



# FACT SHEET

November 10, 2009

Former Diamond

International Paper Mill  
Site, No. E645027  
Pearl Street, City of  
Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence  
County, New York 13669

## Remedy Proposed for the Former Diamond International Paper Mill Site

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## Public Meeting, Comment Period Announced

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The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), working cooperatively with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), has proposed a no further action cleanup for the Former Diamond International Paper Mill Site located on Pearl Street, in the City of Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York.

### Public Meeting Invitation

Tuesday, December 8,  
2009 at 7:00 PM  
The City of Ogdensburg,  
City Hall, 330 Ford Street,  
Ogdensburg, New York  
13669

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health (NYSDEC and NYSDOH) will discuss the proposed cleanup for the Former Diamond International Paper Mill Site. At the meeting, representatives from the NYSDEC and NYSDOH will:

- Describe results of the site investigations and the Interim Remedial Measures;
- Explain the proposed cleanup;
- Answer your questions about the cleanup;
- Receive your verbal or written comments about the proposal.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**From:** November 10, 2009  
**To:** December 29, 2009

**The Proposed Action:** Based on the successful completion of the Interim Remedial Measures (IRM) program, the NYSDEC and the NYSDOH proposes that no further action is required for the Former Diamond International Paper Mill Site. The removal of asbestos containing materials (ACM), petroleum and metal contaminated soil and debris and the solidification of lagoon sludge and paper making waste during the IRM have made the site conditions acceptable for restricted residential use. This proposal is described in the site's Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP). The PRAP was developed following a comprehensive evaluation of the site. The PRAP evaluates different options to clean up the site and presents the alternative preferred by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH.

*See pages 2 and 3 of this fact sheet for a summary of the PRAP, site background, and summary of the site investigation. The full PRAP is available for your review at the document repositories listed on page 3.*

**Your Opportunities to Comment on the Proposed Remedy:** Release of the PRAP begins a process to finalize selection of the cleanup for the site. Your comment and input about the proposed cleanup are important and encouraged.

Your oral and written comments about the PRAP are welcome at the **public meeting** (see sidebar) and during a **public comment period** which runs until December 29, 2009. Written comments also may be mailed until the end of the comment period to:

Peter S. Ouderkirk  
NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Remediation  
Region 6 Office, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
317 Washington Street, Watertown, New York 13601  
[psouderk@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:psouderk@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

**What Happens Next:** All comments received during the public comment period will be considered as the remedy for the Former Diamond International Paper Mill Site is finalized. Public input will be factored into the record of decision (ROD), which will describe the remedy selected and why it was chosen. NYSDEC will respond to comments in a responsiveness summary included in the ROD.

### Site History

The project site consists of the former Diamond International Paper Mill facility located in the City of Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York. The 17 acre property is situated on the southeastern bank of the St. Lawrence River. The Site is bordered to the southwest by the City of Ogdensburg water supply facility, to the southeast by Pearl Street and an adjacent warehouse, to the northeast by the former Standard Shade Roller Company industrial complex, and to the northwest by the St. Lawrence River. The Site which is owned by the City of Ogdensburg is currently vacant and devoid of any structures, although numerous buried foundation slabs remain. The site is currently zoned industrial and is in an Empire Development Zone.

The site was historically utilized for various operations which included a ship yard, log yard and paper mill. The predominant use of the site from 1925 to 1987 was a paper mill. The past paper mill operations have most likely contributed to the conditions and contamination which was encountered during the site investigation. The owners/operators of the site included a number of paper and pulp companies from 1925 to 1987. The site ultimately was acquired by the City of Ogdensburg in 1992. The Site underwent several expansions and upgrades throughout this time period. The pulp and paper production operations ceased in 1987. From 1987 to the early 1990's, the site activities consisted of salvage operations to remove recyclable materials from the buildings. The salvage efforts ceased when asbestos was discovered in the early 1990's.

The primary environmental concerns associated with the Site include: hazardous and non-hazardous industrial sludges and residuals in the former wastewater lagoon; abandoned wastewater treatment clarifiers; Semi Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOC), dioxin, and heavy metal contaminated soil at various locations across the Site; residual contaminants and structures associated with Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) and paper mill processing tanks; and buried building demolition debris.

### Site Investigation

The SI identified predominantly SVOCs and metal contamination in surface soils, subsurface soils and groundwater at many locations across the site, and in St. Lawrence River sediments. Based on these results, an IRM was conducted, with the goal of removing all areas of known contamination on the site. Confirmation sampling was conducted, following the removal of contaminated soils from each area of concern. Based on the confirmation data, only metal contamination remains on-site, but at a depth of approximately three to eight

feet below grade. The metal contamination is related to historic fill and not the past plants operations.

Except for several SVOCs along the former rail road and entrance road, all surface soils that had contamination above the restricted residential cleanup limits, have been removed. An institutional control, in the form of an environmental easement, and site management plan (SMP), will effectively eliminate and control exposure to the contamination that remains at depth (i.e., below 2 feet).

Groundwater at the site remains contaminated by metals above the Department's groundwater standards, however, exposure to contaminated groundwater will be eliminated through groundwater use restrictions placed on the site. In addition, impacted groundwater is not expected to migrate off site or worsen, since the majority of the source materials have been removed. The City of Ogdensburg requires all development to utilize City supplied sewer and water systems. The use of groundwater would be prohibited at the Diamond Site.

### Interim Remedial Measures

An interim remedial measure (IRM) is conducted at a site when, a source of contamination or exposure pathway can be effectively addressed before completion of the Site Investigation / Remedial Alternatives Report (SI/RAR). Based on the results of the site investigation data, an IRM was developed to address the following major areas of concern:

1. Petroleum contaminated product, soils and groundwater associated with underground storage tanks. These tanks contaminated No. 6 Fuel Oil used in the paper plant's boilers;
2. Sludge and pulp waste associated with the former paper making and waste water treatment systems. Sludge and pulp was found in the plant's basements, vaults and pits. Sludges were found in the waste water treatment system, which included a primary clarifier, secondary clarifier and over flow lagoon;
3. Asbestos containing materials found in sub surface vaults and structures;
4. Surface and subsurface soils that were contaminated with metals. The soil contamination was predominately at depth and appears to be associated with historic fill.

Between October 24, 2007 and September 10, 2008 the following IRM activities took place. Asbestos containing materials, underground storage tanks, petroleum and metal contaminated soils and debris were removed. On site waste water sludges were consolidated and solidified in the former waste water lagoon. Concrete structures were demolished, crushed and were used as backfill. Contaminated groundwater and waste water were captured, treated and discharged on site through an infiltration system. Metal was collected and taken off for recycling.

#### Health Issues

Due to the successful completion of interim remedial measures, there are no current completed human exposure pathways. Potential future exposures may exist for site workers encountering residual contamination in sub surface soils. Environmental easements and a site management plan will provide proper guidance for preventing human exposure to these sub surface soils. Similarly, on-site groundwater is contaminated with metals. However, its use will be restricted by an environmental easement as well as local regulations requiring use of the municipal public water supply. Thus, a completed human exposure pathway is not foreseen for on-site groundwater.

#### Summary of Proposed Remedial Action

Based on the results of the investigations at the site, the IRM that has been performed, and the evaluation presented here, the Department is proposing No Further Action as the preferred alternative for the site. The Department believes that this alternative would be protective of human health and the environment and would satisfy all SCGs as described above. Overall protectiveness is achieved through meeting the remediation goals listed above.

Therefore, the Department proposes No Further Action with institutional controls as follows:

1. Imposition of an institutional control in the form of an environmental easement that would: (a) limit the use and development of the property to restricted residential uses only; (b) restrict use of groundwater as a source of potable or process water without necessary water quality treatment as determined by the New York State Department of Health; (c) require the property owner to complete and submit to the NYSDEC a periodic certification; (d) create a no dig zone over and around the solidified paper sludge area; and (e) the implementation of the required site management plan.
2. Development of a site management plan, which would include the following: (a) identification

and mapping of materials and areas which must be managed in accordance with the site management plan; (b) an excavation plan to establish how soils would be tested and properly handled to protect the health and safety of workers and the nearby community if they are encountered during future excavations; (c) a restoration plan to identify how the site would be restored at the conclusion of any redevelopment. The restoration program would require that all exposed surface soils will meet restricted residential SCOs and establish that excavated soils be removed from the site for proper disposal and/or be covered with 2 feet of clean soil or equivalent material such as asphalt, concrete, and/or structures. Clean gravel backfill must be from a native source which is acceptable to the NYSDEC.

3. The City or property owner would provide a periodic certification of institutional and engineering controls for the site, prepared and submitted by a professional engineer or such other expert, acceptable to the Department, until the Department notifies the property owner in writing that this certification is no longer needed. This submittal will: (a) contain certification that the institutional controls and engineering controls put in place are still in place, and are either unchanged from the previous certification or are compliant with Department-approved modifications; (b) allow the Department access to the site; and (c) state that nothing has occurred that would impair the ability of the control to protect public health or the environment, or constitute a violation or failure to comply with the site management plan unless otherwise approved by the Department.

Document Repositories: The complete PRAP and other site information may be reviewed at the following locations:

The City of Ogdensburg  
Planning Office  
330 Ford Street  
Ogdensburg, New York 13669  
315-393-7900

Monday through Friday - 9:00AM to  
5:00 PM

Contact: Justin Woods

NYSDEC Region 6  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Environmental Quality  
317 Washington Street  
Watertown, NY 13601  
315-785-2513

Contact: Peter Ouderkirk  
Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

NYSDEC  
625 Broadway  
Albany, New York 12233-7014

Contact: David Crosby  
518-402-9662

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

*For More Information: Call or write the following staff for more information about:*

**Meeting/Comment Period/  
Technical Information:**

Peter S. Ouderkirk  
NYSDEC 6  
317 Washington Street  
Watertown, NY 13601  
Phone: 315-785-2513  
psouderk@gw.dec.state.ny.us

**Health-Related Information:**

Greg Rys  
NYSDOH - Herkimer Office  
5665 State Route 5  
Herkimer, New York 13350  
315-866-6879

**Citizen Participation:**

Stephen Litwhiler  
NYSDEC Region 6  
317 Washington Street  
Watertown, NY 13601  
315-785-2252