



(the West Flume). Prior to remediation, groundwater and surface water were contaminated with mercury and other chemicals. Site soils had extremely high levels of mercury (up to 19,000 ppm). Elemental (i.e. liquid) mercury was found in the central area of the site at depths of up to 55 ft. below ground. The mercury contamination presented a significant threat to the environment. PCBs and xylene were also found in portions of the site.



Figure 2. An aerial photo of the LCP site when surface soils were being processed to remove mercury. The Grandstand at the NYS Fairgrounds can be seen in the background. The turquoise line shows the approximate placement of the slurry wall which is designed to prevent contaminants from leaking off-site. The wall consists of a trench dug ~50 ft into the earth, filled with bentonite clay.

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

Preliminary cleanup efforts—mainly involving the removal of PCB-contaminated soils and equipment—took place in 1990 and 1995. Most structures at the site were demolished in 2000–2001. Honeywell began an accelerated cleanup of the site in October 2003, by:

- excavating the Brine Mud Disposal Area
- excavating and disposing of PCB-contaminated soils, and
- removing abandoned drums

In October 2004, a \$14 million cleanup effort of the main plant site (Operable Unit-1) began, including these major components:

- removal of contaminated sediments from the West Flume (these were moved to the LCP site)
- treatment of mercury-contamination in the top six feet of soils excavated from certain areas of the LCP site. Over seven tons of elemental mercury was recovered using a soil-washing process. All contamination in deeper soils, including many tons of elemental mercury, was left in place.
- installation of a slurry wall around the perimeter of the site (see Fig. 2)
- installation of a temporary cap and a groundwater collection system.

These activities were completed in 2008. A final cap has yet to be installed. The site is fenced and

security is maintained to minimize public exposure to on-site contamination.

## Future actions

A final cap over the 20-acre site has yet to be installed. Current plans call for the addition of >100,000 cu. yards of contaminated sediments from Geddes Brook and Ninemile Creek at the site. Groundwater from the site is being pumped and treated continuously. This will need to be continued into the future indefinitely.

The former hydrogen peroxide plant is being treated as a separate cleanup operation (Operable Unit 2, or OU-2). The remedial investigation (RI) for OU-2 has been completed and approved. A Feasibility Study (FS) which examines different cleanup options is currently under review.

## Contacts for more information and comments

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Documents for this site are available for public inspection at:

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