



FACT SHEET
General Motors Inland Fisher Guide Site
NYSDEC, Region 7, Onondaga County
August 2000

Remedial Investigation being Performed at General Motors Site

In September 1997, General Motors Corporation (GM) agreed to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the General Motors: Inland Fisher Guide Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site and Ley Creek Deferred Media (the "Site"). The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is overseeing the work performed by GM and its consultants. The Site is located on Townline Road, in Salina, Onondaga County and includes a manufacturing facility and a stretch of Ley Creek from Townline Road to the Route 11 bridge. The manufacturing facility operated from 1952-1993 initially for plating and later for molding of automotive parts. Contamination of the soil and groundwater with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), solvents and heavy metals has been documented. NYSDEC placed the facility on the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites as a Class 2 site. A Class 2 site is a site at which hazardous waste is present at levels which constitute a significant threat to public health or the environment and action must be taken to mitigate the threat. In June 1997, the facility was named as part (a subsite) of the Onondaga Lake Superfund Site on the National Priorities List. This determination was based on the historic and continuing release and threat of release of PCBs and other contaminants into Ley Creek, which is a tributary of Onondaga Lake.

The Site Investigation: The purpose of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is to determine the nature and extent of the contamination at the Site, to obtain sufficient information to assess the risk posed by the Site, and to evaluate cleanup alternatives. As an initial phase, GM submitted a report summarizing the results of sampling that already has been performed at the Site. The State determined that additional investigation was needed. This additional investigation is nearing completion. Based on the RI/FS, NYSDEC will propose a means for cleaning up the Site in a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) and will release the PRAP for public review. Following consideration of public comments on the PRAP, the NYSDEC will select a cleanup remedy and document its decision in a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will include a response to all public comments received during the comment period.

Your Opportunities to Be Informed and Involved: The Citizen Participation Plan for the Onondaga Lake NPL Site describes activities to keep you informed and involved during the investigation and cleanup of the Site such as the following:

- ▶ **During the RI:**
Fact Sheets and informational updates to describe the

site investigation and related field activities.

- ▶ **At the End of FS/Completion of PRAP:**
Mailing describing the Proposed Remedial Action Plan and notice announcing a 30-Day public comment period.
- ▶ **Within 30-day PRAP Comment Period:**
Public meeting to discuss the PRAP.
- ▶ **After Remedy is Selected and Finalized:**
Mailing describing selected remedy and response to comments on the PRAP.

The Citizen Participation Plan is available at the first two repositories listed below. Your comments and suggestions about the Citizen Participation program for the Site are always welcome. NYSDEC encourages your participation in the project. Your understanding and involvement can assist in developing a cleanup program that effectively protects public health and the environment.

Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study

In September 1997, the NYSDEC and GM entered into an Administrative Order on Consent to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the General Motors: Inland Fisher Guide Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site (the "Site"). By signing the Order on Consent, GM has agreed to conduct the RI/FS at the Site. The purpose of the RI/FS is to:

- determine the nature and extent of contamination;
- determine any risks to human health and the environment created by the Site; and
- evaluate actions that may be necessary to effectively clean up the Site.

Remedial Investigation activities may include:

- **Surveying and Site Mapping**
- **Soil Sampling**
- **Groundwater Sampling**
- **Surface Water Sampling**
- **Sediment Sampling**
- **Biota Sampling**
- **Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments**

Site History

The Site is located off Townline Road in Salina, Onondaga County. From 1952 to the early 1970's, the facility was used for the plating, buffing, forming and finishing of metal automotive parts. From the early 1970's, until the facility ceased operation in December 1993, the facility was used to manufacture plastic body trim components.

In the early 1980's, an investigation performed by GM revealed that PCB contaminated oil in an underground oil reclamation system beneath the manufacturing building was infiltrating the storm sewer system and subsequently releasing into Ley Creek, a tributary to Onondaga Lake, and to the surface and subsurface soils at the facility. Elevated levels of PCBs have been detected in soil, sediment, fish and groundwater at the Site.

In 1985, excavation near an abandoned oil sump showed oily soil and liquid oil. A subsequent hydrogeologic study determined that groundwater at the Site was contaminated with solvents, nickel, chromium and PCBs.

In March 1985, excavation near underground paint thinner lines revealed the presence of paint thinner in the soil. A groundwater investigation indicated that the groundwater was contaminated with solvents associated with paint thinners. Subsequently, a groundwater collection trench and pump were installed. The contaminated groundwater collected in the trench is currently

treated to remove contaminants and discharged through Outfall 003 to Ley Creek under a SPDES permit.

In 1988, sampling of two surface impoundments at the facility indicated the presence of PCB in sludge deposits and in oil at concentrations greater than 50 parts per million (ppm). During their period of use, the surface impoundments occasionally released PCB-contaminated water and oil to Ley Creek. In 1989, under DEC oversight, GM completed the construction required for closure of the two impoundments, which included removal of sludges, backfilling and capping.

In 1993, the manufacturing facility ceased operations and was listed on the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites as a Class 2 site.

In June 1997, the GM facility was named a subsite of the Onondaga Lake Site in the U.S. EPA's National Priorities List of Superfund sites.

In September 1997, GM entered into an Administrative Consent Order with the NYSDEC whereby GM agreed to perform a RI/FS of the Site.

Under the 1997 Order and in accordance with the corresponding SPDES permit, GM is allowed to discharge treated water to Ley Creek.

Document Repositories. Four locations provide access to information about the site as it becomes available.

NYSDEC, Reg. 7
615 Erie Blvd., West
Syracuse, NY 13204-2400
(315) 426-7400
Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Please call for an appointment

Onondaga County Public Library
Syracuse Branch at the Galleries
447 South Salina Street
Syracuse, NY
Phone: 315-435-1800
Hours: Tu, Wed, 9:00 am - 8:30 pm
M, Th, Fri, Sat, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

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

East Syracuse Free Library
4990 James Street
East Syracuse, NY 13051
Hours: M-Th 1:00 am - 8:00 pm
Fri 10:00 am - 6:00 pm,
Sat 10:00 am - 2:00 pm (Labor Day - mid June only)

For More Information About:

Site Investigation:
Susan Benjamin, Project Manager
NYSDEC
Div. of Environmental Remediation
50 Wolf Road, Room 228
Albany, NY 12233-7010
(518)457-1641

Health-Related Information:
Henriette Hamel
NYSDOH
Syracuse Field Office
217 So. Salina St., 3rd Floor
Syracuse, NY 13202
(315)426-7625

Community Participation:
Gina Alito, Community Participation
Specialist
NYSDEC Region 7
615 Erie Boulevard, W.
Syracuse, NY 13204
315-426-7400

Technical Assistance Grant

As part of the Superfund program, the U.S. EPA provides communities with the opportunity to apply for Technical Assistance Grants of up to \$50,000 per site. These grants are designed to enable community groups to hire a technical assistance advisor or consultant to assist them in interpreting and commenting on the site findings and the planned cleanup. EPA received an application for a TAG from the Atlantic States Legal Foundation (ASLF) and awarded the grant to ASLF in 1996. Additional information regarding the TAG program may be obtained from Carol Hemmington, U.S. EPA Region II, 290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007-1866, tel. (212)637-3420.