



EPA ANNOUNCES PROPOSED CLEANUP PLAN FOR AVX PROPERTY GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION AT OLEAN WELL FIELD SUPERFUND SITE OLEAN, NEW YORK

JULY 2022



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in consultation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), is proposing a plan to address contaminated groundwater at a portion of the Olean Wellfield Superfund site, south of the former AVX Corporation property in Olean, New York. As a result of industrial activity in the area, the groundwater is contaminated with (VOCs) such as trichloroethylene (TCE).

The Proposed Plan

EPA is proposing to inject chemical/biological agents into the groundwater where volatile organic compound (VOC) contamination is at its highest. EPA will construct and install multiple wells within areas of contaminated groundwater and inject chemical/biological agents into the groundwater. These agents will break down the contaminants into less harmful substances. EPA will monitor the groundwater to ensure that the levels of contamination go down as expected and will restrict use of groundwater.



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.



Public Meeting

Date: July 27, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Jamestown Community College
TECH Building, Mangano Reception Room
(near Cutco Theater)
305 North Barry Street, Olean, NY

More information:

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/olean-wellfield>

Contact: Mike Basile, 646-369-0055,
Basile.michael@epa.gov



Public Comment Period

The proposed cleanup plan is available for public comment from July 15 to August 15. 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 at
www.epa.gov/superfund/olean-wellfield

Send your comments to **Maeve Wurtz**,
wurtz.maeve@epa.gov, or 290 Broadway, 19th
Floor, New York, NY 10007-1866

EPA must receive your comments by August
15, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

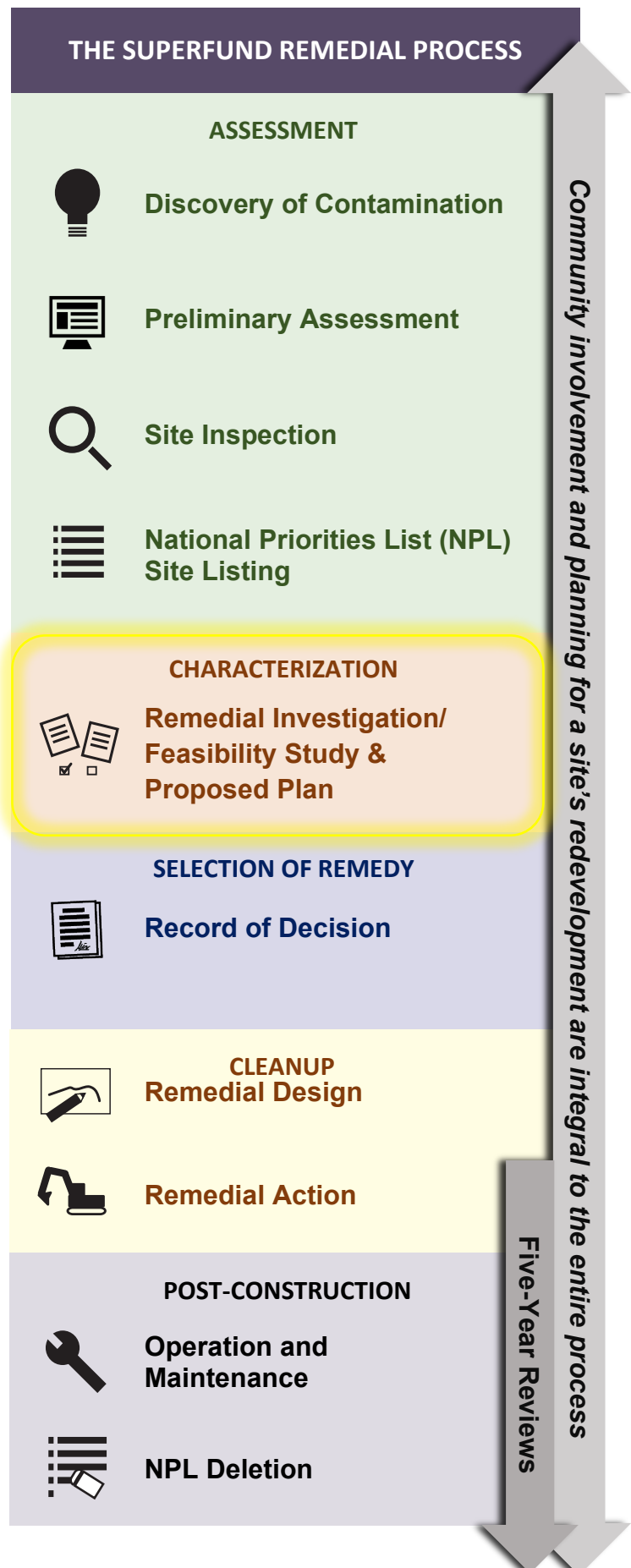
Site Background

The Olean Well Field Superfund site is located in Olean, New York and includes 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. The site was added to EPA'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), with EPA's direction and oversight, installed treatment systems on public wells to reduce the contamination to levels that protect people's health. PRPs and EPA removed contaminated soil from certain properties within the site. The PRPs, with EPA oversight, also extended the city water lines from the Town of Olean to approximately 93 homes which were previously served by private wells. 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 or replaced an industrial sewer at the former McGraw-Edison property with EPA oversight.

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 (AVX)).

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

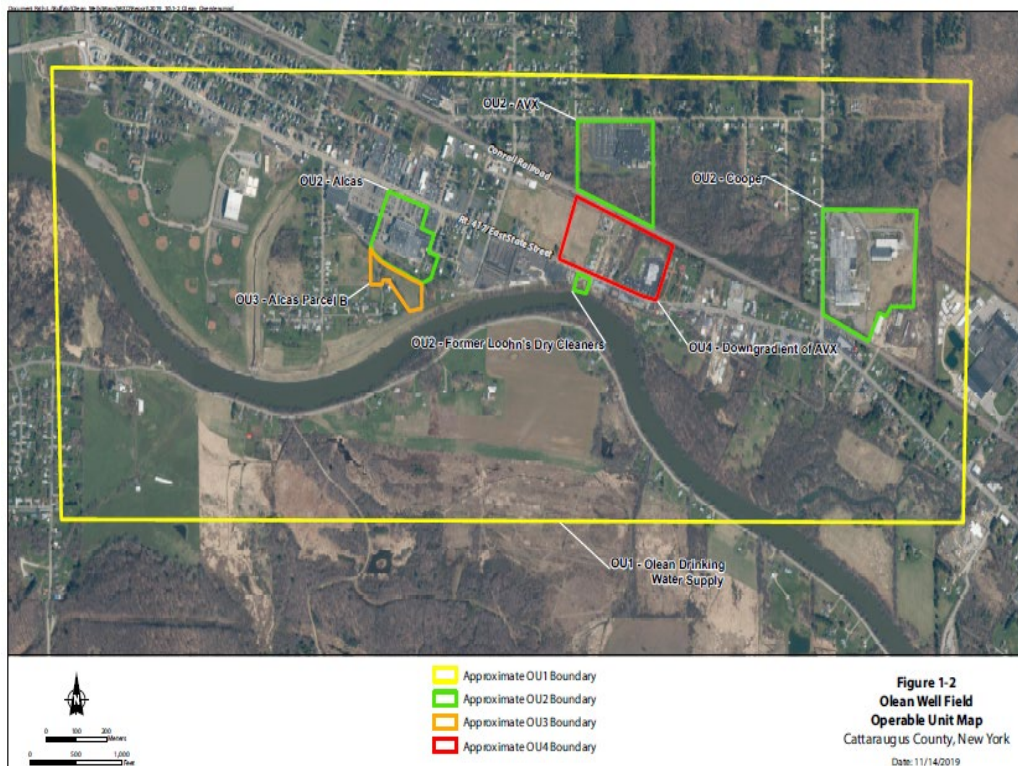
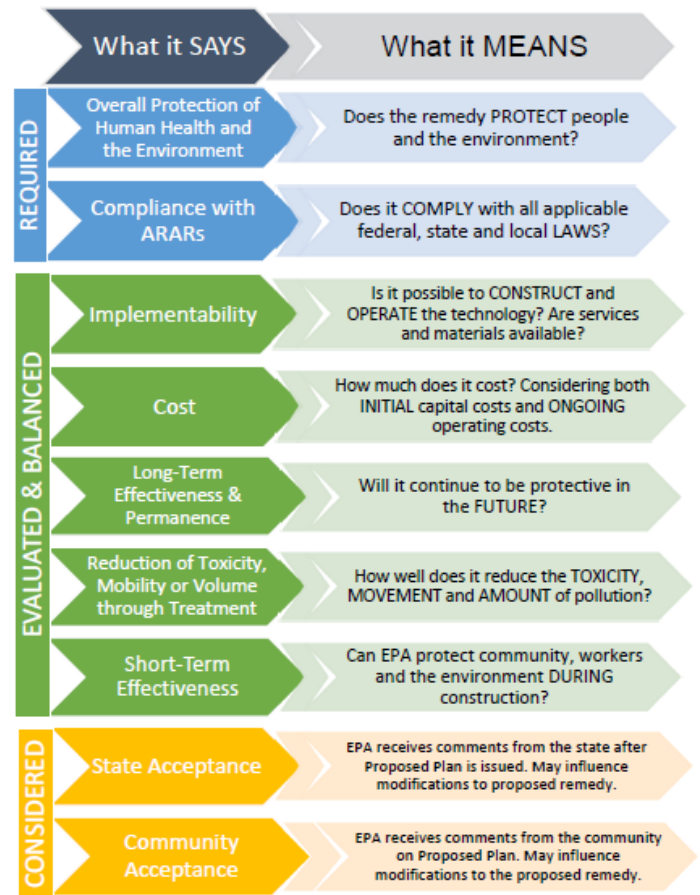


Based on additional studies, EPA determined that the cleanup plan for the Alcas property would not be successful and the extent of contamination at the AVX property was not fully known at the time the cleanup plan was issued. In 2014 and 2015, EPA issued new cleanup plans for the Alcas and AVX properties. In 2016 and 2017, EPA entered into agreements with the PRPs for the Alcas and AVX properties, respectively, to implement those plans. At the Alcas facility, the PRP will be injecting solutions to transform the VOCs in soil and groundwater into less harmful chemical compounds.

At the AVX property, which was an active business at the time of the 2015 cleanup plan, the PRP is scheduled to begin digging a trench this summer that will pump water out of the aquifer. AVX stopped its operations in Olean in 2018 and demolished its building. AVX is currently studying the contamination under the building slab and once that investigation is completed, EPA expects to issue a cleanup plan to address this contamination.

Beginning in 2015, EPA conducted additional groundwater studies south of the AVX property. The plan announced today is addressing groundwater contamination in the direction of the groundwater flow, or downgradient, of the AVX property.

EPA's Nine Evaluation Criteria for Superfund Remedial Alternatives





Information Repositories

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

Copies of cleanup documents for Olean Wellfield Superfund site are available at:

Olean Public Library

Second and Laurens Streets

Olean, New York

You may also access cleanup documents on EPA's site profile page at:

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/olean-wellfield>

EPA Contact Information

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<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/olean-wellfield>



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