

Citizens for a Better Plan
Lakeview Amphitheater Project:
What's the Rush?
Timeline of the Process

The County has advanced its amphitheater proposal on an accelerated timeline without meaningful public input; a thorough investigation of community impacts, public health risks or environmental effects; or a transparent assessment of economic viability of or need for this project. Assuming that the County can answer the many outstanding questions about the project, it's still uncertain how construction will be coordinated with Superfund remediation of this hazardous site, a separate process that is still in the design phase.

Jan. 29, 2014 Governor and County Executive announce \$100 million "Onondaga Lake revitalization" project. The proposed amphitheater on Wastebeds 1-8 is a key component.

Feb. 14, 2014 As legally required by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), the County completes Part 1 of the project's Environmental Assessment Form.

Feb. 25, 2014 As legally required by SEQRA, the County completes Parts 2 and 3 of the project's Environmental Assessment Form.

Feb. 27, 2014 As legally required by SEQRA, the County submits a draft scoping document to the County Legislature for review and approval. The document is available online.

Apr. 1, 2014 Onondaga County Legislature votes that Onondaga County will serve as the official lead agency in the SEQRA process, and determines that the amphitheater project may have a significant adverse impact on the environment. The legislature approves the Environmental Assessment Form and the draft scoping document, and resolves to make these documents available to the public.

Apr. 11, 2014 Onondaga County officially announces the release of the draft Scoping Document for the proposed amphitheater for public review.

May 1, 2014 Honeywell submits Revised Remedial Investigation (RI) for Wastebeds 1-8 to DEC, which contains a summary of contaminants found on the site. This document acknowledges that industrial wastes other than Solvay Waste ("co-disposed wastes") were dumped on the site. Contaminants in co-disposed wastes include benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene, phenols and heavy metals.

May 5, 2014 Honeywell submits a Draft Feasibility Study (FS) describing alternative designs for remediation of Wastebeds 1 – 8. Most of the alternatives leave contamination in place and rely on soil and/or vegetative covers to prevent exposure. The FS draws on limited information about placement and design of the proposed amphitheater and related amenities.

May 12, 2014 Public comment period on the Draft Scoping Document closes.

May 22, 2014 Onondaga County releases Final Scoping Document with minimal changes from the draft version.

June 1, 2014 Onondaga County submits a 654-page draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Amphitheater project to the County Legislature for its review and approval. The DEIS is available on-line.

June 2, 2014 The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issues a Supplemental Human Health Risk Evaluation, which incorporates greater detail about proposed Amphitheater design and related amenities. The HHRE is based on assessments conducted for the West Shore Trail and fails to consider risks to young children (children under 6 years old). EPA finds that health risks to amphitheater attendees are within “acceptable” ranges, but construction workers developing the amphitheater facilities should wear protective clothing and equipment to protect themselves from wastebed contaminants.

June 17, 2014 NYS DEC responds to Draft FS, asking for several changes. These include detailed consideration of complete removal options and additional explanation of necessary monitoring and maintenance for non-removal remediation options.

June 18, 2014 The Post-Standard reports that the full New York State Legislature passed a bill to “fast-track” construction of the amphitheater by allowing the County to award design and construction contracts to the same bidder.

July 1, 2014 The Onondaga County Legislature approves the DEIS and directs that it be made available for public review and comment. The document falls woefully short of SEQRA legal requirements. Multiple elements of the DEIS rely on yet-to-be-determined planning and design documents to mitigate expected environmental impacts. It fails to adequately analyze impacts to wildlife, project costs and benefits, or a reasonable range of alternatives.

July 9, 2014 County holds a public informational meeting to unveil preliminary plans for the amphitheater. The meeting is held in the community (Solvay) in the evening (5:30 p.m.). The County publicly releases a 723-page Conceptual Design Report that provides some additional detail but does not correct deficiencies in the DEIS. The public still does not have access to critical information including a business plan, site remediation plan, site management plan, long-term traffic mitigation plan, or detailed construction plans for building on unstable Solvay Wastes.

July 9, 2014 Formal public comment period begins on DEIS. County announces that the comment period will run until August 11th.

July 23, 2014 County-scheduled public hearing on the DEIS. This hearing is NOT held in the affected community (Location: County Court House Legislative Chambers, 401

Montgomery St Syracuse, Room 407) or in the evening (Time: 11 am). No other public hearings are scheduled.

Late July/Early August 2014 Anticipated date for submittal of a draft remediation plan for Wastebeds 1-9 (called Proposed Remedial Action Plan or PRAP) to NYS DEC by Honeywell. Given this schedule, the PRAP may not be available to the public or the County before the close of public comment on the DEIS.

August 5, 2014 Responding to citizen pressure, the Onondaga County Legislature votes to extend the DEIS comment period by 25 days (until September 5th) and to hold a second DEIS public hearing outside of work hours (6 PM, August 26th). The Legislature also agrees to hold public hearings before borrowing money for the amphitheater or any other part of the broader Onondaga Lake Revitalization Project, though no specific dates are scheduled.

August 26, 2014 County-scheduled public hearing on the DEIS. Although this hearing will be held outside of working hours (6 PM), it will NOT be in the affected community (Location: County Court House Legislative Chambers, 401 Montgomery St Syracuse, Room 407).

September 5, 2014 Last day for the public to submit comments on the DEIS.

Fall 2014 County expects to break ground on the proposed amphitheater. This schedule presumes no additional review based on the DEIS, no delay in moving from the draft to the final Environmental Impact Statement, and no need to wait for details of the final remediation plan to complete the design of the amphitheater.

Fall 2015 County expects amphitheater construction to be complete and first concert/show to be held in the proposed facility.

Spring 2016 County expects amphitheater to be fully operational and to book a full season of performances in all venues.

Fall 2021 Assuming that active remediation of the site is complete by Fall 2015, when the County books its first show in the venue, Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs), which focus on preventing human and wildlife exposure to contaminants that will remain on site, are expected to be fully achieved.

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