

# Tri-Cities Barrel

## New York

EPA ID#: NYD980509285

### EPA REGION 2 Congressional District(s): 23

Broome  
Adjacent to Old Route 7 in Fenton

#### NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 5/5/1987

Final Date: 10/4/1989

## Site Description

Tri-Cities Barrel, a 14.9-acre site in the Town of Fenton where, from 1955 to 1992, used drums were reconditioned. The drums were washed with a strong caustic agent as part of the reconditioning process. The wastewater from this process was then discharged into unlined lagoons and allowed to evaporate. In 1980, the company cleaned out and backfilled the lagoons and stored the wastewater in a holding tank before it was disposed of off-site. Osborne Creek crosses the northern part of the site. Local residents use surface water downstream of the site for recreation. Approximately 3,500 people obtain drinking water from wells within 3 miles of the site.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

## Threat and Contaminants

The ground water contains volatile organic chemicals, semi-volatile organic chemicals and heavy metals. The soil, before it was excavated for off-site treatment/disposal was contaminated with a variety of organic compounds and heavy metals. Direct contact with or ingestion of contaminated ground water may pose a health threat. There is fishing and boating activity about a mile south of the site. In addition, surface water is used for irrigation at two nearby farms.

## Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in two stages: immediate actions and a long-term remedial action focusing on the cleanup of the entire site.

### Response Action Status

#### Immediate Actions:

During the RI field work, containers, drums, and tanks containing unknown solids and liquids were found inside two on-site buildings. Because of the concern that their presence could increase the risk of fire, toxic vapor release, and/or further contamination of the site, on September 25, 1996, EPA and the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) entered into an Administrative Order on Consent for a removal action. From October 1996 through January 1997, a removal action was performed which resulted in the disposal of all on-site containers, drums, and tanks, decontamination and removal of equipment that was used during the operation of the drum reconditioning business, and the decontamination, demolition, and disposal of all structures located on-site.

Entire Site: In May 1992, pursuant to an Administrative Order on Consent with EPA, the PRPs initiated a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) to determine the nature and extent of contamination at and emanating from the site and to evaluate remedial alternatives. A remedy (which includes the excavation and off-site treatment/disposal of the contaminated soils and sediments and the extraction and treatment of the contaminated ground water) was selected for the site on March 31, 2000.

The design of the selected remedy commenced on May 1, 2001 with the lodging of the Consent Decree. The source control design was performed from October 2000 to January 2003. Construction commenced in June 2003 and was completed in November 2003.

Post-excavation ground water samples were collected as part of a ground water monitored natural attenuation study. The results of the study indicated that natural attenuation is occurring in most areas of the site. In one area of the site,

however, natural attenuation is not occurring. Measures to address the contamination in this area are currently being evaluated through an enhanced reductive dechlorination pilot study. Under this process, microbes remove the chlorine from the organic contaminants, allowing the compounds to further degrade into carbon dioxide and water. It is anticipated that the study be completed in Summer 2009.

Site Facts: In 1984, EPA fined the Tri-Cities Barrel Company for failure to label hazardous wastes properly.

In May 2000, EPA commenced negotiations with the PRPs for the performance of the design and construction of the selected remedy. These negotiations resulted in the signing of a Consent Decree by EPA and the PRPs in October 2000. The Consent Decree was lodged in the North District Court of New York on May 1, 2001. The Consent Decree was entered in U.S. District Court (approved by the Judge) on August 8, 2001.

## **Cleanup Progress**

By removing 350 drums, decontaminating and removing all containers, tanks, process equipment, and site buildings, and excavating approximately 61,000 tons of contaminated soils, the potential for exposure to contaminants at the site has been greatly reduced.

The source control design was performed from October 2000 to January 2003. Construction was completed in November 2003. .

## **Site Repositories**

Fenton Town Clerk's Office, 44 Park Street, Port Crane, NY 13833

EPA Region 2 Superfund Records Center, 290 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10007-1866