

# Fact Sheet

NYSDEC Project ID: 851046

Corning, New York

February 2015

## Status Update

Corning Incorporated has developed this update to provide additional information on the environmental study of an area bounded by Pyrex Street, East Pulteney Street, Post Creek and the Chemung River (the Study Area).

On June 27, 2014, Corning Incorporated and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) entered into an Order on Consent and Administrative Settlement (Order) to conduct an environmental study to determine whether fill materials that the Corning Painted-Post School District described as containing ash, brick, and/or glass pieces encountered during the recent Corning High School expansion are present in the Study Area and to understand the nature and extent of these materials.

Owners of 163 properties within the Study Area who granted access to Corning Incorporated for the surface soil sampling program in September through December 2014 are being given their individual testing results and will have an opportunity to meet with representatives of the New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health (NYSDEC and NYSDOH), and Corning Incorporated to ask questions about their individual results.

## General Discussion of Results

Four soil samples per property, totaling 652 separate surface soil samples taken at a depth of 0 – 2 inches beneath any sod or ground cover, were collected from 163 properties. Surface samples were taken because that is where contact with soil is more likely to occur during daily activities. These samples were analyzed by a New York State-certified independent laboratory.

Of the total number of surface soil samples taken in the Study Area, approximately 92 percent meet the state's soil cleanup objectives for properties having a residential use (residential SCOs). Thirty-six of the 163 properties that were tested had at least one sample result which exceeded the residential SCOs.

The metal arsenic in the soil was the most common (40 samples) detection above SCOs, followed by lead (9 samples), and cadmium (8 samples). While arsenic, lead and cadmium can be associated with fill materials, all three substances have other common potential sources. Their presence alone does not mean the substance comes from fill material or that an SCO will be exceeded. For example, arsenic appears naturally in the environment and is found in many fertilizers and pesticides. Cadmium is common in the earth's crust and in agricultural soils. Lead can be associated with stormwater and air deposition in urban areas. The residential SCOs take into account typical background levels of these metals found across New York State.

NYSDEC and NYSDOH have requested additional surface soil sampling and borings, which Weston will perform this spring. The purpose of this additional testing — called delineation — is to determine the extent of lead, cadmium or arsenic and if further action should be taken. The additional sampling in the spring will be completed efficiently, with a continued focus on minimizing disruption in the neighborhood.

Figure 1 – Study Area Location



## Next Public Meeting

NYSDEC and NYSDOH intend to convene a public meeting in late March. At this meeting, Corning and the agencies will report to the community in more detail about the work that has been performed at a number of specific locations within the Study Area and about other work that is planned.

## Report on Other Corning Activities under the Work Plan

During the first week of January 2015, Corning completed other work in the Study Area as was described at the October 30, 2014 public meeting. That work was conducted in accordance with work plans approved by NYSDEC, in consultation with NYSDOH, which are available at the document repositories. The approved work involved additional soil sampling and the installation and sampling of groundwater monitoring wells. The results of this work will also be presented at the public meeting in late March.

## Groundwater Sampling

Weston Solutions, Inc. installed seven groundwater monitoring wells in December 2014 within the Study Area: four on the Corning-Painted Post School District property, two on the Memorial Stadium property, and one in the residential area. These wells were sampled during the first week of January, 2015, and results will be discussed at the public meeting in late March. The results of prior sampling of the irrigation well at the high school property that NYSDEC requested had no results above state groundwater standards. Drinking water in the Study Area is provided by the municipal water system and is monitored on a regular basis by the City of Corning.

## How to Interpret Soil Sample Results — Frequently Asked Questions

### What are Residential Soil Cleanup Objectives?

Residential Soil Cleanup Objectives (SCOs) are concentrations in soil which were derived by the State based on assumptions that are designed to protect public health based on a residential property use. SCOs are used by the State (along with other information) to decide whether any other actions are warranted. Soil concentrations that are higher than SCOs are not necessarily an environmental or health concern.

### If my results are above the SCOs, what does that mean?

Most of the residential soil sampling data to date within the Study Area meet residential SCOs. An SCO is not a “bright line” between soil concentrations that will result in health effects and those that will not. Exceedance of an SCO at a property does not necessarily represent an immediate health concern. Corning Incorporated has proposed additional assessment where an SCO was exceeded and Weston Solutions, Inc. is preparing a work plan for this purpose that will be reviewed by the State agencies.

### What should I do if my results indicate a level above the SCO?

Additional evaluation has been requested by NYSDEC and NYSDOH for some properties within the Study Area. Immediate health effects are not expected to occur from exposures to the levels above the SCOs that have been detected in the residential area.

Property owners can continue to use their yards for recreation. Practices to minimize soil getting into the body, like wearing gloves to garden or washing fruits and vegetables are prudent whether soil is above or below an SCO. Additionally, in areas where exceedances of the SCOs have been noted, additional measures, such as bringing in soil for a raised-bed garden might be prudent.

### 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 study. We have developed a comprehensive communication and participation plan to guide the process, called the Citizen Participation Plan.

Private availability sessions will be held by NYSDEC and NYSDOH from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on February 25 and February 26 at the Radisson Hotel (Ballroom), in Corning, N.Y. Corning Incorporated and Weston Solutions representatives will also be available. If you wish to schedule a private appointment during these sessions to discuss your individual results you may call or e-mail Gregory MacLean at NYSDEC at the contact information below.

We have established two document repositories for the Study Area, 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 East Avon-Lima Road, Avon, N.Y.

We have also established a dedicated website to keep you informed ([www.postcreekstudyarea.com](http://www.postcreekstudyarea.com)). If you have further questions about the process or the additional characterization activities, we invite you to contact our toll free telephone number or transmit a comment in writing to our 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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