

Fact Sheet

NYSDEC Project ID: 851046
 Corning, New York
 May 2016

Status Update

As part of its commitment to effectively communicate with the community, Corning Incorporated has developed and distributed Fact Sheets to residents and interested parties in our area. On June 27, 2014, Corning entered into an Order on Consent and Administrative Settlement (Order), with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to determine the nature and extent of fill materials present in the Study Area. Additionally, Corning provides ongoing updates to the community via its Study Area website (www.postcreekstudyarea.com).

In early-April of this year, owners of 121 properties within the Study Area were mailed their individual, validated soil sampling results. These property owners will have an opportunity to meet with representatives of the New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health (NYSDEC and NYSDOH), Corning Incorporated and Weston Solutions Inc. to ask questions about their individual results.

A public meeting will be hosted by the NYSDEC from 7 – 9 p.m. Wednesday, May 11, 2016 in the Main Ballroom at the Radisson Hotel in Corning, N.Y. Individual public availability sessions will be led by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Thursday, May 12 in the Radisson Hotel's Cohocton Room with Corning's representatives and technical experts in the adjoining Chemung and Tioga rooms.

Additionally, availability sessions will be held from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Friday, May 13 with representatives from both state agencies in the Radisson Hotel's Director's Room with Corning representatives and technical experts in the adjoining Chemung and Tioga rooms. To schedule an individual meeting during the availability sessions, please contact Greg MacLean, NYSDEC, at (585) 226-5356; or by email at greg.maclea@dec.ny.gov.

Corning and its technical consultants, Weston Solutions Inc. (Weston), are continuing to work as quickly and efficiently as possible to complete the study. We are following recognized environmental methods and processes required and approved by NYSDEC and

NYSDOH in order to provide the information necessary for the agencies to determine what additional sampling or remedial measures may be needed for properties in the Study Area.

Summary

- **Residential sampling**
 Over a several-month period concluding in late 2015, Corning collected samples from approximately 550 soil borings and collected more than 2,200 soil samples from 121 properties in the Study Area to provide NYSDEC, in consultation with the NYSDOH, additional data related to the environmental conditions at those specific properties.
- **Interim Remedial Measures (IRMs)**
 Corning has submitted to the NYSDEC for approval a plan to perform interim remedial work at the Corning-Painted Post High School, Memorial Stadium and the Corning Christian Academy. Corning is working collaboratively with the property owners (the School District, the City of Corning and Corning Christian Academy) to begin and complete the work this summer. The draft work plans are available for public comment at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/97180.html>

Figure 1—Study Area Location



Corning's Value Assurance Program (VAP)

Corning has developed a Value Assurance Program that provides property owners in the Study Area and Expansion Area assurance during the ongoing environmental work the fair market value for their property will be protected if they sell their homes based on the plan's guidelines. Participation in the VAP by property owners is voluntary.

Corning's VAP administrators will be present for the scheduled public meeting and availability sessions to provide details on the program and answer questions for property owners. Corning may schedule additional meetings as necessary to ensure property owners have the opportunity to ask questions and make informed decisions about participation.

Corning will also provide a program guide (brochure), which will be mailed to property owners and posted on www.corningnyvap.com. The program guide will provide detailed information about: how a VAP works, its purpose, eligibility, program benefits, resources (real estate agents and appraisers), and participation.

If you have a question about the program, or want to schedule a meeting on May 12 or 13, please call: (877) 270-6970.

General Discussion of Study Area Residential Soil Results

Since the commencement of the soil sampling program in the summer of 2014, the owners of 186 properties within the Study Area have been provided their individual, validated sampling results. Those samples were sent to a state-approved laboratory and analyzed utilizing a state-approved methodology.

Of the 186 residential properties sampled, 117 have results below the state's residential soil cleanup objectives (RSCO). In general terms, RSCOs are defined as concentrations in the soil on residential properties established by the state based on conservative assumptions and designed to protect public health. Sampling methods included surface soil samples taken at 0-2 inches beneath any sod or ground cover, shallow soil samples taken within the 0-2 foot interval, and soil samples taken from borings to depths of 15 feet.

Sixty-nine (69) properties had at least one soil sample that exceeded the RSCOs for one or more constituents. While arsenic, lead and cadmium are the primary substances being evaluated and can be associated with fill material, all three substances occur naturally and have many other common potential sources. As the NYSDOH has previously stated, an RSCO is not a

"bright line" between soil concentrations that will result in health effects and those that will not. Moreover, exceedance of an RSCO at your property does not represent an immediate health hazard, but indicates a need to evaluate measures to reduce the contaminant levels.

Of the 69 properties that had at least one soil sample that exceeded the RSCOs:

- 26 properties had one or more samples with concentrations greater than RSCOs in the 0-2 foot range, and results from all other samples deeper than 2 feet were less than or equal to the RSCOs.
- 43 properties had one or more samples with concentrations greater than RSCOs deeper than 2 feet, some of which had concentrations in the top 2 feet of soil.

Seven test pits – which are temporary trenches approximately 1-foot wide, 10-foot long and 4-foot deep – were advanced in various locations in Houghton Park and in the City of Corning's rights-of-way within the Study Area. Results from the test pits were consistent with the findings of the boring program.

In Summary

- To date, more than 600 soil borings have been advanced in the residential area. Of those, 370 did not encounter a layer of fill material containing ash, brick and/or glass, and had sample results less than or equal to the RSCOs for arsenic, lead and cadmium.
- Sample results indicate there are specific portions of the residential area where surface soil and soil boring samples are greater than the RSCOs.

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Next Steps

▪ **Study Area – Residential**

Soil sampling and characterization has progressed in accordance with the state approved Study Area Work Plan. Based on test results, the NYSDEC, in consultation with NYSDOH, will determine:

- Which properties will not require further action.
- Which properties will need additional sampling.
- Where remedial action is required. NYSDEC has conceptually proposed remedial actions that may include soil removal and replacement to a depth of 2 feet where RSCO exceedances exist, installation of a subsurface demarcation layer and possible development of a management plan for future handling of soil on those properties where material exceeding RSCOs is left at depths deeper than 2 feet.

▪ **Expansion Area – Residential**

Corning will also be performing additional sampling and remedial work deemed necessary by NYSDEC in the Expansion Area.

The Expansion Area is located immediately north and west of the Study Area and is bordered by Interstate Highway 86 to the north, Centerway to the west and Guthrie Medical Clinic to the south.

▪ **Corning-Painted Post High School, Memorial Stadium, Corning Christian Academy**

In June 2015, additional sampling was performed at the Corning-Painted Post High School, Corning Christian Academy and the City of Corning.

Based on sampling to date, IRMs are being proposed at each of the three locations. According to the NYSDEC, an IRM is a discrete set of planned actions that can be conducted prior to completion of the remedial investigation to mitigate exposure or remedy environmental conditions. The IRMs are being proposed as final remedies.

We have been in discussions with officials of the City, School District and Corning Christian Academy where the interim measures are being proposed. In specific areas at each property, Corning will remove and replace soil at depths based on the conditions at that location. Each of the three owners has agreed to an environmental easement and compliance with a site management plan to ensure proper environmental management of the properties going forward.

Where can I get more information?

We are committed to providing opportunities for citizen participation in the process, and to developing an open and ongoing dialog with the community throughout the study. We have developed a comprehensive communication and participation plan to guide the process, called the Citizen Participation Plan that is available on Corning's Study Area website listed below.

We have established two document repositories for the Study Area, where the community can access technical and other documents. These repositories are located at the Southeast Steuben County Library, 300 Nasser Civic Center Plaza, Corning, N.Y.; and the NYSDEC Region 8 Office, 6274 East Avon-Lima Road, Avon, N.Y.

We have also established a dedicated website to keep you informed: www.postcreekstudyarea.com. If you have further questions about the process or the additional project activities, we invite you to contact our toll free telephone number or transmit a comment in writing to our email address:

Toll free: (866) 256-1902

studyarea@corning.com

The NYSDEC and NYSDOH are also available to answer questions you may have.

Technical Information

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Study Area-Related Health Information

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