

# EPA PUBLIC NOTICE

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Reviews Cleanup at Wastebeds 1-8 and Semet Residue Ponds Subsites of the Onondaga Lake Superfund Site

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting its first five-year review of the **Wastebeds 1-8 subsite** of the Onondaga Lake Superfund site jointly with its second five-year review of the **Semet Residue Ponds subsite**. The subsites are located in the Town of Geddes in Onondaga County, New York. The Onondaga Lake Superfund site includes a number of subsites that are defined as any site that is situated on Onondaga Lake's shores or tributaries that has contributed contamination to, or threatens to contribute contamination to, Onondaga Lake. This review seeks to confirm that the cleanup conducted at the subsites, to date, continues to protect human health and the environment.

Cleanup activities at the Semet Residue Ponds subsite have included the removal of contaminated sediment from a tributary to Onondaga Lake; placement of an isolation layer beneath the tributary stream bed; construction and operation of groundwater collection systems to prevent contaminated groundwater from migrating from the subsite to the tributary and to Onondaga Lake; construction of an on-site groundwater treatment plant to treat contaminated groundwater; and excavation and off-site transport of Semet residue material for beneficial reuse at a thermal processing facility. All construction-related activities to address the contaminated groundwater migration and removal of the Semet residue material were substantially completed in 2013 and 2018, respectively. A remedy, which includes treatment of any remaining Semet residue via *in situ* (in place) solidification/stabilization, installation of a geomembrane cap under 18 inches of clean soil/granular backfill over the Semet residue areas, and installation of a one-foot thick soil cover over other areas, will be implemented pursuant to a decision document issued in March 2019.

A cleanup plan to address Solvay waste and contaminated soil/fill at the Wastebeds 1-8 subsite was issued in 2014. The remedy consists of a two-foot thick soil cover over areas where active recreation is planned or where appropriate to protect ecological resources, a one-foot thick soil cover where passive recreation is planned, and the placement of a vegetative enhancement layer in other areas to promote growth of vegetation. The remedy has been completed in some areas, including the area where Onondaga County's Lakeview Amphitheater and related facilities were constructed as part of planned subsite redevelopment. The Onondaga County West Shore Trail Extension, an approximately 2.5-mile public recreation trail, has also been constructed at the subsite by Onondaga County. Interim remedial measures have also been implemented to control contaminated groundwater migration from the subsite. A feasibility study, which will include an evaluation of options for groundwater restoration, is in progress.

A summary of cleanup activities and an evaluation of the protectiveness of the implemented remedies will be included in the five-year review report.

### What is an EPA Five-Year Review?

The purpose of five-year reviews is to ensure that implemented remedies at Superfund sites function as intended and continue to be protective of human health and the environment. These regular reviews, which are required by federal law when contaminants remain at a site, include:

- Inspection of the site and cleanup technologies;
- Review of monitoring data, operating data, and maintenance records, and
- Determination if any new relevant regulatory requirements have been established since EPA's original cleanup decision was finalized.

### When will EPA's Five-Year Review Report be available?

It is anticipated that the joint five-year review report will be available at the website noted below by January 2020.

#### For more information

There are several ways to review information on this site. The Administrative Record, which includes the decision documents used for selecting the cleanup remedy, is available for public review at the information repositories listed below. Project information is also available online at the website noted below.

##### NYSDEC, Region 7

615 Erie Blvd. West, Syracuse, NY

##### Atlantic States Legal Foundation

658 West Onondaga Street, Syracuse, NY

##### Onondaga County Public Library

447 South Salina Street, Syracuse, NY

##### NYSDEC, Central Office

625 Broadway, Albany, NY

##### Solvay Public Library

615 Woods Road, Solvay, NY

#### You may also contact

If you have any questions or concerns about the site, please contact:

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**For more information visit:**

[www.epa.gov/superfund/onondaga-lake](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/onondaga-lake)