

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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# Public Input Needed as Cleanup Plans Progress

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## Former Buick City Site

Flint, Michigan

June 2010

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### You're invited

EPA will be holding a public availability session on:

**Wednesday, June 16, 2010**

5-7 p.m.

Mott Community College  
Regional Technology Center  
Auditorium

1401 E. Court St., Flint

Agency representatives will be on hand to discuss the Buick City Southend cleanup and answer your questions and deal with concerns. EPA staffers will also talk about the pollution situation on the Buick City Northend section. The Agency encourages your participation as cleanup plans progress for the site. Your input is important now that EPA has selected the official cleanup plan for the Southend and begins work on options for cleaning the Northend.

### For more information

- The Buick City Website:  
<http://www.epa.gov/reg5r/cra/wptdiv/sites/buickcity/index.html>
- E-mail EPA Public Affairs Specialist Rafael P. Gonzalez at [gonzalez.rafaelp@epa.gov](mailto:gonzalez.rafaelp@epa.gov) or call Rafael at 800-621-8431, Ext. 60269, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., weekdays.
- Read official government documents such as the *statement of basis* containing details about the Southend cleanup plans at the Flint Public Library, Main Branch, 1026 E. Kearsley St.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to encourage public participation as cleanup plans for the Buick City site progress to the next stages. The Agency has set a public availability session for Wednesday, June 16, where people can meet with EPA representatives and make comments, discuss concerns and ask questions about the cleanup (*see left-hand box for details*). Last month EPA selected an official cleanup plan for the section of Buick City called the Southend. The Agency now wants to start discussing the environmental issues that face the Northend.

EPA will use the upcoming availability session to continue the public engagement and provide opportunity to have a voice as the cleanup process advances. Part of the Southend's cleanup decision includes formulating a work plan to implement the cleanup actions. This work plan should be submitted to EPA by the end of the summer. Once the Agency receives the work plan and reviews it, cleanup activity can begin.

During the next availability session, EPA will also be able to give information on the nature and extent of the contamination on the Northend of Buick City.

### Public comments welcomed and reviewed

Before making a final decision on a cleanup plan for the Buick City Southend, EPA reviewed every one of the numerous public comments received. Public comments were generally supportive of EPA's recommended cleanup options. Those options, with one exception explained below, were ultimately selected as the official cleanup plan. Public comments were separated into 28 different subjects, but they generally fell into the categories of the on-site soil cleanup plan, the sewers on the site and the potential for future jobs at the location. The current owner of Buick City -- Motors Liquidation Co. or MLC -- is eyeing possible redevelopment of the Southend. EPA strongly supports and encourages redevelopment so cleaning up and containing pollution on the Southend will be an important part of any reuse plans for the property.

### Southend cleanup

Cleanup alternatives were developed for three Southend areas of concern including soil contamination in four hot spots, off-site contamination on CSX Railroad property and free-floating petroleum product called light non-aqueous phase liquids or LNAPL. The free petroleum is found in underground water supplies at Buick City. Underground water is known as ground water in environmental terms.

Drinking water is not affected by Buick City pollution. Instead of excavating contaminated soil in the Southend, EPA chose the cleanup option that calls for keeping the present surface cover on the property such as building slabs and parking lots. These covers will shield potential future workers from the lead-contaminated soil. Deed restrictions

will be put in place limiting excavation within Southend areas where excessive lead levels are found. Excavation will be used to remove polluted soil from the CSX Railroad property.

The underground free floating petroleum product remains a challenge because LNAPL is very difficult to remove. EPA was going to try steam injection and a series of extraction wells but has tabled that plan for now. Instead, the Agency is requiring responsible party MLC to test different innovative technologies to enhance or replace traditional methods of LNAPL recovery.

MLC will pay for the cleanup work and provide financial assurances that adequate funding will be available for the life of the project. Under the final cleanup plan, EPA will insist the entire Buick City site be restricted to industrial or commercial use, that no ground water underneath the site is used for anything other than sampling, and a long-term ground-water

monitoring program be implemented.

### **About the Buick City site**

The entire facility including the Southend and Northend covers 452 acres located at 902 Leith St. in Flint. The Southend, which was the target of the cleanup plan, consists of the 230-acre area south of Leith Street and bounded on the east by Cole Boulevard and the Flint River and to the south by Harriet Street.

The complex played a major role in American automotive history with some of the nation's first automobiles produced on the site in the 1890s. In 1903 the Flint Wagon Works purchased the Buick Motor Co. from David Buick and relocated the business to Flint.