

Rail Yard Redevelopment Brownfield Project

City of Mechanicville, New York

This 25 acre property in the northwestern corner of the City of Mechanicville served as a major terminus for the Delaware & Hudson and other rail lines. Between the 1920s and 1980s, the site was used for engine and equipment storage, maintenance, and refueling. After the railroad companies left Mechanicville, the City acquired the vacant property in 1996 with the intent of developing a one of the largest light industrial parks in the community.

In 2003, the City retained an environmental engineer to conduct a Phase I and Phase II Site Investigation for the entire rail yard. The Phase I investigation turned up several petroleum spills, and the Phase II investigation found physical evidence of petroleum contamination in the soil within the central portion of the property. The engineer estimated a cost of \$1.3 million to remove 10,000 cubic yards of soil and install long-term groundwater monitoring wells on the site.



In 2005, the City obtained state Environmental Restoration Program funding from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to conduct a **subsurface investigation** for the property. That work is to determine the extent of any on-site or off-site sources of contamination and remove affected materials so the property can be cleared for reuse.



Once cleanup is completed, the City will be able to market the site as a business and light industrial park, and future tenants will be able to build on the site without worrying about further contamination.

AVALON ASSOCIATES prepared the successful DEC funding application for this project after the City was initially denied grant funding for technical reasons.