



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

## Where to Find Information

Access project documents through the [DECinfo Locator](#) and at these locations:

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

*Repositories may be temporarily unavailable due to Covid-19 precautions. If you cannot access the online repository, please contact the NYSDEC project manager listed below for assistance.*

## Who to Contact

Comments and questions are 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)

### 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](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)

# FACT SHEET

## State Superfund Program

Willis Avenue – Former Ball Field  
501-559 State Fair Boulevard  
Syracuse, NY 13209

February 2021

SITE No. 734072

NYSDEC REGION 7

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

### Public Comment Period

The NYSDEC is committed to providing the public with ample opportunity to provide input on proposed remedies in your community. You are encouraged to provide comments in writing to the NYSDEC Project Manager, during the 30-day public comment period.

The public is invited to comment on a remedy being proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to address contamination related to the Willis Avenue – Former Ball Field site (site) located on State Fair Boulevard in Syracuse, Onondaga County. Please see the map for the site location. The estimated cost to implement the remedy is \$3,600,000.

**How to Comment:** NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan, called a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for 30 days, from **February 17, 2021** through **March 19, 2021**.

- Access the PRAP and other project documents online through the DECinfo Locator: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/734072/>.
- Documents also are available at the locations identified at left under “Where to Find Information.”
- Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project-Related Questions in the “Who to Contact” area at left.

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 and action is required. NYSDEC is proposing the following remedy to address these threats.

**Proposed Remedial Action Plan:** The remedy proposed for the site includes:

- Installing a one-foot thick soil cover (or maintained paved surfaces/buildings) that meets the Soil Cleanup Objectives (SCOs) for commercial use of the site, which includes passive recreational uses;
- Importing clean material that meets the established SCOs for use as cover material;
- Natural attenuation and monitoring of shallow and intermediate groundwater;
- Implementing a Health and Safety Plan and Community Air Monitoring Plan during all ground intrusive activities;

- Implementing a Health and Safety Plan and Community Air Monitoring Plan during all ground intrusive activities;
- Implementing a Site Management Plan (SMP) for long term maintenance and monitoring; and
- Recording of an Environmental Easement to ensure proper future use of the site.

NYSDEC 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 (remedial party).

**Next Steps:** NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the remedy for the site. The selected remedy will be described in a document called a Record of Decision 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 be performed.

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

**Site Description:** The site is approximately 13 acres and located at the intersection of Willis Avenue and State Fair Boulevard. The site is currently zoned as industrial with vacant land in the western portion and an equipment rental facility in the eastern portion. The surrounding area consists of industrial facilities, highways, and railroad tracks. The site lies within an area known to have been used by Honeywell (or its predecessors) during the 1920s for the disposal of Solvay Waste and information indicates that fill materials were placed on the site between 1938 and 1959. The area was used as a baseball field in the 1960s and 1970s by employees of a former chemical manufacturing facility (Willis Avenue plant) located adjacent to the site.

Barrier walls and groundwater collection systems were installed along the shoreline of Onondaga Lake under remediation performed at adjacent hazardous waste sites. These systems are located downgradient of the Willis Ballfield site and prevent the discharge of contaminated shallow and intermediate groundwater from the site to Onondaga Lake.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's

Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, 734072) at:

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

**Summary of the Investigation:** Based on the investigations performed, it appears that waste was inconsistently disposed across the entire site to depths up to 20 feet below ground surface. The fill material consisted of Allen-Moore diaphragm cell bodies and related graphite (used in chemical manufacturing at the Willis Avenue plant), various glassware including vials and test tubes, decayed drums, construction and demolition debris, miscellaneous metal debris, and boiler slag. Contaminant concentrations vary across the site, but no apparent source areas were identified. The primary contaminants of concern are chlorinated benzenes; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) including naphthalene; PCBs; mercury; and chromium.

**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/or the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

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

For more information about the SSF, visit:

<https://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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#### **Stay Informed With DEC Delivers**

Sign up to receive site updates by email:

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

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

#### **DECinfo Locator**

Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>

# STATE SUPERFUND PROGRAM

