

Tonawanda Forge Site

State Superfund Program

Site No. 915274

Tonawanda, Erie County



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

September 2026

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

**Public Meeting, Wednesday 09/16/26 at 6:00 PM
Kenmore Branch Library, 160 Delaware Rd, Kenmore, NY, 14217**

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 an amended cleanup plan proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), to address contamination related to the Tonawanda Forge site ("site") located at 2390 Kenmore Ave, Tonawanda, Erie County. Please see the map for the site location. The estimated cost to implement the proposed cleanup is \$15,100,000

How to Comment

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan, called a Proposed Amended Record Of Decision ("AROD") for 30 days, from **September 2** through **October 2, 2026**.

- Access the AROD and other project documents online through the DECinfo Locator: <https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/915274/>.
- 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 Disposal 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.

Amended Record of Decision

NYSDEC developed the proposed amended cleanup after performing a detailed investigation of the site and evaluating cleanup options for the "Risk-Based PCB Cleanup Plan" submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). After the completion of the pre-design investigation (PDI) and during the preparation of the risk-based PCB cleanup plan, DEC concluded that a higher use of the site could be achieved without significantly greater expense or environmental impact.

The PDI revealed additional contaminants and obstacles to site cleanup including asbestos contamination present on the ground surfaces of every area of concern (AOC) except AOC-1 and within the remaining onsite buildings. Approximately 16,000 square feet of impervious surface, predominantly concrete slabs and flooring, contain polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) and semi volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) contamination exceeding commercial use criteria or TSCA thresholds, some of which require off-site disposal. The removal or scarification of these impacted impervious surfaces and soils with SVOCs concentration greater than 500 parts per million (ppm), will allow for commercial use of the majority western portion of the site. During the preparation of the risk-based PCB cleanup plan, DER-31 Green Remediation informed cost saving considerations and allowed NYSDEC to identify a strategy for impacted material to be consolidated within AOC-1 under a cover system which allows for industrial use for this portion of the site while making a majority of the site available for commercial use.

The proposed cleanup for the site includes:

- Demolition of the on-site buildings;
- Excavation and offsite disposal of any underground storage tanks (USTs), fuel dispensers, underground piping, or other structures identified as a source of contamination;
- Excavation and off-site disposal of accessible subsurface and surface soils solely impacted by SVOCs and metals exceeding commercial soil cleanup objectives (SCOs);
- Excavation and offsite disposal of PCB containing material exceeding 100 ppm;
- Placement of PCB remediation waste up to 100 ppm and PCB soils containing SVOCs exceeding commercial use limits under a cover system on the eastern portion of the site known as AOC-1;
- Placement of a one-foot-thick cover system, fencing and signage across AOC-1 to restrict occupancy and allow only for industrial use in that area;
- Establishment of cover system throughout the western portion of the site to allow commercial use in that area;
- A Soil Vapor Intrusion evaluation for any occupied buildings on the site following remedy implementation;
- Cleaning and abandonment of approximately 19,000 linear feet of contaminated on-site sewer lines;
- Installing a series of new catch basins and storm water collection systems that redirect on-site surface water to the existing Town of Tonawanda municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4);
- Implementation of green remediation principles and techniques to the extent feasible during implementation of the cleanup;
- Implementing a Health and Safety Plan and Community Air Monitoring Plan during all ground intrusive activities and demolition activities;
- Implementing a Site Management Plan (SMP) for long term maintenance of the remedial systems; and
- Recording of an Institutional Control (e.g., Environmental Easement) to ensure proper use and occupancy of the site.

Next Steps

NYSDEC will consider public comments related to the proposed cleanup plan for the site. The selected cleanup plan will be described in a document called a "Amended Record of Decision" that will memorialize why an alternative cleanup strategy was selected and respond to public comments. A detailed design of the selected cleanup will then be prepared, and the cleanup will be performed.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the site cleanup process.

Site Description

The site is a 33.2-acre site located in an industrial area. The site is approximately 2,300 feet southeast of the intersection of Kenmore Avenue and Sheridan Drive and is bordered to the northeast by

Kenmore Avenue and to the southeast by UAW-GM Blvd. The site is relatively flat and primarily covered with asphalt, concrete, brick, former building foundations, two multi-story brick buildings, one single-story building, and one pole barn that were a part of the original manufacturing complex. The buildings are currently unoccupied, abandoned or used for storage. The eastern portion of the site nearest Kenmore Avenue, identified as AOC-1, is a grass covered landfill with an elevation approximately six feet above the surrounding grade. The site was originally part of the General Motors - Tonawanda Engine Plant facility. The Tonawanda Engine Plant facility operations included metal casing, manufacture and assembly of automobile engines and other automobile components.

This site was divided into two operable units. An operable unit represents a portion of a remedial program for a site that for technical or administrative reasons can be addressed separately to investigate, eliminate, or mitigate a release, threat of release or exposure pathway resulting from the site contamination. Operable unit 1 (OU1) addresses the on-site soil, sewer sediment, and surface water contamination. OU2 consists of the on-site groundwater and will be addressed at a future date.

The proposed amended cleanup is intended to allow the use and development of the western portion of the site for commercial use and the eastern portion for industrial use as defined by Part 375-1.8(g), although land use is subject to local zoning laws. The surrounding properties are currently used and zoned for industrial or mixed-use industrial applications. The nearest residential areas are approximately half of a mile south and approximately half of a mile north of the site. There are two census tracts within a half-mile of the site that meet the criteria of disadvantaged communities (DACs) under the Climate Leadership and Protection Act (CLCPA).

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the site ID, 915274) at:

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

Summary of the Investigation

The primary contaminants of concern at the site for OU1 are semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), metals, and PCBs which are present site-wide in soil.

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

Nakya Stewart, Project Manager
NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, NY 12233
p: (518) 402-9686
nakya.stewart@dec.ny.gov

Project-Related Health Questions

Renata Ockerby
NYSDOH, Bureau of Environmental Exposure and Investigation
Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, Room 1787
Albany, NY 12237
p: (518) 402-7867
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/915274/>

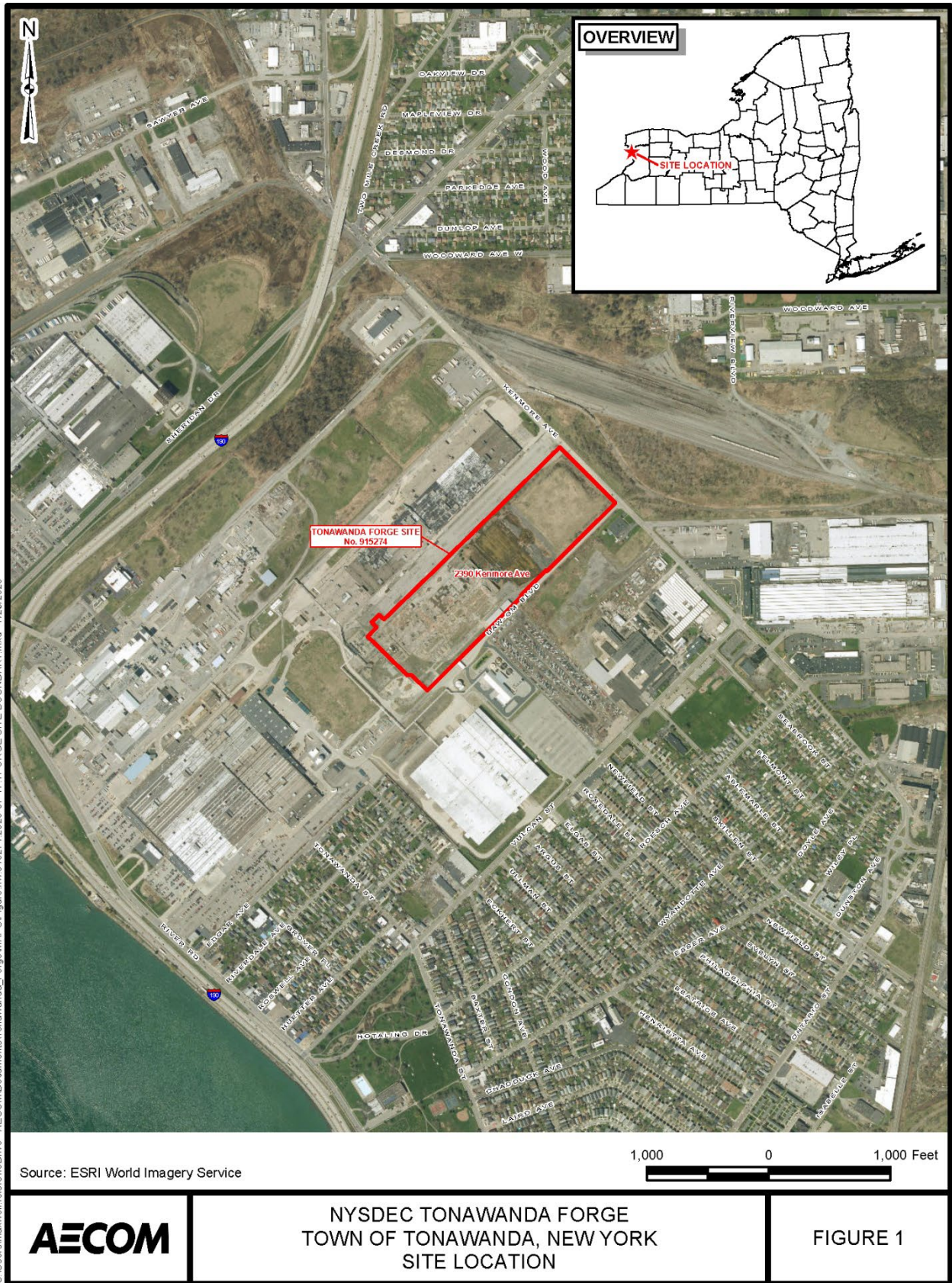
Buffalo and Erie County Public Library

1 Lafayette Square Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 858-8900

Elaine M. Panty Branch Library

820 Tonawanda Street Buffalo, NY 14207
(716) 875-0562

Site Location





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