

NYSDEC – WESTERN NEW YORK REGION

April, 2011

Environmental Overview

- The Western New York (WNY) Region of Empire State Development is comprised of Erie, Niagara, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany Counties. The region has a population of 1.38 million and covers 4,974 square miles.
- The Region has abundant water resources, including Lakes Erie, Ontario and Chautauqua, and the Niagara, Allegheny and Genesee Rivers. There are over 75 miles of Lake Erie and 30 miles of Lake Ontario shoreline located in the WNY Region. The shorelines and waterways of the region are dynamic environments subject to erosion damage and flooding from waves, ice and storm damage.
- More than 106,000 acres of wetlands have been mapped by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in WNY. In addition, the NYSDEC manages 113,178 acres of State Forest Lands and Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the Region.

Environmental Issues

- The Region has the only hazardous waste disposal facility in the Northeast (CWM), 7 major solid waste landfills which includes 3 of the 5 largest in New York State. There are several hundred superfund sites and over 100 brownfield sites, currently undergoing investigation and/or restoration under state environmental remediation programs. The Great Lakes Program is centered in the Buffalo Office.
- **Buffalo Harbor Bridge** – City of Buffalo, Erie County: The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration, the NYS Department of Transportation and the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (lead agencies) have completed Scoping for an environmental impact statement to be prepared for a new bridge over the Buffalo River, linking downtown Buffalo with the largely undeveloped “Outer Harbor”. The construction cost for the feasible alternatives has been estimated at \$63 to \$87 million. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement is under development by the lead agencies.
- **Buffalo Lakeside Business Park** – City of Buffalo, Erie County: The site of the old Hanna Steel Plant is now home to the Buffalo Lakeside Commerce Park. The 3 businesses, occupying 100 acres of space and operating at the site, (CertainTeed, Cobey Inc. and Sonwil Distribution) have created more than 400 new jobs. Currently, several companies are making offers for the remaining parcels of land. The majority of the infrastructure at the site has been completed and it is projected that the whole redevelopment will be done by 2012. The property was contaminated with PCBs, VOCs, lead, petroleum and PAHs. Because the only exposure pathway to the chemicals was through direct contact, clean-up via pathway elimination was fairly straight forward.

- **Spaulding Fibre Site** – City of Tonawanda , Erie County: The 46 acre Spaulding Fiber Site is an inactive manufacturing facility that formerly produced paper, fibre and laminate products using various organic compounds and zinc. The site was abandoned in 1992. The property is the only remaining large developable parcel in the City. From 2004 to 2007 the NYSDEC undertook several remedial projects to address onsite PCB soil contamination and releases of PCBs to the Niagara River via storm sewers. A Record of Decision is expected to be issued this summer indicating that no further action is required and the site will be ready for reuse and redevelopment.
- **Former Ames/Hills Plaza** – City of Jamestown, Chautauqua County: The seven acre Former Ames/Hills Plaza Site is located in a commercial area in the City of Jamestown, Chautauqua County. Participating in the Brownfield Cleanup Program, the site developer removed petroleum impacted soil and backfilled the excavation with clean soil. The entire site property is now adequately covered with concrete or blacktop pavement, clean soil, or wood mulch. The site is being redeveloped into a professional office park facility called the Jamestown Area Medical Association (JAMA).
- **Greenpac Mill** - City of Niagara Falls, Niagara County: An air state facility permit was recently issued for Norampac's proposed new, \$407.5 million, state of the art cardboard production plant. The facility could create 108 jobs, in addition to the 120 jobs that presently exist. The company is seeking payment in lieu of taxes and has already received 10 megawatts of discounted power from the New York Power Authority. The company is also seeking a long term lease on the adjacent Frontier Chemical property once that site has been remediated.