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**Fulton Bulkhead Barrier Wall Construction Update**

Construction of the the barrier wall for the former Fulton Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) site is set to begin in late October or early November 2019. The wall will be constructed using 880 feet of steel sheet piling to be placed in front of the existing bulkheads along the eastern side of the Gowanus Canal. The sealed barrier wall will extend from the canal's head end to the Union Street Bridge and will serve both as an environmental barrier, by preventing liquid tar from the former MGP from entering and recontaminating the canal, and as structural support for the forthcoming canal dredging and capping remedy.

In July 2019, National Grid completed preliminary field work necessary including clearing some land near the canal banks and demolishing some structures. National Grid monitored the air during this work.

National Grid's contractor started building the barrier wall in late August 2019. The contractor installed noise barriers, put up fencing, setup staging areas and construction trailers, developed runoff and dust controls, and brought construction equipment and materials to the site. They also surveyed buildings, and installed equipment to measure noise, detect vibration and potential movement of structures, and monitor air.

The barrier wall construction is expected to begin this fall and will be completed in late summer 2020. For updates on the progress of the remedial construction, please visit: <http://www.fultonmgpsite.com>.

**Gowanus Canal Superfund Site Background**

The Gowanus Canal is a 100-foot wide, 1.8-mile long canal in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. The Canal is bounded by several communities, including Park Slope, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and Red Hook. The Canal empties into New York Harbor. The adjacent waterfront is primarily commercial and industrial, currently consisting of concrete plants, warehouses and parking lots.

The Gowanus Canal was built in the mid-1800s and was used as a major industrial transportation route. Manufactured gas plants (MGP), paper mills, tanneries, and chemical plants operated along the Canal and discharged wastes into it. In addition, contamination flows into the Canal from overflows from sewer systems that carry sanitary waste from homes and rainwater from storm drains and industrial pollutants.

As a result, the Gowanus Canal has become one of the nation's most seriously contaminated water bodies. More than a dozen contaminants, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls and heavy metals, including mercury, lead and copper, are found at high levels in the sediment in the Canal.



In May 2017, EPA established a task force to restore the Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency's core mission to protect health and the environment.

[epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force](http://epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force)



*Location of Fulton Barrier Walls*

### What Has Been Done to Clean Up the Gowanus Canal Site?

EPA placed the Gowanus Canal Superfund site on the National Priorities List on March 4, 2010. In conjunction with New York City, National Grid, and other PRPs, EPA performed field work to characterize the nature and extent of contamination in the canal, determine the human health and ecological risks from exposure to contamination in the canal, identify the sources of contamination, and determine the physical and chemical characteristics of the canal that will influence the development, evaluation and selection of cleanup alternatives. This work included a bathymetric (underwater depth) study, sediment sampling, monitoring well installation, groundwater, surface water, air, sediment and fish tissue sampling, sewer system sampling, and an investigation of hundreds of pipes that lead to the canal.

A Record of Decision selecting the cleanup plan for the site was signed on September 27, 2013. The plan provides for dredging to remove all of the contaminated sediment that accumulated as a result of industrial and sewer discharges. The dredged areas would then be capped. In addition, in selected areas in the canal, where liquid tar can move upwards into the water, the deeper native sediment will be solidified, or mixed with cement, to prevent such upward movement and recontamination of the canal. EPA also required controls to prevent CSOs and other land-based sources of contamination from compromising the cleanup. These controls included the construction of two retention tanks at the top and the middle of the canal of 8 and 4 million gallon capacity, respectively, to capture excess overflows during a storm event. Since 2014, under EPA oversight, the responsible parties have been designing this cleanup pursuant to a federal order. In summer 2015, EPA completed a pilot for the In-situ Stabilization (ISS) method that would be used to solidify the native sediment where needed.

In June 2016, EPA finalized an agreement with the City that secured the design of the larger of two CSO retention tanks, at the top of the canal, including both the tank's size and location. It also required New York City to undertake activities to prepare that location for the tank installation. New York City is also obligated to design the smaller retention tank in the middle of the canal under a Unilateral Order issued by EPA in 2014.

In late 2018, EPA completed oversight of a dredging and capping pilot in the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Turning Basin which provided information to be incorporated into the remedial design.



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