
Memorandum

To: William Lee, Gowanus Environmental Remediation Trust #2

From: Michael Audin, RPA & Scott Warnasch, RPA

Date: December 15, 2020

RE: Memo # 2 - Results of Level 1 Cultural Resource Review
Debris Staging at Clean Earth – Claremont
RTA-1A Dredging, Level 1 Monitoring
Gowanus Canal Remediation Project
Brooklyn, Kings County, NY

This memorandum presents the findings of Archaeology & Historic Resource Services, LLC's (AHRS) Level 1 review of screened sediments at the Clean Earth Claremont Facility in Jersey City, New Jersey (Clean Earth). The screened sediments are from the RTA-1 dredging currently underway at the Gowanus Canal Superfund Site in Brooklyn, New York. The purpose of this memorandum is to present the results and recommendations for the items recovered from sediment screening at Clean Earth reviewed by an AHRS archaeologist on 12/11/20. The attached Figure provided by the Trust indicates the approximate area that was dredged between 12/7 and 12/11/20.

INTRODUCTION

Cashman Dredging and Marine Contracting Co. (Cashman) continues with the dredging of soft sediments from RTA-1 under the oversight of the EPA. The dredge material is being processed according to the Level 1 Archaeological Monitoring protocol outlined in the draft Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan (revised September 2020). This protocol calls for dredged sediments to be placed directly into scows, floated to Clean Earth, and screened over 4" bars on a vibrating platform. Items removed during the vibratory screening process are then sorted by the Clean Earth operator as per the draft Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan. Items of potential interest (possible artifacts or objects of local interests) are placed in a separate stockpile and photographed daily for AHRS archaeologists to review. These items are then placed in a holding area for AHRS to inspect weekly.

RESULTS

AHRS reviewed photographs of items recovered from Clean Earth sediment screening on 12/10/20. AHRS archaeologist Scott Warnasch conducted a scheduled site visit on 12/11/20 to review the recovered items in person with the assistance of a Clean Earth machine and operator to sort through stockpiled items. Photographs were taken of stockpiled items at Clean Earth.

The majority of the items reviewed had been reviewed via photographs prior to the site visit. The

recovered items were spread by machine on a flat hard surface to allow for an archaeologist to clearly review them (Photographs 1 and 2). Any item of potential interest was separated, rinsed and assessed. The rinsed items consisted of modern debris, concrete and timbers including bulkhead timbers and possible pieces of piers. No objects of local interest or potential artifacts were recovered, as defined in the draft Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan.



Photograph 1 - Overview of the material to be reviewed.



Photograph 2 - Overview of the reviewed material once completed.

Items Segregated for Further Review

AHRS archaeologist did not identify any objects of local interest or potential artifacts.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AHRS concludes that no items recovered during the sediment screening at Clean Earth this week retain possible historic/archaeological significance. Therefore, AHRS does not recommend that any items be retained. AHRS further recommends that all the non-historic/archaeologically significant debris staged at Clean Earth that has been reviewed by the AHRS archaeologist as of 12/11/2020 be disposed of.



Figure 1 - Approximate area dredge between December 07, 2020 and December 11, 2020. Blue shading represents the approximate dredge areas. Figure provided by the Trust.