



EPA Proposes Soil Cleanup at Residential Properties Affected by the Eighteen Mile Creek Site

Community Update

August 2018

Cleanup Proposal:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has proposed a cleanup plan for the residential property portion of the Eighteen Mile Creek Superfund site. This addresses lead-contaminated soil at residential properties on Mill Street and several other neighboring residential streets west of the Flintkote property in the City of Lockport, New York. A minimum of 26 properties will be remediated under this phase of the ongoing multi-phased cleanup. The exact number will be determined from the results of soil sampling conducted this past June and any additional investigations conducted during the remedial design.

EPA's preferred plan calls for the excavation and disposal of approximately 14,000 cubic yards of lead-contaminated soil from certain affected residential properties. The excavated areas will be restored and backfilled with clean soil.

The EPA will hold a public meeting on August 16, 2018 at 7:00 pm to explain the proposed plan and take any questions. It will take place at the 4-H Training Center, Niagara County Fairgrounds, 4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport, New York. Oral and written comments will be accepted at that time. Comments will continue to be accepted until the end of the 30-day public comment period on August 27, 2018.

EPA has provided property owners with their specific soil sampling results and has discussed

preventative measures to immediately reduce potential exposure. After EPA gets public input on its proposal and finalizes a plan for these properties, the agency will coordinate with property owners to minimize impacts and inconveniences associated with construction.

Once the final plan is selected, EPA will take additional soil samples to determine more conclusively the number of residential properties that need soil cleanup. EPA will monitor air near the work areas to ensure protection of residents and the surrounding community.

Site Background:

The Flintkote property is roughly six acres in size and has been used for many different operations. It began as a sawmill in the 1830s, and over the years was home to a paper company, a roofing company and felt product manufacturers. The Flintkote Company ceased manufacturing in 1971 and the plant has been closed since. It is unknown where much of the waste from the various companies was disposed, however aerial photographs suggest that by 1938 the area where the residential property cleanup is proposed was commonly used for dumping material.

EPA has taken a multi-phased approach to cleaning up the Eighteen Mile Creek site. In the first phase, residents of Water Street were permanently relocated and the buildings at the former Flintkote property were demolished. This was done in preparation for excavation of contaminated soil at the site.



In May 2017, EPA established a task force to restore the Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency's core mission to protect health and the environment.

epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force



The second phase, which is ongoing, addresses soil and sediment contamination in the Creek Corridor. This is an approximately 4,000-foot stretch of the creek that extends from the New York State Barge Canal to Harwood Street in the City of Lockport. The third phase, which is also ongoing, addresses the groundwater and contaminated sediment in the Creek from Lockport all the way to Lake Ontario.

EPA is focused on addressing associated health impacts from lead contamination across the nation. Lead exposure, particularly at higher doses, continues to pose a significant health and safety threat to children, preventing them from reaching the fullest potential of their health, their intellect, and their future. EPA and other federal agencies have been working together on the development of a comprehensive Federal Lead Strategy to address all sources of lead exposure.

Simple Steps to Reduce Lead Exposure:

The following steps are recommended to reduce potential exposure to lead contamination that may be present in surface soils.

- Wash your hands thoroughly after coming into contact with soil.
- Take your shoes off at the door to reduce dirt brought into the house.
- Clean your home to keep it dust free as possible.
- Bathe pets frequently to reduce dirt brought into the house.
- Avoid activities that could disturb soil, including gardening.

Written comments may be mailed or emailed to: Jaclyn Kondrk, Remedial Project Manager, U.S. EPA, 290 Broadway, 20th Floor, New York, N.Y., 10007 or e-mail: kondrk.jaclyn@epa.gov.

To review EPA's proposed plan, visit <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/eighteenmile-creek>.

EPA encourages public participation. If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the site, please contact one of the following:

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*Before and after photos of the former Flintkote plant location
(Photo credit: courtesy of EPA)*



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