



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

Willis Avenue Site

Subsite of Onondaga Lake Site

Town of Geddes

Onondaga County, NY

**SITE No. 734026**

**NYSDEC REGION 7**

**July 2019**

## **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](mailto:tracy.smith@dec.ny.gov)

### **Health-Related 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](mailto:beei@health.ny.gov)

**For more information about New York's  
State Superfund Program, visit:**  
[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html)

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

**Public Meeting, August 6, 2019 at 6:00 PM**

**Open House from 5:00 – 6:00 PM**

**Geddes Town Hall Courtroom**

**1000 Woods Road, Solvay, NY 13209**

**(enter through atrium doors)**

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 the Allied Chemical - Willis Avenue Site ("Site"), a subsite to the Onondaga Lake National Priorities List Site, located at the corner of State Fair Boulevard and Willis Avenue in the town of Geddes, Onondaga County. Please see the map for the site location.

**How to Comment:** NYSDEC and EPA are accepting written comments on the Proposed Plan for 30 days, from **July 22, 2019 through August 21, 2019**. The Proposed Plan is available for public review at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37558.html#Onondaga> and the 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 the site includes:

- Installation of a one-foot thick soil cover (or maintained paved surfaces/buildings);
- Treatment and/or excavation of mercury hot spots;
- Installation of a vertical barrier (e.g., sheet piles) to control shallow/intermediate groundwater around the mercury hot spot area;
- Evaluation and recovery/treatment of separate phase liquids (if present);
- Monitored natural attenuation of groundwater at shallow/intermediate depths;
- Continued operation, maintenance and monitoring of interim remedial measures (IRMs) that have been implemented at the site;
- 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 \$12.3 million.

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. ("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 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 site consists primarily of the Willis Plant Area situated at the corner of State Fair Boulevard and Willis Avenue and the Lakeshore Property Area, a portion of property between I-690 and Onondaga Lake. Two other areas, the Chlorobenzene Hot-Spot Area (CHSA), and the Petroleum Storage Area (PSA), are located to the south of the Willis Plant Area. The approximately 20-acre former Willis Plant Area portion of the site was used historically to produce chlorinated benzene products from benzene; in addition to other products. The facility operated from 1918 to 1977.

The Lakeshore Property Area historically contained a causeway used as a docking facility for barges transporting products and supplies during plant operation and was recently used for the staging of capping materials for the

Onondaga Lake remediation program. The area is currently anticipated to be used for passive recreation as part of the future extension of the Onondaga County West Shore Trail.

The approximately 2-acre PSA is located to the southwest of the Willis Plant Area. From 1915 to 1970, a facility located on the PSA distilled coke light oil to produce benzene, toluene, xylenes, and naphthalene. The facility was demolished in 1973. Most recently, this area was used for the storage of No. 2 fuel oil in oil storage tanks by Allied Chemical. These oil storage tanks were dismantled during the closure of the Main Plant in 1986.

The CHSA is an approximately 2-acre area situated to the south of the Willis Plant Area and the PSA along Industrial Drive. Historically, a former pipeline traversed this area and conveyed chlorobenzene residual waste from the Willis Plant Area to the former Main Plant Site Area. Benzenes and chlorobenzenes encountered in the CHSA are attributed to leakage from this former pipeline.

The PSA and CHSA are in an area surrounded by other active chemical manufacturing/processing facilities, power plants, and an active railroad.

Several interim remedial measures (IRMs) have been implemented at the site to cut off the migration of contamination to Onondaga Lake. The IRMs 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, 734026) at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3>

**Summary of the Investigation:** The primary contaminants of concern at the site include benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene, chlorinated benzenes, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, phenolic compounds, PCBs, dioxins/furans, and mercury. Elemental mercury was also observed as droplets within the soil to a maximum depth of approximately 32 ft within and near the footprint of the Former Mercury Cell Building. Chlorinated benzene in the form of a separate phase liquid is present along the lakeshore, in the northern portions of the Willis Plant Area and potentially at the CHSA. IRMs are in place to prevent migration of this liquid at the lakeshore.

**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. DER and DOH project managers are not involved with the solicitation or procurement for the work discussed in this fact sheet.

## 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](mailto:tracy.smith@dec.ny.gov))

For more information about the SSF, visit:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html>

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*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.*

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### 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:

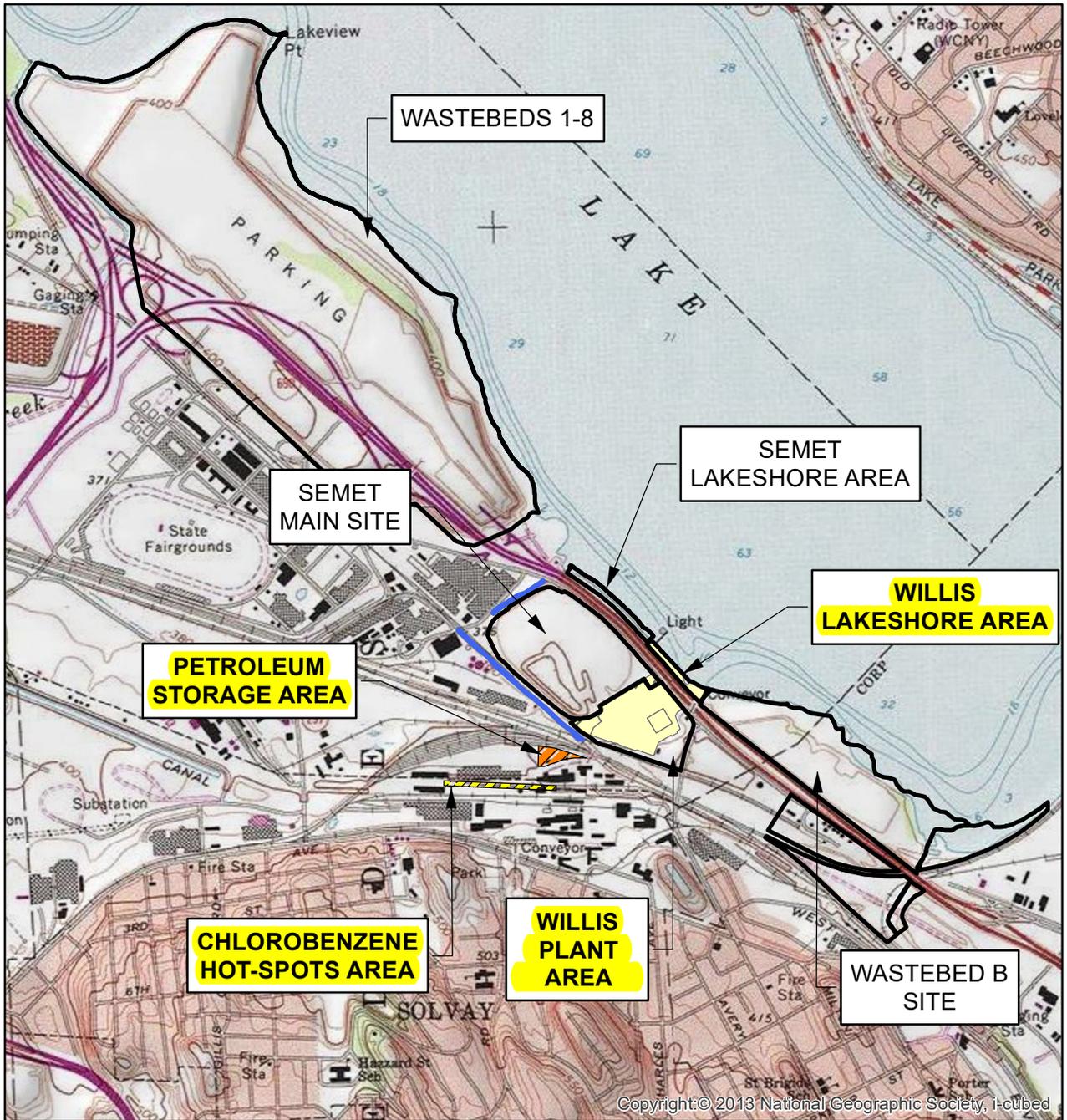
[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html)

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.

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ADAPTED FROM: SYRACUSE WEST, NY USGS QUADRANGLE



MAP LOCATION

## WILLIS AVENUE SITE PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN GEDDES, NEW YORK

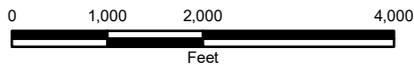


LEGEND

STUDY AREA

- WILLIS PLANT AREA
- CHLOROBENZENE HOT-SPOTS AREA
- PETROLEUM STORAGE AREA
- TRIBUTARY 5A

SITE LOCATION



1:24,000

