

Old Erie Commons

Brownfield Cleanup Program

Site No. C727015

Canastota, Madison County



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

September 2026

Cleanup Proposed for Brownfield Site Contamination Public Comment Period Announced

The public is invited to comment on a proposed cleanup plan being reviewed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), to address contamination related to the Old Erie Commons site ("site") located at 160 Center Street, Canastota, Madison County. Please see the map for the site location. Based on the findings of the investigation, DEC in consultation with the NYSDOH has determined that the site does not pose a significant threat to public health or the environment. This decision is based on the nature of the existing contaminants identified at the site; the lack of the potential for off-site migration of contaminants in the groundwater; and the minimal potential for human exposure to site-related contaminants via soil vapors.

How to Comment

DEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan, called an "Alternatives Analysis Report and Remedial Action Work Plan," which includes a cleanup alternatives analysis (AA), for 45 days, from **September 16 through October 31, 2026**.

- Access the draft Remedial Investigation Report (RIR), Remedial Action Work Plan with AA, and other project documents online through the DECinfo Locator:
<https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C727015/>.
- Documents also are available at the location(s) identified under "Where to Find Information."
- Please submit comments to the DEC project manager listed under Project-Related Questions in the "Contact Information" area.

Draft Remedial Action Work Plan with Alternatives Analysis

The proposed Track 4 Restricted Residential remedy plan consists of:

- Constructing and maintaining a site cover consisting of either two feet of soil over a demarcation layer or hardscape to prevent exposure to any residual contamination;
- Excavating and off-site disposal of contaminated soil, or re-use onsite beneath the cover system, as appropriate, to accommodate the soil cover system, new site grades, and construction of new features (buildings, utilities, etc.);
- Importing clean material that meets the established Soil Cleanup Objectives for use as backfill;
- Implementing a Health and Safety Plan and Community Air Monitoring Plan during all ground intrusive activities;
- Implementing a Site Management Plan (SMP) for long term maintenance of the remedial systems; and
- Recording of an Environmental Easement to ensure proper use of the site may be necessary.

The proposed cleanup plan was developed by Old Erie Commons, LLC ("applicant") after performing a detailed investigation of the site under New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP).

Next Steps

DEC will consider public comments, revise the remedy plan as necessary, and issue a final Decision Document. NYSDOH must concur with the proposed cleanup. After approval, the proposed cleanup becomes the selected cleanup. The applicant may then design and perform the cleanup action to address the site contamination, with oversight by DEC and NYSDOH.

DEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

Site Description

The 2.56-acre site is located at 160 Center Street in a developed residential, commercial, and industrial area of the Village of Canastota. The site is bordered to the south by Center Street, to the north by the former Erie Canal (now a portion of Pools Brook), to the east by a commercial property, and to the west by residential and commercial properties. The site is currently vacant and mainly covered with grass and wooded vegetated areas except in the southern central portion of the site where a concrete slab and an associated pile of debris is present from the demolition of the former five-story building completed in August 2011. The site was historically utilized for various operations that involved varnishing, painting, and machining, including but not limited to casket manufacturing and boat building, for over 120 years.

The redevelopment plan for the site includes the development of a pocket neighborhood and multi-building residential project with an onsite community area and commercial spaces. The plan includes 48 residential affordable housing units and is located within a disadvantaged community.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on DEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, C727015) at:

<https://appfactory.dec.ny.gov/DERExternalSearch/ERDSearch>

Summary of the Investigation

The primary contaminants of concern at the site are semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) and metals which were found in soil at concentrations above use-specific soil cleanup objectives. SVOCs and metals are present within the historic fill material, which ranges from 0.5 to 5 feet in thickness below a shallow surficial topsoil layer (generally less than 1.5 feet thick). Contaminants identified above groundwater guidance values or standards included volatile organic compounds (VOCs), SVOCs, per- and polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), and metals. VOCs present in the groundwater are also likely attributed to the historic fill material present across the site and possibly from past uses of the site.

Brownfield Cleanup Program

New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) encourages the voluntary cleanup of contaminated properties known as "brownfields" so that they can be reused and redeveloped. These uses may include recreation, housing, business or other uses. A brownfield site is any real property where a contaminant is present at levels exceeding the soil cleanup objectives or other health-based or environmental standards, criteria or guidance adopted by DEC that are applicable based on the reasonably anticipated use of the property, in accordance with applicable regulations.

For more information about the BCP, visit:

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/brownfield-and-state-superfund-programs/brownfield>

Stay Informed with DEC Delivers

We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.

Sign up to receive site updates by email:

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/environmental-cleanup-email-newsletters>

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

DECinfo Locator

Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites: <https://dec.ny.gov/maps/interactive-maps/decinfo-locator>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Project-Related Questions

Brittany O'Brien-Drake, Project Manager
DEC, Division of Environmental Remediation

DEC, Division of Environmental Remediation
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Project-Related Health Questions

Aaron Keegan
NYSDOH, Bureau of Environmental Exposure and Investigation

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Room 1787
Albany, NY 12237
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WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

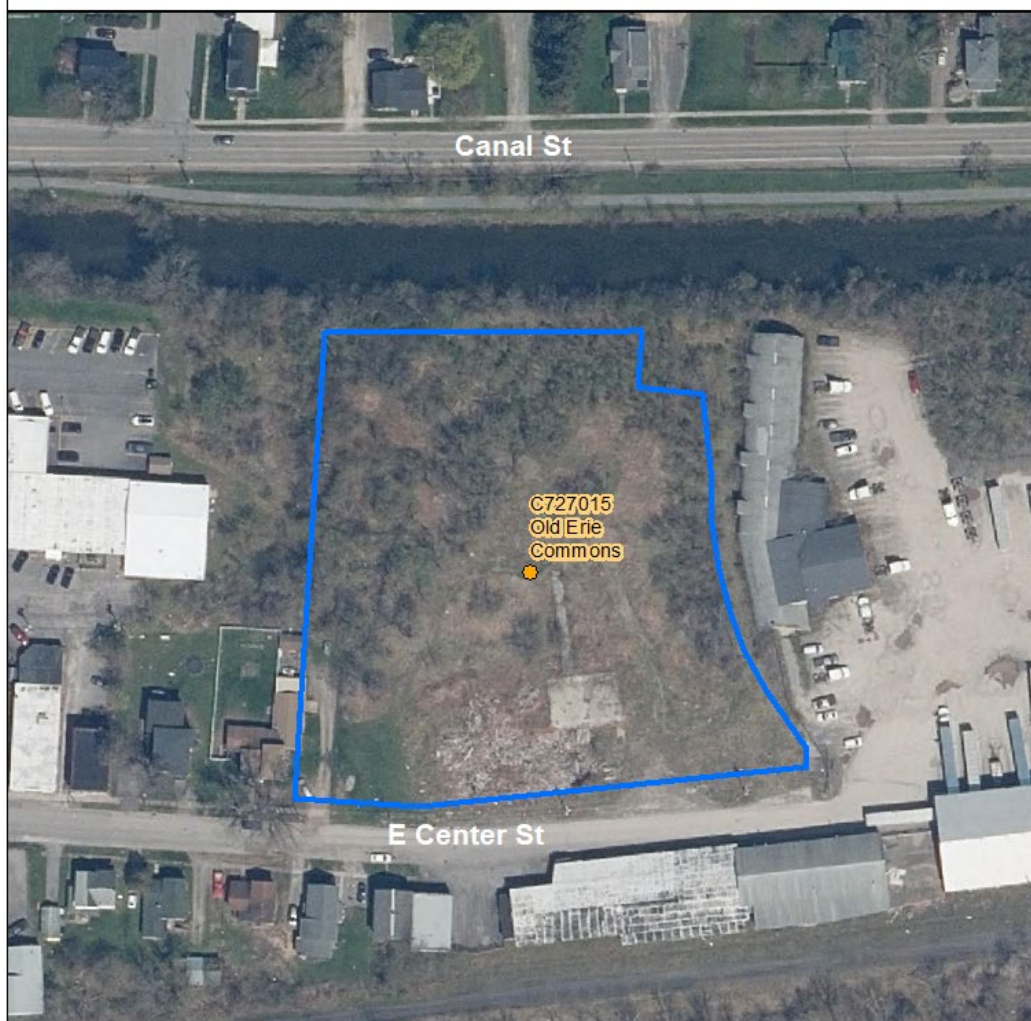
Access project documents through the DECinfo Locator and at these location(s):
<https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C727015/>

Canastota Public Library

102 West Center Street
Canastota, NY 13032
(315) 697-7030

Site Location

Old Erie Commons (Site No. C727015)
Canastota, NY
Site Location



Legend

● Remediation Site

□ Site Border

0 50 100 200 Feet

1 inch = 100 feet



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