



Cultural Resource Consultants

Memorandum

To: William Lee, Gowanus Environmental Remediation Trust #2

From: Michael Audin, RPA & Scott Warnasch, RPA

Date: January 29, 2021

RE: Memo # 6 - 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) review of screened sediments at the Clean Earth Claremont Facility in Jersey City, New Jersey (Clean Earth) from Level 1 Monitoring. 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 1/29/21.

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 soft 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 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 archaeologist Scott Warnasch conducted a scheduled site visit on 1/29/21 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.

Photographs of the latest material were reviewed 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 thru 5). Any item of potential interest was separated, rinsed and assessed. The reviewed material consisted debris. The majority of the debris reviewed consisted of rocks and small pieces of wood (Photographs 1 and 2), a few larger timbers (Photograph 3), a large concrete piling (Photograph 4) and large concrete slabs (Photograph 5). No items were recommended for retention.



Photograph 1 – View of main debris pile, front view.



Photograph 2 – Example of the concrete and wood reviewed, front view.



Photograph 3 – Example of the large timber reviewed, front view.



Photograph 4 – Example of the large concrete piling reviewed, front view.



Photograph 5 – Example of large concrete slabs reviewed, front view.

Items Segregated for Further Review

AHRS archaeologist did not encounter any items to retain for further analysis.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AHRS concludes that no items observed during the sediment screening at Clean Earth retain possible historic/archaeological significance. Per the draft Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan, AHRS further recommends that all the non-historically/archaeologically significant debris at Clean Earth has been reviewed by the AHRS archaeologist as of 1/29/2021 may be disposed of.