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EPA Completes Another Step in Cleanup of the Gowanus Canal

Brooklyn, New York

Community Update #4

December 2022

Site Update

Contractors have finished their work to solidify portions of the original bottom of the northern stretch of the Gowanus Canal. The solidification process, called in-situ stabilization (ISS), involves adding a cement mix to the canal bottom using drilling equipment mounted on barges. The solidified portions of the bottom of the canal, along with a multilayer cap, will prevent contamination from the native sediment and contaminants dissolved in the groundwater from moving up into the water of the canal. Under oversight of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the contractors have solidified approximately 90,000 square feet of sediment from October 2021 through August 2022.

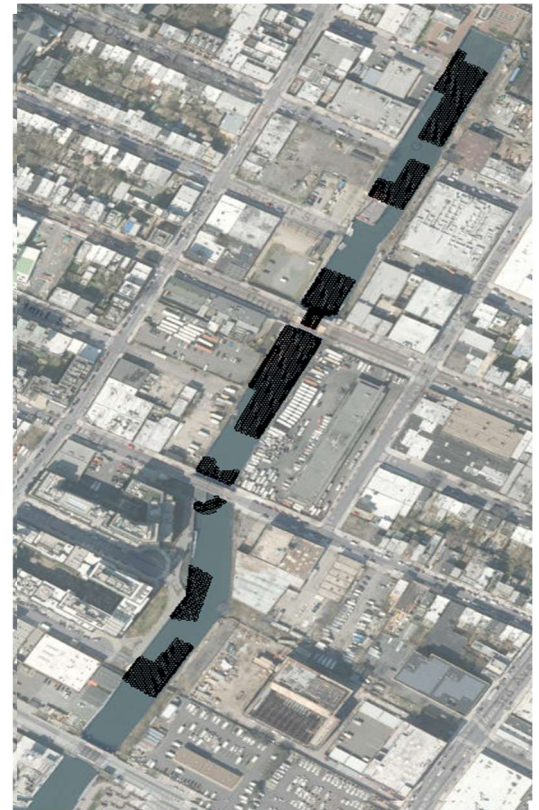
While most of the contaminated soft sediment was removed during the initial dredging, a layer of soft sediment was left in place to act as a protective barrier while ISS was performed. Contractors started the final phase of dredging in the northern stretch of the canal in August 2022 and expect to finish by the end of December 2022. To date, contractors have removed more than 50,432 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the canal. Starting in December, contractors will move to a new staging site for the remainder of the construction work described below.

Next Phase of Work

After the dredging is completed, contractors will install a multilayered cap on the bottom of this portion of the canal. The multilayer cap consists of:

- two *treatment* layers made of a specific type of material that will remove contamination in the groundwater that could well up from below,
- an *isolation* layer of sand that will ensure that the treatment layers are not exposed, and
- an *armor* layer consisting of articulated concrete, which is made up of concrete blocks that fit together to form a mat, to prevent erosion of the underlying layers from boat traffic and canal currents.

The contractors will place clean sand on top of the armor layer to fill in the gaps in the articulated concrete mats and to restore the canal bottom as a habitat for plant and animal life.



Areas of the canal bottom that have been solidified using ISS



Articulated concrete mat being placed in 4th Street Turning Basin

Bridge and Road Closures

Work in the canal requires frequent bridge closures as they are opened to allow work vessels to pass through. Temporary traffic disruptions will continue to occur at Hamilton Avenue, 9th Street, 3rd Street, and Union Street during bridge closures. Bridge closures may be extended during periods of heavy construction activity. EPA is coordinating bridge and street closures with the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT). The closures will be implemented on certain weekdays, based on the need to conduct specific construction activities. For a schedule of planned Union Street Bridge closures, www.gowanussuperfund.com/bridge-information/ EPA and NYCDOT are evaluating repairs at the Carroll Street bridge. The Carroll Street Bridge is expected to remain closed until further notice

www.epa.gov/superfund/gowanus-canal

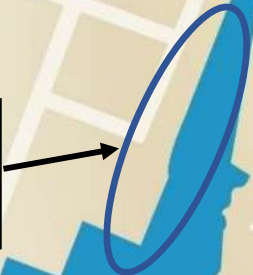
ISS completed in northern portion of canal



Contractors adding cement mix to canal bottom using drilling equipment mounted on barges.



New project staging area for the remainder of the work



Community Hotline

A hotline has been established that people can call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. During hours when work is being conducted at the site, complaints and concerns will be relayed to a supervisor at the site and to EPA. **The hotline number is 718-403-2451.**

For more information about the site, please contact:

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