

OLD UPPER MOUNTAIN ROAD REMEDIATION: Progress to Date and Upcoming Work Schedule

As we move into the winter months, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) continues work on the Old Upper Mountain Road Site (NYSDEC Site No. 932112). Work will be paused for Winter 2023 and will resume in Spring 2024. Our top priority continues to be the safety of the surrounding community. This newsletter focuses on the progress of the cleanup of contamination at the site, which was initiated in Spring 2023.

Previous newsletters can be found at: [Index of /data/DecDocs/932112 \(ny.gov\)](#)

Construction Activities to Date

In March 2023, DEC working with engineer EA Engineering, P.C. and Its Affiliate EA Science and Technology (EA) and contractor Zoladz Construction Company, Inc., began work on the Old Upper Mountain Road Site remediation. Work includes excavation of the existing waste, consisting of incinerator ash, glass, slag, and industrial and municipal wastes, excavation of impacted sediments and floodplain soils, and on-site consolidation in a containment cell. The containment cell is constructed to control contaminant migration and closed with a cover system that will minimize infiltration of liquids and soil erosion.

After initial site setup, contractor mobilization, and installation of site security and sedimentation and erosion controls, the contractor initiated the first steps of the remedial action which included clearing, establishment of air monitoring procedures in accordance with a Community Air Monitoring Plan, access development, and installation and setup of temporary water treatment facilities.

During the summer and fall of 2023 contaminated

sediment was excavated from Gulf Creek and amended with Type IL Portland-limestone cement, a specific type of Portland with approximately 10% less carbon footprint to typical Portland, to prepare the material for transport to the containment cell. Once ready, the material is placed in the containment cell for disposal.



Drone imagery of the progress former dump site excavation (foreground) and Gulf Creek sediment excavation and backfilling, October 2023.

As of Fall 2023, approximately 60% of the remediation project has been completed. Active cleanup will pause, and the site will be monitored over the winter, with remaining excavation, final

grading, topsoil placement, and wetland restoration plantings to occur during the 2024 construction season.

The Department is working cooperatively with the City and Town of Lockport, as well as other property owners, utilities, and stakeholders, to complete this work.

What's left after winter shutdown?

Remediation work such as excavation, restoration, and water treatment work will be paused until Spring 2024. During this time, frequent inspections of the sites occur to ensure that site conditions have not changed, such as inspecting erosion control measures.

When the 2024 construction season resumes, the remaining work will include completion of sediment excavation, processing, and placement in the containment cell; final cap construction at the on-site containment cell locations; and restoration and planting of the impacted portions of the Gulf Creek Floodplain.

DEC anticipates completion of remedial activities at the Old Upper Mountain Road Site in late 2024.

A Greener Cleanup

During the remedial design, DEC and EA spearheaded an evaluation of the carbon footprint of the remedy based on recent NYS Green and Sustainable Remediation guidance, and arrived at a revised approach, which included reopening the adjacent closed City of Lockport Landfill. This approach is expected to decrease the overall project greenhouse gas emissions, decrease negative impacts to the local community and environment through reduction of noise and vibration impacts, and decrease the acreage of permanent wetland impacts at the site.

Various green remediation best management practices are implemented to reduce the environmental footprint of cleanup activities, including:



Footprint of future containment cell, October 2023



Use of Local Material Providers: aggregate materials sourced from quarry 1.5 miles from the project site; silt sock manufactured 14 miles from project site using 99% recycled materials.



Use of Green Materials: lower emissions Portland cement used for required material stabilization, includes estimated 10-15% reduction in CO2 emissions during material production



Beneficial Reuse of Materials: approximately 7,000 cubic yards of excavated material reused from previous Old Upper Mountain Road Sewer Relocation project; approximately 10,000 gallons of treated site water utilized for equipment



On-site recycling program

decontamination; cleared vegetation stockpiled on-site for use in restoration for habitat enhancement



Green Practices: refillable 5-gallon water coolers used on-site to minimize single-use plastic water bottles; implementation of an on-site recycling program; and creative dewatering measures reduce generator- driven pump dewatering operations

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Ongoing Community Engagement

DEC, and DOH experts will continue to be available to answer questions from the community. Please see “Who to Contact” below for key points of contact.

WHO TO CONTACT

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

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Sediment excavation, processing, and backfilling downstream Gulf Creek, October 2023