



PARK AVENUE EAST
MASSENA, NY 13662

TO: POSTAL PATRON

Grasse River Project Update 2025 In-River Activities

MASSENA, NEW YORK



APRIL 2025

This year's in-river project activities include:

Continue Cap Repairs

Continue Habitat Monitoring

Continue Long-term Monitoring

Spring
2025

Summer
2025

Fall
2025

Winter
2025

Did you know?

Arconic completed the cleanup plan selected by U.S. EPA for the lower Grasse River in 2021. This included dredging and placing three different types of caps over the river bottom. Small portions of the caps were damaged during the March 2022 ice-jam event and August 2024 high-flow event. Initial repairs were performed in 2022 and 2024 with the remaining repairs to be completed this year.

Glossary

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



CAP REPAIRS

Place sand and activated carbon on the river bottom in the vicinity of the Route 131 bridge & downstream



HABITAT MONITORING

Monitor installed in-water and on land plantings



LONG-TERM MONITORING

Monitor river water, fish, and the condition of the cap



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

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

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

What: U.S. EPA Public Information Meeting

When: Thursday, April 10, 2025, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: NY Power Authority, Hawkins Point Visitors Center, 21 Hawkins Point Road, Massena, NY 13662

KEEPING YOU INFORMED



- The U.S. EPA will hold a Public Information Meeting on April 10, 2025 to discuss upcoming in-river work and answer questions.
- U.S. EPA email distribution list: To receive site-related updates, send an email to romanowski.larisa@epa.gov.
- More information on the overall Grasse River project can be found at www.epa.gov/superfund/alcoa-aggregate and www.thegrasseriver.com.



CAP REPAIRS

A high-flow event caused by the remnants of Hurricane Debby occurred in August 2024. This resulted in the highest flow ever recorded in the river. Arconic investigated potential impacts to the areas where capping material had been placed over sections of the river bottom. The investigation showed that limited sections of the cap located downstream of the Route 131 bridge require repair. Cap repairs include placing sand and activated carbon, which are the same materials used in 2020-2021, over sections of the river bottom. The contractor will use more erosion resistant materials as the top layer (see image of cap repair materials). These repairs will be completed by the contractor in conjunction with the March 2022 ice-jam event repairs which will involve placement of the final armor layer (larger rocks and gravel) near the Route 131 bridge.



Estimated Schedule

- Mid/late April into summer
- 6 days per week
- 12 hours per day (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

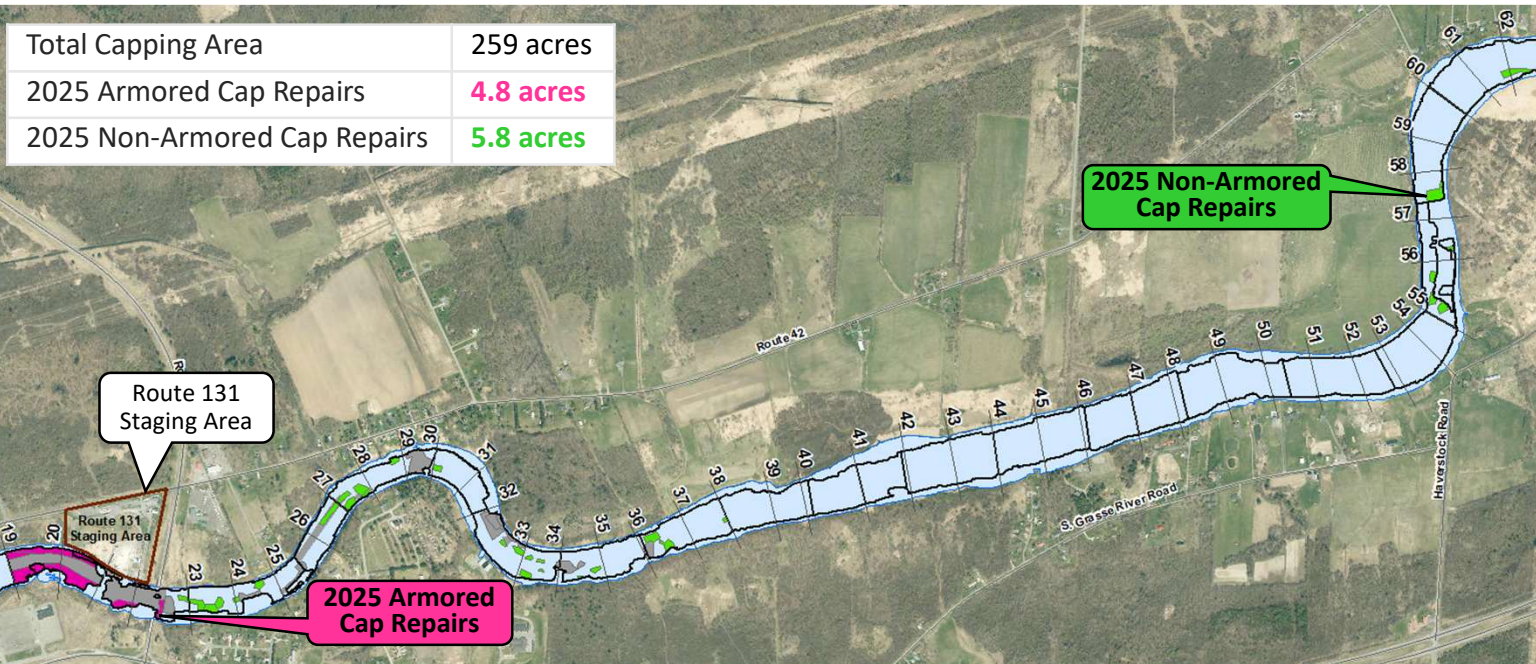
Cap Repair Materials



Bottom: Sand



Top: Sandy gravel



Monitoring performed during cap repairs

- Air monitoring for dust at Route 131 Staging Area
- Water monitoring in the river and at the Alcoa East Plant and SRMT intakes
- Results compared against project-specific corrective action levels



Health & Safety

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

HABITAT RECONSTRUCTION MONITORING

Habitat reconstruction included installing plants along the shoreline in the shallow water areas and placing features such as rootwads along the river bottom. Habitat monitoring is performed to assess the condition of these plantings and features. Annual habitat monitoring began in 2023 and will continue in 2025.



In-water monitoring



On land monitoring



Plantings

LONG-TERM MONITORING

Monitoring and maintenance is performed to assess progress toward the cleanup goals established by the U.S. EPA for polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) concentrations in water and fish and to verify that the caps placed over certain areas of the river bottom are performing as intended. Long-term monitoring began in 2022 and continues in 2025. The program includes:

- Water quality testing in the river for PCBs
- Fish sampling (smallmouth bass, brown bullhead, common carp, and spottail shiner) and testing for PCBs
- Cap monitoring through bathymetric surveys (measurements of the river bottom)



Water sampler



Fish sampling



Bathymetric Survey