

# Congaree River Coal Tar/Sediment Cleanup

Public Meeting March 30, 2022





South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Healthy People. Healthy Communities.

## Agenda

### Presentation

- Site History
- Selected Remedy
- Path Forward
- Questions



### **Manufactured Gas Plant History**

- Located on Huger Street
- Operated from 1900-1950
- Plant burned coal to produce gas for production of the predecessor to natural gas
- Created large amounts of byproduct (coal tar)
- Operated as the City Bus Terminal from 1950s- 2008
- Contract between DHEC and Dominion Energy (DEC) to assess and cleanup Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) in 2002
- MGP removal conducted from 2009-2012
- Coal Tar discovered in Congaree River in 2010







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# **Cleanup Challenges**

- Civil war munitions deposited in this portion of the Congaree River
  - Potential Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)
  - Worker Safety Concerns
  - Preserving Historical Artifacts
- 2015 Flood deposited up to 5 feet of sediment in the area of concern
- River has bedrock bottom making metal piling options infeasible
- Dynamic river conditions
- Limited timeframes for work in the river



### Modified Removal Action (Selected Remedy)

- Approximately 70-75% of total Tar-Like Material (TLM) will be removed from the Congaree River
- TLM will be removed from areas of the river that are most accessed and where the majority of TLM volume exists in the river
  - Two (2) separate areas (Area 1 and Area 2)
- Reduces impact of river rise on west bank to < 1 foot



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### **Cofferdam Layout View**





#### View from West Columbia Side of River

View from Gervais Street Bridge

### **Reinforced Rockfill Cofferdam**

#### Land Side

**River Side** 



- Designed to be overtopped.
- Drainage pipe built in to remove water.

## **Cofferdam Construction**





Examples of articulated concrete block mats that will be used to reinforce the rockfill cofferdam on sides and top.



### **Milestones Since November 2020 Public Meeting**

Date	Milestones
December 2021	Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) issued Nationwide 38 Permit DHEC's BOW Certification to Construct under ACOE
	Permit
February 2022	DHEC's Action Memorandum to document selection of Modified Removal Action
March 2022	ACOE Recertification of Nationwide 38 Permit



#### Conceptual Site Operations Plan



Access to and from the river will be restricted within the project footprint



Operating Hours: 7 am–6 pm M-F



Trucks will move material from 9 am – 4 pm



Security measures will be in place at the site 24/7 during the project











## **Tentative Schedule**

Timeframe	Activity
April	Contractor Selection
	Submit Work Plan to DHEC for Review
	Complete Pre-Mobilization Activities
	Conduct Pilot Test Vibration Monitoring
May	DHEC review and approve Work Plan
	Remediation Contractor Mobilization
	Mobilization Site Set-up
May/June	Begin Importing Stone for Cofferdam
	UXO Screening/Clearing of Area 1 Cofferdam Footprint
June/July	Construct Area 1 Cofferdam



# **Potential Schedule Setbacks**

- Contractor Selection
- River Levels/Water Clarity/Unfavorable Weather
- River Flooding
- Vibration Pilot Study Results
- UXO Removal
- City of Columbia sewer line work



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## **City of Columbia Sewer Line Work**



- Senate Street is to be repaved from 100 ft. east of Williams Street to the western end of Senate Street
- Expected to be complete by end of April 2022



# **Vibration Monitoring Pilot Test**

- Measure vibration from simulated truck traffic
- Measure background levels of vibrations during normal traffic flow
- Determine speed and load to minimize vibrations
- Use data to design parameters for trucks entering/exiting along Senate Street

## Vibration Monitoring Pilot Test

- Buildings that will be monitored (Red Dots)
- Vibration Monitoring Locations (Yellow Dots)





## **Path Forward**

- Dominion selects contactor
- Submit work plan to DHEC for review
- 2-3 years of construction
- River access off Senate Street restricted beginning in May 2022
- Construction begins Summer 2022

### **Collaborative Partners & Stakeholders**





Lucas Berresford Greg Cassidy



Tom Effinger Rusty Contrael Paul Biery



**Bill Stangler** 



### **Contact Us**



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#### **Stay Connected**

