



## Onondaga Environmental Institute

5795 Widewaters Pkwy, 2nd Fl.  
Syracuse, New York 13214

(315) 472-2150  
outreach@oei2.org

September 20, 2021

*[Landowner Name]*

*[Address]*

*[Address]*

**Re: Feasibility Study of Mudboil Mitigation Alternatives in the Upper Onondaga Creek Watershed (Tully Valley, NY)**

Dear *[Salutation & Landowner Last Name]*,

We are writing today to inform you of an environmental feasibility study (FS) occurring in your neighborhood. The FS is being conducted in order to identify a potential project that could ameliorate the impacts of mudboils<sup>1</sup>. The FS is being performed by the Onondaga Environmental Institute (OEI)<sup>2</sup> and a design team of engineers and scientists from:

1. U.S. Geological Survey (USGS),
2. SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF),
3. Natural Systems Engineering,
4. River Research and Restoration LLC,
5. DuLac Engineering, and
6. Seeler Engineering, P.C.

Three engineered plans to mitigate sediment and salinity loading to Onondaga Creek and Onondaga Lake will be evaluated along with the potential to restore brook trout habitat to the upper reaches of Onondaga Creek. Regulatory and technical oversight is being provided by a group of agencies and officials collectively referred to as the Mudboil Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The TAG is comprised of:

1. Representatives of the Onondaga Nation,
2. Region 2 of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA),
3. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC),
4. New York State Office of the Attorney General (NYSAG),
5. Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board (CNYRPDB),
6. Onondaga County, and
7. City of Syracuse.

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<sup>1</sup>Attached is a fact sheet pertaining to mudboils in the Tully Valley. For additional fact sheets regarding Onondaga Creek, visit the Onondaga Environmental Institute (OEI) website at <https://www.oei2.org/resources/fact-sheets/>

<sup>2</sup>OEI was established in 1990 and its mission is to advance environmental research, education, planning and restoration in Central New York. OEI seeks responsible stewardship of the local environs as a means to achieving the overall goal of sustainability.



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OEI and the design team will evaluate the feasibility of three conceptual alternatives identified in a prior study, Mudboil Alternatives Analysis (MBAA)<sup>3</sup>. The three selected MBAA conceptual alternatives<sup>4</sup> are:

1. Alternative 1: Offline settling with post-settling polishing wetlands,
2. Alternative 2: Creek relocation with at-source settling, and
3. Alternative 3: Inline settling with at-source settling.

All three recommended alternatives have the potential to impact nearby landowners as candidate locations have not been identified or proposed for these actions yet. The water quality benefits to the watershed and landowners are many.

Thus, we are asking for your contact information and attendance in an online public information meeting. Please send your detailed contact information, i.e., cell phone, telephone and email addresses, to [outreach@oei2.org](mailto:outreach@oei2.org). Due to COVID restrictions, we are not planning an in-person meeting at this time. We plan to host virtual stakeholder introductory meetings on Monday, October 4 at 6:30PM, Tuesday, October 5 at 2:30PM and Wednesday, October 6 at 10:00AM. The virtual meeting presentation will be statically posted on our website and the link for the live presentation will be sent to your email should you provide an email address beforehand. Project status updates will be sent quarterly via email throughout the project period to inform property owners and stakeholders. We will answer any questions you may have via email and will make ourselves available for follow-up telephone calls to answer property owner questions as necessary, and to set up individual property owner meetings online, should you request.

Property owner input will be solicited and communications will be maintained throughout the project. The need for property access will be identified on a case-by-case basis and permission may be sought to access and collect data from targeted properties.

Should you have any questions, concerns or require further information, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Michalenko, PhD  
President

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<sup>3</sup>FS of the three conceptual mitigation actions is the next phase necessary to identify a single preferred alternative, if any, and to advance that preferred alternative to a 50% design level for consideration for possible implementation by the Mudboil TAG. Should an alternative for mudboil mitigation be recommended for implementation, a subsequent proposal would be required to advance the 50% design to an implementable final design inclusive of all needed construction drawings.

<sup>4</sup>The MBAA report can be downloaded at <https://www.oei2.org/projects/#1563485613961-39c41498-30bc>