

Eighteen Mile Creek Public Health Assessment

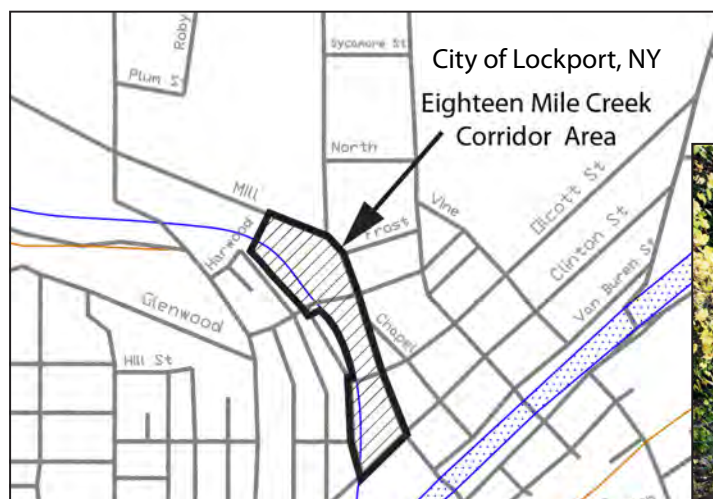
Community Fact Sheet: August 2014

This draft Public Health Assessment (PHA) for the Eighteen Mile Creek National Priority List (NPL) site was prepared by the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) in partnership with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). This community fact sheet provides a summary of conclusions from that document. Copies of the full report, which include background information and a public comment form, are available online or by calling the NYS DOH (see *For More Information* on back page).

The NYS DOH and ATSDR complete a PHA for every site in New York that is on the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) NPL, also known as the federal Superfund list. In a PHA, the health agencies review information about hazardous substances at a site and evaluate whether contact (exposure) to those substances might cause harm to people.

For the Eighteen Mile Creek PHA, the NYS DOH and ATSDR evaluated existing environmental data for chemicals in creek sediments, surface water, and soil and fill materials in and along the creek. Based on the data and information that people can access and use portions of the creek for recreation and fishing, the NYS DOH and ATSDR have the following conclusions about the site:

1. Touching or handling contaminated sediments in Eighteen Mile Creek within the Corridor area (see map) could harm people's health. There are several locations within the Corridor area where people can gain access to the waterway and potentially come in contact with contaminated sediments and fill. The US EPA has tried to limit access but evidence suggests that people are still gaining access to contaminated areas.
2. Touching or handling contaminated soils and sediments from residential backyards at nine residential and vacant properties along Water Street in the City of Lockport could harm people's health. This is a special concern for children playing and for people gardening at these contaminated properties. The US EPA is currently working to remove contaminated soils and sediments at these impacted properties.
3. Touching or handling contaminated soils while trespassing on the former Flintkote plant property could harm people's health. The Flintkote property is fenced to restrict access, but there is evidence that people are trespassing. In addition to contaminated soils, there are physical hazards on the property including unsafe buildings and debris.
4. Touching or handling contaminated soils in some areas at Upson Park could be a concern for people's health if people are touching or handling these soils over a long period of time (years). The amount of contamination found in some areas is high enough to be a concern for individuals who may be working or playing in these areas.



5. Eating fish taken from the entire Eighteen Mile Creek could harm people's health due to the amount and type of chemical contaminants found in fish tested from this waterway. NYS DOH issues fish consumption advisories for waters in New York State. The NYS DOH fish consumption advice for Eighteen Mile Creek is "Don't Eat any fish" from all reaches of the Creek, both above and below the Burt Dam to Lake Ontario. Anglers who want to enjoy the fun of fishing but who wish to avoid the concerns about eating contaminated fish from Eighteen Mile Creek may want to consider catch and release.

Next Steps

NYS DOH and ATSDR encourage community members and other interested stakeholders to review and provide feedback on the draft Public Health Assessment document for the Eighteen Mile Creek NPL site. Public comments should be submitted to NYS DOH before October 1, 2014. Health agency responses to all comments received will be included in the Final Public Health Assessment document to be released sometime in the coming months. Copies of the document and comment form are available as indicated in the *For More Information* section below.

For More Information

To get a copy of the Eighteen Mile Creek Public Health Assessment document and comment form:

Call NYS DOH at (518) 402-7860 or visit the NYS DOH website at <http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/investigations/eighteenmilecreek/>

For questions about the PHA document, please contact:

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For NYS DOH fish advisory information:

Visit the NYS DOH website at <http://www.health.ny.gov/fish>

Copies of the Western Region fish advisory brochure (shown below) are available from the NYS DOH at (518) 402-7530.

