has been qualified by recent subsurface investigations.



The Clean Up

The water table was lowered in order to isolate the contaminated material and begin removal. Sheet piling was installed to contain the area of the contamination. Approximately 15 feet of material was excavated and 3,000 cubic yards of saturated soils.



In order to remediate the site the source of the contamination was removed. The highest levels of contamination exist in the saturated zone at the groundwater, subsurface soil interface to a depth of. The overburden soil was stripped stockpiled on-site prior to delivery sheet piling to a depth of 40 feet from grade.

After the sheet piling was installed, a well point dewatering system was installed and the water pumped from the area to be excavated. The water required treatment prior to being discharged to the New York City sewer system. Treatment consisted of frac tanks with a carbon filter to remove the PCE in water prior to discharge. A permit from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection was obtained prior to operating the dewatering system.

The Draft Brownfield Program Cleanup Guide is released.

2008

Governor David Paterson signed into law legislation to reform certain aspects of the State Brownfield program. Legislation amends Chapter 1 of the 2003 Laws, which established the Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP). The BCP, among other things, provides BCP tax credits in return for the cleanup and redevelopment of BCP sites. The principal reforms enacted relate to restructuring the tax credits to provide balance between remediation and redevelopment credits. Also, the legislation transferred the administration of the Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA) Program from the Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to the Department of State (NYSDOS).



Once the water table was depressed, the contaminated soil was excavated and removed. By depressing the water table and temporarily staging the soil within the excavation, the soil did not require treatment prior to shipment. The soil was designated a RCRA hazardous waste, based upon analytical data.

Approximately 2,400 cubic yards of contaminated soils was removed. Prior to backfilling with clean fill, seven soil samples were obtained from the large area and three from the smaller area. Each soil sample was analyzed for Volatile Organic Compounds by USEPA Method 8260.

After the contaminated soil was removed, clean fill was brought to the site and placed in the excavated area and compacted in lifts to the level of the future foundations.

EEA is currently completing the interim remedial clean up. The property will be developed for commercial and residential use in the near future.



Internet Links:

Brownfield Cleanup Program Summary - NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Brownfield Site Certificates of Completion - NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Brownfield Redevelopment, Empire State Development

[CPEO-BIF] New York Comptroller reviews state brownfields law

EEA,Inc.

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