



**Comments to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
And the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 2**

Regarding Proposed Plan for Geddes Brook/Ninemile Creek Site

Testimony by Sarah Eckel, Program Coordinator

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My name is Sarah Eckel, I am the Central New York Program Coordinator for Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE). CCE represents over 80,000 members throughout New York and Connecticut, with 4,000 here in Onondaga County. Thank you for the opportunity to comment today on the proposed plan for operable unit 1 of the Geddes Brook/Ninemile Creek Site Clean-up and for extending the public comment period to January 19<sup>th</sup> in order to capture more public input and thoughtful comment from the community.

CCE commends the NYSDEC, USEPA, Honeywell and all other stakeholders for cleaning up the sites upstream from Onondaga Lake before full scale lake bottom remediation. Again, CCE applauds the cooperation between the DEC and Honeywell in investigating, drafting, and agreeing upon a plan to address the legacy of toxic contamination in our community. CCE thanks the DEC, EPA, and other stakeholders for taking this coordinated approach because as we all know, the state of the lake is dependent upon the health of the watershed.

CCE again recognizes the technical limitations to removing 100% of the contamination and understands the real physical constraints associated with restoring Ninemile Creek's original stream path. In general CCE supports the DEC's preferred alternative, contingent upon the following:

1. Additional sediment removal is triggered if the action levels for contaminants of concern are detected as the remedial action plan moves forward.
2. CCE again strongly asserts public education and outreach should be a part of the remediation plan. Specifically, signage should be placed around Ninemile Creek/Geddes Brook access points to warn of human health risks associated with fish consumption and recreational activities such as fishing, swimming, wading, and boating. Signage will also aid in the public understanding of the clean-up process and what progress has been made.
3. Clean-up efforts for sub-sites should be included in the Citizen Participation Working Groups in the Citizen Participation Plan to further advance public understanding of the clean-up process.

4. CCE urges ample opportunity for public comment during the design phase of the clean-up process
5. Long-term monitoring should be established to ensure that no contamination from the surrounding wastebeds is affecting the tributaries to Onondaga Lake.

Finally, CCE will again echo its call for a web-based repository to house all documents, notifications, reports, newsletters, historical documentation, relevant scientific studies and other pertinent information to be readily available on the internet for all to access.