



Morgan Materials Site – Town of Tonawanda, New York

Community Update

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If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the site, please contact one of the following:

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Site Background

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received a referral from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to undertake a cleanup at the Morgan Materials Inc. site located in northern Erie County at 380 Vulcan Street, Town of Tonawanda, a suburb of Buffalo, NY.

The facility is located in a mixed industrial and residential neighborhood and is in close proximity to a nearby charter school. The site consists of a series of connected warehouse buildings where the company has purchased and is currently storing off-specification chemicals or excess materials, which the company has attempted to resell to domestic and international entities. Morgan Materials has accumulated substantial quantities of these chemicals and materials since 1999, and repeated inspections by regulatory officials indicate that it has engaged in improper and illegal storage practices. Thousands of drums, boxes, and large cloth sacks with flammable and corrosive labels are located in the warehouses where unsafe storage practices

continue to be evident.

On November 18, 2016 the DEC issued a Summary Abatement Order (SAO) requiring the company to immediately cease purchasing, receiving or acquiring chemical materials. The SAO has enabled the DEC to refer the cleanup to EPA. The EPA has secured the site, will provide 24-hour security, and will develop a plan and time-table to address removing the waste products from the site property.

Assessment

To begin the cleanup process, the EPA will identify the waste, inventory it, and remove it. The majority of the flammables at the site, consisting mainly of epoxies and resins, have already been identified, and some of the suppliers of these chemicals have already volunteered to remove and properly dispose of the materials. Although removal of some of these materials is ongoing, Morgan initially delayed these voluntary efforts. Despite repeated attempts to work with the company's owner, the company was unable to bring the facility fully into compliance, which necessitated the DEC's regulatory action and referral to the EPA.

Future Activities

All hazardous waste materials will be contained, segregated, and removed from the site early in the cleanup operations. These hazardous waste materials will be properly contained and safely removed. With security and monitoring in place, the company can no longer accumulate any additional chemicals and off-specification products. The EPA will ensure that the safety of the community and workers on the site are protected during all future activities.

Depending on site and weather conditions, removal work could take several months to a year to complete. The EPA, in coordination with the DEC, is committed to completing this cleanup operation which will yield a facility completely protective of human health and the environment.

Community updates will periodically be issued as the need arises to keep the public informed of all operations.