



## **Meeting Minutes Public Meeting**

### **Former Schenectady Army Depot – Voorheesville Area September 24, 2013 Guilderland Public Library – Normanskill Room Guilderland, New York**

#### **Attendees**

Gregory J. Goepfert, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District  
Timothy P. Leonard, PE, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District  
Charles Rielly, Acting Community Co-Chairman, Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)  
Ted Ausfield, Acting Community Co-Chairman, RAB  
Joan Burns, Member, RAB  
Charles Klaer, Guilderland resident  
Dan Schryver, Guilderland resident  
Cathy Schryver, Guilderland resident  
Kim Ryan, Guilderland resident  
Stephen Wilson, Albany County Water Quality Coordinating Committee  
Neil Sanders, Guilderland Central School District (GCSD)  
Bridget Callaghan, New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)  
Heather Bishop, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)  
John Swartwout, PE, NYSDEC  
George Moreau, PG, PARSONS Engineering Science, Inc.  
Mark Williams, H2H Associates, LLC (H2H)  
Lori Hoose, H2H

#### **Introductions**

G. Goepfert called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members, stakeholders, project staff, and other attendees introduced themselves. G. Goepfert included a brief historical and physical description of the former Schenectady Army Depot-Voorheesville Area (FSADVA) and a summary of the nine areas of concern (AOCs) within FSADVA being investigated under the Defense Environmental Restoration – Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Program. G. Goepfert referred to the Agenda and PowerPoint presentation that would focus on the Proposed Plan for AOC #6 (Waste Water Treatment Plant) and AOC #9 (Building 60 Area) as well as a status update on the cap and cover construction at AOC #1 (Southern Landfill) and the Feasibility Study on AOC #3 (Former Burn Pit). The primary purpose of this meeting was to provide the public (including RAB members) an update as to the status of the AOCs at the FSADVA site. G. Goepfert also referred to some handouts on the front table as well as a map on the nearby easel that would be used to frame our discussion for tonight.

## Discussion

### Proposed Plan – Waste Water Treatment Plant (AOC #6)

G. Goepfert opened the discussion by presenting a summary of the work (Slide #2 of presentation) performed and proposed plan for *no further action* at AOC #6. G. Goepfert invited comments on the status of AOC #6. T. Ausfield noted that the cleanups performed previously by the Town for the construction of the new WWTP, and said the area should be good – unless some future construction exposes other contaminant sources. T. Ausfield noted he had no concerns. G. Goepfert noted that if contaminant sources are found in the future, and are Department of Defense (DoD)-related, that the Government will take responsibility for any necessary investigation and clean up. No other comments were raised concerning AOC #6. G. Goepfert referred to the front table where a comment form could be filled out and mailed to him directly if one felt uncomfortable speaking in public.

### Proposed Plan – Building 60 Area (AOC #9)

G. Goepfert opened the discussion by presenting a summary of the work performed and proposed plan for *no further action* at AOC #9. G. Goepfert was asked if there were any old DoD underground storage tanks or structures still in use by the Northeastern Industrial Park (NEIP). G. Goepfert said that to his knowledge, the DoD tanks were removed and there are no DoD tanks or structures in use today.

C. Rielly asked if there were any contaminants found that are heavier than water – thinking they might have been discharged to Black Creek and been transported in sediment downstream to the Watervliet Reservoir. G. Goepfert stated that sediments in Black Creek were characterized during the Remedial Investigation (RI) including down to the first dam in Black Creek. Although some contaminants were present, the concentrations did not warrant remedial action, based on assessment of risks to human health or the environment.

G. Goepfert noted that all work completed to date has been thoroughly documented, and the reports are available in the library repositories and on the project website <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/EnvironmentalRemediation/FormerlyUsedDefenseSites/FormerSchenectadyArmyDepotVoorheesvilleArea.aspx>. G. Goepfert will make sure the library has a copy of the Administrative Record on CD. T. Ausfield requested a copy of the CD as well.

Announcements of the Proposed Plan comment period were placed in the Altamont Enterprise, Schenectady Gazette, and Albany Times Union. Comment period ends September 30, 2013. T. Ausfield noted that he is very pleased overall with the status of AOCs #6 and #9. No other comments were raised concerning AOC #9, G. Goepfert referred to the front table where a comment form could be filled out and mailed to him directly.

### Summary of Design-Build Project – AOC #1 U.S. Army Southern Landfill

After ten years, funding was secured last year to remediate AOC #1, work was completed on September 23, 2013. Total cost of remedial action was \$3.3 million. G. Goepfert provided an overview of AOC #1 activities per the Fact Sheet and slides #3 and 4 of the presentation. A

short video clip was also played while T. Leonard overviewed the geotextile framework for the landfill capping project and explained the various landfill capping components and the materials used.

C. Klaer asked if there was a culvert that was installed near the split rail fence shown in one of the photos. T. Leonard explained that there were two existing culverts that were rehabilitated. There was considerable disruption to the existing surface water drainage pattern caused by beavers, and by repairing that damage, the surface water drainage system is now working more efficiently.

G. Goepfert was asked if test pits had been dug into the landfill during the investigation. G. Goepfert noted they had, but only at the edges to define the extent of the filled area. There is a presumptive remedy for former army landfills that precludes digging into the landfill waste, due to safety concerns. The landfill cap/cover is part of that presumptive remedy.

C. Klaer asked what the roads are used for and if there are any future development plans for AOC #1. G. Goepfert said the roads were used for trucks moving materials around the site and there are no plans for development that he knows of, but the site owner has control over that. There is an environmental easement in place between Galesi and the NYSDEC, and Galesi has to abide by those terms.

A question was raised regarding use of private wells along Depot Road. K. Ryan (Stone Road resident) said she has been on municipal water for at least several years. The presence of private well use had been investigated during the RI. K. Ryan also asked about surface water flow off the landfill cap – it presently appears to her that the landfill surface has been raised and she is concerned about additional surface water flowing toward her property. T. Leonard explained that the landfill cap is graded to allow radial flow in all directions and is designed to maintain the existing flow volumes and patterns that previously existed. T. Leonard noted that a detailed engineering analysis was performed as part of the landfill design to ensure that the existing flow patterns and volumes were maintained.

A question was raised about future damage caused by beavers. G. Goepfert replied that there will be annual inspections and maintenance of the landfill cap and cover for 30 years. Any necessary maintenance will be performed by a government contractor, including mowing the grass on the landfill cap. There will be annual reports submitted to the NYSDEC to document the results of the inspections.

C. Klaer noted that the area has been subject to several 100-year rainfall events recently and asked how that would affect the landfill cap/cover. T. Leonard replied that the cap/cover design included drainage analysis to ensure that surface water runoff would be properly managed.

A resident asked if the industrial park could create an entrance/exit to the park at the south end of the site, near the landfill. M. Williams replied that because of the presence of wetlands and the environmental easement, it is unlikely that a road and entrance/exit point could be constructed near the landfill.

A resident asked if surface water off the landfill cap/cover flows to Black Creek. Surface water does flow to Black Creek and T. Ausfield noted all surface water at the NEIP flows into Black Creek.

C. Rielly asked about effects of vibration from the railroad traffic on the landfill. G. Goepfert noted that a detailed study was performed as part of the Pre-Design Investigation to assess the impacts and there were negligible impacts expected.

A resident asked if test pits in the landfill found contamination. G. Goepfert noted that trichloroethene (TCE) was found in the wells inside the landfill and that is the reason why the landfill was capped. The wells will continue to be monitored.

In response to a question, T. Leonard noted the silt fence will be removed once the grass cover is established – probably next spring in 2014.

In response to a question about AOC #5 - Greg noted that AOC #5 is not part of the FUDS process. AOC #5 was handled separately by the Defense National Stockpile Center (DNSC); the sites were combined simply for public participation purposes.

C. Rielly asked what the total cost for the SADVA site has been so far. G. Goepfert noted it in previous public meetings or fact sheets, but it is probably in the \$10 million range.

### **Status of Work Accomplished and Performed**

After completion of the cap and cover at AOC #1 the next big effort will be closing the issue with AOC #3. G. Goepfert referred to slides #6, 7, and 8 and reported on the status of AOC #3 (– Burn Pit and Disposal Area). There remain some questions about groundwater quality and more groundwater investigation is planned. A Feasibility Study (FS) to evaluate the need for further action will be completed once some additional field data is collected and evaluated.

### **Discussion**

G. Goepfert thanked the participants for attending the meeting. He also thanked his colleagues at the Corps (T. Leonard), G. Moreau (PARSONS), NYSDEC, NYSDOH, ACDOH, Guilderland Police Department, Ted and Chuck from RAB, and H2H and their team that included HydroGeoLogic and Maxymillian Technologies.

G. Goepfert presented a prestigious award to Mr. George H. Moreau for his meritorious service to the New York District.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 P.M.



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# **Former Schenectady Army Depot- Voorheesville Area (FSADVA)**

## **Public Meeting**

### **September 24, 2013**

### **Schenectady, New York**



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# AOC 6

## Former Waste Water Treatment Plant

- Completed Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report and Proposed Plan
- AOC 6: No visual evidence of fill material was observed; no obvious signs of waste sources that warrant further investigation in this area.
- No further action recommended
- Public Comment on Proposed Plan due: Sept. 30, 2013
- Issue Decision Document: Dec. 2013



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# **AOC 9**

## **Building 60 Area**

- Oil/Water Separator, Storm Sewer Pipeline leading from the oil/water separator to Black Creek, associated soils and outfall pipe –removed in 1998
- Completed Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report (including risk assessment) and Proposed Plan
- No unacceptable risks to human health or the environment at AOC 9 related to DoD's use of the site
- No further action recommended
- Public Comment on Proposed Plan due: Sept. 30,2013
- Issue Decision Document: Dec. 2013



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# **AOCs 1 & 7**

## **U.S. Army Southern Landfill and Triangular Disposal Area**

- Contract Awarded in June 2012 - \$3.3 M – H2H,  
(with HGL and Maxymillian Team)
- Components of Remedy – Cap and Cover,  
Environmental Easement, Monitoring
- Site Work Completed: 23 September 2013
- Remaining: Environmental Easement,  
Sampling/Monitoring Plan, Site Management Plan,  
Maintenance

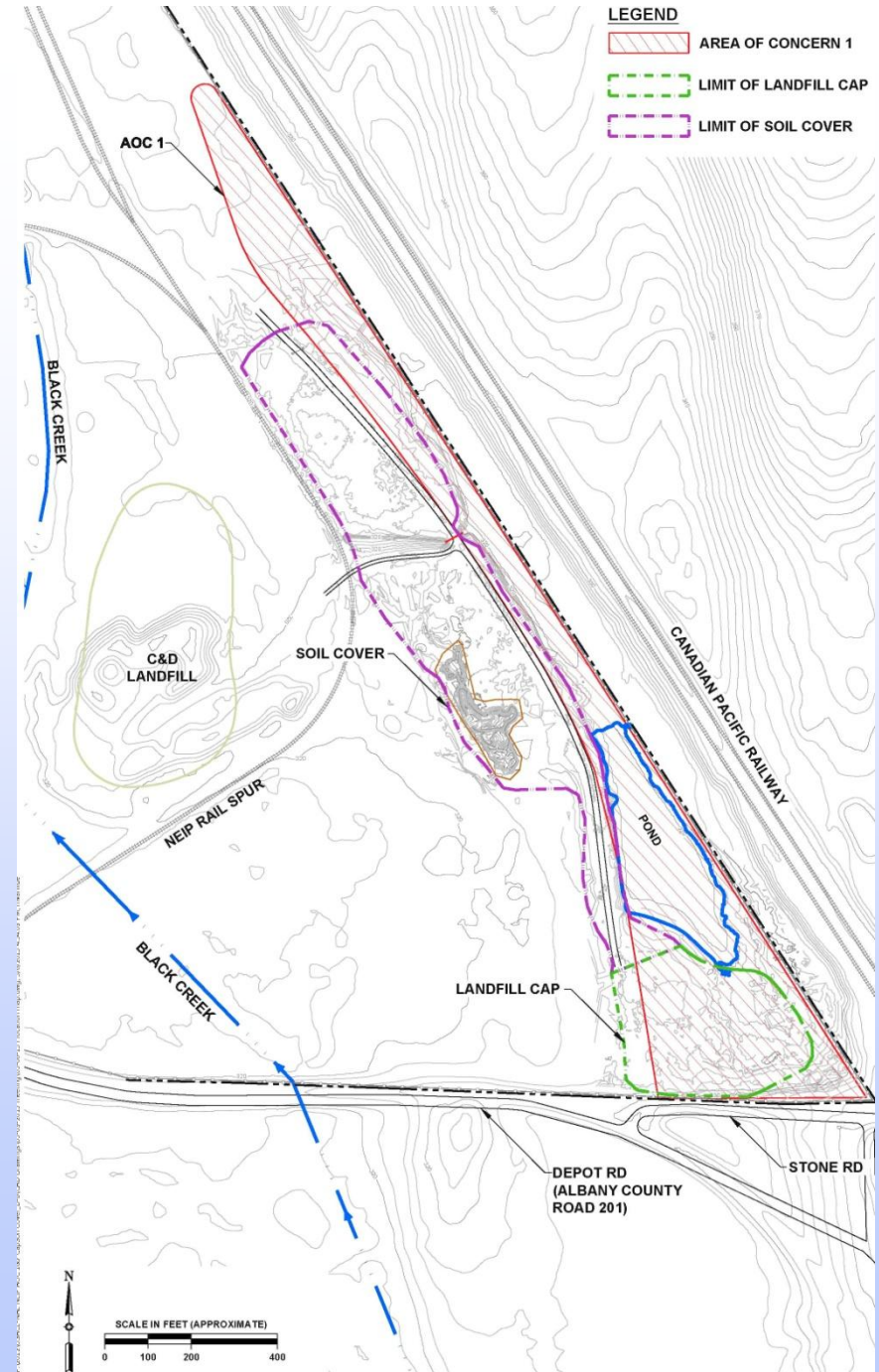




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## AOCs 1 & 7

# U.S. Army Southern Landfill and Triangular Disposal Area





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## **AOC 3 Former Burn Pits**

- Removal Action conducted at Guilderland School, Fall 2002; cost - \$900,000
- Interim Action conducted at Burn Pits on Northeast Ind Pk, Spring 2003; cost- \$700,000
- School Irrigation water tested in 2010, 2011; deemed safe for irrigation
- Follow – up groundwater monitoring
  - Two years (8 quarters) of monitoring 9/2003 – 6/2005
  - Two additional rounds 8/2006 and 11/2006
  - Five annual samples from MW-09 [2007 – 2011]



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# AOC 3 Former Burn Pits

- Feasibility Study (FS) awarded in September 2012, \$292,740 to H2H of Troy, NY
- FS to include an examination of all previous site sampling and monitoring data, conduct any additional sampling and monitoring/profiling to develop alternatives to address low levels of TCE in groundwater
- The feasibility study is underway, and will be completed by end of 2013.



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## AOC 3

# Former Burn Pits





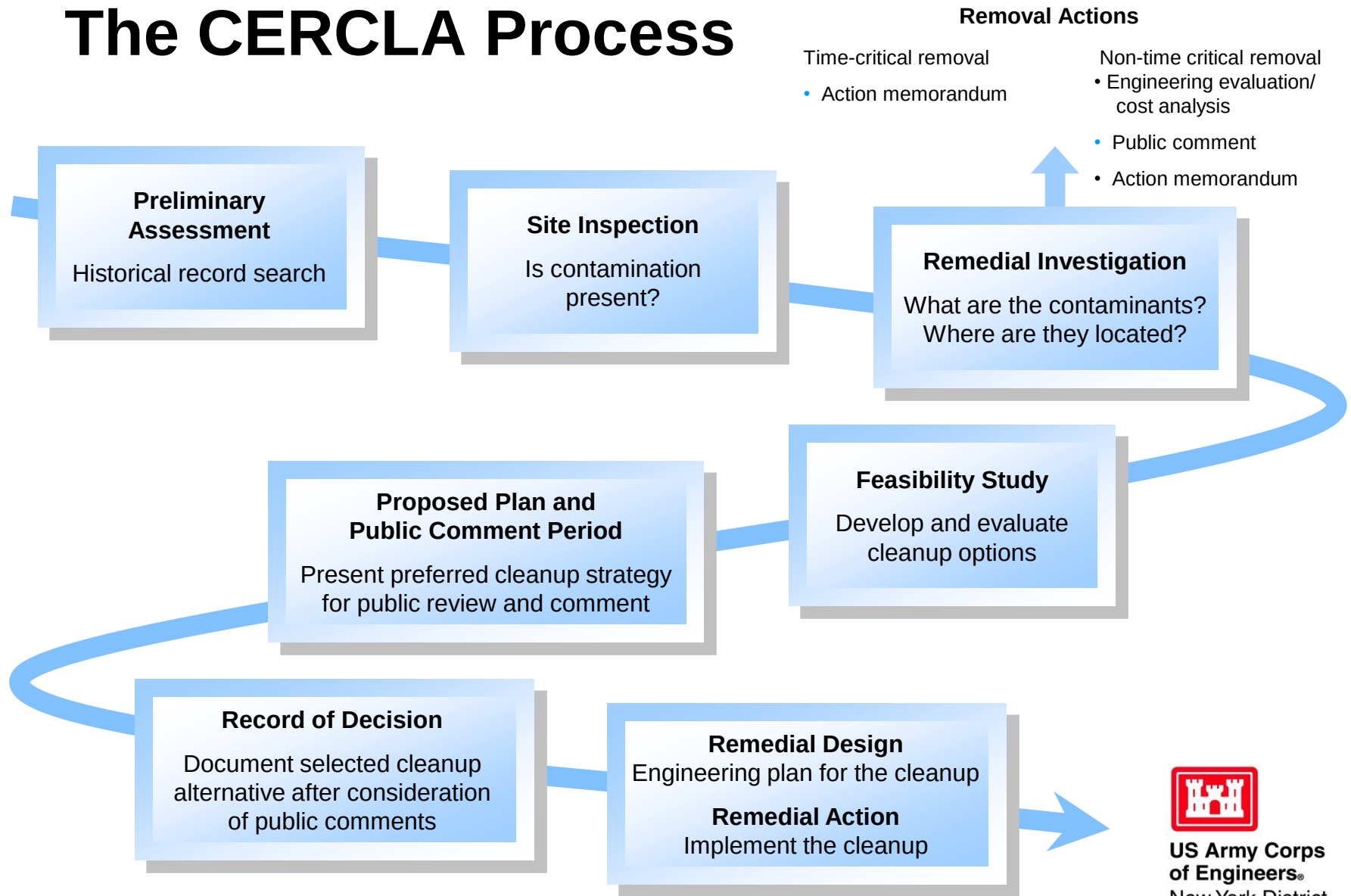


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# Summary/Follow up Actions

- AOC 6 & 9 – Issue Decision Document- 2013
- AOC 3 Prepare Feasibility Study / Proposed Plan - 2013 / 2014

# The CERCLA Process



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# **FACT SHEET**

## **FORMER SCHENECTADY ARMY DEPOT / NORTHEASTERN INDUSTRIAL PARK**

### **AOC 1 & 7**

The design phase was broken into phases (30%, 60%, 90%, and 100%). Our project team completed the 100% phase of design on June 12, 2013.

The construction phase started in mid-June 2013 and has taken approximately three months to complete. The Prime Contractor was H2H Associates, LLC (a local firm out of Troy), the design engineer was HydroGeoLogic, Inc (Ballston Spa), and Maxymillian Technologies, Inc. (Pittsfield, MA) built the cap and cover systems. The Corps of Engineers provided oversight of this effort.

The landfill cap was installed to limit water infiltration into the landfill and to mitigate the potential for off-site migration of impacted groundwater within the landfill mass. A brief power point presentation displays key elements of the liner installation for the landfill cap. The soil cover system was applied to the northern area to prevent contact with site soils.

Other important project elements will also be performed, including development/implementation of a site management plan, long-term groundwater sampling, post-surveying, and land use controls. The environmental easement will be granted to prohibit the use of potable groundwater in the vicinity of AOCs 1 and 7. The Owner is also aware that no development will occur in this area.

#### **WORK PERFORMED**

Week of June 17, 2013: Clearing & grubbing and erosion & sediment control, including silt fence installation. Remove approximately 4,580 cubic yards of wood chips, along southwestern portion of cover area, and move them to location approved by owner.

June 17: General fill material approved by the NYSDEC.

June 17 to July 24: Haul, place, and compact fill material in the cap area

June 17 to August 22: Haul, place, and compact fill material in the cover area

June 24: Complete well decommissioning of 12 monitoring wells and raising of 3 monitoring wells.

June 26: USACE (G. Goepfert) and NYSDEC (H. Bishop) perform site visit

July 22 to July 24: Place six-inch layer of select material for under the liner.

July 25 to August 1: Install the liner and drainage layer for the cap.

August 1 to August 15: Anchor trench (cap area) completed.

August 1 to August 16: Install 24-inch soil protection layer material for the cap area

August 8: Topsoil material approved by the NYSDEC as unrestricted material.

August 22 to August 29: Import and place topsoil on the cap area.

August 22 to September 12: Import and place topsoil on the cover area.

August 19 and 20: Installed three monitoring wells (northeast, south, and west of former landfill), to be used for long-term groundwater monitoring

August 20: USACE (G. Goepfert), Galesi Group (D. Ahl), NYSDEC (H. Bishop), and RAB Co-Chair (T. Ausfield) visit site.

August 22: Installed rip rap at both culvert outlets and at the end of the pond by the cap.

August 29 to September 13: Hydro seed landfill cap area.

August 29: Reinstall slide gate at the entrance to the project area.

August 29 to September 5: Reinstall bollards at the swales.

September 9: Discontinue community air monitoring

September 16: Complete installation of the split rail fence between the cap and cover area and hydro seed remaining portion of the cover area.

September 17: Disconnect electric service to project

September 19: Final Inspection of Site

September 23: Remove job site trailer

September 23: USACE and H2H – Final Site walkthrough