



Memorandum

To: William Lee, Gowanus Environmental Remediation Trust

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

Date: August 26, 2024

RE: Memo #9- Summary of Level 2 monitoring during removal of target 42b within Turning Basin-7, Gowanus Canal, August 19 and 20, 2024.

Activities August 19 and 20, 2024

The purpose of this memorandum is to document the Level 2 inspection of dredged materials by Chronicle Heritage on August 19 and 20, 2024. Mr. Edwin Button, Field Director for Chronicle Heritage, was on site to conduct Level 2 monitoring during removal of Target 42b and adjacent area within TB-7 (near Station 4+20; per Chris Sheedy), Gowanus Canal, for potential objects of local interest (Photograph 1). Target 42b was removed by Cashman Dredging in sediment designated contaminated with PCBs. Objects removed from the canal were placed on a mini barge for planned transportation and handling.

METHODOLOGY

The service barge had a mounted Caterpillar 390 excavator with a gripper bucket (Photograph 2). The excavator operator removed target 42b and items found in proximity, placing them into an adjacent moored mini barge. Chronicle Heritage provided a Level 2 inspection of objects removed from the canal.



Photograph 1. General location of Target 42b (Station 4+20) in TB-7, south wall. View is facing southeast (Chronicle Heritage, August 19, 2024).



Photograph 2. Dredging periphery of Target 42b - removal of large concrete object, facing southeast (Chronicle Heritage, August 19, 2024).

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

A work area encompassing the front half of the barge where the excavator was positioned was cordoned off. Those entering the cordoned area were 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., manual probing of sediment from the service barge), in addition to their PPE (i.e., life jacket). Entrance to and from the cordoned area was controlled – a small hut was 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 was comprised of concrete fragments and forms as large as four to five feet, in addition to bricks, tires, and in lesser frequency piping and unidentified steel round bar stock (Photographs 2 and 3). Similar materials were observed in the wall of the canal, including a partially intact brick retaining wall with irregularly positioned pieces of concrete sitting on top (Photograph 4). It is undetermined if the material removed from the canal is part of a wall-fall, or if the materials were dumped. The removed materials appeared intermixed, suggesting the latter. Chronicle Heritage did not identify any objects of local interest. No objects were retained.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Chronicle Heritage did not identify any artifacts or objects of local interest during Level 2 monitoring of removal of Target 42b and immediate vicinity from contaminated sediment dredged in Turning Basin 7 (TB-7) on August 19 and August 20, 2024.



Photograph 3. Dredging of Target 42b – included removal of concrete, tires, and metal piping. View is facing southeast (Chronicle Heritage, August 19, 2024).



Photograph 4. Partially intact brick wall and broken concrete fragments on south wall of TB-7 in proximity of removed Target 42b. View is facing south (Chronicle Heritage, August 19, 2024).