

# Settling Basins 9-15 Closure Plan Spring 2021

## Introduction

Honeywell is providing this Fact Sheet to inform the public about ongoing and upcoming closure activities at Settling Basins 9-15 located on approximately 662 acres in Camillus and Geddes, New York. The Settling Basins are near Interstate 690, NYS Route 695, State Fair Boulevard, and the New York State Fairgrounds.



The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Honeywell entered into a Consent Order for Settling Basins 9-15 (referred to in the Consent Order as Wastebeds) on December 6, 2010 and amended in December 2014.

The Consent Order identifies activities required for the successful closure of the Settling Basins including implementation of a Closure Plan incorporating an effective cover system. Significant progress has been made over the last decade.

## Work Completed to Date

**Water Collection Systems:** Honeywell has installed a network of leachate collection and seep mitigation systems around the site. This network has greatly reduced surface water impacts to surrounding streams. An Operation and Maintenance Plan can be accessed through the "Where to Find Information" link below.



**Vegetative Stabilization of Surrounding Berm Surfaces:** The surrounding berms are in good structural condition. However, portions of the berms were unvegetated and allowed for erosion. Native species, planted along portions of the berms, have proven to be a sustainable solution for minimizing erosion.

**Cover Systems:** Honeywell and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry have worked over the last decade to establish a green technology shrub willow evapotranspiration cover on about 90 acres. The willows have demonstrated equivalency to a traditional landfill cover system for reducing the amount of water that percolates into the Settling Basins.

### Virtual Public Meeting/Public Comment

A virtual public meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2021. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a 30-minute presentation followed by Q&A.

[Register](#) for the public meeting and to access all relevant documents.

Comments will be accepted at the public meeting and during the public comment period that begins on May 12, 2021 and ends on June 11, 2021.



In conjunction with the willows, a 5-acre **Inland Salt Marsh** was successfully established. The salt marsh provides a unique opportunity for restoration of rare native plant communities. It also has a valuable evapotranspiration function, provides wildlife habitat, and supports pollinator species.

**Sediment Consolidation Area:** The Sediment Consolidation Area (SCA) associated with the remediation of Onondaga Lake is located on Settling Basin 13. The SCA, constructed with a liner system in accordance with NYSDEC landfill requirements, received dredged sediment from Onondaga Lake and was closed with a traditional landfill cover in accordance with NYSDEC landfill requirements under a separate Consent Order.

**C&D Landfill:** The eastern portion of Settling Basin 15 is leased by the Town of Camillus for the Town's Construction and Demolition Debris (C&D) Landfill in accordance with a separate Consent Order. A significant portion of the C&D Landfill has been closed with a traditional landfill cover in accordance with NYSDEC landfill requirements.

Detailed descriptions of these site improvements summarized above are included in the Site Closure Plan, which can be accessed at the link below.

## Next Steps

Future closure tasks include installation of cover systems that will minimize the percolation of precipitation, associated stormwater management, performance verification, and operation and monitoring. Approximately 345 acres of Settling Basins 9-15 remain to be covered, and the Consent Order and Closure Plan identify a phased closure implementation over 6 to 10 years.

Honeywell will continue to work with the NYSDEC on Closure Plan details. Technical documents will be reviewed and approved by the NYSDEC throughout the design and construction phases. Honeywell is committed to ongoing dialogue with interested members of the public throughout the process.

## Site Closure Options

The Consent Order provides flexibility to incorporate cover options such as vegetative covers, economic development, or a large-scale solar farm that would generate renewable energy. Any cover system must be equivalent to a traditional landfill cover with respect to restricting infiltration. The cover system will be phased in over 6 to 10 years. Honeywell has proposed two cover systems, including:

The **Shrub Willow Cover System** was demonstrated to be as effective as a traditional cover system and can generate biomass for renewable energy, as detailed in the Shrub Willow Pre-Design Investigation Report.



## Renewable Energy Solar Farm Pilot Project

The New York State Energy Research and Development Agency and the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board identified the Settling Basins as a “high value property” for the development of renewable solar energy. Honeywell engaged a solar energy developer who concluded that community solar projects are feasible and compatible with nearby energy grid connections.



Conceptual Solar and Grassland Cover System

A 15-megawatt (MW) pilot on about 80 acres is proposed for construction in 2022. The solar panels will be installed on top of a native grassland cover system, which is expected to reduce percolation of precipitation through the settling basins equivalently to a traditional landfill cover. The grasslands will include a diversity of native vegetation. Any surface water runoff will be sent to low points and conveyed to a permitted discharge point. More details can be found in the Alternative Solar Closure Plan accessed through the link below.

Successful pilot implementation could lead to construction of an industrial-scale 100 MW solar array, which would be one of the largest solar developments in the state, potentially returning over 400 acres of impaired land to productive use. A fully developed 100 MW renewable energy solar farm has the potential to generate enough clean power annually to provide electricity for up to 20,000 homes.

## Future Proposals

Economic development (e.g., warehousing and parking) have been and will continue to be investigated to determine the economic potential and feasibility of complying with the Closure Plan. Any future alternate cover proposals would require public review and approval by the NYSDEC. The Town of Camillus has expressed an interest in continuing its C&D Landfill operations on Settling Basin 15. Honeywell will work with the Town to evaluate this option.

## Additional Consent Order Requirements

**Performance Verification:** The Consent Order requires implementing vegetation maintenance/monitoring and monitoring of groundwater, surface water, and leachate to assess effectiveness of the Closure Plan. Data gathered since 2012 demonstrates the control measures are effective. The Performance Verification Plan can be accessed through the link below.

**Surrounding Affected Areas Restoration:** Investigations of the Surrounding Affected Area (SAA) – nearby wetlands, surface water, groundwater, stream banks, and floodplains – found that no further action was required except for a couple of small areas.

To address these areas, the following were completed in 2019:

- Vegetative restoration/erosion control in historic seep-impacted areas of Nine Mile Creek banks
- Removal of seep-impacted soil and vegetative restoration north of Settling Basin 11

A SAA Restoration Plan requires monitoring of surface water and groundwater; a link is provided below.

## Background

From 1944 to 1986 the property received waste material generated by Allied Chemical, a Honeywell predecessor. The primary waste material consisted of a mixture of water and a non-hazardous by-product of soda ash production. Today, the property is primarily impacted by high chloride (i.e., salt) concentrations.

In addition, Settling Basins 9-15 reportedly received smaller amounts of other Allied Chemical process wastes (e.g., brine purification wastes and fly ash). Settling Basins 9-15 are classified as a “Class 3” site by the NYSDEC (Site # 7-34-076); Class 3 indicates it does not pose a significant threat to the environment or public health.

The December 2020 Site Closure Plan and associated documents outline completed and planned closure activities for Settling Basins 9-15. A February 2021 Alternate Solar Closure Plan presents an additional closure approach for a portion of the Settling Basins. These plans have been approved by the NYSDEC and are available for public review and can be accessed at the link below.

**Comments** should be sent to Honeywell via mail or email:

Michelle McDonald  
Honeywell  
301 Plainfield Road  
Suite 330  
Syracuse, NY 13212  
Email: Michelle.McDonald@Honeywell.com

Please call Craig Milburn with any questions at (315) 552-9784.

Comments will be accepted at the virtual public meeting. Honeywell will provide a record of all comments received within 15 days of the close of the comment period and how they will be addressed.

## Where to Find Information

Project documents are available on [lakecleanup.com](http://lakecleanup.com).