Onondaga Lake
Human Health Risk Assessment
Sediment Consolidation Area

Community Update **June 2010**

In response to a recent request from the community and elected officials, EPA completed a supplemental Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) to identify any potential risks posed by sediment management and dewatering activities planned for Solvay Wastebed 13, the proposed Sediment Consolidation Area (SCA) for the disposal of dredged sediments from Onondaga Lake.

This report supplements a 2002 Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment and Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment for this Site.

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed a supplemental Human Health Risk Assessment that evaluates the safety of disposing contaminated sediment from Onondaga Lake in Wastebed 13, a facility in Camillus, NY designated to receive this type of material. The risk assessment looked at potential risks to people who might come in contact with the sediment and exposure to contamination through the air. In both situations, the assessment found no significant health risks.

PROCESS:

- Hazard Identification—identifies the contaminants of potential concern based on toxicity, frequency of occurrence and concentration
- Exposure Assessment—estimates the magnitude of actual or potential human exposures, the frequency and duration of these exposures and the exposure pathways
- Toxicity Assessment—determines the types of adverse health effects associated with chemical exposures, and the relationship between magnitude of exposure (dose) and severity of adverse effects (response)
- Risk Characterization—summarizes and combines results of exposure and toxicity assessments to provide a quantitative study of site-related risks and hazards, and presents a discussion of the uncertainties of the process

SELECTED REMEDY:
A Record of Decision selecting a remedy for the Onondaga Lake Bottom was issued by NYSDEC and EPA in 2005. The remedy involves hydraulically dredging sediment from the lake, piping the water/sediment mixture to the Sediment Consolidation Area at Wastebed 13 and into geotextile tubes, collecting and treating the water that drains from the tubes, and encapsulating the tubes containing sediment in a lined cell. The SCA will then be capped, maintained, and monitored to ensure it is protective of human health and the environment.

ASSESSMENT:
EPA evaluated two potential exposure scenarios in its

Copies of the HHRA can be reviewed at the following repositories:

- Atlantic States Legal Foundation, 658 W. Onondaga Street, Syracuse, NY 13204; telephone: (315) 475-1170. Please call for an appointment
- Camillus Town Hall, 4600 W. Genesee Street, Room 100, Syracuse, NY 13204
- Liverpool Public Library, 310 Tulip Street, Liverpool, NY 13088
- Moon Library, SUNY ESF, 1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, NY 13210
- Onondaga County Public Library-Central Library at the Galleries, 447 South Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13202
- Solvay Public Library 615 Woods Road, Solvay, NY 13209
- NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233; telephone: (518) 402-9676. Please call for an appointment.
- NYSDEC Region 7, 615 Erie Boulevard West, Syracuse, NY 13204; telephone: (315) 426-7400. Please call for an appointment.

assessment. The first evaluated exposures to contaminants in offsite air as a result of chemicals volatilizing from sediment and from water draining from the geotextile tubes. The second scenario assessed a hypothetical situation that assumes a significant failure of the sediment consolidation area; in this scenario, sediment is released and individuals would come onto Wastebed 13 and contact the sediments on or near the sediment consolidation area daily for a 45 day period until the sediment is cleaned up and the affected area is repaired.

All resulting estimated risks were within levels identified by EPA as acceptable. The finding of acceptable risk estimates, when applying health protective assumptions, suggests that the plans for the sediment consolidation area will not result in unacceptable risks for the surrounding community.

The supplemental Human Health Risk Assessment can be found at www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/0203382c.htm and at the locations listed in the box to the left of this page.

EPA and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will hold an Open House at the Martha Eddy Room at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse, NY on July 8, 2010 at 5:30 pm and a public meeting at 6:30 pm to discuss the risk assessment and to answer questions from the public. Written questions may be submitted in advance of the meeting so as to facilitate the question and answer segment of the meeting. Questions can be submitted to EPA electronically to: nunes.robert@epa.gov in advance, no later than July 6, 2010. Questions can be submitted as well, during and after the meeting.