

**CONCERN**  
**SOUTHSIDE**

## Cleanup finished at former factory

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Tons of contaminated soil, storage tanks and equipment containing an alphabet soup of hazardous wastes have been removed from a former manufacturing site next to Southside High School.

The contaminants are gone and the 48-acre property is no longer a health threat, said state Health Department officials.

The nearly \$900,000 cleanup, done by the company that owns the land, included the removal of 2,000 cubic feet of contaminated soil, abandoned fuel and chemical storage tanks and electrical equipment containing polychlorinated biphenyls, commonly known as PCBs.

Other chemicals found and removed include arsenic, lead, zinc, cadmium and the solvents toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene.

However, health officials say they are not aware of anyone being exposed to the hazardous wastes at the fenced-in industrial site.

But residents near the school, students and their parents are wondering whether the nearby industrial contamination has anything to do with the apparently unusually high incidence of cancer at the school. At least 13 students have contracted cancer since 1987.

Those cancer rates are being investigated by the state Health Department.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is reviewing the final cleanup report. If approved, the property is expected to be put up for sale for industrial or commercial use.

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**Coming Monday**

Pinpointing the cause of cancer difficult for Southside residents

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