



# FACT SHEET

## State Superfund Program

**Semet Residue Ponds Site**  
**Site #7-34-008**  
**Town of Geddes, Onondaga County, NY**

February 2010

### **Remedial Design Complete for the Semet Residue Ponds Site Groundwater**

The Remedial Design and Contractor Work Plans for the groundwater component of the Semet Residue Ponds site (“site”), located near Willis Avenue and State Fair Boulevard, in the Town of Geddes, Onondaga County, have been approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) under New York State’s Superfund Program. See map for site location.

The objective of the cleanup action for the groundwater component of the site is to prevent the discharge of contaminated groundwater (from the Semet Residue Ponds site) to Tributary 5A.<sup>1</sup> The work includes installing an isolation layer below the tributary and installing a groundwater collection system adjacent to and underneath portions of the tributary. The collected groundwater will be pumped to the existing Honeywell Willis Avenue Ground Water Treatment Plant (GWTP) and treated to discharge limits. In addition, sediment from Tributary 5A will be excavated to: remove contaminated sediment from the tributary; install the isolation layer; and in some areas (primarily the downstream portion) install the groundwater collection system underneath Tributary 5A. The cleanup activities will be performed by Honeywell International Inc. (the “responsible party”) with oversight provided by NYSDEC.

#### **Highlights of the Upcoming Cleanup Activities**

The goal of the cleanup action for the site is to achieve cleanup levels that protect public health and the environment.

The primary remedial design components include the installation of a shallow groundwater collection system, pumping and conveyance system, isolation layer, and habitat restoration.

- The groundwater collection system consists of two sand-filled trenches with a slotted collection pipe discharging to pump stations. The groundwater collection trenches are approximately 1,850 linear feet long.
- The pump stations will convey collected groundwater (via a force main piping system) to the GWTP for treatment.
- Approximately 10,200 cubic yards of contaminated sediment will be removed from

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<sup>1</sup> Migration of contaminated groundwater from the Site to Onondaga Lake is being addressed separately under the Semet-Willis Groundwater Collection/Treatment System Interim Remedial Measure.

Tributary 5A. This material will be transported via an on-site access road for staging at the Semet Residue Ponds and Willis Avenue sites. The excavated material will be managed in accordance with the remedies to be performed at the Semet and Willis sites.

- After installing an isolation layer and backfilling within Tributary 5A, the tributary and adjacent areas will be restored.
- Approximately 3,000 cubic yards of Semet material located near the railroad tracks will be relocated to an on-site location in order to install the groundwater conveyance system and access road.
- Existing culverts between the two reaches of Tributary 5A and Onondaga Lake will be cleaned to remove sediment and debris and inspected.
- This work is being performed in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

Impacts to the public associated with this project are expected to be minimal. The majority of the work will be performed within the limits of the site via access roads. A construction entrance at State Fair Boulevard is expected to be used to bring in materials and construct a pump station in the area. The main construction entrance will be via the Honeywell GWTP, which is located off of Willis Avenue. Hours of operation are expected to be normal working hours (7 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Friday). The work is not expected to impact public utilities in the area.

### Next Steps

Honeywell, with NYSDEC oversight, is expected to begin the groundwater and Tributary 5A remedial construction activities at the site in April 2010 with mobilization being the first task. The anticipated overall project duration is eight months.

After it completes the cleanup activities, Honeywell will prepare a Final Engineering Report. The Final Engineering Report will describe the groundwater and Tributary 5A cleanup activities completed and certify that cleanup requirements have been achieved or will be achieved.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed during the cleanup of the site.

### Background

**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 the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

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

For more information about the SSF, visit: [www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html)

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. The Site is also a subsite of the Onondaga Lake National Priorities List Superfund site.

The Semet Residue Ponds Site is located in the Town of Geddes, Onondaga County, New York and is situated in an industrial area approximately 400 feet from the southern shore of Onondaga Lake (see attached figure). The Site includes five irregularly-shaped man-made ponds used from 1917 to 1970 for the disposal of waste material (generated during the production of benzene,

toluene, and xylene by Allied Signal Corporation) and two small areas bordering the southern and western portions of the Site that were built to contain leakage from the ponds (*i.e.*, containment areas). The Somet Residue Ponds cover approximately 11 acres, and are estimated to contain approximately 20 million gallons of waste material. Based on monitoring well data, there is a plume of contaminated groundwater that originates at the Site and migrates toward Onondaga Lake and Tributary 5A.

As an Interim Remedial Measure, a fly-ash/cement cover is applied annually to the pond residues to control odors and reduce air emissions. This cover was first applied over Ponds 3 and 4 in 1994 and over the remaining primary ponds in 1997.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

### **Where to Find Information**

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public to stay informed. These documents include the decision document describing the selected remedy for the site, called the "Record of Decision".

Onondaga County Public Library  
Syracuse Branch at the Galleries  
447 South Salina Street  
Syracuse, New York 13204  
Phone: (315) 435-1800

Atlantic States Legal Foundation  
658 West Onondaga Street  
Syracuse, New York 13204  
Phone: (315) 475-1170  
Please call for hours of availability

NYSDEC  
615 Erie Boulevard, West  
Syracuse, New York 13204  
Phone: (315) 426-7400  
Hours: Mon - Fri, 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.  
Please call for an appointment

NYSDEC  
625 Broadway, 12th Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-7016  
Phone: (518) 402-9676  
Hours: Mon - Fri, 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.  
Please call for an appointment

### **Who to Contact**

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

#### Project Related Questions

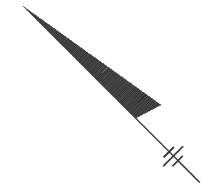
Mr. Tracy A. Smith  
New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, New York 12233-7013  
(518) 402-9676  
E-mail: [txsmith@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:txsmith@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

#### Site-Related Health Questions


Mr. Mark Sergott  
New York State Department of Health  
547 River Street  
Troy, New York 12180-2216  
(800) 458-1158, Ext. 27860  
E-mail: [beei@health.state.ny.us](mailto:beei@health.state.ny.us)

**If you know someone who would like to be added to the site contact list, have them contact the NYSDEC project manager above. 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.**

FIGURE 2

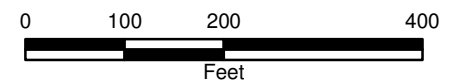


LEGEND

-  FORCEMAIN
-  CULVERTS
-  COLLECTION TRENCH
-  STRINGER PONDS
-  TRIBUTARY 5A

HONEYWELL  
TRIBUTARY 5A  
GEDDES, NEW YORK

GROUND WATER  
COLLECTION  
TRENCH ALIGNMENT



JANUARY 2010  
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