

## **CHAPTER 7: SOURCES OF POLLUTION**

### **K. SPILLS**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Spill Prevention and Response Data Section maintains a record of all known spills reported and conducts follow-up investigations. The hazardous waste spills reporting data contained in this report were obtained from the NYSDEC, Region 8 office located in Avon, New York. For the purposes of this report, the NYSDEC databases of spilled materials were reviewed and parsed to include only spills that had occurred in the Seneca Lake watershed. It is important to remember that the number of spills reported is not inclusive of all the spills that may actually occur throughout the watershed.

#### **RESULTS**

The resulting data are organized in tables showing the number of reported spills in each sub-watershed and the types and character of spills in each county's portion of the watershed. There have been 990 hazardous material spills within the Seneca Lake Watershed reported to the NYS DEC from 1974 to 1998. Using the location of information from the NYSDEC database, an attempt was made to locate and assign each spill to a specific subwatershed. Due to the nature of spill reports, however, data are not always linked to a specific address, so some spill locations were estimated. Table 7K.1. summarizes the number of spills reported to the NYSDEC by subwatershed. Spills that could not be linked to a specific watershed appear in Table 7K. 1. as "unknown." Spills reported under the Seneca Army Depot were listed separately, as there was no method to link each spill to a specific subwatershed.

The Geneva Direct Drainage (DD) had the most spills reported with 24% of the total number of spills. The other sub-watersheds for which significant numbers of spills were reported tended to be those having higher population densities or intensive use areas such as Catharine Creek (20%), Keuka Lake Outlet (15%) and the Seneca Army Depot (10%).

Petroleum based products were the most common material reported spilled, ranging from gasoline, to heating fuel and motor oil. These types of spills accounted for 37% of the total number of spills reported in the Seneca Lake watershed. Of special note were the large numbers of gasoline spills (185) and #2 fuel oil spills (172).

Table 7K.2. shows the type and number of reported spills by county. Table 7K.3. shows the character of spills (i.e. land, groundwater or surface water), again by county.

The frequency and quantity of spills reported within the Seneca Lake watershed has not commonly been known and has not been considered a significant problem. However, hazardous material spills are potentially a major source of pollutants and deserve closer scrutiny.

Table 7K.1. Reported Hazardous Material Spills by Seneca Lake Subwatershed, 1974-1998.

<b>Sub-Watershed or DD Number</b>	<b>Sub-Watershed or DD Name</b>	<b>Number of Reported Spills</b>	<b>As a Percent of Total Spills</b>
1	Catharine Creek	201	20.0
2	Reading DD	18	1.8
3	Rock Stream	8	0.8
4	Big Stream	26	2.6
5	Starkey DD	13	1.3
6	Plum Point Creek	1	0.1
7	Long Point DD	7	0.7
8	Keuka Lake Outlet	144	15.0
9	Benton DD	5	0.5
10	Kashong Creek	11	1.1
11	Reed Point DD	0	0
12	Wilson Creek	20	2.0
13	Geneva DD	238	24.0
14	Sunset Bay DD	14	1.4
15	Reeder Creek	1	0.1
16	Wilcox Creek DD	6	0.6
17	Kendaia Creek	1	0.1
18	Sampson State Park DD	10	1.0
19	Indian Creek	16	1.6
20	Simpson Creek	16	1.6
21	Sixteen Falls Creek DD	1	0.1
22	Lodi Point	8	0.8
23	Lamoreaux Landing DD	6	0.6
24	Mill Creek	6	0.6
25	Valois DD	5	0.5
26	Sawmill/Bullhorn	2	0.2
27	Satterly Hill DD	7	0.7
28	Glen Eldridge	1	0.1
29	Hector Falls Creek	10	1.0
	Seneca Army Depot*	100	10.0
	Unknown	88	9.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>99.9</b>

\*Includes portions of Kendaia, Reeder Creek, Sampson State Park, Wilcox and Indian Creek subwatersheds.

Table 7K. 2. Number of Spills by Spill Type and County in the Seneca Lake Watershed.

	<b>Number of Spills</b>					
<b>Spill Type</b>	<b>Chemung</b>	<b>Seneca</b>	<b>Schuyler</b>	<b>Ontario</b>	<b>Yates</b>	<b>Total</b>
Petroleum	18	156	157	141	208	680
Non Petroleum Non Hazardous	0	3	1	5	4	13
Hazardous	0	10	13	5	9	37
Other/Unknown	7	39	63	80	71	260
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>990</b>

Table 7K. 3. Number of Spills by Nature and County in the Seneca Lake Watershed.

	<b>Number of Spills</b>					
<b>Spill Location</b>	<b>Chemung</b>	<b>Seneca</b>	<b>Schuyler</b>	<b>Ontario</b>	<b>Yates</b>	<b>Total</b>
Land	15	121	103	138	129	506
Groundwater	2	50	39	39	38	168
Surface Water	6	20	63	15	66	170
Other	2	17	29	39	59	148
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>990</b>