



# FACT SHEET

## State Superfund Program

Receive Site Fact Sheets by *Email*. See "For More Information" to Learn How.

**Site Name:** Solvay Wastebeds 1-8  
**DEC Site #:** 734081  
**Address:** Route I-690 and State Fair Blvd.  
Geddes, NY

Have questions?  
See  
"Who to Contact"  
Below

### Interim Remedial Measure to be Performed

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is issuing this fact sheet to notify you of an expedited cleanup planned for the Ditch A portion of the Solvay Wastebeds 1-8 site ("site") located at Route I-690 and State Fair Blvd, Geddes, Onondaga County. Please see the map for the site location. Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the locations identified below under "Where to Find Information."

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/externalapps/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=734081>

#### Interim Remedial Measure Work Plan

An Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) is a cleanup activity that may be performed when a source of contamination or exposure pathway (the way in which a person may contact contamination) can be effectively addressed without extensive investigation and evaluation.

The IRM work plan describes the cleanup activities designed to prevent contaminated groundwater discharges into the ditch which discharges to Onondaga Lake which include:

- Installation of approximately 5,500 linear feet of collection trench below Ditch A
- Placement of approximately 5 acres of geosynthetic lining and groundwater seep collection systems in areas adjacent to the ditch
- Treatment of collected groundwater at the Willis Avenue Groundwater Treatment Plant (GWTP)

#### *Summary of the Investigation*

Detected contaminants in Ditch A surface water, groundwater seeps, and sediment included benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX), acetone, naphthalene, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), phenols, and several metals.

Benzene, naphthalene, toluene, total xylenes, assorted PAHs and phenols were detected at concentrations above NYSDEC Class C surface water standards and guidance values in Ditch A surface water and seeps. BTEX and naphthalene were typically detected within Lower Ditch A surface water, seeps, and sediment and phenol was typically detected in Upper Ditch A surface water, seeps, and sediment.

For additional information see the Wastebeds 1-8 Remedial Investigation Report dated August 2014 or the Ditch A Pre-Design Investigation Summary Report dated August 2017 (see "Where to Find Information" below).

## **Next Steps**

NYSDEC will approve the IRM work plan in consultation with New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The approved work plan will be made available to the public (see “Where to Find Information” below). After the work plan is approved, the activities detailed in the work plan will be performed by Honeywell and are anticipated to be implemented this Fall (2017). Upon completion of the work, a Construction Completion Report will be prepared that documents the activities that were performed.

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

## **Background**

The Site consists of two operable units (OUs): OU1, which addresses the Solvay waste and contaminated soil/fill materials; and OU2, which will address the contaminated groundwater and impacted soil and sediment in Ditch A.

A Record of Decision for OU1 was issued on December 2, 2014. The OU1 remedy includes placement of a cover system that will be protective for current and/or reasonably anticipated future land uses (e.g., active and passive recreational uses). In general, the remedy consists of a two-foot thick soil cover over areas where active recreation is planned or where appropriate to protect ecological resources, and a one-foot thick soil cover where passive recreation is planned. Other areas of the Subsite will be covered with a vegetation enhancement layer to promote growth of vegetation. OU1 work is currently ongoing. An evaluation to select a remedy for OU2 is underway.

Location:

The Site, which is located on the southwestern shore of Onondaga Lake in Geddes, New York, is situated between the New York State (NYS) Fairgrounds and the shoreline of Onondaga Lake. The outlet of Ninemile Creek (NMC) defines the westernmost boundary of the Site, while the eastern end of the Site is generally bounded by roadways.

Site Features:

The 404-acre Site includes eight irregularly shaped wastebeds that extend roughly 1.5 miles along the shore, with a maximum width of 0.5 miles. The wastebeds consist primarily of inorganic waste materials (Solvay waste) from the production of soda ash using the Solvay process. Other contaminants (e.g., BTEX, naphthalene and assorted PAHs, phenolic compounds, pesticides, and inorganics) are also present at the Site. Ditch A runs along the southern and eastern Site boundaries and discharges stormwater from roads, parking areas and the overland surface flow from the Site to NMC and Onondaga Lake.

Interstate 690 (I-690) and interchanges associated with NYS Route 695 (NY-695), NYS Fairgrounds parking lots, access roads for the parking lots, and foot bridges bisect the Site. Other infrastructure and development present at the Site include an approximately 2.5 mile Onondaga County West Shore Trail Extension (public recreation trail), a 17,500-person amphitheater, and a 20-acre closed, permitted landfill formerly operated by Crucible. An approximate 17-acre Biosolids Area used by the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County for sewage sludge disposal is located near the southeastern end of the Site over portions of Wastebeds 1 and 2. Lakeview Point, which generally comprises Wastebed 6, forms one of the Site’s more prominent features - a peninsula that extends into Onondaga Lake near the northern end of the Site.

#### Current Zoning/Use:

The site is zoned industrial. The area is currently owned by the State of New York and Onondaga County. The parcel owned by Onondaga County is required by the deed to be maintained as parkland.

Approximately 80 acres of the site is used for parking for the State Fair. The site is also the location of the Lakeview Amphitheater and a bike trail that was constructed by Onondaga County. The surrounding area is a combination of highway right of way and industrial/commercial facilities.

#### Historic Use:

The wastebeds were constructed by predecessor companies of Honeywell over a period from approximately 1916 to 1944 and are composed primarily of Solvay waste, an inert material consisting largely of calcium carbonate, calcium silicate, and magnesium hydroxide. These wastes were generated at the former Solvay Process Main Plant as part of soda ash production using the Solvay process. Wastes such as benzene, toluene, xylene, naphthalene and phenols produced at nearby Honeywell sites may have been disposed of in Wastebeds 1-8 with the Solvay waste slurry or by alternative means.

Subsequent uses of the Site included construction of a 1.2-mile stretch of I-690 prior to 1958, construction of the I-690 and NY-695 interchange between 1973 and 1978, and the operation of a landfill on a portion of Wastebed 5 by Crucible from 1973 to 1988. The Crucible Landfill covers an area of approximately 20 acres and was closed with a cap in 1988. The City of Syracuse and Onondaga County utilized a portion of the wastebeds as a biosolids disposal area from 1925 to 1978 for municipal sewage sludge disposal.

#### Site Geology and Hydrogeology:

Over 60 feet of fill materials (Solvay Waste) are present at the site. Unconsolidated materials that underlie the Solvay Waste include a marl/peat layer, a former channel (locally) of NMC, a silt and clay layer, a silt and fine grained sand layer, and a sand and gravel unit. The underlying bedrock is the Vernon Shale. Groundwater at the site discharges to Onondaga Lake and to NMC.

#### Previous IRMs:

IRMs began at the Site in 2011 and were substantially completed in 2015. The IRMs consisted of:

- Shoreline stabilization system (i.e., vegetated on-shore revetment) – A shoreline stabilization system was installed along a portion of the Northern and Eastern Shoreline. A vegetated on-shore revetment was installed along the steep cliffs to reduce erosion from wind-wave and ice action, and to provide habitat enhancement.
- Groundwater and seep collection trenches, including pump stations and associated forcemain piping were installed along the NMC, Eastern and Northern shorelines. Upon collection, the groundwater and seep water are conveyed to the Willis Avenue Groundwater Treatment Plant.
- Ditch A - Previous work associated with Ditch A included substrate excavation, culvert cleaning and the installation of check dams to reduce discharges of Solvay waste.
- Mitigation of loss of wetlands, consisting of new aquatic habitat connected to Onondaga Lake and inland wetlands. Nine and a half acres of mitigation wetlands have been constructed, of which 2.3 acres are connected wetlands and 7.2 acres are inland wetlands, within the low lying eastern shoreline.

**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 and require cleanup before committing State funds.

For more information about the SSF, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html>

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

### **Where to Find Information**

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed.

Onondaga County Public Library Syracuse Branch  
447 South Salina Street  
Syracuse, NY 13204  
phone: 315-435-1800

Solvay Public Library  
615 Woods Road  
Solvay, NY 13209  
phone: 315-468-2441

Atlantic States Legal Foundation  
658 West Onondaga Street  
Syracuse, NY 13204  
phone: 315-475-1170

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
615 Erie Boulevard, West  
Syracuse, NY 13204  
phone: 315-426-7400

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Attn: Tracy A. Smith  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233  
phone: 518-402-9676  
([tracy.smith@dec.ny.gov](mailto:tracy.smith@dec.ny.gov))

Project documents are also available on the NYSDEC website at:  
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/37558.html>

## Who to Contact

Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

### Project Related Questions

Tracy Alan Smith  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Environmental Remediation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-7013  
518-402-9796  
[tracy.smith@dec.ny.gov](mailto:tracy.smith@dec.ny.gov)

### Site-Related Health Questions

Mark Sergott  
New York State Department of Health  
Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, Room 1739  
Albany, NY 12237  
518-402-7860  
[BEEI@health.ny.gov](mailto:BEEI@health.ny.gov)

**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.**

### **Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email**

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>. It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you *better informed*.



As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

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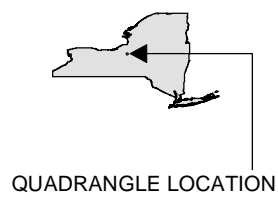


FIGURE 1

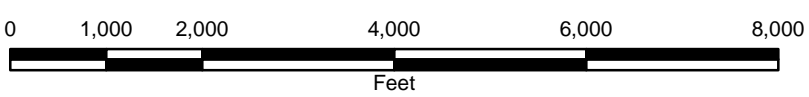
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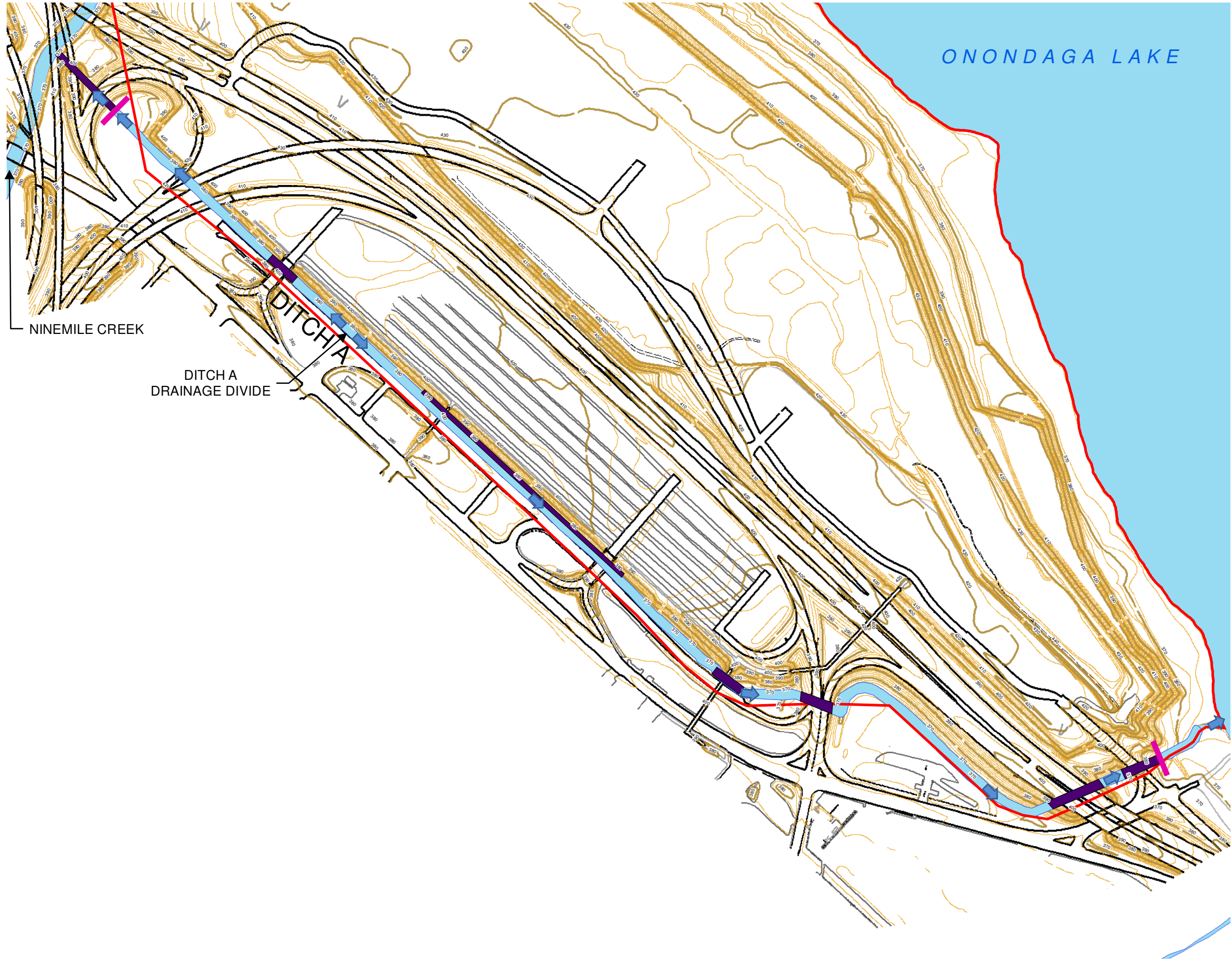
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HONEYWELL  
 WASTEBEDS 1 - 8  
 OU-1 FEASIBILITY STUDY  
 WASTEBEDS 1-8  
 GEDDES, NEW YORK



**SITE LOCATION**





**FIGURE 2**

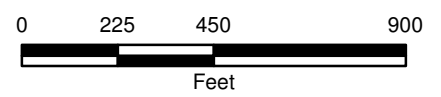


**LEGEND**

- ▭ WASTEBEDS 1-8 SITE
- ▭ DITCH A CULVERT
- ▭ LIMITS OF MIDDLE REACH OF DITCH A
- ➔ DITCH A FLOW DIRECTION

CONTOUR INTERVAL: 2 FEET

**HONEYWELL  
WASTEBEDS 1-8  
GEDDES, NEW YORK**



OCTOBER 2012  
1163.47228

