



**MODIFICATION TO CLEANUP PLAN AT
LEY CREEK DEFERRED MEDIA PORTION OF THE
GENERAL MOTORS – INLAND FISHER GUIDE SUBSITE,
TOWN OF SALINA, NY**



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REGION 2

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will now clean up more floodplain soil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and metals than originally planned at the Ley Creek Deferred Media portion of the General Motors – Inland Fisher Guide (GM-IFG) subsite of the Onondaga Lake Superfund site in the Town of Salina, New York. This change in the cleanup plan is documented in an “Explanation of Significant Differences” or “ESD” that was signed by EPA on September 29.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) sampled the soil during the design of the original cleanup plan and found that the soil contamination is much more widespread than originally estimated. As a result, EPA evaluated seven cleanup alternatives, including the original plan, and determined that the original cleanup plan, with certain changes, is appropriate.

Original cleanup plan

The 2015 cleanup plan that NYSDEC and EPA selected called for removing sediment and soil contaminated with PCBs and metals. The selected cleanup also included replacing the excavated soil with backfill and transporting and disposing the excavated soil at a regulated landfill facility off-site. NYSDEC and EPA estimated that 15,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil would need to be dug up and properly disposed of at a licensed facility at a cost of \$7.6 million.

Modifications to plan

An investigation during the design of the cleanup showed a larger volume of contaminated floodplain soil than originally estimated. As a result, EPA will dispose of approximately 64,000 cubic yards of the excavated contaminated soil, instead of the original estimated 15,000 cubic yards. The additional volume of the cleanup increases the cost to \$44.5 million.

The contaminated soil is located on industrial and commercial properties north and south of Ley Creek between Townline Road and the Route 11 bridge in Salina, New York.

Contamination in an area of Ley Creek Deferred Media containing mature tree growth located mostly to the north of Ley Creek near Townline Road is not included in the modified plan. An alternative in-situ, or in place, treatment is currently being evaluated for this area to determine if the mature trees can be preserved. Based upon the results of this evaluation, EPA and NYSDEC will decide whether to change the original cleanup approach of excavating the forested area.

Timeline

The Revitalizing Auto Communities Environmental Response Trust (RACER), the environmental response trust formed by the General Motors Corporation bankruptcy, will perform the engineering design work for the modified cleanup plan under EPA oversight. This work will take about one year to complete.

About the Ley Creek Deferred Media Portion of the GM-IFG Subsite

General Motors began operating in Salina in 1952. The GM-IFG facility plated, buffed, formed, and finished metal auto parts and manufactured and painted plastic auto parts. Wastes from the plant were discharged to Ley Creek. Confirmed hazardous substances at the GM-IFG subsite include PCBs, solvents, copper, nickel, and chromium. Manufacturing operations at the GM-IFG facility ended by 1993.

EPA and NYSDEC divided the GM-IFG subsite into two parts called operable units. The first operable unit addresses the former GM-IFG plant and groundwater under, and coming from, the former plant.

The second operable unit, known as Ley Creek Deferred Media, includes media not addressed under the first operable unit, such as the Ley Creek channel sediment, surface water, and floodplain soil and sediment in the 9,200-foot reach of Ley Creek between Townline Road and the Route 11 Bridge (also known as Brewerton Road). Included in this operable unit is:

- a 10-acre wetland (referred to as the “National Grid Wetland”) located west of the former GM-IFG facility
- soil between the former GM-IFG facility’s northern property boundary and Factory Avenue (referred to as the “Factory Avenue Area”)
- a 32-acre area of mature tree growth located in the floodplains adjacent to Ley Creek (referred to as the “Forested Area”)
- soil in the area located along the northern shoulder of Factory Avenue in the vicinity of LeMoyne Avenue (referred to as the “Factory Avenue/LeMoyne Avenue Intersection Area”), and
- soil in a residential area located north of Ley Creek and bounded by New York State Route 11, LeMoyne Avenue, Ley Creek, and Brookline Road. The residential area includes eighteen occupied residences and one vacant lot.

General Motors filed for bankruptcy in 2009. In 2011, RACER took over cleaning up the subsite. RACER, under a legal agreement with EPA, will design the cleanup for the Ley Creek Deferred Media Portion of the GM-IFG subsite. RACER completed the soil cleanup in the residential area in 2018. RACER addressed the National Grid wetland and Factory Ave areas of the GM-IFG subsite in 2019. The cleanup of the Factory Avenue/LeMoyne Avenue Intersection Area has not started.

About the Onondaga Lake Superfund Site

EPA placed the Onondaga Lake site on the Superfund program’s National Priorities List in December 1994. To facilitate coordination of the various investigations and cleanup activities at the lake and the upland sources of contamination, NYSDEC and EPA identified various subsites or operable units of the Onondaga Lake site, including Lake Bottom; GM-IFG; Geddes Brook/Ninemile Creek; LCP Bridge Street; Ley Creek PCB Dredgings; Lower Ley Creek; National Grid - Hiawatha Boulevard; Semet Tar Beds; Town of Salina Landfill; Wastebeds 1-8; Wastebed B/Harbor Brook, and Willis Avenue.

NYSDEC is the lead agency responsible for overseeing the investigation and cleanup of all the Onondaga Lake subsites except for the Lower Ley Creek subsite and the Ley Creek Deferred Media portion of the GM-IFG subsite. Therefore, EPA is responsible for oversight of the cleanup of both the upstream and downstream portions of Ley Creek and the adjacent floodplains.



What is an Explanation of Significant Differences?

The EPA document that discusses the modification to EPA's original cleanup plan is called the "Explanation of Significant Differences" or "ESD."

An ESD is required when there are significant changes to a cleanup. Significant changes generally involve a change to a component of the remedy that does not fundamentally alter the overall cleanup approach.

The ESD is part of the Administrative Record for the site remedy and is available for public review on EPA's webpage for the site, www.epa.gov/superfund/onondaga-lake.



Figure 1: Ley Creek Deferred Media and Areas of Interest

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