

# Fact Sheet

The Gillette Company  
Bethel, Connecticut

## Soil Sampling Near the Duracell Inc. Site, Site ID No. 360011 Sleepy Hollow, New York

August 2010

### Introduction

For periods between 1944 and 1984, a battery manufacturing facility operated at the corner of Elm Street and Andrews Lane in Sleepy Hollow, New York, currently owned by the Village of Sleepy Hollow. The facility was originally operated by P.R. Mallory. Duracell began operations at the site in 1979, and the site was closed in 1984.

Duracell completed several cleanup actions at the site between 1988 and 1994. Factory buildings were demolished and impacted soil was removed from the site and from several properties directly adjacent to the factory. As a result of these efforts, the site was “de-listed” from the State’s Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites in 1994 after meeting the cleanup goals that were developed at that time for the site by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

In late 2008, a soil sample was collected and analyzed for metals from a property near the former facility. The sample exhibited mercury levels in excess of the current (2006) NYSDEC-recommended soil cleanup objective (SCO) for mercury in a residential setting. As a result, the NYSDEC performed an assessment in May of 2009 by collecting additional soil samples in the area to provide a better understanding of the current conditions surrounding the site. This assessment found lead and mercury levels on numerous properties above the current NYSDEC SCOs for these constituents in a residential setting.

The Gillette Company, who acquired Duracell, executed an Order on Consent with the NYSDEC in December of 2009 to develop and implement a remedial investigation for the site at the direction of the NYSDEC. The investigation will evaluate both on-site and off-site conditions that may have resulted from operations at the former battery plant site.

Due to its potential scope, the remedial investigation will be conducted in phases. The initial phase (Phase I) will focus on off-site properties to evaluate the extent of properties that may have been impacted.

The former battery facility is shown on Figure 1. The properties were selected based on the May 2009 NYSDEC assessment and an assessment of the prevailing winds in the area of the former plant site. The findings of the Phase I investigation will help determine whether additional off-site investigation is needed. This fact sheet describes the

investigation activities that will be used to survey conditions and collect soil samples from properties within the Phase I investigation area.

### What will happen first?

Prior to any work being completed on the off-site properties, owners of properties targeted for sampling will be contacted to obtain written access consent. In April of this year, the NYSDEC sent a letter to property owners seeking access to collect soil samples and conduct cleanup activities, if necessary. Some home owners have returned their forms, granting us access to their property; however, we still need to hear from many other owners. These agreements are necessary before Gillette and its technical representatives can enter a property. Therefore, if you received a request for access and you have not done so already, please return your signed access consent form to us at your earliest possible convenience.

### Who will be conducting the investigation?

AECOM, an environmental services company under contract to Gillette, will be conducting the remedial investigation in accordance with a NYSDEC-approved work plan. AECOM staff fluent in English and Spanish will be contacting owners of properties within the Phase I investigation area to obtain access consents, and will be present in the area to collect the soil samples.



Figure 1: Site Location

## Is the NYSDEC involved with the new sampling program?

As stated previously, Gillette has executed an Order on Consent with the NYSDEC to perform a remedial investigation. Gillette and its technical representatives will be completing this work under NYSDEC and NYSDOH guidance (their contact information is included at the end of this Fact Sheet).

## How will the sampling be done?

AECOM will visit each property twice. The first time we access a property to be sampled, we will perform what is called a “geophysical survey.” This survey uses instruments to detect underground structures (such as buried cables, water and sewer lines, etc). We will mark the location of these structures on photographs of the property, and will mark the ground/pavement with spray paint (only with the owner’s permission). This will show us the areas of the property that are “cleared” of potential underground utility lines/structures. The proposed soil sampling locations will also be marked on photographs of the site at this time.

Shortly after we complete the geophysical survey and mark the sample locations, we will return a second time to collect soil samples. The samples will be collected using a small sampling device, which will drill down to a depth of about 3 feet.

After the sample collection, the grass or ground surface will be repaired. The soil samples will be sent to a New York State certified laboratory for testing.

## How long will this take?

The geophysical survey should take approximately 1 hour. The soil sampling process should also take approximately 1 hour, as long as no issues are encountered.

## Do I need to be present when this work is being done?

For properties to be sampled, owner presence at the time of sampling is at the owner’s discretion. However owners do not need to be present when the samples are collected.

## When will this work be completed?

Once the NYSDEC approves the work plan for the Phase I investigation, the sampling program will begin. We anticipate that this work will be conducted between August and the end of this year (2010). Sampling will begin on properties where we have received access consent. The timeframe required to complete the initial phase of the investigation is dependent on receiving access consent from the property owners. Before we come to a property, we will notify property owners by mail as to which days we expect to be on-site. Property owners will be notified by mail with the results of the samples collected on their property.

## Where can I get more information?

The approved Phase I Remedial Investigation Work Plan will be available for public review in the established document repositories at the Warner Public Library in Tarrytown and the Village of Sleepy Hollow office after August 31, 2010. If you have further questions about the process or the planned investigation, we invite you to contact our toll free telephone number or transmit a comment in writing to our email address:

(toll free) 877.410.8412

[info@formermallorybatteryfactory.com](mailto:info@formermallorybatteryfactory.com)

The NYSDEC and NYSDOH also remain available to answer questions you may have as well. Please refer to the Duracell Inc. Site when you submit questions.

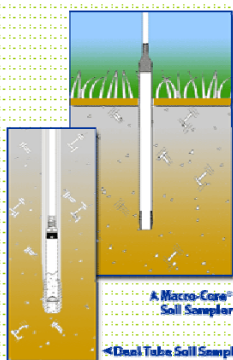
[Project-Related Questions](#)  
Dan Lanners  
NYSDEC, Project Manager  
(866) 520-2334

[Site-Related Health Questions](#)  
Fay Navratil  
NYSDOH  
(800) 458-1158, x27880

## Sample Collection Procedure



Grass Removal Prior to Sample Collection



Soil Sampling Device



Soil Sample