

EPA FINALIZES CLEANUP PLAN AT THE OLEAN WELL FIELD SUPERFUND SITE

OLEAN, NEW YORK

FALL 2023



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized its plan to address contaminated soil at a portion of the Olean Well field Superfund site, which is located beneath and near the footprint of a former manufacturing building on the KYOCERA AVX Components Corporation property in Olean, New York.

The Proposed Plan

The plan calls for removing the existing concrete slab floor, removing an estimated 5,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil and moving it off-site, and filling the area with clean material.

EPA held a public meeting in August 2023 to explain its cleanup plan, explain the other cleanup options that were considered, and to solicit public comments. EPA finalized its plan in September 2023.

The agency expects that the next phase that involves developing the engineering design needed for the cleanup will take up to 18 months to complete.

Final Record of Decision

The final cleanup plan, additional background and site documents, including EPA's responses to the public comments that were received can be found online:

www.epa.gov/superfund/olean-wellfield



Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids. VOCs include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short- and long-term adverse health effects.

Site Background

The Olean Well Field Superfund site is a widespread area of groundwater contamination underneath residential areas and manufacturing facilities. The Allegheny River and two of its tributaries, the Olean and Haskell creeks, flow through the site. Previous industrial operations at four properties within the site contaminated the soil and groundwater with VOCs. EPA added the site to Superfund's National Priorities List in 1983.

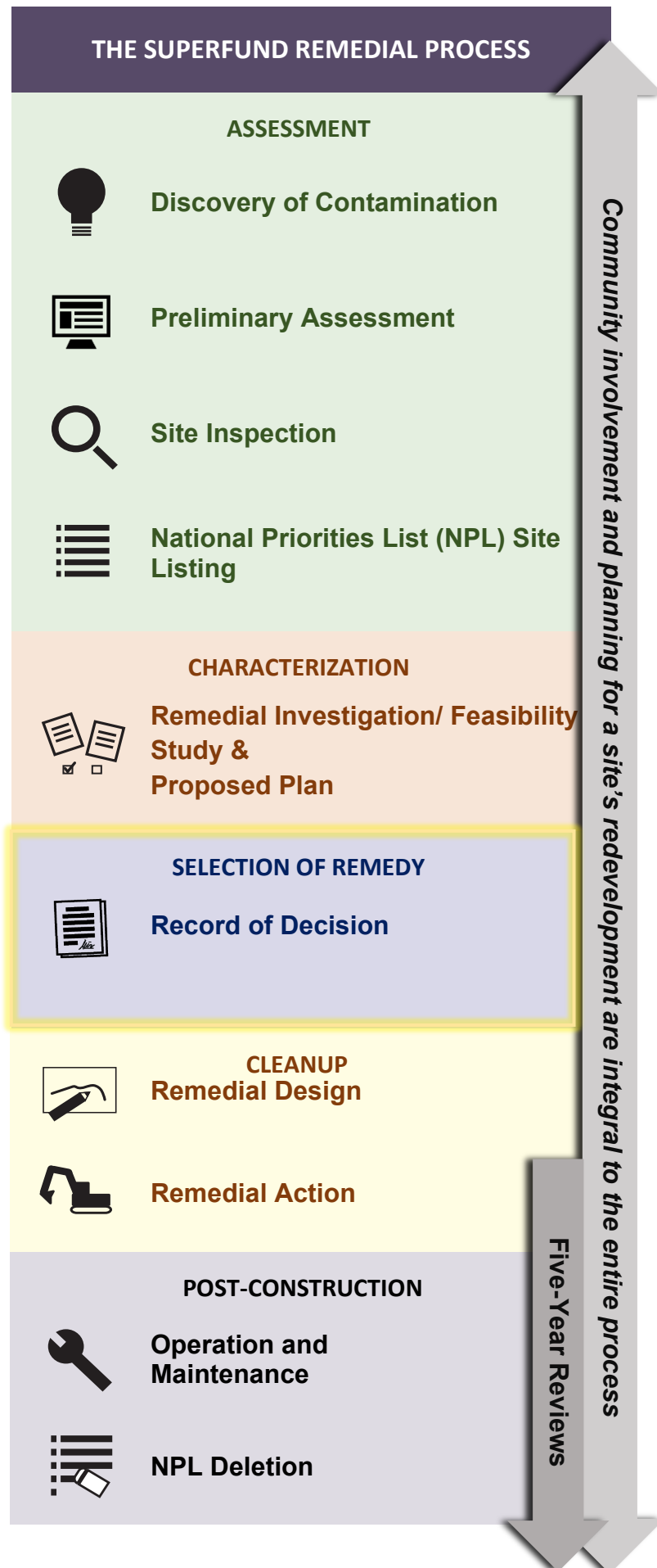
Olean city officials discovered VOCs at the site in 1981 and later installed treatment units for drinking water on private wells. Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs), under EPA's direction and oversight, installed treatment systems on public wells to reduce the contamination to levels that protect people's health and extended the city water lines from the Town of Olean to approximately 93 homes which were previously served by private wells. PRPs and EPA removed contaminated soil from certain properties within the site. The city also extended the water mains to provide safe fire hydrants for the community and replaced or cleaned five thousand feet of sewer lines. One of the PRPs, McGraw Edison, repaired and replaced industrial sewer lines at the former McGraw-Edison property.

The four properties that are sources of contamination to the groundwater are Alcas (currently owned and operated by Cutco Corporation), McGraw Edison (currently owned and operated by Cooper Power Systems, LLC), the former Loohn's Dry Cleaners and Launderers property (currently a vacant lot), and the AVX property (currently owned by Kyocera AVX Components Corporation (KAVX)).

EPA issued a cleanup plan in 1996 for these four properties and entered into agreements with the PRPs for three of the four properties. Under EPA oversight, the PRPs associated with the McGraw Edison property installed a groundwater pump and treatment system at the McGraw-Edison property. EPA removed about 10,000 tons of contaminated soil from the Loohn's property where a dry-cleaning building was demolished.

Based on additional studies, EPA determined that the cleanup plan for the Alcas and AVX properties would not be successful. In 2014 EPA issued a new cleanup plan for the Alcas facility and for an area adjacent to the Alcas property called Parcel B. EPA entered into a new agreement in 2016 with the PRPs for Alcas and Parcel B to implement the cleanup plan. At the Alcas facility and at Parcel B, the PRPs are injecting solutions to transform the VOCs in soil and groundwater into less harmful chemical compounds.

EPA issued a new cleanup plan in 2015 for the AVX property and in 2017 entered into a new agreement with the PRP for AVX to clean up the AVX property. At the AVX property, which was an active business at the time, the PRP built a trench that will treat groundwater contamination. This was an interim action until conditions changed at the facility to allow for further





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study under the manufacturing facility. Once operations stopped at the AVX facility in 2018, AVX investigated beneath the manufacturing building.

EPA outlines the final cleanup actions for the AVX property in the 2023 plan. The final cleanup action includes the trench to treat groundwater contamination as outlined in the 2015 cleanup plan.

Information Repository

Copies of cleanup documents for the Olean Well field Superfund site are available at:

Olean Public Library
Second and Laurens Streets
Olean, New York

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