

THE EPA PROPOSES A PLAN TO CLEAN UP A PORTION OF THE EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK SUPERFUND SITE NIAGARA COUNTY, NEW YORK



JULY 2024

The Proposed Plan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is seeking public comment on a proposed cleanup plan to address contaminated sediment and floodplain soil at part of the Eighteen Mile Creek Superfund site. The EPA's plan identifies its preferred cleanup options for the portion of the Eighteen Mile Creek site that begins from Harwood Street and extends downstream for approximately 5.3 miles, referred to as the sediment transitional area.

The EPA is proposing to dig up the contaminated sediment and put clean backfill material over disturbed areas. The contaminated material will be disposed of off-site. The EPA is also proposing to dig up the floodplain soil contaminated with lead and polychlorinated biphenyls, also known as PCBs. The EPA cleanup plan includes long-term monitoring and institutional controls, such as existing fish consumption advisories.

Based on the EPA's groundwater investigation within the Creek Corridor, the agency found no historical or active source of volatile organic compounds. The groundwater is not expected to be a significant source of contamination to the creek. As a result, the EPA is recommending that no action is needed to address groundwater within the Creek Corridor.

Get Involved with the EPA's Clean Up!

Public Comment Period:

The EPA is requesting the public's input on its proposed plan from **July 19, 2024 to August 19, 2024**. The public is encouraged to review the plan, attend the public meeting, and comment on the cleanup options. To provide comments to the EPA, read the document online at: www.epa.gov/superfund/eighteenmile-creek and send your comments to Christopher O'Leary, Remedial Project Manager via email to OLEary.Christopher@epa.gov or mail to 290 Broadway, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10007-1866 by August 19, 2024.

Public Meeting: A public meeting to present the proposed cleanup plan and take public comments.

Date and Time: August 1, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Location: Newfane Town Hall located at 2737 Main Street, Newfane, NY 14108

Past Activities

The EPA finalized a cleanup plan in 2013 to address contaminated soil located on certain residential properties on Water Street in Lockport, New York. As part of the 2013 plan, the EPA relocated residents at five properties before demolishing the structures. The EPA finished transporting and disposing of debris off-site as well as installing a fence in 2015. The cleanup plan for this portion of the site also indicated that the contaminated soil at the nine, flood-prone residential properties would be removed at the same time that the EPA would address the contaminated sediment and soil in non-residential properties.

In 2017, the EPA selected another plan that included removing sediment in the Creek Corridor from bank-to-bank. The plan also included removing contaminated soil at the Upson Park, the United Paperboard Company, and White Transportation properties, as well as removing contaminated soil from the former Flintkote plant before placing a cap.

The Creek Corridor is the furthest upstream portion of the creek and contains the highest levels of polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCB contamination, which is why the EPA is addressing this portion of the creek first. The agency is coordinating its cleanup of the Creek Corridor with the cleanup of the residential properties that have soil contaminated with lead and PCBs and are prone to flooding along Water Street. Construction for this portion of the cleanup is scheduled to begin this summer.

The EPA selected a third cleanup plan in 2019 to address the residential properties with lead contaminated soil. The EPA's plan to clean up these residential properties is to remove and dispose of off-site the contaminated soil. The agency will clean up at least 33 residential properties; however, the agency is continuing to study the extent of contamination and adjust the number of properties that will need to be addressed. Construction at the first group of residential properties is scheduled to begin this summer.

Background

The Eighteen Mile Creek Superfund site is located in Niagara County, New York. The main channel of the creek starts just south of the canal and flows north for approximately 15 miles until it discharges to Lake Ontario in Olcott, New York. The Eighteen Mile Creek watershed includes the East Branch of Eighteen Mile Creek and Gulf Creek tributaries.

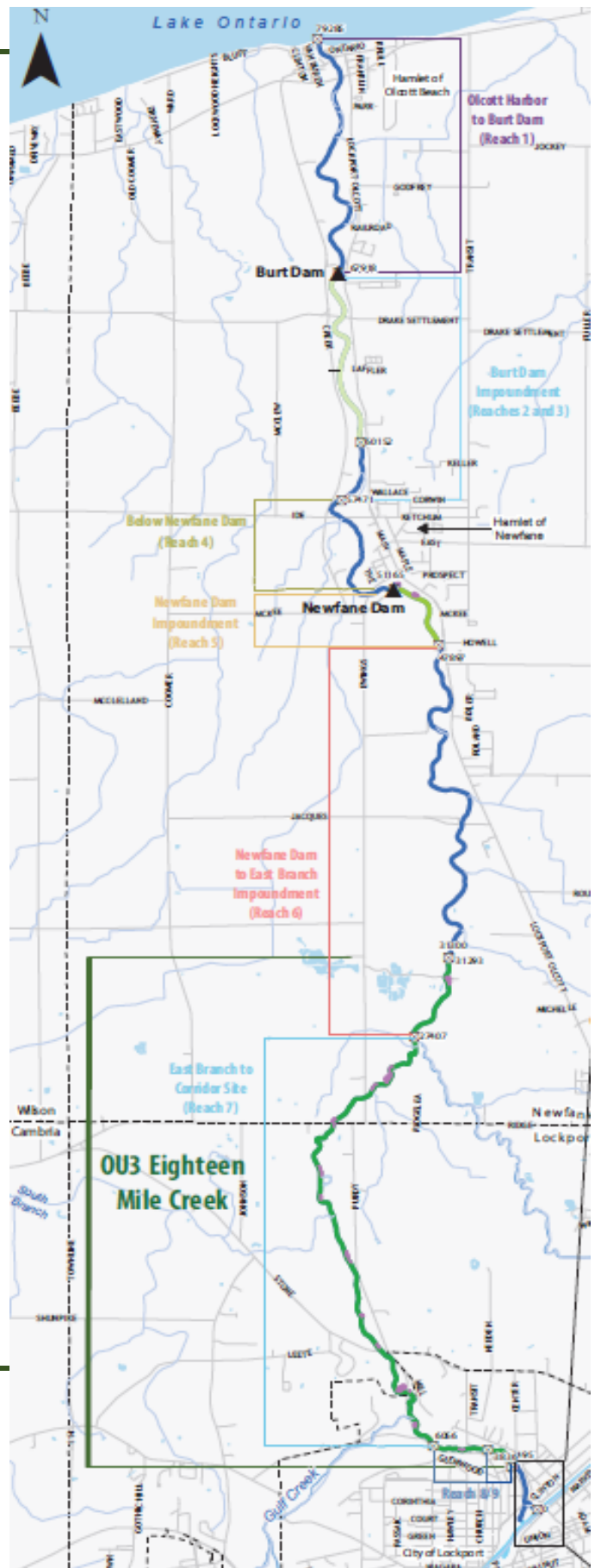


Figure 1 – Eighteen Mile Creek Site Location Map

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Information Repositories

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