

# Fact Sheet

## Status of Interim Remedial Measures Duracell Inc. Site, Site ID No. 360011 Sleepy Hollow, Westchester County, New York

The Gillette Company  
Bethel, Connecticut

March 2014

### Introduction

Interim Remedial Measures (IRMs) at the Duracell Inc. Site located in Sleepy Hollow, New York continued during the 2013 construction season. The Gillette Company (Gillette), which acquired Duracell and is implementing the IRMs, continues to appreciate the close collaboration of the community on this important project.

As of December 2013, remediation and restoration activities have been substantially completed on a total of 41 properties. These activities have included removal of soil from select properties in the vicinity of the Site that contained mercury concentrations greater than the remedial goal established for the Site by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

Site work has been suspended for the winter months (December 2013 through March 2014), and is expected to resume in the spring. During these winter months we have been busy meeting with the next group of property owners, whose properties will be remediated during the 2014 construction season, to review the remediation plans for their properties and obtain their agreement to conduct the cleanup work. This fact sheet provides background information and an update on the progress of the cleanup.

### Background

For periods between 1944 and 1984, a battery manufacturing facility operated at the Duracell Inc. Site (the Site) located at 60 Elm Street. The facility was originally operated by P.R. Mallory. Duracell began operations at the Site in 1979 and the facility was closed in 1984. As a result of operations at the former battery plant, certain environmental impacts have been identified and are being addressed.

Between September and December 2010, Gillette collected and analyzed over 1,600 soil samples from 146 properties in the vicinity of the Site at the direction of the NYSDEC. The sample results indicated inorganic mercury concentrations ranging from not detected to 180 parts per million (ppm), with the highest mercury concentrations found closer to the Site.

A Site-Specific Soil Cleanup Objective (SSSCO) of 4.8 ppm for inorganic mercury was approved by the NYSDEC in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), and serves as the remedial goal for

the Site. This goal has been evaluated and deemed protective of public health and the environment by the NYSDEC and the NYSDOH based on consideration of potential exposures through ingestion of soil, dust and homegrown fruits and vegetables. A review of the soil sampling results indicated that approximately 80 properties contained inorganic mercury levels in soil above the remedial goal and required cleanup.

### IRM Implementation

Following NYSDEC approval of the IRM Work Plan in April 2012, Gillette prepared the necessary design plans and specifications for the work. This included taking photographs of each property in its current state and collecting survey information; and developing plans that are applicable to all properties (Health and Safety Plan, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, Community Air Monitoring Plan, and Transportation Plan). These plans have been approved by the NYSDEC.

IRMs are occurring in property groupings to minimize disruption to the local community. Property-specific drawings for each group are prepared showing excavation, backfill and restoration plans for each property. These plans are first approved by the NYSDEC, and then are discussed and agreed upon with the property owners. Ultimately, each owner signs an access and remediation/restoration agreement for their property before work begins.



Once agreements from the property owners are in place, the final plans are provided to the Village of Sleepy Hollow for review and approval. The Village's approval is necessary prior to issuing a building permit for the work.

### **Remediation Work Initiated in August 2012 and Continued Through December 2013**

From September through December 2012 Gillette completed IRMs at seven properties. From March through December 2013, IRMs were completed at an additional 34 properties.

AECOM, an environmental engineering firm working for Gillette, provides oversight for the work performed by Viasant, an environmental services contractor.

During the IRM, the first task completed at each property is to mark underground utilities as well as the construction area. Next, the "work area" (the zone where the excavation occurs) is cordoned off, and cleared of materials and debris. This includes plants and trees, and small structures.

Soil is then excavated, containerized, and transported off-site to an approved disposal facility. Confirmation samples are collected and analyzed to verify that the remedial goal is met for each property. If the remedial goal is not achieved, additional soil is removed.

Once the confirmation sample results indicate that the remedial goal has been met, the excavated areas are backfilled with clean soil and the properties are restored as near as possible to their pre-existing conditions.

### **Safety Measures During Remediation Work**

Cleanup activities are being conducted under the direction of the NYSDEC in a manner that is protective of public health, safety and the environment, and in accordance with

the approved site-specific health and safety plan. For example, the work areas are surrounded with temporary construction fencing, and one field staff member is dedicated to site safety, including preventing unauthorized individuals from entering the work areas. In addition, silt fencing and/or straw bales are placed around the excavation areas to prevent migration of contaminated soils during remedial activities or rain events.

A community air monitoring program is implemented during the entire cleanup process. Dust levels are monitored continuously during cleanup operations and measures are taken, as necessary, to minimize the amount of fugitive dust (e.g., washing or wetting down the work area and equipment with water, and applying spray-mulch to exposed soil).

### **Remediation Work Suspended for Winter Months (January-March 2014)**

Site work has been suspended for the winter and we expect it to resume in the spring. However, during these winter months, we will be busy meeting with the next group of property owners, whose properties will be remediated during the 2014 construction season. Gillette and AECOM will meet with property owners to review the remediation plans for their properties, and obtain their agreement to conduct the cleanup work.

### **Local Project Office**

The Project Office, located at 160 Cortlandt Street, is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM and by appointment during these winter months. Once again, we thank the residents for their cooperation. We look forward to continued progress in 2014.

### **For Additional Information**

If you have further questions, you may call our toll free telephone number or send a comment via e-mail:

**(Toll free) 877-410-8412 OR [info@formermallorybatteryfactory.com](mailto:info@formermallorybatteryfactory.com)**

You may also contact the NYSDEC and NYSDOH project managers for the Site. Please refer to the Duracell Inc. Site when submitting questions.

#### **[Project-Related Questions](#)**

Dan Lanners, NYSDEC Project Mgr.  
(866) 520-2334  
[drlanner@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:drlanner@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

#### **[Site-Related Health Questions](#)**

Fay Navratil, NYSDOH Project Mgr.  
(518) 402-7860  
[bee@health.state.ny.us](mailto:bee@health.state.ny.us)

In addition, three document repositories have been established to provide the public with convenient access to important project documents and other information. These repositories can be found at the **Warner Public Library** (Tarrytown, NY), **Village of Sleepy Hollow Office**, and the **NYSDEC Region 3 Office** (New Paltz, NY).