



---

**FW: Marina question responses**

---

From Jeremiah Thompson <[REDACTED]>

Date Tue 5/19/2026 1:15 PM

To Hassina Adams <[REDACTED]>; Spencer Berg <[REDACTED]>

Clerks,

These are the responses I got from the DEC. I plan to read these at the EP Committee meeting today.

Jeremiah W. Thompson  
County Legislator - District 4

---

**From:** Chambala, Bryan M (DEC) <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 10:12 AM

**To:** Jeremiah Thompson <[REDACTED]>; Gregory Eriksen  
<[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** Marina question responses

**NOTICE:** This email originated from outside of Onondaga County's email system. **Use caution** with links and attachments.

Good morning Greg and Jeremiah,

Thank you for your patience with these responses. Let me know if, after reading, you have additional questions. I believe our Regional Director Dereth Glance will be presenting to your committee later in June.

Greg, do you have a date and time for that meeting? Also, how much time do you have set aside for her – I know she'd love to give an overview of DEC's role in projects/oversight in the county and then address any specific issues you have.

Thank you,  
Bryan

----RESPONSES----

**Question from Onondaga County Legislator  
Jeremiah Thompson, re: Onondaga Lake Marina**

**1. How much mercury was found?**

Sediment samples within the marina basin had mercury levels ranging from 0.031 mg/kg to 5.7 mg/kg. Eight of the 17 samples had concentrations that exceeded the Onondaga Lake ROD mercury cleanup goal of 2.2 mg/kg. Note that while the work in the marina is

within the limits of Onondaga Lake, it is a small area (capping of approximately 1.9 acres compared to 475 acres [0.4%]) and volume of material (removal of approximately 2,500 cubic yards compared to 2.1 million cy [0.12%]) compared to the remedy performed under the ROD.

**2. *Is there a safe/acceptable level for mercury, and how far above that level was this?***

The Onondaga Lake Monitoring and Maintenance Plan includes the Record of Decision, which sets mercury probable effects concentration (PEC) at 2.2 mg/kg or lower. The mercury PEC is based on direct toxicity to sediment-dwelling organisms, and as such, the mercury PEC of 2.2 mg/kg needs to be met at each location. Exceeding PEC of 2.2 mg/kg results in an “action level” at which remediation is required.

**3. *Has all the mercury been removed from the marina area, and how was this accomplished?***

The work in the marina has not been performed yet. Onondaga County will have more information about the work schedule.

To meet required depths for the marina, approximately 2,450 cubic yards of sediments will be removed from the perimeter of the marina basin where mercury concentrations tested below the 2.2 mg/kg values. Samples will be tested post-excavation to confirm remaining sediment contaminant levels are below the ROD remedial goals. The material will be properly disposed of off-site. Capping will occur in the approximate 2-acre area in the center of the marina basin where the mercury remedial goal of 2.2 mg/kg is exceeded. The cap will be consistent with the remedy performed in other parts of the lake and will consist of a 1- foot cap that includes 6-inches of sand covered by 6-inches of gravel. Further details are available in the [Onondaga Lake Monitoring and Maintenance Plan, Appendix D, Long-Term Cap Monitoring Work Plan](#). In addition, community air monitoring will be performed during the work to ensure there is no impact to the public.

**4. *On a related note, I've heard from some Liverpool residents that they believe the marina will be drained in order to get the mercury. Is that accurate in any way?***

Yes, that is accurate and was included the plan proposed by the County. These details were included in the permit application the County submitted to the DEC.

**5. *Once the mercury was removed, where was it taken, and how is it being contained?***

Sediment testing below the action limit of 2.2 mg/kg, a metric defined in the Onondaga Lake Bottom Record of Decision, will be removed and disposed off-site at an approved facility. As the County is performing this work, it is responsible for properly transporting and disposing of any contaminated sediment. Sediment exceeding the action level of 2.2 mg/kg will be isolated from the environment by applying an engineered cap, as outlined in [Onondaga Lake Monitoring and Maintenance Plan, Appendix D, Long-Term Cap Monitoring Work Plan](#).

**6. *What entities bear responsibility (financially, materially, or otherwise) for remediating this issue?***

Onondaga County is the lead agency on this project.

**7. *Please detail the DEC's role in overseeing the remediation.***

DEC provides the oversight in all aspects of the remedial activities, including reviewing and approving plans and ensuring work is performed in accordance with those plans and applicable regulations.

**8. Reporting indicates the mercury in the marina “presents virtually no direct danger to people.” Please elaborate.**

A primary pathway for exposure for humans to mercury is through consumption of animals that have eaten other animals that have mercury. Mercury is a bioaccumulative heavy metal, meaning that its health effects biomagnify up the food chain – when a larger fish eats a smaller fish it consumes the mercury that was in the smaller fish and any mercury that was in the food the smaller fish ate. More information on how people are exposed to mercury is available here: [How People are Exposed to Mercury | US EPA](#).

**9. Reporting also indicates there are no plans for expanded testing in the lake. Do you believe additional testing in other areas of the lake is warranted? Why or why not?**

During the remedial investigation and during long-term monitoring of the Lake Bottom Subsite of the Onondaga Lake Superfund Site, sediment sampling was performed outside of the marina basin and did not exceed lake criteria. This included a location at the mouth of the marina and another location to the east of the marina. Samples collected at multiple depths at both locations in 2000 indicated concentrations below the criteria. Samples collected at the mouth of the marina in 2021 also did not exceed criteria. Monitoring performed under the [Onondaga Lake Monitoring and Maintenance Plan](#) has not indicated that additional mercury exceedances are present in the lake. If ongoing or future monitoring indicates a potential concern, then additional sampling would be performed.

**10. Does the presence of mercury suggest the potential presence of additional chemicals, elements, or compounds that could be hazardous to humans or wildlife, and should we be testing for those?**

Sediment sampling conducted by the County was tested for an array of compounds including volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), pesticides, PCBs, and metals. Mercury was the only contaminant that exceeded the Onondaga Lake ROD criteria.

**Bryan Chambala** (*he/him*)

Public Information Officer | Region 7

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

5786 Widewaters Parkway, Syracuse, NY 13214-1867

cell: [REDACTED] | office: 315.426.7413

---

**From:** Jeremiah Thompson <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2026 4:45 PM

**To:** Chambala, Bryan M (DEC) <[REDACTED]>; Gregory Eriksen <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** Re: Marina info - quick question

*ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.*

Hello, Bryan,

Yes, our Environmental Committee meeting is tomorrow at 1:15 p.m.

Thank you,

Jeremiah W. Thompson  
County Legislator - District 4

---

**From:** Chambala, Bryan M (DEC) <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2026 at 3:44 PM

**To:** Jeremiah Thompson <[REDACTED]>; Gregory Eriksen  
<[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** Marina info - quick question

**NOTICE:** This email originated from **outside** of Onondaga County's email system. **Use caution** with links and attachments.

Good afternoon,

I am finalizing some of the marina technical responses with a staff member in Albany. He is out today but can give his approval tomorrow morning. Do you have a related meeting scheduled tomorrow? I can give him a timeline and get this to the top of his list if needed.

Thank you,  
Bryan

**Bryan Chambala** (*he/him*)  
Public Information Officer | Region 7

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**  
5786 Widewaters Parkway, Syracuse, NY 13214-1867  
**cell:** [REDACTED] | **office:** 315.426.7413