

# LEY CREEK (PCB) DREDGINGS

Fact Sheet #7:  
A Sub-Site Of The Onondaga Lake  
Superfund Site and NYS Superfund Site  
Registry #7-34-049

## Contacts For More Information And Comments

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### Documents for this Site are Available for Public Inspection at:

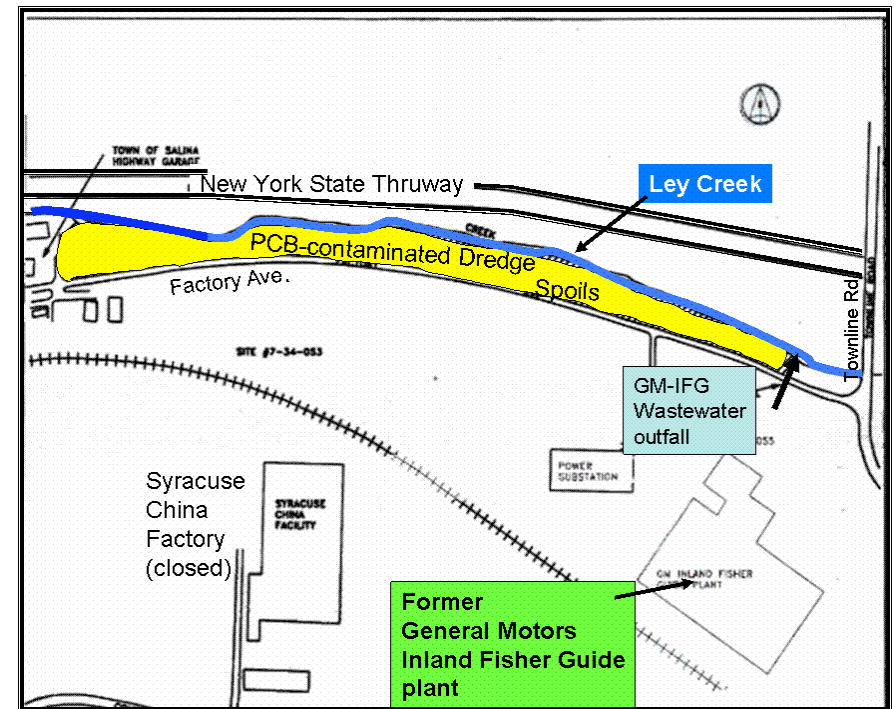
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**Onondaga County Public Library**  
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Tu, W, 9:00 am - 8:30 pm

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**  
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-7016  
Phone: (518) 402-9676  
Hours: M - Fri, 8:30 am - 4:45 pm  
Please Call For An Appointment

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 7**  
615 Erie Blvd. West, Syracuse, NY 13204-2400  
Phone: (315) 426-7400  
Hours: M - Fri, 8:30 am - 4:45 pm  
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**Figure 1:** Site map showing PCB-contaminated dredgings (gray-hatched area), and former General Motors plant.

## Description

Ley Creek flows through a highly urbanized and commercial area in the Town of Salina, just north of the city of Syracuse, NY. Many industrial wastes, including oils containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were discharged into Ley Creek and its branches. One known source is the former General Motors Inland-Fisher Guide plant located just south of the site at Townline Rd and Factory Ave. A portion of the creek was dredged in the 1970s for the purposes of flood control. These dredged sediments were placed along the southern banks of the creek.

The 4,300 foot-long area where PCB contaminated dredge spoils from the creek have been placed is known as the Ley Creek Dredgings Site. The site is bounded by Factory Avenue on the south, Ley Creek to the north, Townline Road to the east, and the Town of Salina Highway garage to the west.

**Figure 2:** Photo, looking west, showing Ley Creek. The dredgings are under the grass covered mound on the left (south) side of the creek.



## Environmental Issues

PCBs had been found in the dredge spoils at concentrations up to 466 ppm at the site. PCBs have also been found in groundwater in this area at levels up to 10 ppb. The source of the PCB contamination in the Ley Creek dredge spoils has been attributed to historic discharges from the Fisher Guide Division of General Motors along Factory Avenue. Ley Creek banks, where dredged material contaminated with PCBs had been placed, have been remediated; eliminating the potential for direct contact exposure. However, PCBs remain in some of the sediments in the Creek. These contaminated sediments are being addressed as part of the GM IFG Plant site clean-up (see Fact Sheet #6). The general area is served by a public water supply so public exposure to contaminated groundwater is unlikely. However, PCBs are highly bioaccumulative, meaning they build up in the flesh of birds, fish and other animals. PCBs that migrate into Ley Creek will contaminate fish and birds (or people) that eat them.

## What's been done to address the problem?

High concentrations of PCBs in the dredge spoils required that the site be remediated. Remediation was completed in 1999-2000 as follows:

- Dredged material containing >50 ppm PCBs was excavated and taken to a permitted hazardous waste landfill.
- Dredged material containing <50 ppm PCBs but which exceeded the remedial levels (1 ppm at the surface and 10 ppm for subsurface areas) were consolidated and covered with a minimum of 12" of clean soil.
- Deed restrictions were filed and will be used to preclude activities that could potentially expose contaminated materials and to insure that the integrity of the cover is maintained.

Since the remedy left PCB contamination (up to 50 ppm) remaining at the site, a long term monitoring program has been instituted. Groundwater impacts will be addressed as part of the remedy for the upgradient General Motors-IFG site. This site is no longer considered a significant threat to human health and the environment.

## Remediation Timeline

**1993:** General Motors agreed to perform a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) under a Consent Order. The RI/FS Report for this site was approved by NYSDEC in August 1993.

**1997:** The FS Report was approved in January 1997. A Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on March 10, 1997. Remediation and Liability Management Company, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of General Motors, conducted the remedial design/remedial action for the site under a Consent Order.

**1999-2000:** The Remedial Design was approved by NYSDEC in June 1999. Implementation of the Remedial Design commenced in October 1999. Remedial Construction proceeded through 1999 with substantial completion of the project in November 2000.

**2001:** Final completion of Remedial Construction occurred in 2001.

**2006:** A 5-year review was issued by the USEPA in December 2006.

This site is currently in the operation and maintenance phase.