



**EPA SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON A PROPOSED
CLEANUP PLAN FOR LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD
SUPERFUND SITE
LEROY, NEW YORK**



AUGUST 2023

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking public comment on its proposed plan to clean up groundwater, bedrock, soil, soil vapor, and surface water as well as to modify certain components of the 1997 cleanup plan for the Lehigh Valley Railroad Derailment Superfund site in LeRoy, New York.

The Proposed Plan

EPA's proposed plan will address the groundwater, bedrock, soil, soil vapor, and surface water. For the groundwater contamination, which consists of an approximately 4-mile trichloroethylene (TCE) plume, EPA has determined that no existing treatment methods can clean up the groundwater to meet standards in a reasonable time. Therefore, EPA proposes to monitor the groundwater and use institutional controls to limit its use and protect people's health over the long term. The proposed plan also includes digging up and disposing of contaminated soil; in place or in-situ treatment of contaminated surface water with streambed cover in a section of Mud Creek; monitoring the groundwater, surface water, soil vapor and indoor air; maintaining the existing vapor mitigation systems and installing new systems, as needed, for impacted properties; and connecting new homes that may be constructed over the groundwater plume to the waterline that was connected to existing homes in 2003 to the municipal water supply system. Institutional controls (ICs) including easements in the spill area, public notices and publications to limit exposure to contaminated groundwater and soil vapor are also components of the cleanup plan.

EPA is also proposing changes to the 1997 state cleanup plan which includes eliminating bedrock vapor extraction as a source control measure, updating the surface water standard for TCE, and addressing soil contamination beneath Gulf Road by implementing ICs to restrict access and to require proper soil management if the roadbed is disturbed in the future.

Get Involved with EPA's Cleanup!

Public Comment Period

The proposed cleanup plan is available for public comment from August 18, 2023 to September 18, 2023. Stakeholders are encouraged to review the plan, attend the public meeting, and comment on the cleanup alternatives.

To provide comments to EPA, read the document online: www.epa.gov/superfund/lehigh-valley-rr and send your comments to Maria Jon, jon.maria@epa.gov, or 290 Broadway, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10007-1866.

Public Meeting

EPA is hosting a public meeting to present the proposed cleanup plan and take comments from the public.

Date and Time: August 29, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

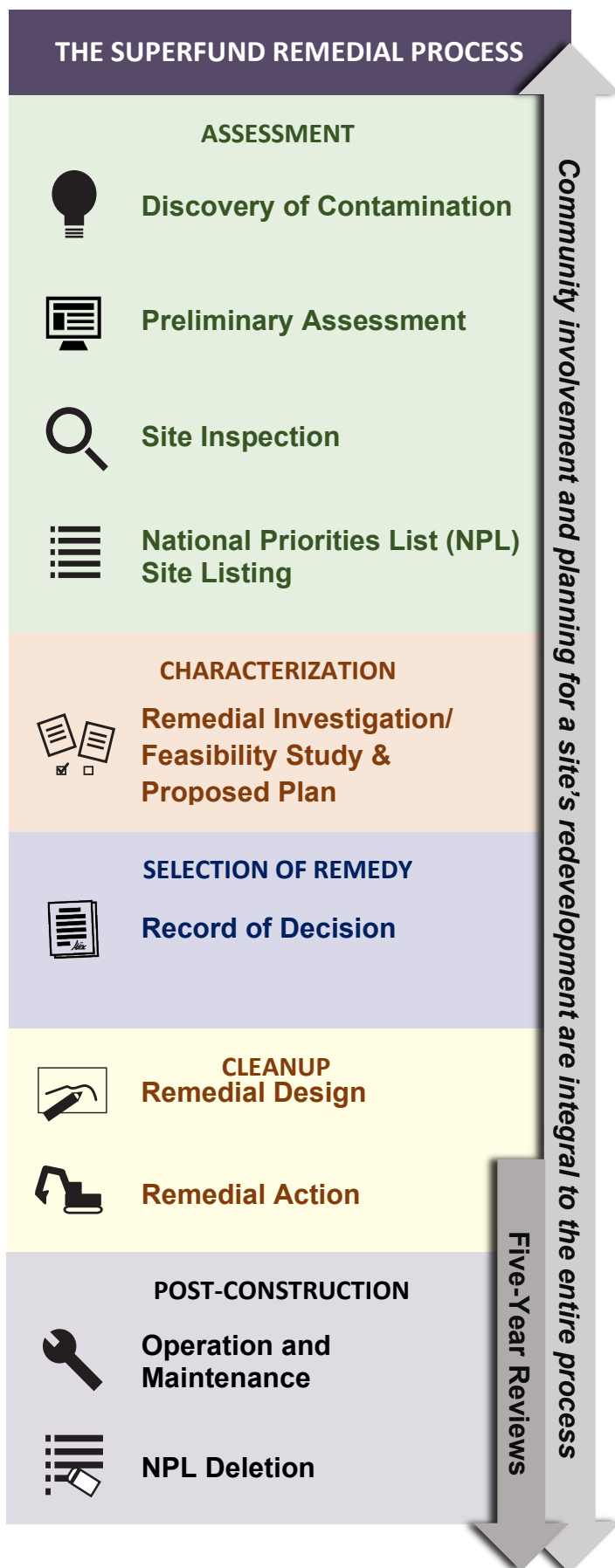
Location: Caledonia Mumford High School auditorium, 99 North Street, Caledonia, NY

Site Background

The site is located in a rural area in Genesee, Monroe, and Livingston counties. In 1970, a Lehigh Valley Railroad (LVRR) train derailed at the Gulf Road railroad crossing in LeRoy, NY, and two tank cars ruptured and spilled 30,000 gallons of TCE onto the ground. A third car containing a crystalline form of cyanide also partially spilled. The cyanide was recovered shortly after the derailment, however, the TCE infiltrated into the ground and was not recovered. In early 1971, residents near the site complained of TCE odors in homes that impacted their drinking water wells. In 1990, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) studies revealed TCE in private wells. In 1991, EPA installed carbon filters on several private wells to remove the TCE from drinking water. In 1997, NYSDEC selected a cleanup plan for the site under state law to address TCE-contaminated soil and bedrock, as well as provide clean drinking water. A waterline extension was constructed by NYSDEC in 2003 providing drinking water to about 70 affected residences.

In 1999, EPA added the site to the Superfund National Priorities List.

In 2006, under a legal agreement with EPA, LVRR agreed to perform an investigation. EPA issued a legal order in 2015 to LVRR to clean up the soil addressed in the NYSDEC cleanup plan. LVRR installed a system to treat the soil but after two years, EPA determined that the system was not working efficiently. Beginning in 2008, LVRR installed 12 vapor mitigation systems to protect residences from TCE vapors entering their homes.





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Information Repositories

EPA keeps site project information and reference materials for the public to read at local information repositories.

Copies of cleanup documents for Lehigh Valley Railroad Superfund site are available at:

Caledonia Public Library, 3108 Main Street, Caledonia, NY

Woodward Memorial Library, Wolcott Street, LeRoy, NY

You may also access cleanup documents on EPA's website: www.epa.gov/superfund/lehigh-valley-rr

EPA Contact Information

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www.epa.gov/superfund/lehigh-valley-rr

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For general information or questions about EPA's Superfund program, please contact the EPA Regional Public Liaison:
George Zachos, zachos.george@epa.gov or (732) 321-6621 or toll free at (888) 283-7626.