



FACT SHEET

May 2003

Superfund Removal Action

**Gordon Finishing Site
Johnstown, New York**

Public Notice of Removal Action

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently taking action to remove containerized wastes from the former Gordon Finishing Company facility located at 19 West State Street in Johnstown, New York. The property was formerly used as a leather coloring and finishing facility. This action is being taken at the request of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the City of Johnstown after the City foreclosed on the property following the company's closure.

EPA responders found drums in various stages of deterioration. Drums were found with arsenic containing compounds, dye concentrates, formic acid, silicates, sodium hydrosulfide and sodium hydroxide. Immediate mitigative actions were taken to minimize entry to the building and contain spillage within the building.

EPA is concerned that, if left in its current condition, the leaking drums could pose a danger to human health and the environment. Immediate concerns include the possibility of fire in the building and direct human contact with the waste materials.

Removal Work Plan

EPA, working with the NYSDEC and the City of Johnstown, has already secured the premises so as to restrict access and avoid the possibility of human contact with the contaminants in question.

EPA has mobilized personnel and equipment to the site to sample and identify the containerized wastes, clean up the spilled materials and decontaminate the facility building.

EPA has established a field office at the site to direct and monitor progress of the cleanup operations. All wastes removed from the site will be sent to approved off-site disposal facilities.

During the course of EPA activities, personnel involved in the removal action may be wearing full protective gear. These safety precautions are standard procedure and should not be cause for alarm. They are required because the work will involve close contact with the contaminants in question.

EPA's contractor for the project is WRS Infrastructure and Environment, Inc. of Bristol, Pennsylvania. The cleanup should be completed by early summer.

For Further Information

For further information regarding EPA's removal activities please contact Jeff M. Bechtel, On Scene Coordinator at the following address:

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