



Memorandum

To: William Lee, Gowanus Environmental Remediation Trust

From: Kathryn Whalen, Ph.D., RPA- Principal Investigator, and Ed Button, M.A., RPA- Field Director

Date: August 12, 2024

RE: Memo #7- Summary of Gowanus Canal Staging Area Visit, August 9, 2024

Activities on August 9, 2024

On August 9, 2024, Mr. Ed Button, Field Director for Chronicle Heritage, was on site at the Gowanus Canal Staging Area at 659 Smith Street, Brooklyn, NY to review inspect materials dredged from the Gowanus Canal for potential objects of historic interest. The material was removed by Cashman from Turning Basin 7, between Stanchions 3+50 and 4+50. The dredged soils are identified as being contaminated with PCBs. The dredged soils were transported to the Gowanus Canal Staging Area on a mini barge. After the contaminated soils are screened, the soils are placed onto:

- H-1-WM "WHEEVER" barge

The purpose of this memorandum is to document the Level 2 inspection of dredged materials by Chronicle Heritage.

METHODOLOGY

The dredged material is confined to a mini-barge that is brought to a service barge with a mounted Sennebogen 870 excavator with a Blue TGS bucket (i.e., Environmental Dredging Bucket) (Photograph 1). The excavator removes contaminated materials from the mini-barge, carefully placing the contents into a shaker mounted on a third barge (H-1-WM "WHEEVER"). Clearly modern materials including automobile tires, fuel and hydraulic hoses, in addition to ubiquitous materials like splintered canal timbers/cribbing are discarded (via Level 1 inspection). Screened materials larger than the 4-inch wide grate on the shaker slide into scalepan (Photograph 2), which is subsequently placed into an emptied contaminated soils barge and spread out for inspection. A level 2 inspection is performed by Chronicle Heritage.



Photograph 1. PCB contaminated dredged soil being screened at Gowanus Canal Staging Area on August 9, 2024 (Chronicle Heritage, August 9, 2024).



Photograph 2. PCB contaminated dredged soils are placed into shaker for removal of objects larger than 4-inches for Level 2 inspection by Chronicle Heritage (Cashman, August 9, 2024).

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

A work area was cordoned off within approximately 20-ft of the excavator with sheeting on stanchions. All those entering the cordoned area are required to wear either Tyvek suits and booties if equipment is shut down (i.e., archaeologist inspecting set aside materials – no contact); or non-permeable Tychem during equipment operation or intended contact with contaminated equipment (i.e., cleanout of the scalepan, related operation), in addition to their PPE (i.e., life jacket). Entrance to and from the cordoned area is controlled – a small hut is utilized for changing into the Tyvek/Tychem and taking it off at shifts' end, or in predetermined time periods to avoid heat exhaustion.

RESULTS

The inspected material consisted of four automobile tires (recent metric/low profile) and an unidentified aerosol can (Photograph 3). The inspected material was wet, with soil adhesion. No objects of interest were identified.



Photograph 3. Four tires and an aerosol can were removed from the shaker/scalepan and placed back into an emptied barge for Level 2 inspection by Chronicle Heritage (Chronicle Heritage, August 9, 2024).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Chronicle Heritage did not identify any objects of local interest during Level 2 inspection of PCB contaminated soils previously dredged from Turning Basin 7 and subsequently screened at the Gowanus Canal Staging Area on August 9, 2024.