



Lehigh Valley Railroad Derailment Superfund Site

Community Update

March 2008

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS:

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming events, you may call:

- EPA Region II
Western NY Public
Information Office
Community Involvement
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Mike Basile
716-551-4410
- EPA Region II
Paul J. Olivo
EPA Remedial Project
Manager
212-637-4280
- NYSDEC Central Office
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- NYSDEC Region 8 Office
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Citizen Participation Specialist
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- Unicorn Management
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585-768-6780

CURRENT STATUS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II (EPA) is providing this notice to inform you of the status of activities at the Lehigh Valley Railroad Derailment Superfund Site, located in the Town of LeRoy, Genesee County, NY.

EPA in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), is announcing that an investigation of soil, bedrock, ground water, and indoor air quality potentially affected by a 1970 train derailment in LeRoy, NY will be starting in the near future.

SITE BACKGROUND

On December 6, 1970 a portion of a freight train operated by the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company (LVRR) derailed at the intersection on Gulf Road, approximately two miles east of the Town of LeRoy. Reportedly, two (2) chemical tank cars containing trichloroethene (TCE), a common industrial solvent, ruptured and spilled approximately 30,000 gallons of its contents onto the ground at the Gulf Road intersection. A third car containing a crystalline form of cyanide was also reported to have partially spilled one (1) ton of its contents onto the ground. The cyanide contents were removed and no TCE was recovered.

In 1998, EPA placed the Site on its National Priorities List. Many properties with water supplies that had been affected by the spill were initially supplied with water treatment systems and were connected to the public water supply system in 2003.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

More information about the Lehigh Valley Railroad Derailment Superfund Site is available for review at:

- Caledonia Public Library
3108 Main Street
Caledonia, NY
585-538-4512
- Woodward Memorial Library
Wolcott Street
LeRoy, NY 14482
585-768-8300
- NYSDEC Region 8 Office
6274 E. Avon-Lima Road
Avon, NY 14414
585-226-5326
Contact: Lisa L. Silvestri

FUTURE INVESTIGATIONS

On October 6, 2006, the LVRR entered voluntarily into a Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent with EPA to assess and evaluate soil, bedrock, groundwater, and indoor air quality around the site.

Unicorn Management Consultants, LLC (UMC) of Danbury, Connecticut has been hired by LVRR, under the supervision of the EPA, to conduct these environmental tests, which are as follows:

- Surface-soil sampling on a few properties near the spill area;
- Ground-water sampling throughout the area;
- Surface-water and creek-sediment sampling within Mud, Spring, and Oatka Creeks;
- Indoor air quality sampling, (vapor intrusion sampling)
- Ground-water monitoring well installation on certain properties; and,
- Other bedrock (geophysical) testing within existing wells and new monitoring wells.

UMC will utilize the data from these tests to assess the environmental conditions of the Site during the investigation and present the most appropriate remedial alternatives to EPA.

WHAT'S NEXT:

Over the course of the next several weeks, UMC will be contacting property owners that own property where access is needed to perform the environmental tests described above. UMC will also be sending a letter that describes the activity that is required on nearby residential properties and request a right-of-entry agreement to be reviewed and executed by the affected property owners. To better assess the environmental conditions of the affected area, access to these properties is necessary and individual property owners' cooperation will greatly assist in that process.

