FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

Receive Site Fact Sheets by *Email.* See "For More Information" to Learn How.

Site Name: NM - Troy Smith Ave. MGP
DEC Site #: 442030
Address: Smith Avenue
Troy, NY 12180

Have questions? See "Who to Contact" Below

Cleanup Action to Begin at State Superfund Site
Availability Session Announced

Availability Session, Wednesday, October 15, 2014

4:30 – 6:30 PM
Troy Public Library – Lansingburgh Branch
27 114th Street
Troy, New York

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) invites you to this discussion about cleanup activities about to begin at the site. Drop in any time during the session to ask questions and discuss the upcoming site activities.

Action is about to begin that will address the contamination related to the NM - Troy Smith Ave. MGP site ("site") located at Smith Avenue, Troy, Rensselaer County under New York's State Superfund Program.

Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the locations identified below under "Where to Find Information." The cleanup activities will be performed by National Grid with oversight provided by the NYSDEC.

The NM – Troy Smith Avenue Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site (MGP) Site is one of 241 former MGP Sites that existed across New York State in the early 20th century. The Smith Avenue plant was operated by predecessor companies of Niagara Mohawk Power Corp., a subsidiary of National Grid. The Smith Avenue MGP operated from approximately 1888 to 1928. Gas was manufactured by heating coal, then gas was distributed to local homes and businesses for lighting and cooking. Freshly-manufactured gas had to be cooled and its impurities removed before it could be used. A tar resulted from these processes, some of which was released to the environment. This tar contained chemical contaminants, primarily benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. The extent of the contamination was determined by a series of investigations conducted by National Grid. MGP impacts were found primarily in the soil and groundwater beneath National Grid and the United States Army Corps of Engineers property. Some tar impacts were also found in the Hudson River sediment adjacent to these properties.

Highlights of the Upcoming Cleanup Activities

The goal of the cleanup action for the site is to achieve cleanup levels that protect public health and the environment. The cleanup action for the site includes:

* Removal of a former gas holder foundation and the surrounding MGP-impacted soil. An estimated 3,300 cubic yards of material will be excavated and transported to a permitted, off-site treatment or disposal facility. The excavation will take place within a temporary enclosure. The excavation will be backfilled with NYSDEC-acceptable soil and capped with clean fill.

* Construction of a load-bearing platform along with construction of a concrete pile bulkhead approximately 5 feet inland of the existing bulkhead. The bulkhead will be supplemented by underground containment walls on the north and south sides, with a total length of approximately 600 feet. These walls will serve to contain the impacted materials at the site. A clay cap will be placed over the affected upland area.

* Removal of approximately 5,000 cubic yards of MGP-impacted Hudson River sediment. The sediment will be excavated and transported to a permitted, off-site treatment or disposal facility. The excavation dredging will be conducted in a controlled manner behind barriers to protect river water quality. The river water quality near the work area will be monitored daily during the sediment removal. The riverbed will be restored following the removal.

* Installation of recovery wells to collect any tar in the ground that remains following the removal of the holder foundation.

* Placement of an environmental easement on the site that allows the use and development of the site only for commercial and industrial use as allowed by local zoning laws. No residential development would be allowed. In addition, the use of site groundwater will be restricted. (Water at the site is provided by municipal pipeline; site groundwater is not used.)

* Development and implementation of a Site Management Plan that will identify all use restrictions and specify procedures to be followed in the event of future site excavations. In addition, the plan will provide for the evaluation of the potential for soil vapor intrusion for any buildings developed on the site, including provisions for implementing actions recommended to address exposures related to soil vapor intrusion. Further, the Site Management Plan will identify the provisions for the management and inspection of the site cover system, the steps necessary for the periodic reviews, and the schedule for groundwater and other long-term monitoring.

As mentioned above, the excavation of a former gas holder foundation will take place under a large tent-like structure with an air handling system and carbon filters. This temporary structure will control vapors and dust generated by the soil management activities. Real-time air monitoring for volatile organic compounds and dust will be conducted throughout the project to ensure the work activities do not spread site-related contaminants off-site. Cleanup operations may be modified if real-time monitoring determines that established action levels are not being met. An odor control monitoring plan will be enforced to address construction activities that could impact local air quality. Dredged river sediments will be stockpiled in covered stockpiles on a dewatering pad prior to being loaded into trucks for transport to disposal sites. Water collected from sediments will be treated on site and discharged into the river in accordance with NYSDEC requirements.

Excavated soil and dredged sediments will be loaded into trucks that will transport the material to licensed disposal sites. Truck tires will be washed before leaving the site and the truck beds will be lined and covered. Truck traffic will be routed east on Douw Street and Smith Avenue and right onto Route 4 (River Street), continuing to Route 7.

Next Steps

After completion of the cleanup, National Grid will prepare a Final Engineering Report describing the cleanup activities completed and certifying that cleanup requirements have been achieved or will be achieved.

Background

Location: The site is located at the western end of Smith Avenue in Troy, Rensselaer County, New York. The site is bounded along the west side by the Hudson River, and is located approximately 300 feet south of the Troy Dam, adjacent to the southern approach to the Troy lock. The site occupies 5 acres and is comprised of two properties. One property is owned by National Grid and occupies the southern and eastern portions of the site. The other property is owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and occupies the northwestern portion of the site.

Site Features: The majority of the site is flat, except for a moderate slope on the western edge of the site adjacent to the sheet-pile approach wall for the lock. South of the approach wall a moderately sloped and heavily vegetated bank exists along the Hudson River. Much of the National Grid property is covered by pavement, along with an office building and maintenance buildings. In contrast, much of the USACE-owned portion of the site is covered by grass lawn, along with a building that serves as an office.

Site Zoning and Use: The site is zoned for commercial use. Properties adjacent to the site are located in an urban setting with mixed residential and commercial land use. The National Grid property is currently in use as a natural gas distribution and service facility. The USACE property is used primarily to operate the Troy Lock and Dam.

Past Use of the Site: The Smith Avenue plant used the carbureted water gas process to produce gas from coal for lighting, cooking and heating. At the peak of gas production in the 1920s, the facility had expanded to include three gas holders and three tar settling tanks. In 1928 the last gas was produced at the site. The site continued to be used for storing gas generated elsewhere for an undetermined time. In 1960 the last gas holder was removed from the site. While not part of the MGP operation, the Troy lock, dam and southern approach wall were constructed from 1913 to 1915, and thus were contemporary with the latter years of manufactured gas production.

Operable Units: During the investigation of the site it was discovered that contamination existed beyond the limits of the former MGP property. To facilitate further investigation and remediation of MGP contamination, operable units were developed. An operable unit represents a portion of the site remedy that for technical or administrative reasons can be addressed separately to eliminate or mitigate a release, threat of release or exposure pathway resulting from the site contamination. The operable units are defined as follows:

Operable Unit No. 1 (OU-1): The former MGP area.
Operable Unit No. 2 (OU-2): The western end of Ingalls Avenue.
Operable Unit No. 3 (OU-3): Hudson River sediments adjacent to and downstream of the site.

A remedy was selected for OU-1 in 2007. The main components of the OU-1 remedy are removal of the contents of a former gas holder, construction of a subsurface containment wall along the Hudson River and installation of a low permeability cap. The remedy also includes land use and groundwater use restrictions.

OU-2 is an undeveloped area approximately 100 feet wide and 200 feet long about 500 feet south of OU-1. A portion of the parcel has been graded and paved to provide vehicle access to the Hudson River. There are no buildings at or in the near vicinity of OU-2. The parcel consists of sand and gravel fill material, with some observations of man-made materials such as ash, brick, glass, slag and asphalt pieces. A former automobile salvage business existed adjacent to OU-2.

OU-3 is the Hudson River sediment adjacent to OU-1 and extending downstream about 1,000 feet. The river is an active navigation channel at the northern end of this operable unit. The sediment consists of sand and gravel with occasional silt. The sediment thickness is generally less than six feet and is underlain by weathered shale bedrock. Beyond 100 feet from shore soft sediment was not encountered during the investigation and the river bottom is comprised of cobbles or bedrock.
OU-3 lies within the 200-mile stretch of the Hudson River defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as the Hudson River PCBs NPL (National Priorities List) Site. The operable unit lies immediately downstream of the Upper Hudson River reach, the reach that USEPA has identified for remediation.

Site Geology and Hydrogeology: Shale bedrock is present from approximately 38 to 59 feet below the ground surface. The top of bedrock consists of loose and weathered shale which varies in thickness from less than one foot to approximately nine feet. Overlying the shale is a glacial till ranging from less than one foot to ten feet thick. The till is a dense clayey silt with shale fragments and some sand and gravel inclusions. Coarse material overlies the till; a fill layer of broken brick, ash, sand, gravel and cobbles is present at the surface to a depth of 10 to 34 feet. Groundwater is present in both the bedrock and unconsolidated materials starting at a depth of approximately 16 feet.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's website at:
http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=442030

State Superfund Program: New York's State Superfund Program (SSF) identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and/or the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds.

For more information about the SSF, visit: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information
Project documents are available at the following locations to help the public stay informed.

Troy Public Library – Main Library
100 2nd Street
Troy, NY 12180
phone: 518-274-7071

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233
phone: 518-402-9662
Attention: John Spellman

Who to Contact
Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

Project Related Questions
John Spellman
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7014
518-402-9662
jtspellm@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-Related Health Questions
Mark Sergott
New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation
Empire State Plaza - Corning Tower Rm 1787
Albany, NY 12237
(518) 402-7860
BEEI@health.state.ny.us

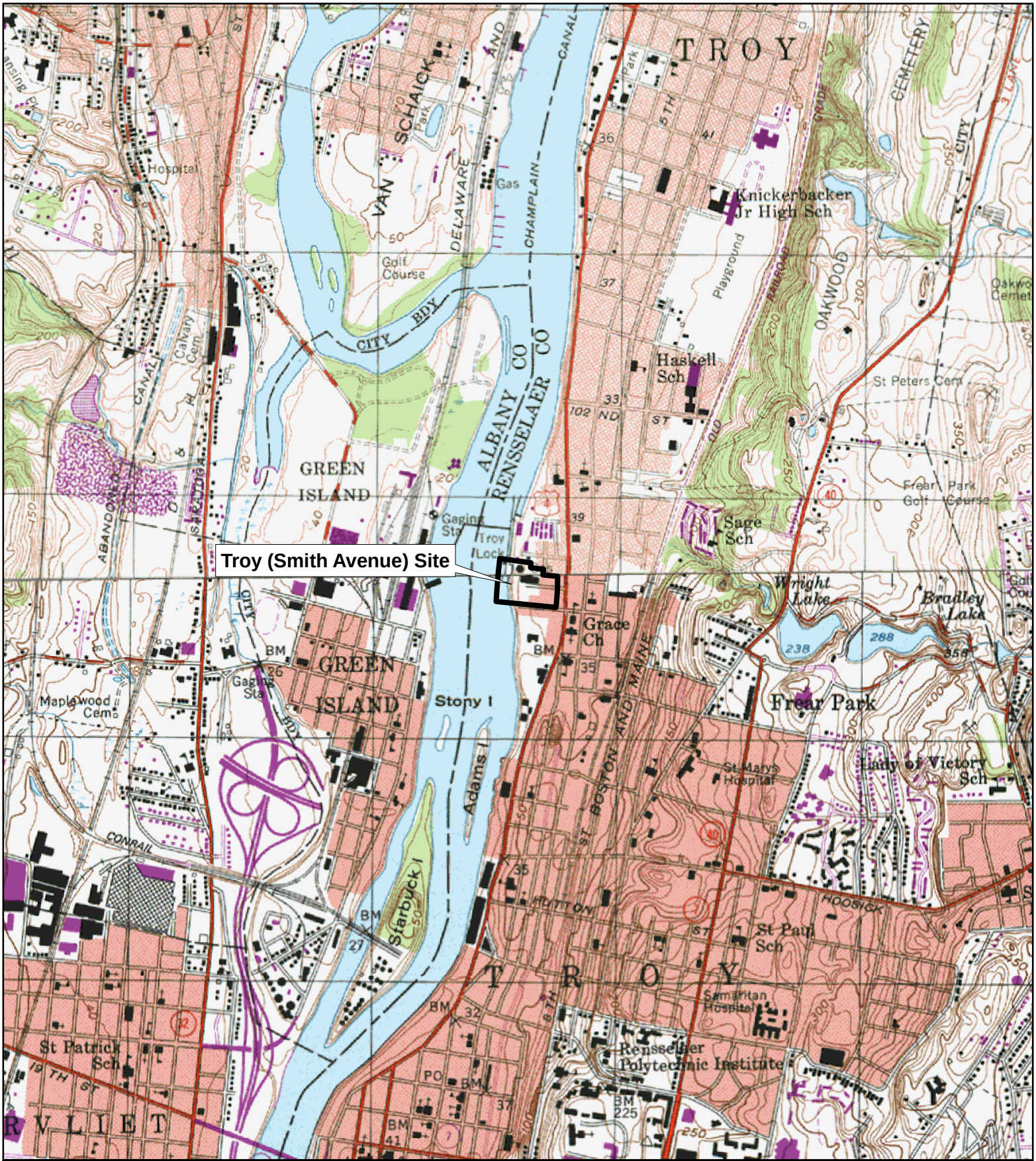
To direct questions to National Grid, please contact:

Mike Donegan
Project Manager
National Grid
300 Erie Blvd. West
Syracuse, NY 13202
Phone: (315) 657-6860
e-mail: michael.donegan@cbi.com

We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email
Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html. It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you *better informed*.

As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.



Miles
0 0.25 0.5

Source: USGS Quadrangle
Troy North 1954 & Troy South 1953.

TETRA TECH EC, INC.

FIGURE 1

Site Location Map
Feasibility Study Report
Troy (Smith Avenue) Site

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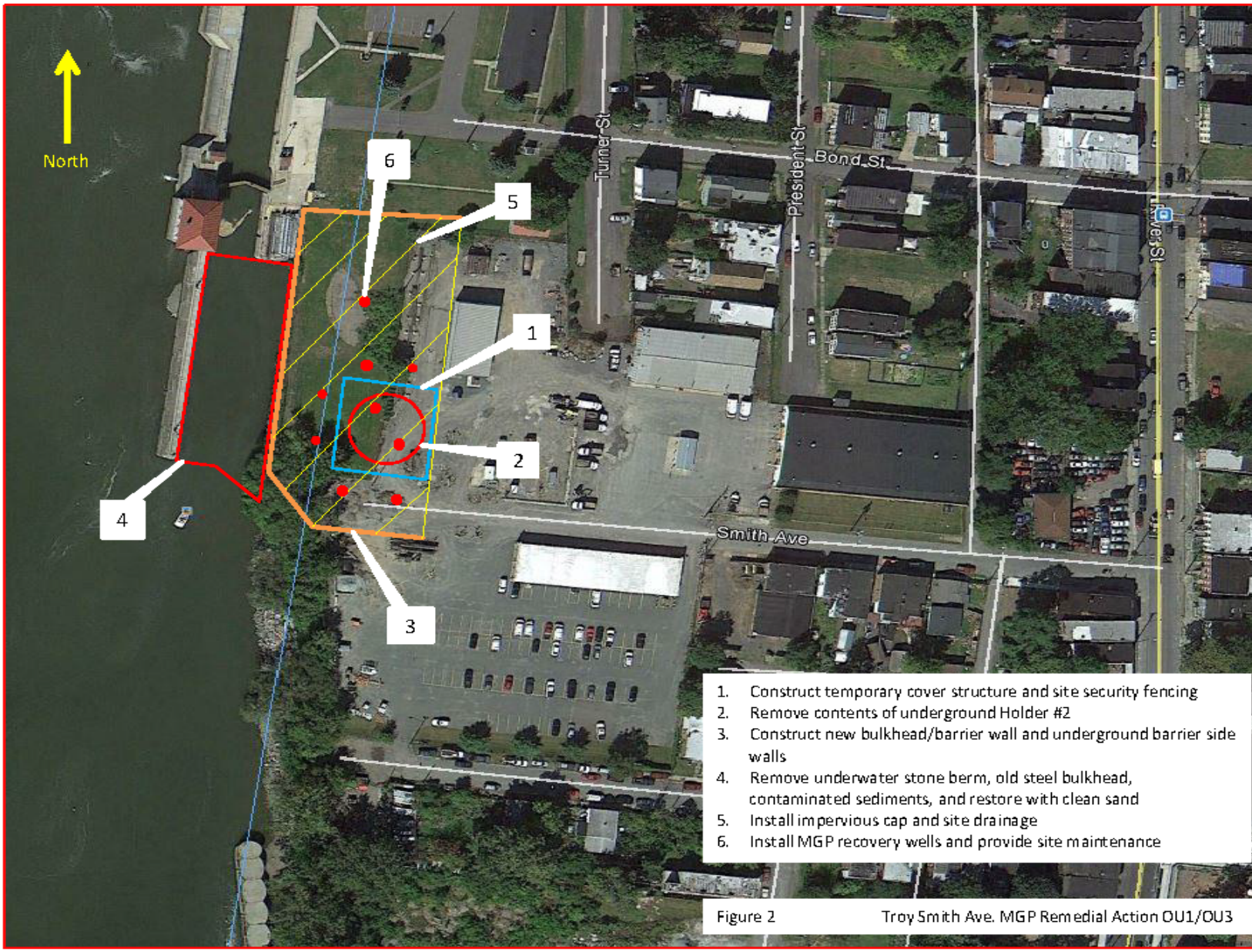

1. Construct temporary cover structure and site security fencing
2. Remove contents of underground Holder #2
3. Construct new bulkhead/barrier wall and underground barrier side walls
4. Remove underwater stone berm, old steel bulkhead, contaminated sediments, and restore with clean sand
5. Install impervious cap and site drainage
6. Install MGP recovery wells and provide site maintenance

Figure 2 Troy Smith Ave. MGP Remedial Action OU1/OU3