

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Environmental Remediation, Region 9

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Joe Martens
Commissioner

INSPECTION REPORT

Site Number: 932110

Date: February 18, 2014

Site Name: Vanadium Corporation of America

Location: 4201 Witmer Rd, Town of Niagara, Niagara County

Project Manager: Michael Hinton

Project Engineer: Obrien and Gere – Al Farrell/ Jim Bryck

Contractor: Severson Environmental Services

Job Phone: NA

HEALTH & SAFETY: Level C in work zone

DESCRIPTION OF WORK PERFORMED:

MJH on site at 1025 hrs

Weather – T~26⁰F, WC 13⁰F, overcast with blowing light snow, wind SW @ 19 mph

Job Progress Meeting #24

Refer to Meeting summary prepared by OB&G for attendees and discussions.

H&S – Had issue with clearance from a 15 kv line requiring revision to the Site Performance Action plan.

CAMP – No issues

SWPP – Site frozen, Glynn Geotechnical continuing to inspect erosion control facilities on a weekly basis. Last Inspection Wednesday Feb 12.

Site Security – no issues

Hauler permits – Permits for the use of Pariso trucks issued to SES

Work Completed – Refer summary notes

Upcoming Work – Refer summary notes

CCMA (OU#1) – SES following up on request for access through OU#1 to get at the wetlands south of OU#1. No response from CCMA yet

Unanticipated Conditions - none. SES may shut down for the winter in late February due to cold and not being able to work soil in cold temperatures.

NYPA – Permit Amendment to address additional slag has been sent to SES. SES has signed permit. Restriction on work within 20' for tower

Next meeting February 4th, 2014

No site work, SES preparing access to wetlands from adjacent property south of ROW.

MJH left site at 1130 hrs.

Attachments: meeting summary, photo's

Inspector's Name (Print): Michael J Hinton

Inspector's Signature:

Date: January 28, 2014



02182014-01West Wetland Access.jpg



02182014-02 West Wetland Access.jpg



02182014-03 West Wetland Access.jpg



02182014-04 West Wetland Access.jpg



02182014-05 West Wetland Access.jpg

Minutes of Construction Progress Meeting 24

Vanadium Site OU-3 Remedial Action Town of Niagara, New York

The twenty-fourth construction progress meeting was conducted on February 18, 2014 for the Vanadium Site Operable Unit 3 (OU3) Remedial Action (RA) in the Town of Niagara, New York (Site #9-32-001). The meeting was attended by the following representatives:

O'Brien & Gere – Jim Bryk and Brian Garrett on-site, and Al Farrell via telephone
Sevenson – Jack Brueckl, Dana Tipton, Jerry Castiglione and Mike Welch on-site
CB&I - Michael Donegan on-site
NYSDEC – Michael Hinton on-site
NYPA – Julius Fuks via telephone

A copy of the meeting agenda is attached.

1. MINUTES OF PRIOR PROGRESS MEETING

Mr. Welch provided clarification for the minutes of Progress Meeting 23 regarding the grades of the OU-2 drain pipe. In an email on February 12th, Mr. Welch said it does not appear that the grades will allow the inverts to be above final grade since SES needed to slightly revise the grades to promote positive drainage to the west. After Progress Meeting #22 on February 4th, Mr. Welch said that SES had a conversation onsite with Mr. Bryk, Mr. Donegan and Mr. Hinton about this issue. Mr. Hinton reportedly indicated then that it is not a problem if the pipe is covered, and indicated that if it was covered at the downstream end then the upstream should be plugged as well.

2. HEALTH & SAFETY

There have been no accidents or injuries. Safety topics continue to include working in the winter weather and preventing cold stress. Sevenson also revised its health and safety plan for working within the 12 ft to 20 ft distance of the 15 kV distribution lines near the sediment removal area and wetland south of OU2 as being allowed by National Grid only in this area for the 15 kV distribution line.

3. COMMUNITY AIR MONITORING

Community air monitoring is conducted on site while intrusive activities are underway. Mr. Welch reported that on February 17th and 18th intrusive activities were not being conducted. Sevenson is preparing community air monitoring program (CAMP) reports that are being forwarded to NYSDEC and NYSDOH as received.

4. STORMWATER POLLUTION CONTROLS

Mr. Welch said that Sevenson will be installing silt fence around the topsoil stockpile.

5. SITE SECURITY

No site security issues.

6. COMMUNITY/REGULATORY INTERACTIONS

None

7. WORK COMPLETED DURING PREVIOUS WEEK

Sevenson prepared the attached summary of the work completed since the last progress meeting.

8. UNANTICIPATED CONDITIONS ENCOUNTERED (if any)

Mr. Welch said that the 2 to 3 ft depth of water encountered in the western wetland area was not anticipated by SES. They are presently making adjustment to their approach to complete the remedial action work in the area.

9. WORK SCHEDULED FOR UPCOMING WEEK

Sevenson distributed the attached two-week projection of work. At present, SES now expects the winter shutdown to start on March 10th, but this may change.

10. OTHER ITEMS

Last week Sevenson provided Mr. Hinton a new list of trucks that its subcontractor will use for the task of hauling excavated soil from the wetland south of OU2 to the OU3 site, and applied for emergency waste hauler permits from NYSDEC which Mr. Hinton brought to the site on February 18th. This new list of trucks and permit replaces the prior list and permit issued since SES will not be utilizing its own vehicles for this task.

Mr. Fuks inquired about the means & methods that Sevenson plans to utilize for the additional slag removal work in the NYPA, and said that there is no concern if the means & methods are the same as those employed for the NYPA areas already completed. SES confirmed that the means & methods will be the same. Mr. Fuks indicated that he is planning to observe the work in the NYPA ROW that SES scheduled to start on February 26th.

Also, Mr. Farrell asked Mr. Fuks if NYPA had a chance to review RFI-013 and the proposed fence grounding plan. Mr. Fuks said that he passed the RFI-013 on to the engineering group in White Plains for their review/acceptance, and that he would check with them regarding the status.

Mr. Welch introduced RFI-014 regarding the eastern sediment removal area. He said that SES has some concerns performing work around towers that are located south of the OU-1 property since the project requires sediment removal operations in two areas where a tower collapsed during an autumn rain event. This area currently has approximately 2 to 4 feet of water around the tower legs, and SES is concerned that removing up to 2 feet of sediment from around the bases of the towers, through 2 to 4 feet of standing water, may result in compromising the structural integrity of the towers. Mr. Welch also said they are concerned about the height of the wires on the towers. They are approximately 22 feet above the water level which limits the options to perform the required remediation. SES asked if an alternative method such as a cap could be proposed to achieve the cleanup objectives for this area.

Mr. Brueckl remarked that SES completed approximately 900 ft of the nearly 1000 ft of excavation south of OU2 and did not encounter slag. Mr. Welch asked if O'Brien & Gere could check the design report to see if there is sediment data for the area around the towers. Mr. Welch said that SES would be collecting three sediment samples on February 18th to assess the existing conditions for further discussion about this topic.

The meeting participants agreed to continue this discussion during the progress meeting next week. In the meantime, Mr. Welch said that SES would reach out to Mr. Manley to see if National Grid had any concern or information regarding these towers or the 15 kV line.

11. NYSDEC COMMENTS

Mr. Hinton asked about the status of communication with Mr. Joiner regarding access to OU1. Mr. Welch said that Severson is continuing to reach out and asked if Mr. Hinton might be able to place a call to assist in an effort to obtain an access approval that would allow Severson to utilize an existing construction road on the Operable Unit 1 (OU1) site.

Also, Mr. Hinton asked if the water line located in the berm south of the wetland area is an issue, and Mr. Welch said it is not.

12. NEXT PROGRESS MEETING

Progress Meeting 24 is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18 at 10:30 AM.

AGENDA
WEEKLY CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS MEETING

VANADIUM SITE OPERABLE UNIT 3 REMEDIAL ACTION
TOWN OF NIAGARA, NEW YORK

1. INTRODUCTIONS
2. PRIOR MEETING MINUTES (acceptance/comments)
3. HEALTH & SAFETY
 - a. Safety moment to highlight task associated risks
 - b. Monitoring performed
 - c. Compliance with Action Levels
 - d. PPE response/corrective actions (if necessary)
 - e. Accidents/injuries (if any)
4. COMMUNITY AIR MONITORING
 - a. Monitoring performed
 - b. Compliance with Action Levels
 - c. Corrective actions (if necessary)
5. SITE SECURITY
6. STORMWATER POLLUTION CONTROLS
7. COMMUNITY/REGULATORY INTERACTIONS
 - a. NYSDEC
 - b. NYSDOH
 - c. Others (if any)
8. WORK COMPLETED DURING PREVIOUS WEEK
 - a. Excavation & consolidation of slag/soil
 - b. Construction quality control tests performed
 - c. Number of samples collected for analyses
 - d. Laboratory results received
 - e. Construction water management
9. UNANTICIPATED CONDITIONS ENCOUNTERED (if any)
10. WORK SCHEDULED FOR UPCOMING WEEK
 - a. Project tasks to be completed
 - b. Anticipated labor/equipment needs
 - c. Potential hazards/special considerations for toolbox safety meetings
11. NYSDEC COMMENTS

WORK COMPLETED 2/11/14 – 2/18/14

- Continued to prepare and submit contract submittals.
- Continued to perform CAMP activities.
- Continued to implement the health and safety plan.
- Continued to perform daily surveying activities.
- Continued to perform soil erosion and sediment control inspections and maintenance.
- Continued placement of slag and grading operations in Area 3.
- Continued to perform winterization procedures on site equipment.
- Continued the delivery and stockpiling of topsoil.
- Continued the removal of the sediment in the southwestern sediment area.
- Performed clearing activities into the western wetland area.
- Installed a temporary access road into western wetland area.

UPCOMING WORK SCHEDULED

- Continue to perform CAMP activities.
- Continue to implement the health and safety plan.
- Continue to perform daily surveying activities.
- Continue water management as needed.
- Initiate the excavation of wetland areas south of OU1.
- Transport removed sediment into Area 3 via Hyde Park and Witmer Ave.
- Perform the additional slag excavation on the NYPA ROW per NYSDEC.
- Continue grading slag subgrade in Slag Area 3.
- Initiate the remediation of the eastern wetland area.
- Shut down for winter (Approximately the week of March 10th).