

# Fact Sheet

NYSDEC Project ID: 851046  
Corning, New York  
July 2014

## Highlights

This Fact Sheet is provided to notify and inform the Corning community about an environmental study of an area bounded by Pyrex Street, East Pulteney Ave., Post Creek, and the Chemung River (the Study Area) expected to begin in July. In 2012 and 2013, during construction activities as part of the expansion of the Corning-Painted Post East High School, fill material that the School District described as containing ash, brick, and glass pieces was encountered in subsurface soils. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) requested that Corning Incorporated conduct an environmental study to determine whether this fill material may be present in other parts of the Study Area. Corning Incorporated entered into an order with NYSDEC and is working with NYSDEC, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and property owners to conduct an environmental study to determine the presence, nature and extent of these materials within the defined study area. A work plan to implement the study has been approved by NYSDEC, and NYSDEC and NYSDOH will review the findings of the study to determine if additional actions are necessary. This Fact Sheet provides background and basic information about how the Work Plan will be implemented and how you can learn more about it.

## Introduction

Corning Incorporated is committed to protecting the environment, health and well-being of the communities where we live and work. We were approached by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to complete environmental sampling in a Study Area, which includes the Corning East High School property, adjoining properties and the adjacent residential community.

The Study Area boundary is shown on Figure 1. The Study Area consists of approximately 180 acres of land, and is currently occupied by the Corning-Painted Post East High School, the Corning Christian Academy, the Memorial Stadium and field, the Corning Fire Department frontage, about 200 residences, a public park, and flood control areas along the Chemung River and Post Creek. The Study Area is generally bounded by Pyrex Street on the west, East Pulteney Street on the north, Post Creek on the east, and the north bank of the Chemung River on the south.

## How was the Study Area Defined?

The Study Area developed over time from farmland into a neighborhood and an area of schools and athletic fields. The Study Area encompasses properties previously owned by Corning Homes, Inc., which acquired these properties in 1920 from the heirs of the then deceased founder of Corning Flint Glass Works. The deeds for these properties contained a condition that allowed Corning Glass Works to maintain

structures, buildings and “ash dumps as now located” (i.e., as of 1920). Despite reviewing available historical materials, we have not, to date, located any maps or records that depict where such areas may have existed. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the City of Corning was home to a large brick manufacturer and many glass manufacturers, and coal was still used as a fuel source, so fill, including brick, ash and other materials, could have been used to improve drainage and to fill in low-lying areas as an aid to development.

Figure 1 – Study Area Location



## What is the scope of the Study?

On June 27, 2014, Corning Incorporated and NYSDEC entered into an Order on Consent and Administrative Settlement (Order) to conduct an environmental study to determine whether fill materials encountered during the recent Corning East High School expansion are present in the Study Area and to understand the nature and extent of these materials. The scope of the environmental study is outlined in the Study Area Characterization Work Plan (Weston, 2014), which NYSDEC has approved and will be explained during two public meetings on July 15, 2014 and July 17, 2014.

## How will the study be performed?

Weston Solutions, Inc., an experienced environmental services company under contract to Corning Incorporated, will conduct the study in accordance with a NYSDEC-approved work plan. Prior to any environmental sampling, owners of properties to be sampled will be contacted to obtain written access consent. No work will be done without the express permission of property owners. Once consent is given, all work will take place outside — there should be no reason for anyone to enter any structures for this work.

The plan is designed to minimize disruption in the neighborhood. Workers will collect surface soil samples using hand-held instruments or small-diameter probes. Additionally, a drill rig, also using a small diameter probe, will be used to collect soil samples in rights-of-way and on selected properties, as required. WESTON will use the least invasive techniques they can to take soil samples. They will fill in holes, control noise and work efficiently.

## What happens after the sampling is complete?

After the environmental sampling, analysis, and data evaluation are complete, the NYSDEC and NYSDOH will review the results and determine whether any further actions are necessary and how the findings of the study will be communicated to the community.

## Where can I get more information?

We are committed to providing opportunities for citizen participation in the process, and to developing an open and ongoing dialog with the community throughout the project. To do so, we established two document repositories for the project, where the community can access technical and other documents. These repositories are located at the Southeast Steuben County Library, 300 Nasser Civic Center Plaza, Corning, N.Y.; and the NYSDEC Region 8 Office, 6274 Avon-Lima Road, Avon, N.Y. We also established a website to keep you informed ([www.postcreekstudyarea.com](http://www.postcreekstudyarea.com)) as work progresses. If you have questions about the process or the planned environmental study, we invite you to contact Corning at our toll free telephone number or email address:

**(Toll free) (866) 256-1902**  
**[studyarea@corning.com](mailto:studyarea@corning.com)**

The NYSDEC and NYSDOH are also available to answer questions you may have.

## Technical Information

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## Study Area-Related Health Information

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