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United States Environmental Protection Agency

May 2026

EPA Proposes Interim Cleanup for Groundwater for Operable Unit 2

Forest Waste Products Superfund Site
Otisville, Genesee County, Michigan

You are invited!

EPA invites you to discuss the proposed cleanup plan for the Forest Waste Products Superfund site.

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2026
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Forest Township Hall
130 E Main Street, Otisville, MI

After a brief presentation, EPA will hold a formal public hearing to accept comments on the proposed cleanup plan.

For more information
If you have questions or comments, please contact:

Lina Wu
EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
312-353-2886
Wu.Lina@epa.gov

William Murray
EPA Remedial Project Manager
312-353-6324
Murray.Williamj@epa.gov

You may also call EPA toll-free: 800-621-8431, weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Website
www.epa.gov/superfund/forest-waste-products

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in consultation with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), has proposed a plan to clean up groundwater at Operable Unit 2 (OU-2) of the Forest Waste Products Superfund Site in Otisville, Forest Township, Michigan.

Public Comment Period for Forest Waste Products

EPA will accept comments on the proposed cleanup plan from **May 11 to June 10, 2026**. This fact sheet provides background information, describes cleanup options, and explains EPA's recommendations. EPA may modify the plan or select another solution based on new information or public comments, so your opinion is important. There are several ways to offer comments:

- Complete and mail the enclosed comment form.
- Attend the public meeting and submit an oral or written statement.
- Submit a written comment via email to Wu.Lina@epa.gov.
- Submit comments online via the public comment form, https://www.epa.gov/mi/forms/forest-waste-products-public-comment-form

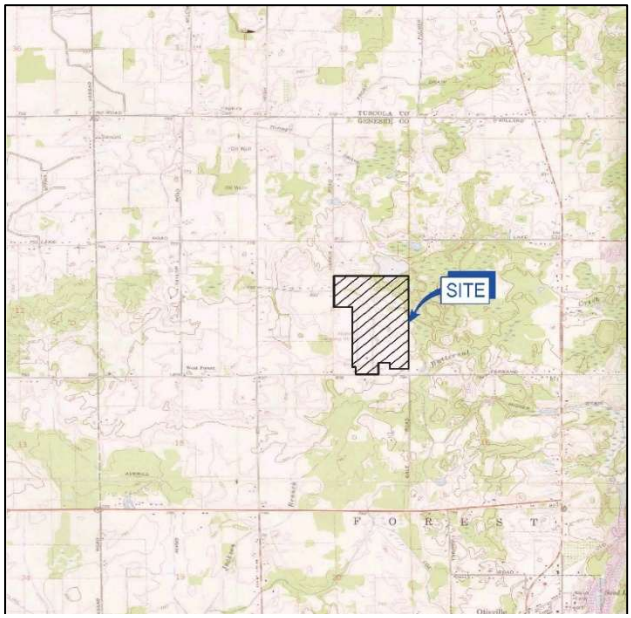

FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF THE FOREST WASTE PRODUCTS SUPERFUND SITE IN OTISVILLE, MI.

Why is Cleanup Needed?

Area residents use private wells for drinking water. Groundwater sampling originally showed groundwater contamination at the original site area and east of the former landfill. However, later sampling showed the contamination extends off-site to the north and west, requiring further investigation and action. Contaminants of concern in groundwater include vinyl chloride and 1,4-dioxane.

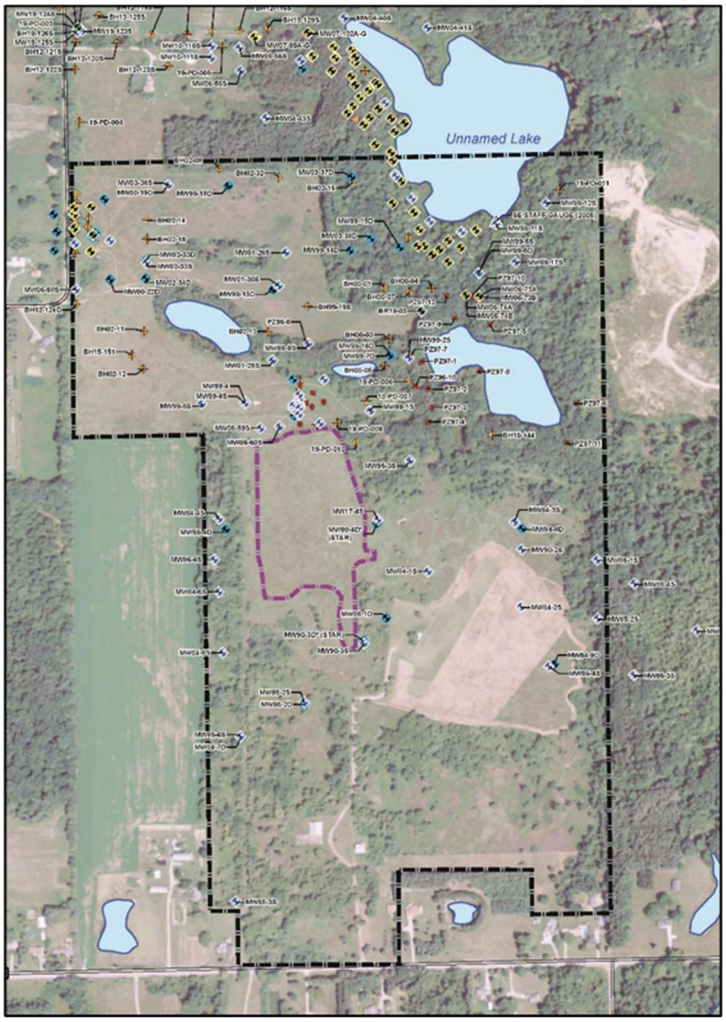

FIGURE 2. LAYOUT OF THE FOREST WASTE PRODUCTS SUPERFUND SITE IN OTISVILLE, MI, SHOWING ESTIMATED EXTRACTION WELL AREAS (RED BOXES), THE ESTIMATED TREATMENT SYSTEM AREA (RED CIRCLE), AND THE PROPOSED TREATED EFFLUENT DISCHARGE LOCATION (RED DOT). THE PURPLE DASHED LINE OUTLINES THE FORMER ON-SITE LANDFILL.

In the spring of 2025, a groundwater investigation was completed to better define the extent of the 1,4-dioxane contamination and to help choose a new cleanup approach for this compound. The proposed plan presents EPA's interim alternative for OU-2 groundwater cleanup (Figure 2).

EPA's Evaluation Criteria

EPA's evaluation criteria guide EPA as it weighs different cleanup alternatives. These criteria are categorized as Threshold, Balancing and Modifying Criteria. **Threshold Criteria** determine if a cleanup alternative protects human and environmental health while complying with all applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements—these are the federal and state regulations that EPA must follow during a cleanup. In cases where federal and state regulations are slightly different, EPA will follow the stricter regulations. **Balancing Criteria** are used to identify trade-offs between cleanup alternatives. **Modifying Criteria** are based on public comments and can prompt modifications to the recommended cleanup alternative (Figure 3). EPA will evaluate state acceptance and community acceptance after the comment period and public meeting.

FIGURE 3. LIST WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF EPA'S EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR WEIGHING CLEANUP ALTERNATIVES.

Cleanup Alternatives

EPA considered three different options for the interim cleanup within OU-2 of the site. EPA evaluated each option in detail against criteria established by federal law. EPA's recommended alternative provides the best balance of the evaluation criteria among all the alternatives. A recommended alternative would be protective of human health and the environment, meet all federal and state regulations, meet cleanup objectives, be cost-effective and be effective in the long term.

Cleanup Alternative 1: **No Further Action**: EPA is required to include a no-action alternative as a basis for comparison with other cleanup options. Under the no action alternative, EPA would take no additional action. No cost is associated with this alternative. Potential health risks would not be addressed.

Cost: **$0**

Cleanup Alternative 2: Groundwater extraction and ex-situ treatment (*EPA's preferred interim cleanup alternative*): Alternative 2 involves the capture, extraction, and aboveground treatment of groundwater impacted with 1,4-dioxane and vinyl chloride. Impacted groundwater would be extracted from both shallow and deep aquifer vertical recovery wells screened to coincide with the optimum capture efficiency predicted by groundwater modelling results. Alternative 2 also includes installing new monitoring wells to monitor the performance of the remedy. The ex-situ treatment system will be housed in a steel prefabricated building installed on the property of the former Forest Waste Products site (Figure 2).

Estimated cost: **$24,348,834**

Cleanup Alternative 3: Permeable reactive barrier using in-situ oxidation using ozone and hydrogen peroxide: Alternative 3 includes treating groundwater in place underground using specialized injection wells to continuously inject ozone and hydrogen peroxide, which would create a permeable reactive barrier (PRB). As the shallow and deep groundwater plumes migrate through the PRB, the ozone and hydrogen peroxide would react with and destroy the contaminants upon contact. Impacted groundwater would be treated in-situ, with no need for extraction or discharge of treated water.

Estimated cost: **$24,602,057**

Cleanup Alternatives Compared to the Nine Superfund Remedy Selection Criteria

Evaluation Criterion	Alt. 1	Alt. 2*	Alt. 3
Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment	○	●	●
Compliance with Applicable or Relevant Appropriate Requirements	○	●	●
Long-term Effectiveness and Permanence	○	●	●
Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume through Treatment	○	●	●
Short-term Effectiveness	●	◉	◉
Implementability	●	◉	●
Alternative Cost ($ millions)	$0	$24.3M	$24.6M
State Acceptance	Michigan EGLE has been involved in the review of alternatives and has indicated it concurs with EPA's recommended Alternative 2.		
Community Acceptance	Will be evaluated after comment period.		

● Fully meets criterion ◉ Partially meets criterion ○ Does not meet criterion * EPA's recommended alternative

About the Forest Waste Products Site

The 120-acre Forest Waste Products site is a landfill in Forest Township, Michigan. Waste disposal operations occurred from 1974 to 1978 in the landfill and nine lagoons. Incoming waste was not closely screened, and the landfill area was poorly managed. These operations contaminated soil and groundwater with hazardous chemicals.

This 80-acre parcel includes part of a small man-made lake ("Unnamed Lake"), which connects to wetlands east of the site (see Figures 1 and 2). Former waste disposal areas on-site include an 11-acre landfill (outlined in purple in Figure 2) and nine lagoons, spanning a total of 1 acre.

The former lagoons were cleaned up in 1989 and the landfill capped in 1997. Groundwater monitoring has been taking place both on- and off-site since 1993. As a result of cleanup activities, most of these contaminants are either no longer detectable or no longer present risks.

Groundwater sampling of monitoring wells originally showed groundwater contamination at the original site area and east of the former landfill. However, later sampling has shown the contamination extends off-site to the north and west, requiring further investigation and action. Area residences use private wells for drinking water. However, regular testing of these wells shows that drinking water is safe.

Because the site is large and complex, EPA divided the site into OUs to address the contamination. OU is an environmental term used to address geographic areas, specific problems, or areas were specific action is required. OU-1 was designated to address risks from the lagoons and the landfill on-site, including liquid waste, sludge, sediment, soil, drums, and other waste material and debris. OU-2 was designated to address groundwater contamination at and near the site.

In 2011, EPA identified the need to investigate 1,4-dioxane contamination throughout the site. EPA is currently carrying out this site characterization with the goal of identifying a cleanup plan that will reduce this pollution in site groundwater to safe levels.

Information Repositories

Information Repositories

All site-related documents for the Forest Waste Products Superfund Site are available online at: https://www.epa.gov/superfund/forest-waste-products under the Site Documents & Data tab on the left side of the screen. Specific documents can be found by searching for the title or document ID as identified in the Administrative Record. The official information repository is located at:

EPA Region 5 Superfund Records Center
Room 711, 7th Floor Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building
77 W Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 886-0900
Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Call for appointment

Next Steps

Before EPA makes a final decision, the agency will consult with Michigan EGLE and review public comments. EPA will hold a 30-day public comment period from **May 11 to June 10, 2026.**

EPA encourages you to review and comment on the proposed cleanup plan. More details on the cleanup alternatives are available in the Proposed Plan on file at the information repository or at www.epa.gov/superfund/forest-waste-products.

EPA will respond to the comments in a document called a "Responsiveness Summary," a part of the Record of Decision that describes the final cleanup plan. EPA will announce the selected cleanup plan in a local newspaper and will place a copy of the cleanup plan in the information repository and post it on EPA's website.

In-person Public Meeting/Hearing

EPA will host a public meeting/hearing on May 20, 2026, to explain the cleanup alternatives considered for the Forest Waste Products Site. The meeting will allow time for questions and for formal comments on the proposed cleanup plan for OU2 groundwater. A court reporter will record the meeting and all comments.

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Forest Township Hall, 130 E Main Street, Otisville, MI

Public Comment Sheet

Use this space to write your comments

EPA is interested in your comments on the proposed interim cleanup plan for OU2 of the Forest Waste Products site. You may use the space below to write your comments. You can fold, stamp and mail to EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Lina Wu. You may also submit comments online at: www.epa.gov/superfund/forest-waste-products. Comments must be postmarked by June 10, 2026. If you have questions, contact Lina Wu at 312-353-2886 or Wu.Lina@epa.gov.

Name:_____

Affiliation:_____

Address:_____

City:_____

State: _____Zip: _____

Forest Waste Products Superfund Site – Comment Sheet

Fold on dashed lines, staple, stamp, and mail

Name_____
Address_____
City _____
State_____Zip _____

Lina Wu
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
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Chicago, IL 60604