



Grasse River Project Update

November 2022

2022 Project Activities

Complete Initial Cap Repairs

Complete Habitat Reconstruction

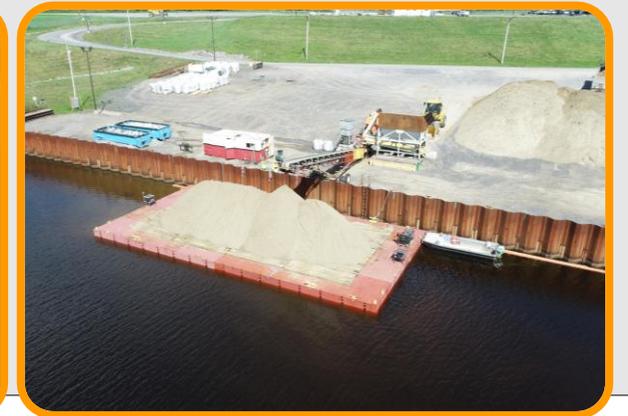
Initiate Long-term Monitoring

Did you know?

Arconic completed work in 2021 to implement the cleanup plan selected by U.S. EPA for a 7.2-mile stretch of the lower Grasse River. The in-river work included dredging and capping of sediment containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) to reduce PCB levels in fish and other organisms for the long-term protection of human health and the environment.

Cap Repairs

Ice jams were observed in March 2022 upstream of the Route 131 Bridge during ice monitoring activities. Arconic performed an ice jam investigation to assess impacts to the cap and river. The investigation showed that a small portion of the cap needed to be repaired. Cap repairs, which included placing sand, gravel and/or cobble, and activated carbon mix over impacted areas, began in September 2022.

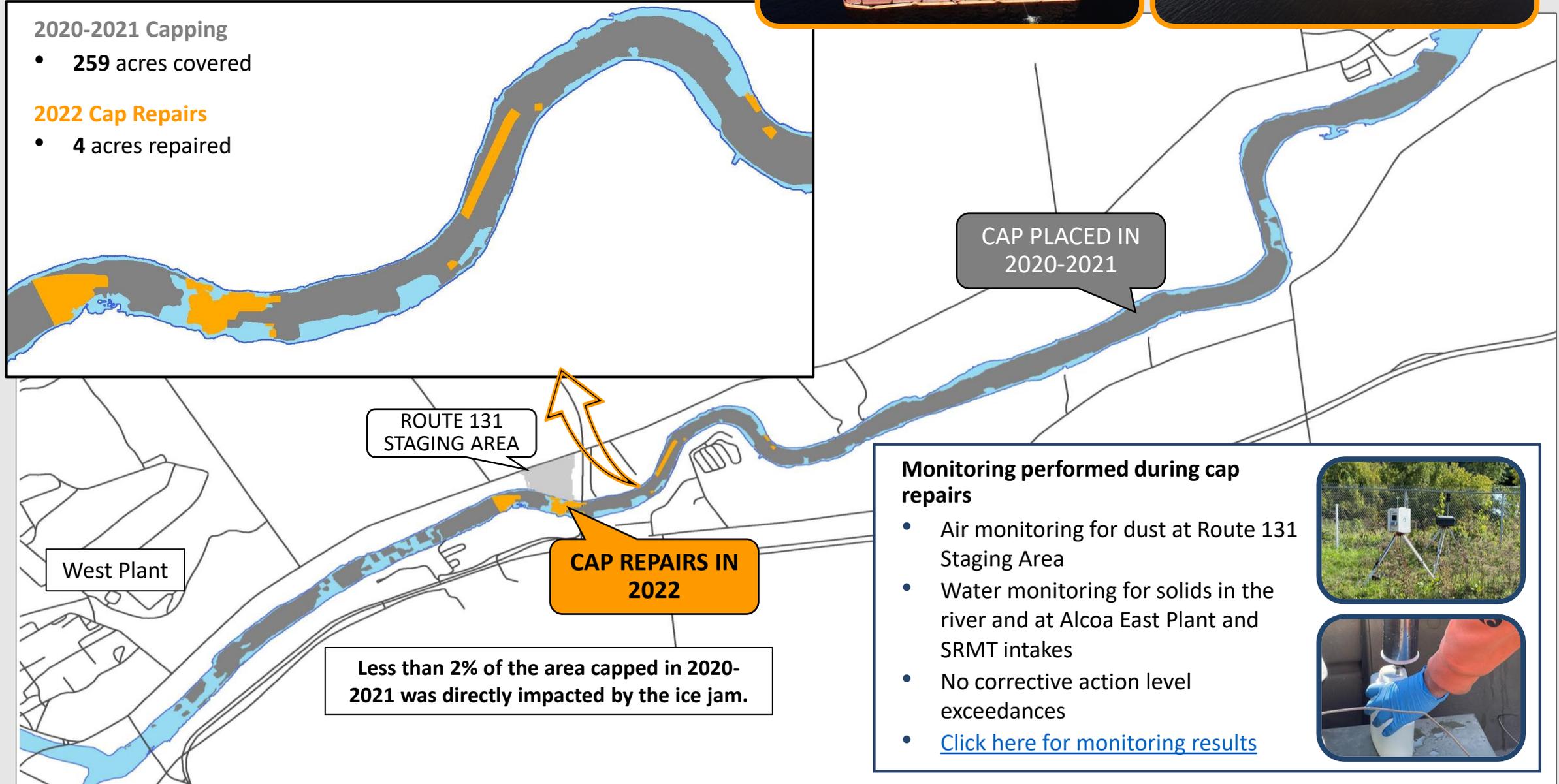


2020-2021 Capping

- 259 acres covered

2022 Cap Repairs

- 4 acres repaired



Monitoring performed during cap repairs

- Air monitoring for dust at Route 131 Staging Area
- Water monitoring for solids in the river and at Alcoa East Plant and SRMT intakes
- No corrective action level exceedances
- [Click here for monitoring results](#)





Grasse River Project Update

November 2022 (cont'd)

Habitat Reconstruction

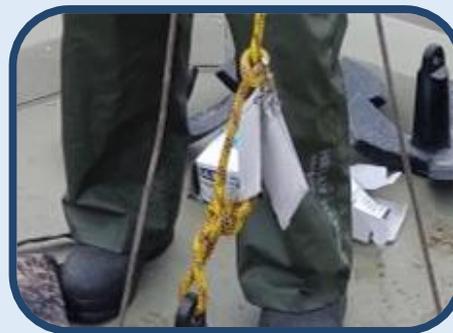
Habitat reconstruction activities continued in the river from May through October 2022. These efforts included installing over 9,000 plants along the shoreline in the shallow water areas and inspecting the plantings installed in 2020-2021, with maintenance or replanting performed as necessary. Nine different plant species were placed in the river. Wild rice seeds were also provided to and planted by SRMT. Habitat reconstruction is complete. The planted areas will continue to be monitored over time.



Long-term Monitoring

Monitoring and maintenance is performed to assess progress toward the remedial cleanup goals established by U.S. EPA in the April 2013 Record of Decision for PCB concentrations in water and fish and to verify that the cap placed over certain areas of the river bottom is performing as intended. The long-term monitoring program began this year and included:

- Water quality testing in the river for PCBs (bottom left picture)
- Fish sampling for smallmouth bass, brown bullhead, common carp, and spottail shiner and testing for PCBs (bottom center picture)
- Cap monitoring through bathymetric surveys (measurements of the river bottom) and PCB measurements in the water immediately above the cap using passive samplers (bottom right picture)



Health & Safety

Proactive health and safety measures were essential during the in-river construction and monitoring work, including community health and safety considerations.

 Total duration of construction work: 15,000+ hours

 Total number of safe worker hours: 15,000+ hours

Glossary

- NYSDEC = New York State Department of Conservation
- NYSDOH = New York State Department of Health
- PCB = polychlorinated biphenyl
- SRMT = St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
- U.S. EPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROJECT, PLEASE REACH OUT TO:

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2023 Project Activities



Final phase of cap repair is targeted to start in spring 2023. The scope will be determined by U.S. EPA.



Long-term monitoring will continue for water, fish, habitat, and the cap.



<http://www.thegrasseriver.com/>

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/alcoa-aggregate>