

### Update on Lower Fox River Remediation Project, Green Bay, Wisconsin

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WEDA Dredging Summit | June 25–28, 2018



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### Overview

- History and Background
- Update on Remediation
  Progress
- Lessons Learned
  - Innovative techniques for dredging near upland structures
  - Field locating and remediation above submerged utilities
  - Disposal of Toxic Substances
    Control Act- (TSCA-) regulated
    sediment
  - Coordination with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)





# History and Background



### History and Background

- Lower Fox River
  - Located between Appleton and Green Bay, Wisconsin
  - Project site: Operable Units 2 5
  - Client
    - Lower Fox River Remediation LLC
  - Agencies/Oversight Team
    - USEPA, WDNR, Industry firms
- History
  - Home to 24 historical and active paper and pulp mills
  - PCBs released into river between 1950s and 1970s
- Full scale remediation commenced in 2009



Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources







### History and Background Components of the Remedy

- Dredging
  - Geostatistical model (Neatline) with variable cut thickness
  - Targeted elevation prisms (e.g., TSCA dredging)
  - Dredging to accommodate caps per post-cap water depth criteria
- Engineered Capping
  - 13- to 33-inch thick
  - Site-specific shoreline caps 43 inches thick or more
- Sand Covering

### 33-Inch Quarry Spall Armored Cap







### History and Background Contracting Method

- Design-Build
- Lead Contractor
  - Tetra Tech EC, Inc.
- Subcontractors
  - Construction: J.F. Brennan Marine
  - Sediment Processing: Stuyvesant
    Projects Realization, Inc. (SPRI)
  - *Engineering*: Anchor QEA, LLC, Tetra Tech CES
- Quality Assurance
  - Foth Infrastructure and Environment





# Update on Remediation Progress



### Update on Remediation Progress

	Approximate Project Quantity Totals To-Date (End of 2017)	Approximate Expected Totals at Project Conclusion (End of 2019)
In Situ Dredging (Primary and Residual)	>5 million cubic yards	>5.5 million cubic yards
Separated and Beneficially Reused Sand	>510,000 tons	>560,000 tons
Engineered Capping	110 acres	115 acres
Primary Sand Covering	90 acres	100 acres
<b>Residual Sand Covering</b>	400 acres	450 acres



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### Note:

More than 2.4 million work hours without a lost time incident following ninth construction season at end of 2017



## Lessons Learned



- Industrial and commercial sites adjacent to the river
- Bulkheads designed and constructed decades in the past have failed or have questionable integrity
- Improvements or replacements required to complete full remediation of contaminated sediments





- Temporary removal of surcharge loads on the adjacent uplands
- Installation of clean post-dredge buttress
- Installation of new structural members
- Temporary excavation behind sheet pile walls







### Temporary removal of surcharge loads on adjacent uplands





### Installation of clean post-dredge buttress





### Installation of structural members





Installation of structural members





Excavation behind sheetpile walls



# Field Locating and Remediation Above Submerged Utilities

# Lessons Learned



### Field Locating and **Remediation Above** Submerged Utilities

- Submerged utilities present significant risks
- Research
- Dig-Safe
- Field Locating
- Remote Sensing











### Field Locating and **Remediation Above** Submerged Utilities

- Remote Sensing
  - Performed by **DoC** Mapping, LLC
  - Electro-magnetic tracing conducted using submerged towfish
  - Provides 95% confidence level of utility elevation (MSDoc Elevation)



Lower Fox River – Operable Unit 4B



Submerged Utility No. 043 Plan View









### Field Locating and Remediation Above Submerged Utilities





### Field Locating and Remediation Above Submerged Utilities

- Remedial Design
  - 5-foot vertical and horizontal offset zone around utility
  - Capping, sand cover, or no action within offset zone
  - Dredging outside of offset zone
- Modifications to Dredging
  - Use of spudded guide barge to safely straddle utility
  - Use of excavator with mounted dredge head
  - Open-suction dredging with diver assistance
  - VIC VAC ™



### Field Locating and Remediation Above Submerged Utilities





J.F. Brennan's VIC VAC <sup>™</sup> includes flexible agitating tines to allow for increased productivity in areas of dense sediment



### Field Locating and Remediation Above Submerged Utilities

- Modifications to Capping
  - Within the 5-foot offset zone, Regulatory agencies required specially designed caps
    - Federal navigational channel depth and width restrictions and buffers
    - Vessel propeller wash considerations (bowthrusters and main engine)
  - Variable thickness sand isolation caps with gravel armor
  - Coordination with USACE and utility owner required



## Disposal of TSCA-Regulated Sediment in a Subtitle-D Landfill

## Lessons Learned



## Disposal of TSCA-Regulated Sediment in a Subtitle-D Landfill

- Lower Fox River TSCA delineation
  - Horizontal delineation using Thiessen polygons
  - Vertical delineation based on an average of 50 ppm over 2.5foot intervals



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### Disposal of TSCA-Regulated Sediment in a Subtitle-D Landfill

- TSCA Dredging and Processing
  - Dredged in separate events from non-TSCA-regulated sediment
  - Undergoes typical scalping, de-sanding, and de-watering processing at on-site facility
  - PCB concentrations measured ex-situ in filter cake
    - Results have been significantly below 50 ppm







### Disposal of TSCA-Regulated Sediment in a Subtitle-D Landfill

- TSCA Filter Cake Disposal
  - Local Subtitle-D landfill permitted to accept waste with up to 50 ppm PCB, regardless of characterization
    - Required permit modification
  - Dewatered filter cake from TSCA-delineated sediment has been carefully monitored, with no exceedances to date
- Resulted in significant cost savings



# Coordination with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lessons Learned



- Remediation of sediment above submerged utilities
- Placement of submerged berm to deter vessel movement into recreational channel
- Annual coordination of navigation channel maintenance and remedial dredging



- Berm placed in recreational portion of navigation channel to prevent large vessels in active turning basin from damaging upstream engineered caps
- Simple sand, gravel, and boulder berm
- Potential fish habitat benefits



Submerged Berm Materials



 Placement of submerged berm to deter vessel movement







 Maintenance dredging in the Federal Navigation Channel coordinated annually with remediation project



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Navigation Channel



### Questions

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