

Former Fraser Paper Administration Building Site  
(a.k.a. Former Bermico Plant Site)  
Berlin



**DES Site Number:** 200610027  
**ONESTOP Master Id.:** 62946  
**Date of update:** February 7, 2012

**Description:** This site is currently vacant and was formerly part of a larger parcel of land that housed the former Bermico Pipe Plant, the Fraser Paper Administration Building, and the Fraser Paper Human Resources Building. The original parcel was subdivided into three separate lots. The Administration Building lot was retained by a developer. The developer demolished the former Administration Building and constructed a new two-story office building that now houses the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services and the Berlin District Court. The Human Resources Building lot and the Bermico Pipe Plant lot were transferred to the City of Berlin. The Human Resources Building is currently vacant and up for sale. The subject of all future assessment work and cleanup under this DES site number is the Bermico Pipe Plant lot.

**Potential Environmental Concerns:** Potential concerns associated with this property include past releases of petroleum, past releases of a group of compounds known as polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons or PAHs (usually associated with heavy petroleum releases, coal tar, coal ash, and/or wood ash), various metals, and asbestos-containing materials. These contaminants are present in the site soils and the remains of structures associated with former petroleum storage tanks.

**Groundwater Contamination:** Several PAHs have been detected in site groundwater at concentrations exceeding NHDES Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards (AGQS). Based on the results of the Phase II Environmental Site Assessment, the primary source of the PAHs appears to be associated with coal ash and the observed petroleum product in the vicinity of the former petroleum storage tanks.

**Previous Work:** A Brownfields Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed on behalf of Berlin Economic Development Corporation (BEDCO) in 2007. The initial Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed by Nobis Engineering, Inc. (Nobis) under a grant of technical services from NHDES. This assessment solely focused on the Administration Building.

A subsequent Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed on the entire parcel by Nobis under a grant of technical services from the North Country Council, Inc. (NCC) in 2009. Based on the results of the Phase I Environmental Assessment, attention was focused on the rear portion of the property where the former Bermico Pipe Plant and a large bulk oil aboveground storage tank were located. The additional assessment work was completed by Nobis with funding provided by NHDES. The results of this work were submitted to NHDES in February 2010.

NHDES authorized Nobis to: (1) conduct supplemental assessment work necessary for cleanup planning; and (2) prepare a remedial action plan for remediation of the site. The Remedial Action Plan was submitted on December 24, 2010.

Copies of all available Brownfields reports for this site can be accessed from NHDES' ONESTOP Database at <http://www2.des.state.nh.us/DESOnestop/BasicSearch.aspx>.

**Current Work:** No assessment or cleanup work is underway or anticipated in 2012.

**Scheduled Public Events:** A public meeting was held on April 26, 2011 to discuss the Remedial Action Plan and to summarize all of the Brownfields assessment and cleanup work completed within the city as of April 26, 2011. There are no public meetings currently scheduled for this site.

**Cleanup Planning:** A Remedial Action Plan was submitted on December 24, 2010 and was presented to the public on April 26, 2011. Cleanup of this site will be initiated once the City of Berlin secures sufficient funding.

**Section 106 of Historic Preservation Act:** A Project Review Request has not yet been submitted to the New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources – Division of Historical Resources (DHR) on behalf of NHDES for consultation. However, NHDES will submit a Project Review Request to DHR if State or Federal funds are used to implement the remedial action plan.

**Funding:** The assessment work completed by NHDES was funded via our EPA Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant, EPA State and Tribal Response Program Grant, and NHDES' Cost Recovery Fund.