The Salina Industrial Powerpark, redeveloped in 2006, sits on approximately 78.46 +/- acres of land just south of Syracuse Hancock International Airport. Built in 1952, on-site manufacturing operations ceased in 1993. In certain areas, elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and metals have been detected in soils and groundwater.

The site includes several buildings and facilities, including the main 805,860-square-foot former manufacturing plant building, approximately 74 percent of which is leased.

In March 2011, the RACER Trust was created to clean up the contamination and position the property for sale. Cleanup activities are performed by the RACER Trust, with the approval and oversight of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The Settlement Agreement that established the RACER Trust set aside $31.1 million for cleanup work.

Environmental History

From 1981 to 2009, GM performed comprehensive and thorough assessments of environmental conditions at the property, resulting in the implementation of several cleanup measures. All of this work was performed with the approval and oversight of the NYSDEC and/or the EPA. The property is classified by NYSDEC as a Class 2 Site in the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites (Registry Site No. 7-34-057). This site also includes an area of groundwater, surface water, and sediment in nearby Ley Creek (formerly Registry Site No. 7-34-044).
The following cleanup activities have been performed:

- Removal or abandonment of underground sumps and tanks;
- Installation of collection sumps near the former storm sewer system to collect oil and water;
- Installation of a groundwater remediation system near a former underground storage tank;
- Excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soils from a former disposal area, followed by installation of a high-density polyethylene liner and asphalt or vegetative cover;
- Excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil associated with a former drainage swale;
- Modifications to the on-site stormwater system to divert stormwater to a centralized retention basin;
- Installation and continued operation of two groundwater recovery trenches near a former underground storage tank area;
- Construction of a stormwater and groundwater treatment system.
- Construction of a sub-slab depressurization system to control sub-surface soil vapors at the facility.

Residual soil contamination at the property is managed by the installed soil cap, asphalt and buildings. Any future soil disruptions require, at a minimum, notification to NYSDEC and implementation of NYSDEC-approved soil management procedures. Stormwater is collected and treated in an on-site treatment system.

Next Steps

Operation of the existing stormwater and groundwater treatment system and asphalt and grass vegetated surfaces will continue. In addition, operation of the sub-slab depressurization system will continue.

RACER has submitted a facility-wide remedial investigation report summarizing the nature and extent of contamination at the facility. RACER has also prepared risk assessment reports and completed a feasibility study report for the facility. The feasibility study report documents the evaluation of remedial alternatives and recommends a site-wide remedy. The proposed remedy includes additional soil removal, and additional groundwater collection and treatment to address the potential for off-site migration of impacted groundwater from the site. Finalizing these reports is required before NYSDEC can issue a final Record of Decision for the site.

Information on the site and past environmental tests can be viewed at the RACER website at www.racertrust.org.