

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

**Division of Environmental Remediation, Region 9**

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Joe Martens  
Commissioner

## **INSPECTION REPORT**

**Site Number:** 932001

**Date:** May 5, 2015

**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:** NA

### **DESCRIPTION OF WORK PERFORMED:**

MJH on site at 1050 hrs

Weather – T~66°F, mostly cloudy, wind SW @ 7

Inspected site to evaluate how the site fared with the severe winter. Drove Site and took photos.

OB&G – Steve \_\_\_\_\_, Jim Bryck, Al Farrell

Severson – Frank \_\_\_\_\_, Gerry \_\_\_\_\_, Mike Welch

NaTGrid – Mike \_\_\_\_\_

NYPA – Julius Fuchs

Site is generally in good condition. Same areas that were seeded late last fall did not take. Reseeding required. Some minor erosion rills in areas where seed did not take.

OB&G and Severson to determine reseeding schedule probably for August 2015.

Water in ditches and in ponds around towers is clear. Does not appear to be discolored with the milky color or crystal clear that would indicate high pH. Appears cover system is effective.

MJH left site at 1200 hrs.

**Attachments:** meeting summary, photos

**Inspector's Name (Print):** Michael J Hinton

**Inspector's Signature:**

**Date:** May 15, 2015





























## **Minutes of Post-Construction Site Inspection (Spring 2015)**

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

A Site inspection was conducted on May 15, 2015 for the Vanadium Site Operable Unit 3 (OU3) Remedial Action (RA) in the Town of Niagara, New York (Site #9-32-001). The inspection was attended by the following representatives:

**O'Brien & Gere** –James Bryk, Stephen Anagnost and Al Farrell  
**Sevenson** –Mike Welch, Jerry Castiglione and Frank Fracassi  
**National Grid** - Michael Donegan  
**NYSDEC** – Michael Hinton  
**NYPA** – Julius Fuks

In general, the soil cover constructed over the slag mound was in good condition following the winter of 2015 but exhibited signs of minor erosion and areas of poorly established vegetation (photos attached). The portions of the Site that were seeded early during the project had vegetation, while those portions of the Site that were hydroseeded later during 2014 were sparsely vegetated. It was agreed by those attending the inspection that it is necessary for Sevenson to return to the Site to repair erosion where occurring and to reapply grass seed on the sparsely vegetated areas of the Site. One particular area of washout was noted in the unlined drainage swale located between the access road and tower 7C in Area 1. As part of repair, it was agreed that Sevenson could opt to place rip-rap or erosion blanket if they choose in this location.

The ground surface was dry, and the soil in sparsely vegetated areas was observed to be cracked during the inspection. The representatives from Sevenson said the region has had a lack of rain this Spring, and they reported that they visited the Site a week earlier with the landscaper. The landscaper reportedly told Sevenson that current conditions are too dry for seed to be applied and grow, and that for new seed to take root given conditions on Site it would be best to introduce it below the surface by slot or plug methods as opposed to broadcast seeding or hydroseeding. Also, the landscaper reportedly recommends that seeding occur in mid to late summer prior to the cooler months for the best results.

It was agreed by those attending the inspection that the repair of erosion and application of grass seed by Sevenson can be postponed until August 2015. The representatives from Sevenson committed to providing a schedule by August 1, 2015 identifying when the erosion and vegetation warranty work would occur, and committed to having the warranty work completed before August 30, 2015.

Mr. Hinton stated during the site visit that a Certificate of Completion cannot be issued until vegetation is adequately established on the soil cover, as required by the specifications. In the meantime, Mr. Hinton requested that O&M activities, including monitoring pH of surface water in the storm swales on Site, occur on some frequency during the summer 2015 to evaluate the effectiveness of the soil cover.

Also, Mr. Hinton asked during the visit if there has been progress made on the Environmental Easements and if Armond Cerrone, Inc. is cooperating. Mr. Farrell replied that it was his understanding that recently Cerrone's representative(s) have been in contact with Mr. Davis and are cooperating.

Mr. Fuks asked about O&M responsibilities and Mr. Farrell replied that it was his understanding that discussions are occurring between National Grid and NYPA regarding the responsibilities for O&M and Environmental Easements, and that O'Brien & Gere has not been given instruction regarding this as work on the Environmental Easements and O&M agreement(s) between National Grid and NYPA continues. Mr. Farrell stated that the requirements for O&M and future work on site (if any) would be addressed in the Site Management Plan that is being prepared. Mr. Hinton added during the conversation that portion of land owned by NYPA (surrounding and near tower NS01 1-8) would be subject to the SMP since it is within the OU3 Engineering Control (EC) area established by the fence, although portions of that land may be outside the



limits of the cap. Mr. Fuks asked that O'Brien & Gere designate a route across the cap for access to the NYPA towers. Mr. Hinton replied that they could cross the cap anywhere, but added that however the site is crossed the soil cover must not be disturbed to preserve the remedy.

During the site visit, it was also observed that NYPA tower NS01 1-8 has soil mounded above the tower connection to the foundation (photo attached). The condition is outside the OU3 RA excavation limits, and based on observed vegetation (woody plants) growing in the mounded soil appears to be a condition that existed prior to the OU3 RA construction. Mr. Fuks asked that O'Brien & Gere provide record drawings of the OU3 RA work, and that on them highlight a route by which line crews from NYPA may cross the soil cover to access the NYPA towers. Mr. Farrell replied that he would send copy of the record drawings to Mr. Fuks for his review and use.

Mr. Hinton asked if a wetland inspection would be occurring and Mr. Farrell replied that a wetland inspection is tentatively scheduled for May 29. Wetland specialists representing O'Brien & Gere and Severson will attend the inspection. Mr. Hinton asked that he be advised of the specific time for the wetland inspection once scheduled so he or another representative from the NYSDEC could be present.







































