Universal Waste, Inc.

State Superfund Program
Site No. 633009
Utica, Oneida County

Department of Environmental Conservation

October 2026

Cleanup Proposed for State Superfund Site; Public Comment Period and Public Meeting Announced

Public Meeting, Wednesday, 11/18/2026 at 6:00 PM
The North Utica Community Center, 50 Riverside Dr
Utica, NY 13502

NYSDEC invites you to a public meeting to discuss the cleanup plan proposed for the site. You are encouraged to provide comments at the meeting, and during the 30-day comment period described in this fact sheet.

Language interpretation services shall be made available to persons with limited English proficiency, including American Sign Language, at no cost. Requests must be received 10 calendar days before the meeting, but DEC will make every effort to fulfill requests received closer to the hearing date. Requests can be directed to NYSDEC by mail (address: NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-1010), e-mail (language@dec.ny.gov), or phone (518) 485-7358.

The public is invited to comment on a proposed cleanup plan by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), to address contamination related to the Universal Waste, Inc. site ("site") located at Wurz Avenue, Utica, Oneida County. Please see the map for the site location. The estimated cost to implement the cleanup is $14,600,000.

How to Comment

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan, called a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for 30 days, from **October 28** through **November 30, 2026.**

- Access the PRAP and other project documents online through the DECinfo Locator: https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/633009/.
- Documents also are available at the location(s) identified under "Where to Find Information."
- Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project-Related Questions in the "Contact Information" area.

The site is listed as a Class "2" site in the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites (list of State Superfund sites). A Class 2 site represents a significant threat to public health or the environment; action is required. NYSDEC is proposing the following cleanup to address these threats.

Proposed Remedial Action Plan

The proposed cleanup for the site includes:

- Excavating contaminated soil to approximately 10 to 12 feet below surface grade across nearly half of the site and disposing of contaminated soil off-site;
- Removing contaminated concrete slabs that remain on site;
- Removing the thin layer of oil on top of the water table and any impacted soils;

- Importing clean material that meets the soil cleanup objectives for use as backfill;
- Installing a two-foot cover of clean soil material in areas where the upper two feet of exposed soil exceed the ecological soil cleanup objectives;
- Implementing a Health and Safety Plan and Community Air Monitoring Plan during all ground intrusive activities;
- Implementing a Site Management Plan (SMP) for long term maintenance of the remedial systems; and
- Recording of an Environmental Easement to ensure proper use of the site.

NYSDEC developed the proposed cleanup after reviewing the detailed investigation of the site and evaluating the cleanup options in the “Feasibility Study” submitted under New York’s State Superfund Program by ELG Utica Alloys, Inc. (“remedial party”).

Next Steps

As detailed above, the DEC will hold a Public Meeting at the North Utica Community Center, 50 Riverside Drive, Utica, NY 13502 on November 18, 2026, at 6:00 PM to discuss the cleanup plan proposed for the site and seek feedback from the community, with an availability session at 5:30 PM. DEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the cleanup for the site. The selected cleanup plan will be described in a document called a "Record of Decision" that will explain why the plan was selected and respond to public comments. A detailed design of the selected cleanup will then be prepared, and the cleanup will be performed.

DEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the site.

Site Description

The site is 20.3-acres and is located in an urban area at the intersection of Wurz Avenue and Leland Avenue in the City of Utica, Oneida County. The site is bounded to the north by the Mohawk River and the City of Utica Fire Training Facility, to the east is a former construction and demolition debris recycling facility, to the south is a railroad yard, and to the west is a vacant lot that is a remediated former petroleum bulk storage facility. The Utica Alloys Site (DEC inactive hazardous waste disposal site number 633047) borders the Universal Waste site on the south and west. The site includes a large unoccupied warehouse and two sheds that are being used for equipment storage. Concrete slabs remain in place that were either used for processing materials or to house large equipment during past operations. There is a rail line that extends from the southeast to the northwest across the property. There is also an underground active storm sewer line and an inactive sanitary sewer overflow line transecting the site from west to east that drains into a stream located on the property to the east of the site. The site is located in the Mohawk River flood plain with the northern portion of the site generally wooded. Wetlands and a forested area are located east-southeast of the site. The site had been used as a scrap yard for salvaging ferrous metals and stainless steel that closed in 2000 and is currently unoccupied.

The anticipated cleanup standard for the site is to remain Industrial.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, 633009) at:

https://appfactory.dec.ny.gov/DERExternalSearch/ERDSearch

Summary of the Investigation

The primary contaminants of concern at the site are polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and metals which are present site-wide in soil. A thin layer of oil has been identified on top of the water table in a localized area. Chlorinated volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have been detected in groundwater on

the site, however, they are attributed to the adjacent Utica Alloys Site and will be addressed as part of an upcoming remedy for that site.

State Superfund Program

New York's State Superfund Program (SSF) identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and/or the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination before committing State funds for investigation and cleanup.

For more information about the SSF, visit:
https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/brownfield-and-state-superfund-programs/state-superfund-sites

Stay Informed with DEC Delivers

We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.

Sign up to receive site updates by email:

https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/environmental-cleanup-email-newsletters

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

DECinfo Locator

Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites: https://dec.ny.gov/maps/interactive-maps/decinfo-locator

CONTACT INFORMATION

Project-Related Questions
Kristin Granzen, Project Manager
NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233
p: (518) 402-9772
kristin.granzen@dec.ny.gov

Project-Related Health Questions
Kari Pollard
NYSDOH, Bureau of Environmental Exposure and Investigation
Corning Tower, Albany, NY, 12237
p: (518) 486-1443
beei@health.ny.gov

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

Access project documents through the DECinfo Locator and at these location(s):
https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/633009/

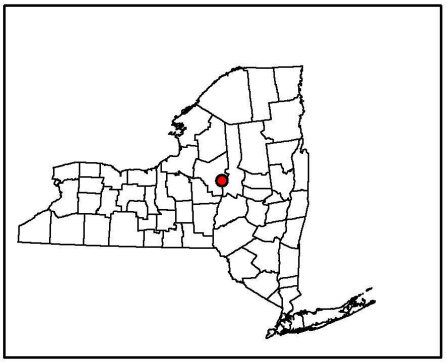
Utica Public Library
303 Genessee Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2279

Site Location



Figure 1 - Site Location
Universal Waste, Inc.
Operable Unit 01
Site No. 633009
Utica, NY

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Kristin Granzen | **Phone:** (518) 402-9772 | **Email:** kristin.granzen@dec.ny.gov