

**GOWANUS CANAL SUPERFUND SITE
RTA1 REMEDIAL CONSTRUCTION
Water Quality Monitoring Weekly Data Summary**

PERIOD: April 29, 2024 – May 3, 2024

Date of Report: May 13, 2024

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1. SCOPE OF MONITORING

1.1 Initial Buoy Locations

In accordance with the Water Quality Monitoring Plan for In-waterway Construction Activities (WQMP) three turbidity buoys were deployed to monitor turbidity related to dredging activities. One turbidity buoy was deployed just south of the 3rd Street Bridge outside of the air curtain and traditional turbidity curtain and was referred to as the 3rd Street Sentinel Buoy. A second turbidity buoy was deployed just south of Carroll St Bridge to monitor dredging activities north of Carroll Street Bridge and was referred to as the Carroll Street Sentinel Buoy. The third turbidity buoy was deployed in the Fourth Street Turning Basin (TB4) in order to monitor background turbidity unaffected by in-water construction activities and was referred to as the Ambient Buoy.

Each turbidity buoy was initially equipped with a YSI EXO3 water quality meter with optical turbidity sensor. The buoys were field calibrated and programmed such that readings were collected every 15 minutes. After each measurement, the turbidity data were transmitted to a File Transfer Portal (FTP) site via telemetry.

1.2 Summary of Monitoring Adjustments during Construction

- On January 22, 2021, prior to dredging north of the Union Street Bridge, a fourth turbidity buoy was deployed just south of the Union Street Bridge and was referred to as the Union Street Sentinel Buoy. This fourth turbidity buoy was removed prior to the start of pipe pile installation.
- On Wednesday, September 22, 2021, the Carroll Street Sentinel Buoy was relocated to the west side of the canal where Degraw Street intersects the canal to monitor cofferdam removal activities conducted in the vicinity of the Flushing Tunnel. This buoy was renamed the Degraw Street Sentinel Buoy during cofferdam removal activities.
- On October 14, 2021, the Degraw Street Sentinel Buoy was removed from the canal for servicing. On October 20, 2021, the Degraw Street Sentinel Buoy was redeployed to its position south of the Carroll Street Bridge and was renamed to the Carroll Street Sentinel Buoy.
- On November 15, 2021, the Carroll Street Sentinel Buoy was moved to the Union Street Bridge and renamed the Union Street Sentinel Buoy. On December 3, 2021, the Union Street Buoy was removed from the canal for servicing and re-deployed at 3rd Street Bridge in preparation for the resumption of ISS operations. On December 8, 2021, a sentinel buoy was re-deployed just south of the Carroll Street Bridge.
- Since December 8, 2021, the sentinel buoy deployed at the northern-most portion of the canal has alternated positioning between the Union Street Bridge and Carroll Street Bridge locations based on the in-canal construction activities being conducted at any given time.
- On January 9, 2023, the Carroll Street Sentinel Buoy was moved to the Third Street Bridge location and renamed the Third Street Sentinel Buoy. Additionally, the former Third Street Sentinel Buoy was removed from the canal for servicing.

- On February 6, 2023, the newly serviced Third Street Sentinel Buoy was reinstalled at Third Street Bridge, and the former Carroll Street Sentinel Buoy was reinstalled at Carroll Street Bridge.
- The Ambient Buoy was removed from service on Friday, February 17, 2023, due to a faulty communications system. Following investigation into the cause of the fault and the appropriate repairs made, the Ambient Buoy was returned to service on Thursday, April 13, 2023. Due to similar issues, the Ambient Buoy was removed from service again on Monday, April 24, 2023, before being redeployed on Friday, May 12, 2023, and again removed from service on Monday, May 15, 2023, before being redeployed on Monday, June 12, 2023.
- On Thursday April 13, 2023, the Carroll Street Sentinel Buoy was assessed to be within 100ft of in-canal construction activities being conducted at Carroll Street Bridge, and consequently was repositioned to the North Third Street Sentinel Buoy location.
- Data from the Third Street Sentinel Buoy was not reported from Thursday June 1, 2023 to June 2, 2023 due to a power failure and/or faulty communications system preventing transmission of readings. The Third Street Sentinel Buoy was returned to service with data collection resuming on June 5, 2023.
- On Wednesday, July 26, 2023, a fourth monitoring buoy was deployed just north of the Union Street Bridge to monitor dissolved oxygen (DO) in RTA1.
- On Tuesday, September 19, 2023, the fourth monitoring buoy (originally deployed north of the Union Street Bridge to monitor DO) was moved to just south of the Carroll Street Bridge due to ongoing in-waterway construction activities within 100 feet. In addition to dissolved oxygen, this served as an additional sentinel buoy and was referred to as the South Carroll Street Bridge Sentinel Buoy.
- On Thursday, November 2, 2023, the monitoring buoy deployed just south of the Third Street Bridge was removed from the canal to conduct maintenance and necessary repairs.
- On Monday, November 13, 2023, the monitoring buoy most recently deployed south of the Carroll Street Bridge was moved to just south of the Union Street Bridge due to ongoing in-waterway construction activities within 100 feet. In addition to dissolved oxygen, this served as an additional sentinel buoy and was referred to as the South Union Street Bridge Sentinel Buoy.
- On Tuesday, December 19, 2023, the monitoring buoy most recently deployed south of the Union Street Bridge was moved back to just south of the Carroll Street Bridge (referred to as the South Carroll Street Bridge Sentinel Buoy) due to ongoing in-waterway construction activities within 100 feet of Union Street Bridge.

- On Monday, February 12, 2024, the monitoring buoy most recently deployed south of the Carroll Street Bridge was moved to just south of the Third Street Bridge (referred to as the South Third Street Bridge Sentinel Buoy) due to ongoing in-waterway construction activities progressing south of the Carroll Street Bridge and into the south pool.
- On Wednesday, March 27, 2024, the monitoring buoy deployed south of the Third Street Bridge was moved to just north of the Third Street Bridge (referred to as the North Third Street Bridge Sentinel Buoy) due to ongoing in-waterway construction activities on the south side of the Third Street Bridge.
- During the week of April 29, 2024 all three of the monitoring buoys were removed from the water. There was not active dredging, capping, or ISS activity on the water during the reporting period, so this time was used to deploy four newly purchased buoys. The buoys were placed as follows: just north of the Third Street Bridge (referred to as the North Third Street Bridge Sentinel Buoy or NTS Buoy), twenty meters south of the Union Street Bridge (referred to as the Union Street Sentinel Buoy or USB Buoy), east end of Turning Basin Four (referred as the Ambient Buoy), and adjacent to the bulkhead of Turning Basin One (referred to as Turning Basin One Sentinel Buoy or TB1 Buoy).

1.3 Current Reporting Period Scope of Monitoring

During the week of April 29, 2024 four turbidity buoys were displayed consisting of the North Third Street Buoy just north of the Third Street Bridge, the Union Street Sentinel Buoy twenty meters south of the Union Street Bridge on the east side of the canal, the Ambient Buoy at the east end of Turning Basin Four, and the Turning Basin One Buoy adjacent to the bulkhead at the western edge of Turning Basin One.

All readings from buoys were transmitted via telemetry at 15-minute intervals. The instrument used to collect turbidity and DO from the buoys is an In-Situ VuLink (telemetry) and AquaTroll500 (sonde), equipped with optical sensors capable of reading turbidity levels with an accuracy of +/-0.5 NTU and DO levels with an accuracy of +/-0.1 mg/L.

Visual observations of turbidity and sheen are summarized in Section 5.

2. REPORT OF EXCEEDANCES

Due to a lack of construction activities equipment was removed from the water and replaced with new four new buoys. As a result, no data is being reported for this reporting period. Visual observations are still included in this report and data reporting will begin again at the start of the next reporting period.

- **Trigger criterion** – Any of the following:
 - The rolling average of the relevant sentinel buoy turbidity measurements over a one-hour period exceeds the rolling average of the ambient buoy turbidity measurements by 20 NTU excluding any eliminated outlier measurements and in-waterway construction activities cannot be immediately excluded as the source following consultation with EPA; or
 - Either an oil sheen or a turbidity plume is visually observed at the relevant sentinel buoy and in-waterway construction activities are readily identified as the source.
- **Action criterion** – Any of the following:
 - The rolling average of the turbidity measurements of the sentinel buoy outside of RTA1 over a one-hour period exceeds the rolling average of the ambient buoy turbidity measurements by 40 NTU excluding any eliminated outlier measurements and in-waterway construction activities cannot be immediately excluded as the source following consultation with EPA; or
 - Either an oil sheen or a turbidity plume is visually observed outside of RTA1 and any deployed engineering controls and in-waterway construction activities are readily identified as the source.

An outlier is defined as a reading that is outside the range of 50 to 200 percent of the average of the three previous readings. In addition, to be considered an outlier, the subsequent reading must return to a range of 75 to 133 percent of the average of the three readings preceding the outlier.

2.1 Response to Criteria Exceedances

The trigger level criterion serves to provide early notification to the contractor of construction activities that may lead to an exceedance of the action level criterion. In the event of an exceedance to the trigger criterion, the contractor will not be stopped, and the contractor will be directed to investigate the source of the exceedance and evaluate Best Management Practices (BMPs). In the event of an exceedance to the action level criterion, in-waterway construction activities may be slowed or temporarily suspended as necessary while the contractor investigates the source of the exceedance and appropriate mitigation and corrective measures are determined. A more detailed description of responses to exceedances of the trigger and action level criteria is provided in Section 4.2 of the WQMP.

3. TURBIDITY BUOY DATA

No significant construction activities occurred during the reporting period and therefore no reporting is included for these dates.

4. SUMMARY OF VISUAL OBSERVATIONS

No visual observation of elevated turbidity, sheens, or discharge were of note during the reporting period.