



FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

December 2010

Solvay Wastebeds 1-8

Town of Geddes, NY
Site Number 7-34-081

Interim Remedial Measure Proposed for State Superfund Site; Public Comment Period and Public Meeting Announced

The public is invited to comment on an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) (also known as a response action), proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address a portion of the contamination related to the Solvay Wastebeds 1-8 site ("site"). The site is located along State Fair Boulevard in the Town of Geddes, Onondaga County. See map for site location.

**Public Meeting at 7:00 PM and Open House
from 6:00 – 7:00 PM on January 13, 2011**

**Martha Eddy Room in the Art and Home
Center at the New York State Fairgrounds
Geddes, New York**

NYSDEC and the EPA invite you to a public meeting and availability session to discuss the IRM/Response Action proposed for the site. You are encouraged to provide comments at the availability session and during the 45-day comment period described in this fact sheet.

The Proposed Response Action

The response action proposed for the site includes collection of groundwater and seeps (places where groundwater discharges at the surface) along the shoreline of Onondaga Lake and Ninemile Creek and stabilization of the lakeshore soils. These actions will prevent the continued migration of contaminants into Onondaga Lake and Ninemile Creek.

The proposed response action is described in a draft cleanup plan called a "Proposed Response Action Document" (PRAD) developed under New York's State Superfund Program and the EPA's Federal Superfund Program. The document is available for public review at the locations identified below under "Where to Find Information." The document also is available on the NYSDEC web site at (www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37558.html).

State Superfund Program: 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 the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

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

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

How to Comment

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed response action for 45 days, from **December 27, 2010** through **February 10, 2011**. Comments will also be accepted at the public meeting announced above.

Submit written comments to:

Tracy A. Smith
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, 12th floor
Albany, New York 12233-7013
DERweb@gw.dec.state.ny.us

(Indicate “Wastebeds 1-8 IRM Comments” in the subject line of the e-mail)

Summary of the Proposed Response Action

The proposed response action represents the response action preferred by NYSDEC, EPA and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to address contamination that is migrating from this site to Onondaga Lake and Ninemile Creek. The PRAD has several objectives:

- identify goals to be achieved
- summarize other response actions considered
- explain why NYSDEC, EPA and NYSDOH believe the proposed response action would protect public health and the environment, and
- provide a detailed description of the proposed response action.

The proposed response action was chosen following a detailed investigation of the area to be addressed under this response action, called a “Focused Remedial Investigation,” and an evaluation of alternatives to address contamination, called a “Focused Feasibility Study.”

Objectives of this response action are to mitigate, to the extent necessary and practicable, the following:

- Direct contact with and ingestion of exposed Solvay waste and other contaminated soil along the eastern shore of the site (western shore of Onondaga Lake);
- Discharge of Ninemile Creek Sand and Gravel (former Ninemile Creek channel) groundwater unit and eastern shore groundwater to Onondaga Lake and Ninemile Creek;
- Discharge of shallow and intermediate groundwater to Ditch A (an on-site drainage ditch);
- Direct contact with and discharge of Ninemile Creek bank seep water, and eastern and northern shore seep water to Onondaga Lake and Ninemile Creek;
- Erosion of Solvay waste from the eastern shore to Onondaga Lake;
- Erosion of Solvay waste along the northern shore of the site due to wind and wave action;
- Erosion of Solvay waste substrate and sediment from the lower reach of Ditch A to Onondaga Lake; and
- Discharge of seep water from the upper reach of Ditch A to Ninemile Creek.

NYSDEC, NYSDOH, and EPA's preferred response action includes:

- Hydraulic control of groundwater, primarily along the eastern shore via a groundwater collection trench and passive collection system;
- A 14.4 acre vegetative cover along the eastern shore;
- Hydraulic control of the Ninemile Creek Sand and Gravel unit groundwater via collection wells, as needed;
- Hydraulic control of seeps along the eastern shore of the site, and selected seeps along Ninemile Creek and the northern shore, via installation of seep collection trenches;

- Treatment of collected seep water and groundwater at Honeywell's Willis Groundwater Treatment Plant;
- Shore stabilization along the northern shore of the site using gravel and crib walls;
- Excavation and containment of Solvay waste substrate and sediment in the lower reach of Ditch A via a low permeability cover and habitat layer; and
- Existing culvert rehabilitation in the upper reach of Ditch A.

This preferred response action would have a present worth cost of \$23,801,000. The responsible party, Honeywell International, Inc. (formerly AlliedSignal, Inc.), will design, construct, and provide long-term maintenance and operation of the IRM with NYSDEC oversight.

Next Steps

NYSDEC and EPA will consider public comments as the response action for the site is finalized. The selected response action will be described in a document called a "Response Action Document" (RAD) that will explain why the response action was selected and respond to public comments. This document will be made available to the public (see "Where to Find Information" below).

The project will then move to the design and implementation of the response action to address the specific areas of site contamination that are part of this response action. Other site areas and media which will not be remediated under this IRM will be addressed under the Wastebeds 1-8 Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed during the cleanup of the site.

Background

The Wastebeds 1-8 site is located in Onondaga County, New York on the southwest side of Onondaga Lake. The portions of the site that are subject to the IRM consist of the mouth of Ditch A, the low lying area adjacent to Onondaga Lake, the "cliff" portion facing to the northwest, and an area adjacent to Ninemile Creek (see Figure 1).

The wastebeds were constructed over a portion of the Geddes marsh, which was reclaimed from Onondaga Lake when the lake was lowered in 1822. The wastebeds include perimeter dikes that were constructed of wooden piles and bulkheads, or earth, depending on the location. These dikes were used to contain waste materials (primarily, Solvay waste) which consist largely of calcium carbonate, gypsum, sodium chloride (salt), and calcium chloride. These wastes were generated at the former Solvay Process Company Main Plant as part of soda ash production using the Solvay Process method. Soda ash production began at the plant in 1884 and continued until 1986.

The Solvay Process Company operated a coke plant from 1892 through 1923. A phenol production plant operated from 1942 to 1946. Compounds associated with these and other operations may have been disposed at the Wastebeds 1-8 site with the Solvay waste slurry or by alternate means.

Wastebeds 1-6 were in use before 1926 and may have been in use by 1916 or earlier, although no definitive construction dates or disposal records are available. Ninemile Creek was rerouted to the north to permit the construction of Wastebeds 5 and 6. Wastebeds 7 and 8 were not utilized until after 1939 and remained in use until 1943.

The area encompassed by the site was deeded to the people of New York State in 1953 and is currently owned by the State of New York and Onondaga County. More than one mile of Interstate 690 is located on the southwestern portion of the site. In addition, approximately 80 acres of the Site are currently used by the State of New York for State Fair parking.

Based on Remedial Investigation data collected from 2005 through 2009, the following chemical parameters of interest (CPOIs) were identified for the Site: benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), phenols; and various inorganics.

On December 16, 1994, Onondaga Lake and its tributaries and the upland hazardous waste sites which have contributed or are contributing contamination to the lake (sub-sites) were added to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL). NYSDEC and EPA have, to date, organized the work for the Onondaga Lake NPL site into 11 subsites. These subsites are also considered by EPA to be operable units of the NPL site. The Solvay Wastebeds 1-8 site is one of the sites near the lake that is a subsite. The PRAD focuses only on the Solvay Wastebeds 1-8 subsite. The IRM for the Wastebeds 1-8 site is intended to be consistent with, and an integral part of, the final site-wide remedy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following locations to help the public to stay informed. These project documents include the interim cleanup plan, called the "Proposed Response Action Document." Information is also available on DEC's website at www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37558.html.

Onondaga County Public Library
Syracuse Branch at the Galleries
447 South Salina Street
Syracuse, New York 13204
Phone: (315) 435-1800

NYSDEC
615 Erie Boulevard, West
Syracuse, New York 13204
Phone: (315) 426-7400
Hours: Mon - Fri, 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Please call for an appointment

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

NYSDEC
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7016
Phone: (518) 402-9676
Hours: Mon - Fri, 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Please call for an appointment

Atlantic States Legal Foundation
658 West Onondaga Street
Syracuse, New York 13204
Phone: (315) 475-1170
Please call for hours of availability

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions

Mr. Tracy A. Smith
New York State Department of Environmental
Conservation
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, New York 12233-7013
518-402-9676

Project Related Health Questions

Mr. Mark Sergott
New York State Department of Health
547 River Street
Troy, New York 12180-2216
800-458-1158, Ext. 27860
518-402-7862

Robert Nunes
USEPA
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866
212-637-4254

If you know someone who would like to be added to the site contact list, have them contact the NYSDEC project manager above or sign up for the Onondaga Lake news email list by visiting the NYSDEC website (www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/52545.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.



**HONEYWELL
WASTEBEDS 1 - 8
GEDDES, NEW YORK**

SITE LOCATION

