

## **Former Sperry Remington Site – North Portion (Site #C808022)**

777 South Main Street, Elmira, NY 14904

## **Former Sperry Remington Site (Site #808043)**

1051 South Main Street, Elmira, NY 14904

## **Former Scott Technologies Site (Site #808049)**

1051 South Main Street, Elmira, NY 14904

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and New York State Department of Health (DOH) are continuing oversight of the ongoing significant investigation and cleanup activities at the former Sperry Remington property, which includes the northern portion of the former Sperry Remington Site (#C808022) where Elmira High School (EHS) is located, a 0.28 acre portion of the former Sperry Remington Site (#808043) and the former Scott Technologies Site (now Southern Tier Commerce Center) (#808049). This oversight is ensuring a comprehensive and careful cleanup that is protective of public health and the environment. The agencies remain committed to keeping the Elmira community informed about the cleanup progress and, as a top priority, making sure that EHS employees, students, faculty, staff, and visitors will not be exposed to the below-ground site-related contamination. Unisys Corporation (Unisys) — the corporate successor of the Remington Rand company — has committed to fully investigate and implement a comprehensive cleanup of the EHS site consistent with the requirements of the Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) and in coordination with the Elmira City School District (ECSD), and to institute certain remedial actions in accordance with the Orders on Consent and Administrative Settlement with DEC related to the other portions of the former Sperry Remington property. Associated impacted off-site areas also are being addressed.

An Enhanced Community Liaison Plan that summarizes actions related to working safely at EHS and can be accessed at the link below. It functions as a guide to project personnel and the community, providing the best means to communicate project information, answering questions, and raise issues and concerns to the proper sources for resolution.

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/102390.html>

## **Interim Remedial Measures (IRM) at Elmira High School**

The figure below (Figure 1) shows areas where soils impacted by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other site-related contaminants have been removed through IRM activities or are planned for future IRM activity. The requirements for management of impacted groundwater and soil below the water table will be addressed in the final site remedy later in the cleanup process.

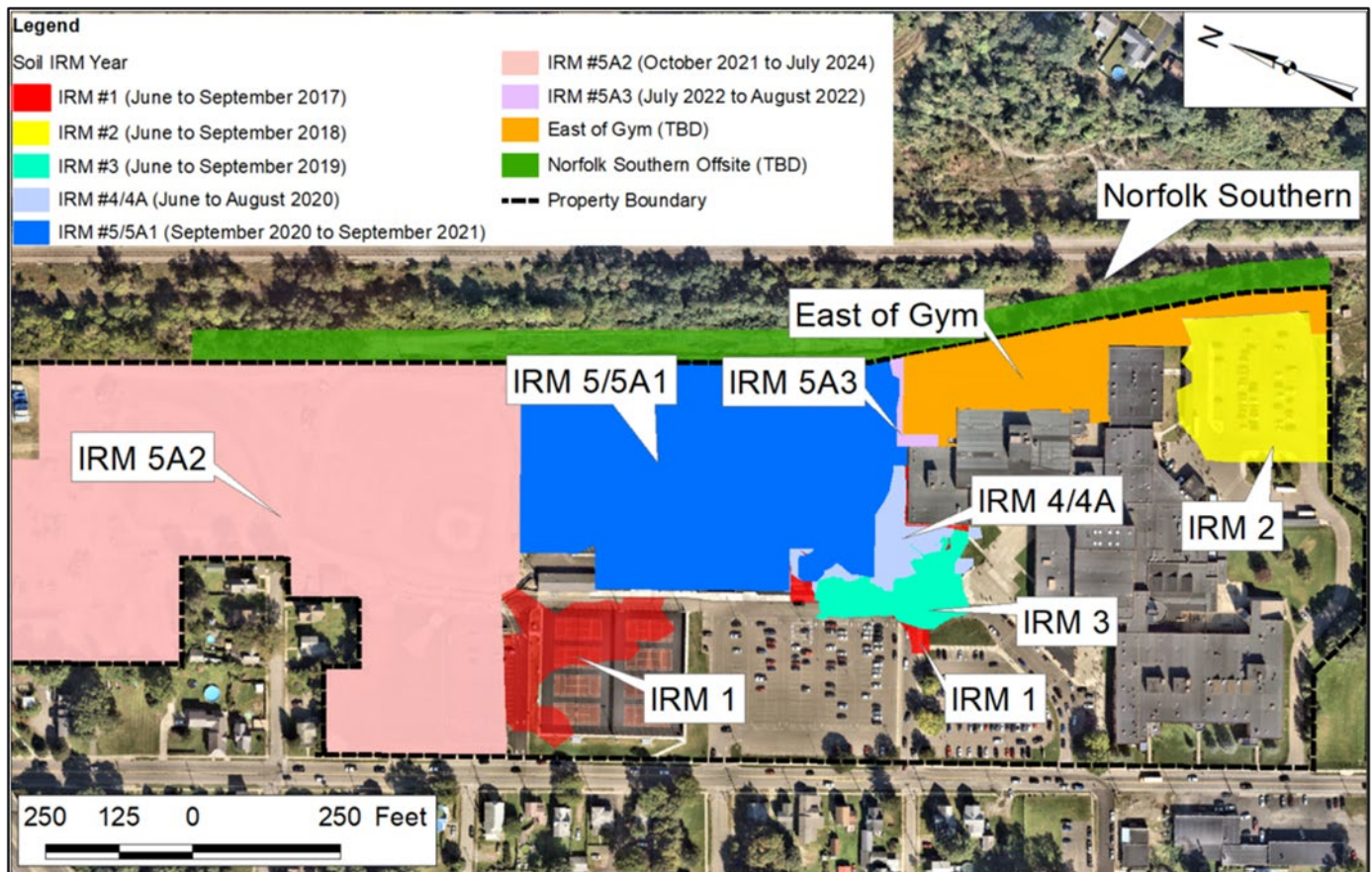


Figure 1: Completed and Planned IRM Cleanup Activities on EHS Property

### IRM Cleanup Activities:

The most recently completed IRM at EHS began in October 2021. Unisys began removing contaminated soils and former industrial sewers from the EHS North Athletic Fields (NAF) under IRM 5A2. In the deepest NAF excavation, soil removal extended to the water table approximately 14–18 feet below ground surface. An estimated 111,600 cubic yards of soil (approx. 210,000 tons) have been excavated and disposed of off-site at approved facilities. Table 1 provides a summary of the excavation, disposal and reuse activities associated with IRM 5A2 as well as NAF restoration activities under the interim Site Management Plan (ISMP). Excavation activities and waste shipment from EHS were substantially completed in

May 2023 to facilitate NAF restoration. Additional activities that addressed soil impacts along the EHS property boundaries were completed in April 2024 (Figure 2). The activities completed as part of IRM 5A2 and NAF restoration will be detailed in a comprehensive NAF Construction Completion Report scheduled for December 2024.

Table 1: IRM 5A2 and NAF Restoration Metrics

IRM #5A2 (October 2021 to April 2024)	NAF Restoration 2023 (March 2023 to July 2024)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 111,600 cubic yards of soil excavated</li> <li>• 25,000 tons disposed off-Site as hazardous waste</li> <li>• 180,000 tons disposed off-Site as non-hazardous waste</li> <li>• 160,000 tons of fill imported for backfill and soil cover</li> <li>• 7,000 tons of material excavated and staged for reuse</li> <li>• 33 tons of hazardous waste for off-site incineration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10,000 cubic yards of soil excavated</li> <li>• 5,000 tons disposed off-site as non-hazardous waste</li> <li>• 37,000 tons of imported fill for backfill to final grade as soil cover</li> <li>• 12,000 tons of imported topsoil for backfill as soil cover.</li> <li>• 1,635 tons of imported sand as bedding material for irrigation and storm chamber installation</li> <li>• 5,400 tons of stone imported for utility and storm chamber installation</li> <li>• 3,500 linear feet of storm piping installed</li> <li>• 11,000 linear feet of irrigation piping installed</li> </ul>
<p>Note: Excavation measurements are cubic yards (cy) and disposal is measured as tons. For this site the conversion is 1 cy = 1.9 ton</p>	



Figure 2: April 2024 – Restoration Activities in NAF

### Elmira High School North Athletic Field Restoration:

ECSD completed restoration of an area north of the EHS tennis courts for shot put/discus throwing events, and additional parking in June 2023 (see Figure 3). The area was first used for track and field events in June 2023.



Figure 3: August 2024 –Shot Put and Discus Area

The NAF restoration activities and capital improvement work Unisys and ECSD conducted have been completed. This work included construction of the baseball, softball, and practice fields and consisted of re-grading the site, placement of topsoil, sod/seeding, installation of stormwater infrastructure, an underground irrigation system and associated water service, new dugouts, fencing, and lighting (see Figure 4).



Figure 4: NAF (IRM 5A2) Completed Restoration August 2024 (looking northwest)

### Elmira High School Comprehensive Remedial Investigation:

Unisys’ delineation and characterization of contaminants in soil, groundwater, and soil vapor at EHS have been ongoing since 2015. The on-site and associated off-site investigations have included the installation of

monitoring wells, soil sampling up to 78 feet below ground surface, indoor and sub-slab air sampling, and soil vapor sampling. The results of this comprehensive investigation will be presented in a Remedial Investigation Report that is presently scheduled to be submitted to DEC and DOH by the end of 2024.

### **Elmira High School Interim Site Management Plan:**

An Interim Site Management Plan (ISMP) was approved by DEC and DOH in 2019 for the EHS property. The ISMP monitors and maintains the engineering controls, including cover systems, and sub-slab depressurization systems (SSDs). The existing and newly constructed cover system reduces the potential of public exposure to below-ground contamination or remaining impacts. The SSDs are operating continuously and prevent potentially impacted vapors from entering the indoor area. ISMP monitoring and inspections are conducted quarterly.

In addition to the above, ISMP monitoring includes annual indoor air and outdoor air sampling at the EHS building for volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The most recent sampling event was completed in November 2023. The sampling and inspections continue to document that SSDs in the EHS building are operating as designed and are preventing vapor intrusion (the migration of compounds from sub-surface soil and groundwater sources to the indoor air of the building). The next sampling event will occur in November/December 2024.

### **Elmira High School Health Survey:**

DOH has been working with the Elmira City School District and the local community to learn about health concerns of current and former EHS staff. During previous community outreach events, members of the school community and other stakeholders expressed concerns about possible health related impacts associated with contaminants present on the school grounds. Since 2019, DOH has worked with a group of EHS representatives (the

survey workgroup) to address these concerns. The survey workgroup and school administration played a key role in creating and distributing the health outcome survey. The survey was provided to 330 current and former Elmira High School staff and 1,000 people on the school's email list in November 2019. Information about the survey was also shared with the larger community via email, social media, and traditional media. DOH received 171 survey responses from current and former staff via a Survey Monkey online application, by mail, email, and telephone through the end of December 2019. These responses were used to collect information about the characteristics of the current and former teachers and staff who participated in the survey, and then summarize and evaluate their survey responses about health concerns including cancer diagnoses, birth defects, and other chronic health problems. Based on this evaluation, DOH has created the "Elmira High School Health Survey: Summary and Evaluation" report. Overall, this evaluation of reported cancer, birth defects and other health conditions showed no unusual patterns among the Elmira High School current and former teachers and staff. The report can be accessed via <https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/investigations/>.

### **Former Sperry Remington Site - Remedial Investigation (Site 808043):**

A remedial investigation is underway to evaluate the nature and extent of contamination associated with a former oil skimmer, a drainage culvert and a holding pond located at the northern end of property owned by Southern Tier Commerce Center (STCC), which is adjacent to the southern end of the EHS site. The drainage culvert leads from the 0.28-acre former Sperry Remington Site to Coldbrook Creek to the east. The remedial investigation aims to characterize the vertical and horizontal extent of contamination in sediments in the culvert and holding pond, in site soils, and in groundwater. In addition to the on-Site sampling, off-Site sampling included four rounds of overbank soil sampling performed between

November 2019 and October 2022 on 39 parcels along Coldbrook Creek. Overbank soil chemistry data were compared to Soil Cleanup Objectives to understand nature and extent of overbank soil contamination.

Fish and Wildlife Impact Analysis (FWIA) sampling was completed in July and August 2020, which included collection and testing of sediment, benthic invertebrates, and fish tissue within Coldbrook Creek. The data collected was used in identifying potentially complete exposure pathways for humans as well as wildlife, to understand nature and extent of contamination within Coldbrook Creek, and to assess the risk to wildlife within the Study Area. DOH advises that people do not eat fish taken from Coldbrook Creek: Additional information is available at [https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoor/fish/health\\_advisories/](https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoor/fish/health_advisories/)

Data collection for the Remedial Investigation, including the off-Site areas downstream in and around Coldbrook Creek, is complete. Remedial Investigation Reports are scheduled to be submitted to DEC and DOH in early 2025.

### **Former Scott Technologies Site - Site Characterization (Site 808049):**

Unisys is required under the Order on Consent with DEC to complete a site characterization for the former Scott Technologies (now STCC) site. Site characterization investigations have been conducted under DEC-approved work plans.

Further delineation to determine the vertical and horizontal extent of the soil contamination and investigation of groundwater quality was completed in Spring 2024. The Site Characterization Report is anticipated to be submitted to DEC and DOH by the end of 2024.

A portion of the STCC site is being used for a material staging area (MSA) to support ongoing IRM actions, including at the adjacent EHS site. To avoid traffic on South Main Street for IRM activity relating to the EHS, trucks use an alternate routes to the MSA. Materials stored include non-hazardous excavated soils, previously used imported fill, construction equipment, and office trailers.

### **Ongoing Community Engagement**

DEC and DOH will continue to be available to answer questions from the community. Please see “Who to Contact” below for key points of contact.

## **WHO TO CONTACT**

### **DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

**Kaleigh Zappia (585) 226-5351**  
kaleigh.zappia@dec.ny.gov

### **DEPT. OF HEALTH**

**Sara Bogardus (518) 402-7860**  
bee@health.ny.gov