

EPA objects to Kodak environmental plan

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Federal officials have filed a formal objection to the Eastman Business Park [environmental](#)

[liability plan](#) proposed in U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

Under the plan set forth last month by Eastman Kodak Co. and New York state, Kodak would be relieved of all legal liability for past contamination at the [business](#)

[park](#) and in the Genesee River, both of which have suffered environmental damage from past Kodak operations.

An independent trust, endowed by Kodak with \$49 million, would assume that liability and be responsible for all future remedial work.

But in a [filing submitted to the bankruptcy court Tuesday night](#), the U.S. Environmental [Protection](#)

[Agency](#) said the trust fund may not be big enough.

“There has not been sufficient characterization of the nature and extent of contamination to provide a basis for confidence that the \$49 million ... will be sufficient. It has been EPA’s experience that sites of this size and complexity, especially ones that include river sediment contamination, can be very costly,” the agency said in its filing.

New York state and company officials have said \$49 million would be more than adequate, though they did not say who would be on the hook should remediation costs exceed that amount.

A hearing in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Manhattan that had been scheduled to take place Wednesday regarding the proposed environmental settlement was postponed following the federal government’s objection. The hearing has not yet been rescheduled.

Kodak spokesman Christopher Veronda said Wednesday the company continues to believe the settlement is in the best interests of the company, the state, the park’s tenants and the Rochester community.

“We will continue to work with interested parties to bring this agreement to fruition,” he said in an [email](#)

[. “The calculation of the fund amount is based on a great deal of agency expertise and knowledge from more than 20 years of oversight and direction of work to characterize the site and address legacy environmental issues. So the assessment has been made with a great precision and the parties have confidence in its accuracy.”](#)

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