

Liberty Industrial Finishing (UD#2 II-12)
Farmingdale, New York
30 June 1985

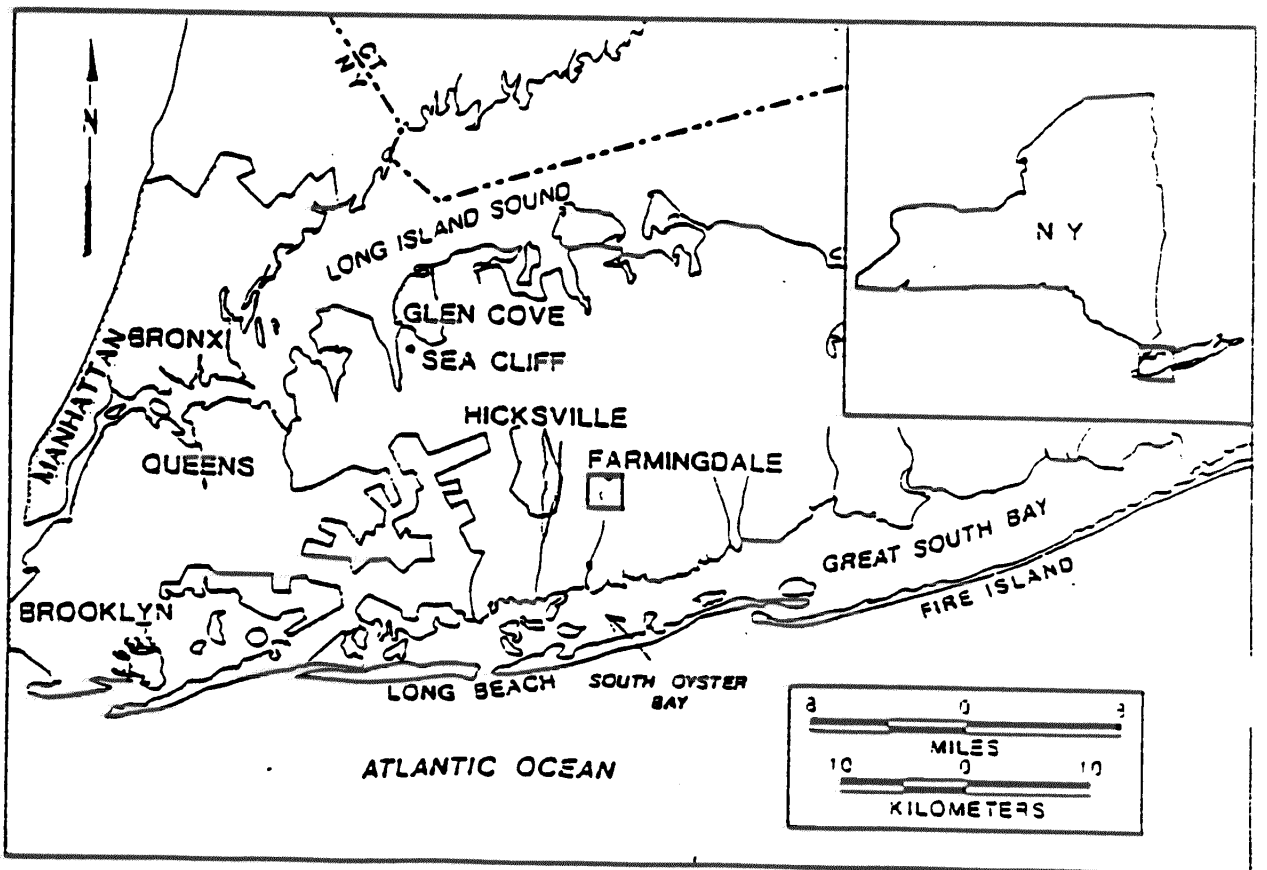
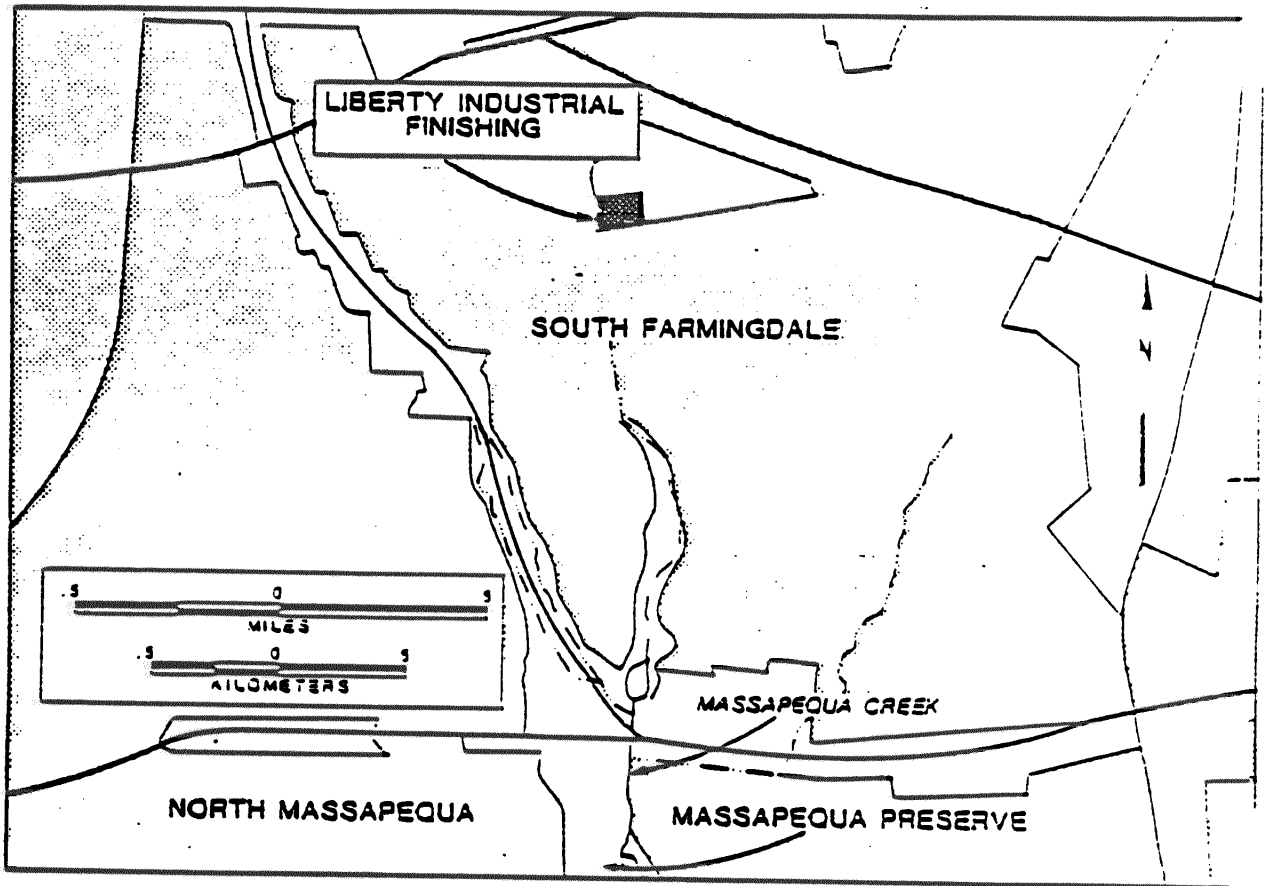
Location and Nature of Site

Liberty Industrial Finishing is located in a flat industrial area of suburban Farmingdale. The site was previously used as an electroplating, anodizing, and painting facility. There are three buildings located on the site containing a total of three acid vats, a finishing vat, three exterior sumps, and a storm water retention basin. Additionally, there are four above-ground concrete tanks and eight interior concrete-lined sumps, two deep lagoons, and numerous 55-gallon drums on the site. This site is currently used by a fiberglass extruder.

A search for responsible parties by the State of New York has identified two potential responsible parties who have been requested by the State to conduct an evaluation study to assess underground, surface, and air pollution problems at the site. Government enforcement and litigation actions are complicated by current sponsorship of the site by the Economic Development Organization known as Liberty Industrial Park.

Proximity of Chemical Hazard to Marine Resources

Liberty Industrial is less than 1.6 kilometers north of Bethpage State Park, and less than two kilometers south of the Massapequa Preserve. The Massapequa Creek leads into the Great South Bay of the Long Island Shore, which is approximately eight kilometers due south of the site. Chromium and cadmium in the catch, settling, and recharge basins on-site contaminate surface water draining from the site. These contaminants have been found in the adjacent Massapequa Creek. Groundwater and soil on the site are contaminated with heavy metals (cadmium, chromium, nickel, zinc, and cyanide), and it is estimated that there are ten tons of hazardous wastes on the site, including the contaminated soil.



Marine Resources at Risk

The site is located within the Massapequa Creek watershed. Bethpage State Park, near the site, is at the headwaters of the Massapequa Creek. From Bethpage State Park, the creek flows south into the Massapequa State Park area, currently an "open-space" area. The marine waters of South Oyster Bay and Great South Bay are important recreational resources to local inhabitants, who are provided day use of the park area; children often swim in the ponds along Massapequa Creek. A variety of fish are found in the creek waters but the creek is not an important marine fishery habitat.

Massapequa Creek discharges directly to South Oyster Bay, which was closed to shellfish harvesting prior to 1980. Shellfish can be transplanted to clean waters for purification and subsequent human consumption. Hard clams and blue crabs are found throughout South Oyster Bay.

The marine fish present in South Oyster Bay threatened by the Liberty Industrial site include striped bass, flounder, tautog, bluefish, black seabass, weakfish, scup, Atlantic herring, and Atlantic menhaden.

The common tern is known to nest on the islands adjacent to Wansers Island in South Oyster Bay, approximately four kilometers from the mouth of Massapequa Creek. Numerous species of shorebirds and waterfowl are found in the vicinity of South Oyster Bay during fall, winter, and spring months.

Site Chronology

- 1948-77 Continuous operation of Liberty Industrial Finishing.
- 1978 New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) finds Liberty Industrial in violation of permitted discharge limits.
- Aug. 1978 Liberty Industrial moves to Suffolk County.
- Sept. 1978 Liberty Industrial signs a consent agreement with New York DEC to perform site cleanup.
- June 1983 EPA Hazardous Ranking System Report.
- Sept. 1983 Preliminary Report by Woodward-Clyde.
- April 1985 Owners of Liberty Industrial sign consent agreement with New York State to perform site cleanup and environmental evaluation studies.

NOAA Reviewer: Gary Ott, SSC Hazardous Materials Response Branch
EPA Contact: Vince Pitruzzello, Chief, Enforcement Branch

References

- Evans, Jim, 1985. Personal Communication. Director, Bethpage State Park.
- Hazardous Ranking System Report (HRS); 1983. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region II.
- Phase One - Preliminary Report, 1983. Woodward-Clyde Consultants, Inc.
- Pcole, John, Dave Fallon, Frank Panek, and Kenneth Koetzner, 1985. Personal Communications. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Finfish Division.
- Swift, Bryan, 1985. Personal Communication. New York Department of Environmental Conservation Coastal Habitat Assessment Division.
- Van Volkenburgh, Peter, 1985. Personal Communication. New York Department of Environmental Conservation Shellfish Division.