



**BROWNFIELDS SITES INFORMATION REQUEST**

**PORTION OF FORMER VACUUM OIL REFINERY**

**Facility Id: C828190**

COTTAGE ST/RIVERVIEW PL/VIOLETTA ST/S PLYMOUTH AVE, ROCHESTER, NY 14608

ADDRESS CHANGE INFORMATION

Revised street: NO CHANGE

Revised zip code: NO CHANGE

Brownfield Program: Brownfield Cleanup Program

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NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION  
BROWNFIELD CLEANUP PROGRAM

CLASSIFICATION CODE: A

REGION: 8

SITE CODE: C828190

DEC ID: 497660

CLASSIFICATION CODE DESCRIPTION:

Work is underway and not yet complete.

NAME OF SITE: Portion of Former Vacuum Oil Refinery  
STREET ADDRESS: Cottage St/Riverview Pl/Violetta St/S Plymouth Ave  
CITY: Rochester ZIP: 14608

TOWN: Rochester (c)  
COUNTY: Monroe

ESTIMATED SIZE: 15.406 Acres

SITE TYPE: Dump-X Structure- Lagoon- Landfill- Treatment Pond-

INSTITUTIONAL/ENGINEERING CONTROLS:

None reported

CROSS REFERENCES:

None reported

SITE OWNER/OPERATOR/REPOSITORY INFORMATION:

CURRENT OWNER(S):

NAME: City of Rochester  
Joseph J. Biondolillo  
ADDRESS: City Hall, 30 Church Street, Rm 300B  
Rochester, NY 14614

Owner Type: Local Government

OWNER(S) DURING DISPOSAL:

OPERATOR(S) DURING DISPOSAL:

APPLICANT REQUESTOR(S) :

NAME: City of Rochester  
Joseph J. Biondolillo  
ADDRESS: City Hall, 30 Church Street, Room 300B  
Rochester, NY 14614

DOCUMENT REPOSITORY(S) :

NAME: Phillis Wheatley Community Library  
ADDRESS: 33 Dr Samuel McCree Way  
Rochester, NY 14608

NAME: PLEX Neighborhood Association  
ADDRESS: Carlson Commons  
70 Coretta Scott Crossing  
Rochester, NY 14608

HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL PERIOD: from 1867 to 1930

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Location: The Portion of Former Vacuum Oil Refinery site is located in an urban area. The 15.4 acre site is located in the southwestern quadrant of the City of Rochester in the Plymouth-Exchange (PLEX) neighborhood.

Site Features: The site is currently undeveloped except for an asphalt-paved recreational trail that runs through the entire eastern side of the site from north to south. A grass-covered area is located east of the trail. The rest of the site is wooded and contains remnants of structures from the former refinery. Current Zoning/Use(s): The site is currently vacant except for a recreational trail. The site is zoned for single family residential houses. The Genesee River is just east of the site. Residential, commercial, and light industrial properties are located to the north, south, and west.

Past Use of the Site: The majority of the site was part of the former Vacuum Oil refinery which operated from about 1866 to 1930. Other historical uses included railroads and canals for the shipment of raw materials and finished products. The Vacuum Oil Company was a predecessor of ExxonMobil Corporation. In 1989, a tar-like substance was encountered on property south of the site. NYSDEC excavated and properly disposed of the tar off-site. In 1990, the City of Rochester prepared a report that describes property and traces the history of the Vacuum Oil Company. In 2001, NYSDEC completed an investigation of a 24-acre portion of the former Vacuum Oil facility south of Flint St. In 2005 and 2009 ExxonMobil performed work that expanded on the NYSDEC investigation and in 2012 an additional site assessment report was prepared for the City of Rochester. The results of these investigations indicate the presence of various contaminants in soil and/or groundwater including volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, and metals. Based on these results, the Portion of Former Vacuum Oil Refinery site entered the Brownfield Cleanup Program in April 2015. Site Geology and Hydrogeology: Both native soil and fill materials are present at the site. Native soils consist of sands, silts, and clays. Fill consists of bricks, slag, cinders, gravels, wood, and miscellaneous debris and is present from the surface to depths of up to 16.5 feet. Groundwater is present at depths of approximately 3 to 8 feet. Groundwater flows to the southeast toward the Genesee River.

CONFIRMED HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSED:

TYPE	QUANTITY
XYLENE (MIXED)	UNKNOWN
BENZO (A) PYRENE	UNKNOWN
ARSENIC	UNKNOWN

ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS:

Nature and Extent of Contamination: Based upon investigations conducted prior to the site entering the Brownfield Cleanup Program, the primary contaminants of concern include petroleum-related volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), and arsenic. Surface Soil: SVOCs, especially polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons such as benzo(a)pyrene (B(a)P), and arsenic appear to be the primary contaminants in the top foot of soil. B(a)P exceeds the 1 ppm soil cleanup objective (SCO) for unrestricted use in surface soils throughout the site with a maximum concentration of 17.9 ppm. Arsenic exceeds the 13 ppm SCO for unrestricted use in surface soils throughout the site with a maximum concentration of 35 ppm.

Subsurface Soil: SVOCs, especially polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons such as B(a)P, arsenic, and petroleum-related VOCs appear to be the primary contaminants in the soils below 1 foot. B(a)P exceeds the 1 ppm SCO for unrestricted use in subsurface soils throughout the site. The maximum B(a)P concentration is 132 ppm at a depth of 2 to 4 feet with elevated levels extending to depths of at least 10 feet in some areas.

Arsenic exceeds the 13 ppm SCO for unrestricted use in subsurface soils throughout the site. The maximum arsenic concentration is 40 ppm at a depth of 2 to 4 feet with elevated levels extending to depths of at least 10 feet in some areas.

Petroleum related VOCs, including naphthalene, total xylene and trimethylbenzenes, are detected in subsurface soil at depths of about 6 to 18 feet. The maximum naphthalene concentration of 36 ppm exceeds the unrestricted use SCO of 12 ppm. The maximum xylene concentration of 26 ppm exceeds the unrestricted use SCO of 12 ppm. The maximum 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene of 24 ppm exceeds the unrestricted use SCO of 8.4 ppm.

Groundwater: Petroleum related VOCs are also found in groundwater throughout the site with low to moderate exceedances of groundwater standards (typically 5 ppb for the VOCs detected). The highest VOC concentrations were xylenes at 518 ppb and 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene at 313 ppb.

ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH PROBLEMS:

Information submitted with the BCP application regarding the conditions at the site are currently under review and will be revised as additional information becomes available.

PROJECT COMPLETIONS:

None reported

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