



Statement from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
EPA Addresses Problems at Carville National Leather, Johnstown, New York
January 18, 2017

The EPA is resuming its cleanup work at a former leather tannery business, Carville National Leather, located in Johnstown, New York. Over 400 drums and other containers were left in the building when the company closed in 2013. All hazardous waste and substances have been removed from the site and disposed of at facilities with permits to receive the waste. When the EPA was conducting its work, the agency also took steps to address non-hazardous red dye that had been spilled inside the building and leaked into a parking lot.

This week, the EPA was notified of another spill of non-hazardous red dye that has the potential to migrate from the facility onto a nearby jogging path and the Cayadutta Creek, which is a tributary of the Mohawk River. Although unsightly, the EPA has sampled the red dye and the spill poses no significant risk to public health. However, the agency will assess what steps it can take to address the spill.

Background:

On July 13, 2016, EPA was asked by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to investigate a closed leather tannery in Johnstown, New York. The site is in a rural residential neighborhood bordered by a former railroad right-of-way that was transformed into a public walking trail located less than 60 feet from the main building. The Cayadutta Creek is next to the trail and empties into the Mohawk River, which is approximately 5 miles south of the site. This section of the Mohawk River is part of the Erie Canal system and is a fishing and recreational water way.

From July 14, 2016 to September 21, 2016, EPA conducted an initial cleanup removing over 4,000 gallons of hazardous chemicals, contaminated water and other industrial waste. The EPA also addressed an old spill approximately 20 feet by 100 feet of a red dye from the main building at the site. The EPA found 22 drums of mostly dye pigment spilled inside the main building. Most of this material was puddled on the first floor of the building, although red dye migrated from the building into the exterior parking lot. The EPA is coordinating with the Johnstown City Engineer, Johnstown officials and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

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