



Community Health and Safety for the Grasse River Remedial Options Pilot Study Massena, New York

April 2005

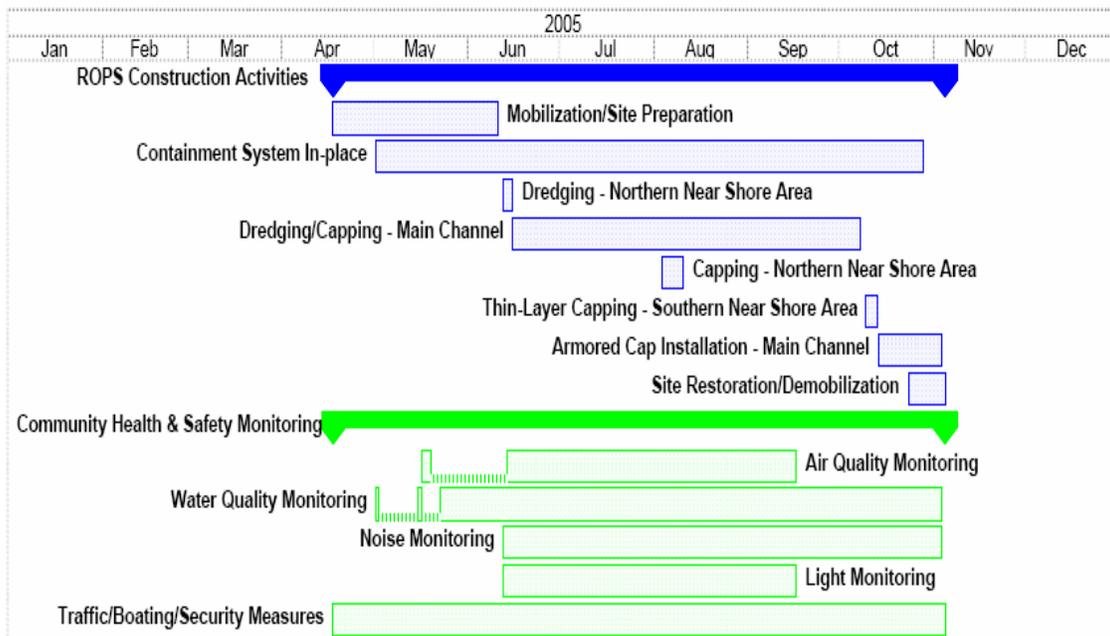
Alcoa to Conduct Remedial Options Pilot Study

Alcoa Inc., with oversight from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will conduct a study in 2005 to further evaluate the effectiveness of a variety of potential options for the lower Grasse River near its Massena, New York plant. This study has multiple components - including dredging, capping, and monitoring - and will also include an assessment of possible options to address the scour of sediment related to the increased river velocities in certain sections of the river that were caused by the ice jam that occurred in the river in the spring of 2003. Work at the site will begin this spring, and the majority of the activities will take place between June and November of this year. A summary of the overall project and other key elements of the study are presented in the Superfund Program Update fact sheet (April 2005) and other information available (including the EPA approved Remedial Options Pilot Study Community Health and Safety Plan) to the public at the project website: www.thegrasseriver.com.

Community Health and Safety during the Study

This fact sheet describes the primary components of the Community Health and Safety Plan (CHASP) developed in support of the Remedial Options Pilot Study. The CHASP outlines proactive steps to be taken to protect the community during implementation of the study, and provides a mechanism for addressing potential issues or concerns that may arise.

Construction and Monitoring Schedule - Remedial Options Pilot Study



Some construction activities during the study are expected to take place 24 hours a day, 5 days a week. As a result, a variety of potential health and safety issues must be anticipated, and measures taken to minimize impacts to the community to the extent possible. Throughout the study, Alcoa will evaluate air quality, water quality, noise levels, light levels from night time operations, impacts on local traffic, impacts on recreational boating, and potential on-shore concerns associated with the planned activities. If monitoring activities indicate a potential concern, Alcoa and EPA will work together to address the issue as quickly as possible.

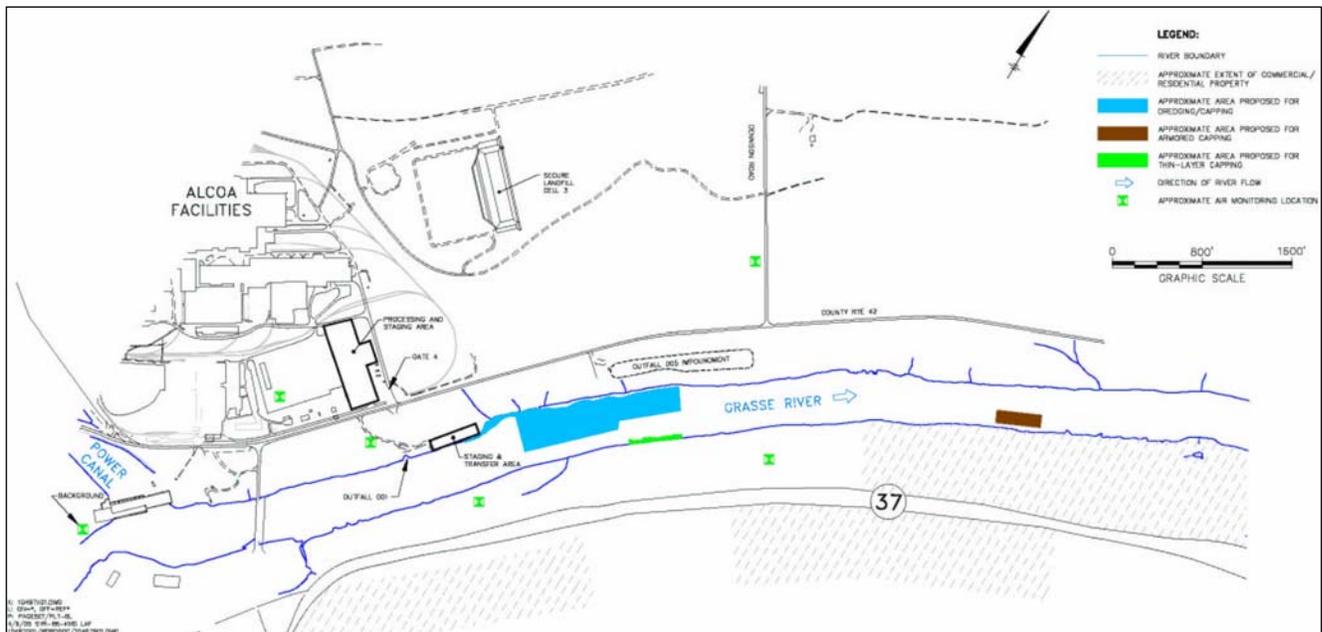
Each element of the CHASP is summarized below. A schedule illustrating planned construction and CHASP monitoring activities is provided here. For more information on any component of the plan, contact the project representatives listed at the end of this fact sheet.

Air Quality

To assess possible air quality-related impacts of dredging activities that could potentially impact local communities, a Community Air Monitoring Plan is included as part of the CHASP.

A variety of air monitoring activities will be conducted during dredging to assess project-related emissions to the air. Measures planned to provide community members and workers with a level of protection from potential dredge-related air quality impacts are listed below:

- In addition to a background location, five air monitoring stations will be established both upwind and downwind (depending on the prevailing wind direction) of the targeted dredge and materials processing area.
- Monitoring locations will be established between the work area and nearby residences and businesses.
- Samples collected from the downwind location closest to the work area will be submitted to a laboratory for analysis of total PCBs. Dust levels in the air will also be assessed at each location.



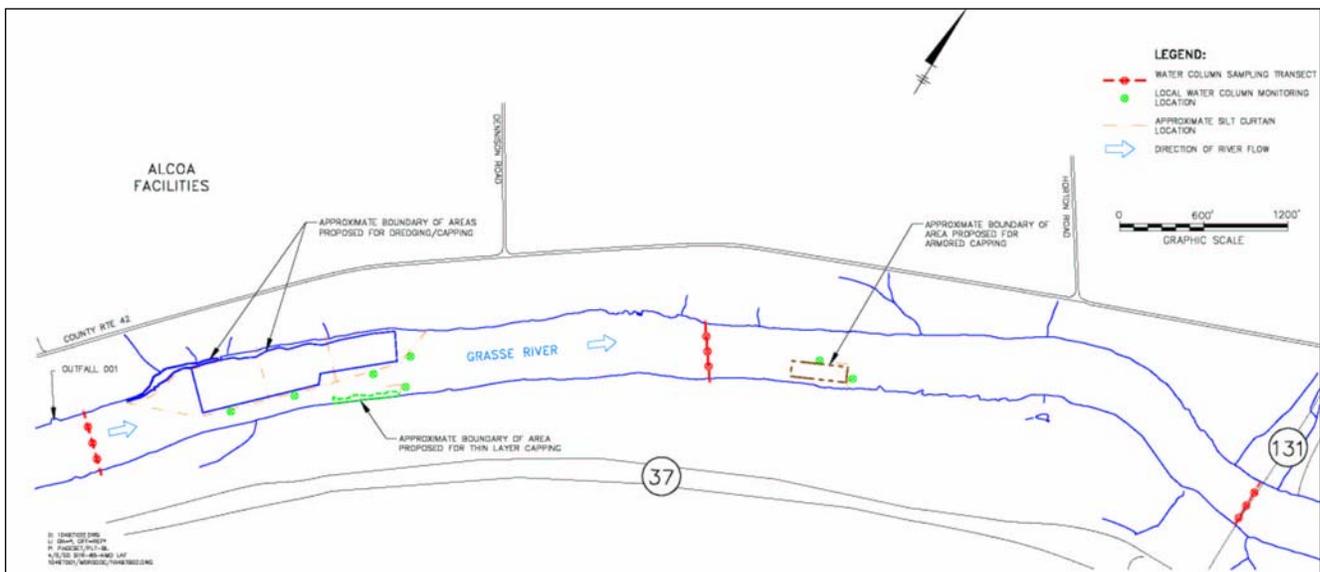
Remedial Options Pilot Study Approximate Air Monitoring Locations

Monitoring results will be compared against levels established by EPA. If these levels are exceeded, modifications will be made to site operations. Although PCBs have been identified as the primary contaminant of concern at the site based on the site characterization work, Alcoa has agreed to expand the air monitoring program to include monitoring events for polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to ensure that no impacts to the community occur as a result of the work activities. Three comprehensive sampling events will be conducted during the monitoring program that will include analysis for these compounds.

These efforts will be carried out in addition to the protective air monitoring conducted to ensure safety of site personnel.

Water Quality

Water quality will be monitored daily at several locations in the river during project activities. Sampling locations will be positioned upstream and downstream of the ROPS work areas to assess potential impacts from in-river activities through a comparison of sample results to levels established by EPA. Additional monitoring will be conducted at several other local stations located right next to work areas. These locations will serve as early indicators of potential water quality concerns. Samples will be collected from multiple depths within the water column and analyzed for total suspended solids and PCBs. In addition, turbidity (a measure of water clarity) will be evaluated in the field. Taken together, these monitoring activities will allow for an ongoing assessment of water quality impacts and Alcoa will be able to respond quickly if the monitoring results indicate that modifications to construction activities are necessary.



Remedial Options Pilot Study Approximate Water Column Monitoring Locations

Noise Levels

Noise associated with dredging, capping, and operation of heavy equipment will be controlled to the extent possible to minimize impacts on local communities. Sound levels will be evaluated at the start of the project and again when the mode of operation changes significantly. Sound levels at the perimeter of the site will be monitored with the intent of minimizing nuisance noise. Alcoa will take steps to lower noise to acceptable levels if the results of the monitoring indicate a potential concern. Some activities will take place during the night, and efforts will be undertaken to further minimize impacts when people are home and sleeping.

Lighting Issues



Some activities will need to be conducted after sunset. As a result, artificial lighting will be necessary during evening hours to protect workers. Whenever possible, low-mast lights and shielding will be used to limit glare and minimize impacts on neighboring areas. Lighting will be evaluated at the start of the project and again if the lighting configuration is changed near residences that may be affected by project lights. The location and set-up of lights will be adjusted if necessary to help minimize disturbances.

Traffic Control

Implementation of the study will result in increased truck traffic, particularly near the entrance to Alcoa's plant at Gate No. 4 on County Route 42. During the day, signs will be posted and trained traffic directors will be stationed to help alleviate the impacts in this area. Project timing will be shifted as needed to minimize congestion, and local school schedules will be taken into account when planning certain activities that may generate increased traffic.



Boating Safety



Boaters may encounter working vessels/barges and other equipment associated with study-related activities. As currently planned, navigation in an area along the river's southern shore will remain unrestricted throughout the project, and efforts will be taken to promote public safety and awareness. The U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Border Patrol will be notified of the project schedule. A no-wake zone will be established near the work area, lighted buoy and buoy markers will be placed on the river, and notices to recreational boaters will be posted at local marinas and other locations in the community. In addition, the captains of the boats used for the project will be trained in navigation safety.

Shore-Based Concerns and Site Security

Potential shore-based concerns will only exist within the confines of the Alcoa facility, which is off-limits to the public. To prevent trespassing, vandalism, or accidental entry, site security measures will be employed. In addition to the permanent fencing surrounding the Alcoa facility, security personnel will control the project area 24 hours per day, 7 days per week for the duration of the study. Additionally, all visitors to the facility will be required to sign-in at the project office. Unauthorized personnel will not be permitted to enter the site.

For More Information



If you would like additional information or want to be added to the project mailing list, please contact:

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