FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

Semet Residue Ponds Site
Operable Unit 2
Subsite of Onondaga Lake Site
Town of Geddes
Onondaga County, NY

SITE No. 734008

December 2018

NYSDEC REGION 7

Remedy Proposed for State Superfund Site; Public Comment Period and Public Meeting Announced

Public Meeting, Wednesday January 9, 2019 at 6:00 PM
Open House from 5:00 – 6:00 PM
Martha Eddy Room in the Art and Home Center
at the New York State Fairgrounds
581 State Fair Boulevard Syracuse, NY 13209

NYSDEC invites you to a public meeting to discuss the remedy proposed for the site. You are encouraged to provide comments at the meeting and during the 30-day comment period described in this fact sheet.

The public is invited to comment on the remedy being proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address contamination at Operable Unit 2 (OU-2) of the Semet Residue Ponds Site ("site"), a subsite of the Onondaga Lake Site, located south of State Fair Boulevard and west of Willis Avenue in the town of Geddes, Onondaga County. Please see the attached map for the site location.

How to Comment: NYSDEC and EPA are accepting written comments on the Proposed Plan for 30 days, from **December 17, 2018 through January 17, 2019**. Visit http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37558.html#Onondaga to review the Proposed Plan and at locations listed at the end of this document. Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under "Project-Related Questions" in the "Who to Contact" area at left.

Proposed Plan: The remedy proposed for OU-2 includes:

- In-situ (in-place) solidification/stabilization of Semet residue remaining at the site that cannot be beneficially reused under the OU-1 remedy (*e.g.*, due to unacceptable sulfur or moisture content, insufficient heat content, unacceptable soil/debris content). The treatment would consist of the addition of amendments (*e.g.*, Portland cement, cement kiln dust, lime kiln dust, blast furnace slag) to alter the physical characteristics to a granular material.
- Installation of an impermeable geomembrane cap and 18 inches of clean soil/granular backfill to prevent unacceptable exposure risks in former pond and other Semet residue areas.
- Installation of a minimum one-foot thick soil cover (or maintained paved surfaces/buildings) in the brushy cleared area to be protective for both current and reasonably anticipated future land uses where shallow soil

Where to Find Information:
Project documents are available at the locations listed at the end of this document to help the public stay informed.
In addition, project documents are also available on the NYSDEC website at:
http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37558.html

Who to Contact:
Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

Project-Related Questions
Tracy Alan Smith, Project Manager
NYSDEC
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, New York 12233-7013
(518) 402-9676
tracy.smith@dec.ny.gov

Project-Related Health Questions
Mark Sergott, P.G.
NYSDOH
Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation
Empire State Plaza - Corning Tower
Room 1787
Albany, NY 12237
(518) 402-7860
beei@health.ny.gov

For more information about New York's State Superfund Program, visit:
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html

concentrations are above Soil Cleanup Objectives (SCOs) for commercial use;

- Grading to support commercial and/or industrial development;
- Continued maintenance of the Willis-Semet Berm Improvement Interim Remedial Measure (IRM);
- Importing clean material that meets the established SCOs for use as backfill;
- Implementation of a Health and Safety Plan and Community Air Monitoring Plan for all ground-intrusive activities;
- Long-term monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of the remedy;
- Recording of an environmental easement to ensure proper use of the site; and
- Development and implementation of a Site Management Plan that identifies use restrictions and engineering controls for the site, details the steps and media-specific requirements necessary to ensure that these controls remain in place and effective, and a monitoring plan to assess the performance and effectiveness of the remedy.

The estimated cost to implement the remedy is $24.6 million.

Contaminated shallow and intermediate groundwater will be addressed as part of the Willis Avenue Subsite remedy due to the comingling of this groundwater between the two sites.

NYSDEC and EPA developed the proposed remedy after reviewing the detailed investigation of the site and evaluating the remedial options in the "Feasibility Study" submitted under New York's State Superfund Program by Honeywell International, Inc., the "responsible party."

Next Steps: NYSDEC and EPA will consider public comments as the remedy for the site is finalized. The selected remedy will be described in a document called a "Record of Decision" (ROD) that will explain why the remedy was selected and respond to public comments. A detailed design of the selected remedy will then be prepared, and the cleanup will follow.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

Site Description: The site is listed as a Class "2" site in the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites (list of State Superfund sites). A Class 2 site represents a significant threat to public health or the environment; action is required. The Site is a subsite of the Onondaga Lake National Priorities List Superfund site and, therefore, is being addressed pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

The approximately 52-acre site includes berms and fenced-in areas. The main area includes the portion of the site to the southwest of I-690 and State Fair Boulevard, while the Semet Lakeshore Area includes the portion of the site to the northeast of I-690 and State Fair Boulevard. The brushy cleared area is located on the northeast portion of the main site area.

From 1917 to 1970, the Semet-Solvay Division of Allied Chemical & Dye Company (predecessor to Honeywell International, Inc.) operated the Semet residue ponds as depositories for a tar-like organic based residue generated by the acid washing of coke light oil during the production of benzene, toluene, naphthalene, xylene, and "motor benzol" at its BTX (Benzol) Plant. Prior to that time, the area was used as a settling basin for the disposal of Solvay waste, a grayish-white colored material consisting largely of calcium carbonate that was a waste by-product from the production of soda ash.

The site includes five irregularly-shaped man-made ponds used for the disposal of Semet residue. The Semet residue ponds cover approximately 11 acres, with depths ranging from approximately 1 to 12 feet and were estimated to contain approximately 10 to 17 million gallons of waste material. The residues in the ponds consist of an organic (tar-like) phase and an acid phase with the organic phase containing benzene, toluene, xylene, and naphthalene at levels up to 10% and the acid phase having a pH between 1 and 2.6. Semet Residue was removed for beneficial reuse to the maximum extent practicable in accordance with the OU-1 ROD and Explanation of Significant Differences. There is a plume of contaminated groundwater that originates at the site and migrates toward Onondaga Lake and Tributary 5A that was addressed through IRMs and remedial actions discussed below.

A portion of the Willis-Semet Hydraulic Containment System IRM was implemented in the Semet Lakeshore Area. The IRM consisted of the installation of a barrier wall and groundwater collection system, construction of a low permeability cap over the groundwater collection system and restoration of the Semet Lakeshore Area. In addition, other remedial actions (Tributary 5A collection system) and IRMs have been implemented at the site to cut off the migration of contamination to Tributary 5A and Onondaga Lake. These are described in more detail in the Proposed Plan.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the Site ID, 734008) at:
http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3

Summary of the Investigation: The primary contaminants of concern at the Site include benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene,

xylene, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, phenolic compounds, and mercury. Stained Solvay waste and Semet Residue-related materials are present in the western portion of main site area.

State Superfund Program Overview: New York's State Superfund Program (SSF) identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and/or the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing state funds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed.

Onondaga County Public Library Syracuse Branch
447 South Salina Street
Syracuse, NY 13204
(315) 435-1800

Solvay Public Library
615 Woods Road
Solvay, NY 13209
(315) 468-2441

Atlantic States Legal Foundation
658 West Onondaga Street
Syracuse, NY 13204
(315) 475-1170

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
615 Erie Boulevard, West
Syracuse, NY 13204
(315) 426-7400

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Attn: Tracy A. Smith
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233
(518) 402-9676
(tracy.smith@dec.ny.gov)

For more information about the SSF, visit:
http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html

We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

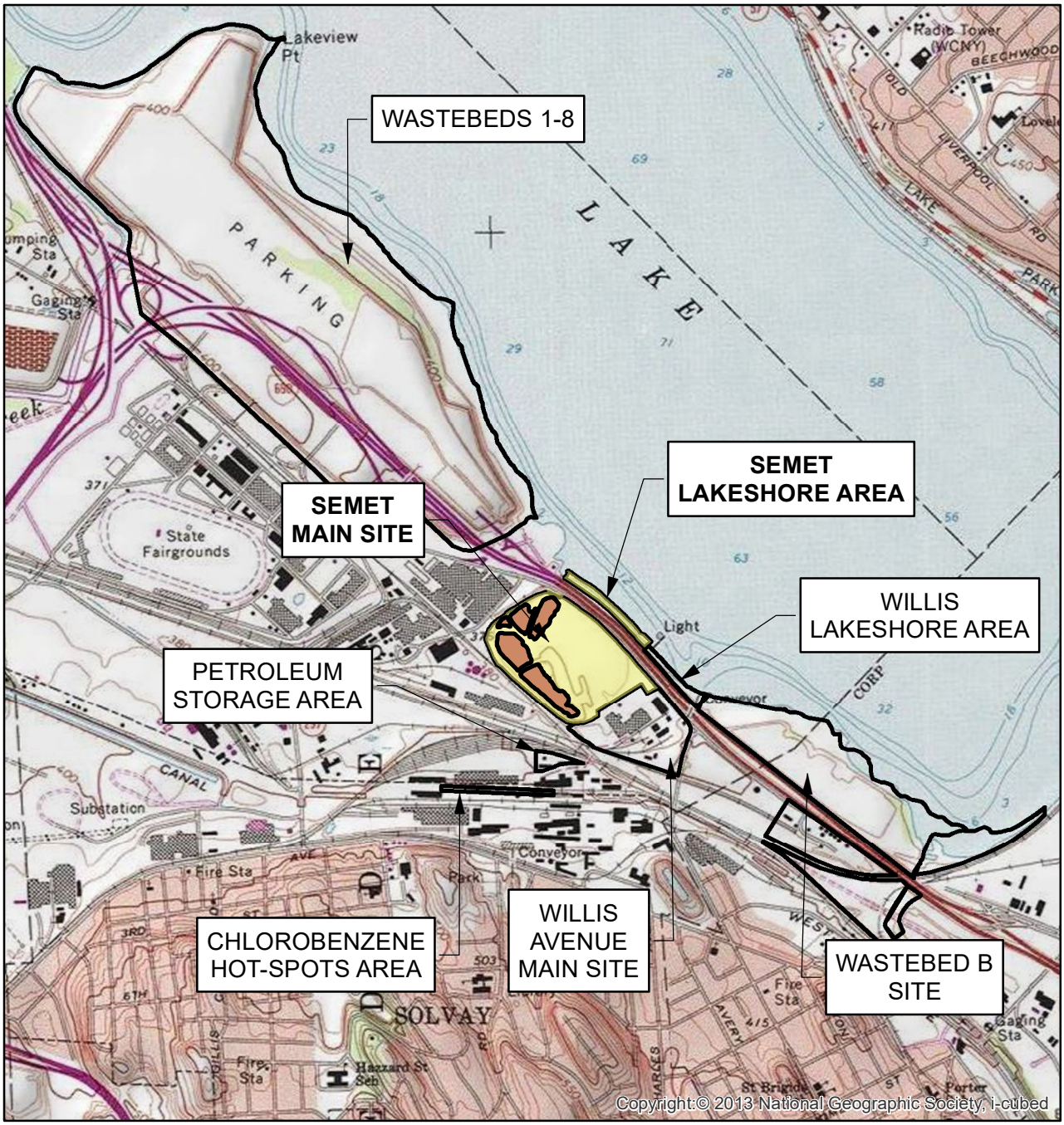
Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs at:

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html

It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you better informed. As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

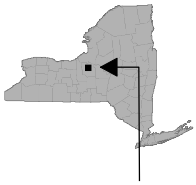
Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

FIGURE 1



ADAPTED FROM: SYRACUSE WEST, NY USGS QUADRANGLE

HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL INC.
SEMET RESIDUE PONDS SITE
OU-2 PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN
GEDDES, NEW YORK



MAP LOCATION

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SITE LOCATION

LEGEND

SEMET RESIDUE PONDS

SEMET RESIDUE PONDS SITE

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SEPTEMBER 2018
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