



# Grasse River Project Update

October 2024

## 2024 Project Activities

Continue Cap Repairs

Continue Habitat Monitoring

Continue Long-term Monitoring

## Did you know?

Arconic completed work in 2021 to implement the cleanup plan selected by U.S. EPA for the lower Grasse River. Work included dredging and placing three different types of caps over the river bottom. Small portions of the cap were damaged during the March 2022 ice jam event and interim cap repairs began fall 2022. Final repairs resumed in September 2024 in the vicinity of the Route 131 bridge.

## 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 cap from this event and determined that limited areas downstream of the Route 131 bridge will require repair. Cap repairs will include placement of sand and activated carbon, which are the same materials used in 2020-2021, with more erosion resistant materials placed as the top layer. These repairs will begin immediately after the ice-jam event repairs and will continue into 2025.



## 2024 Cap Repair Materials

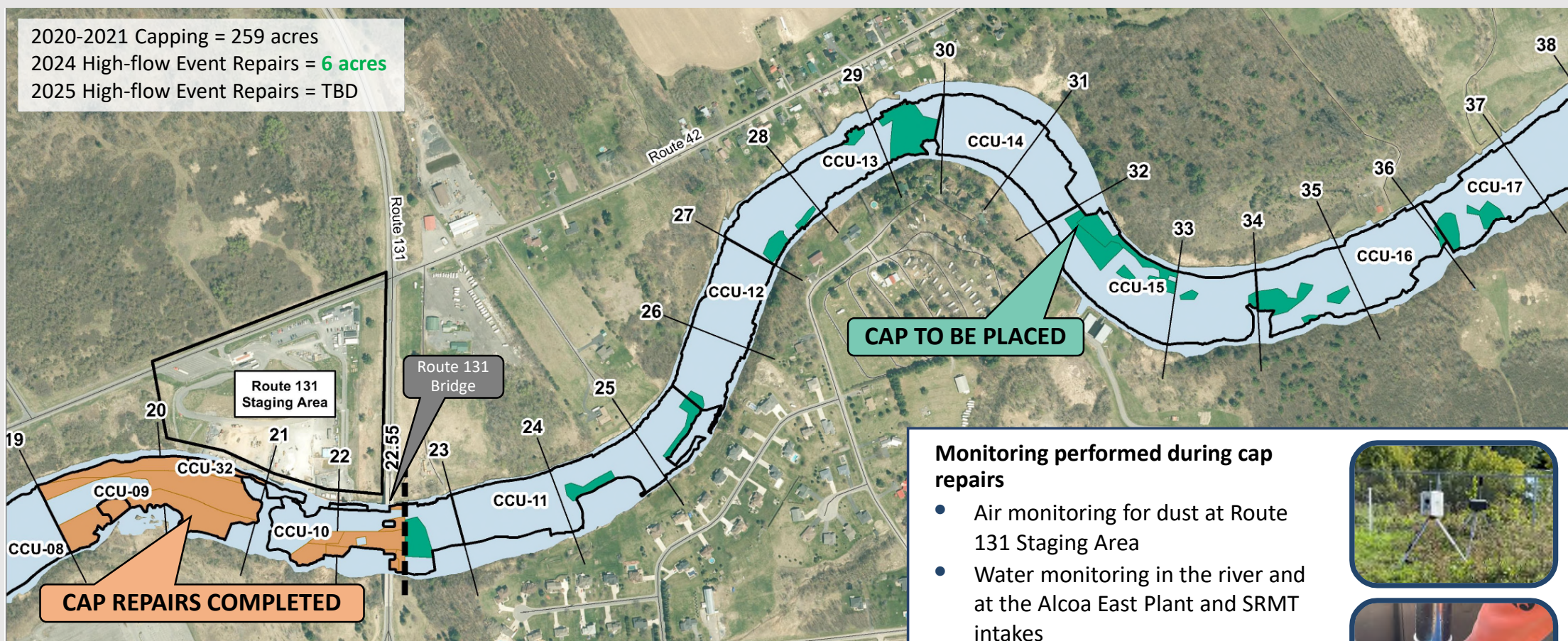


Bottom: Sand



Top: Sandy gravel

2020-2021 Capping = 259 acres  
2024 High-flow Event Repairs = **6 acres**  
2025 High-flow Event Repairs = TBD



## 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
- [Click here for monitoring results](#)



## 2024 Construction Schedule

- Repairs continue late October to late November
- Work performed approximately 12 hours per day (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.)



# Grasse River Project Update

October 2024 (cont'd)

## 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. Habitat monitoring was initiated in 2023 and was again performed in 2024. The planted areas will continue to be monitored next year.



In-water monitoring



On land monitoring



Plantings

## 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 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 was performed in 2023 and 2024. Monitoring will continue next year. The program includes:

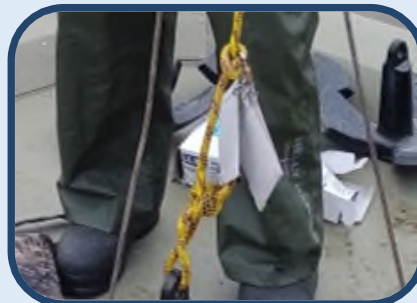
- Water quality testing in the river for PCBs
- Fish sampling for smallmouth bass, brown bullhead, common carp, and spottail shiner and testing for PCBs
- Cap monitoring through bathymetric surveys (measurements of the river bottom) and PCB measurements in the water immediately above the cap using passive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



Water sampler



Fish sampling



Passive sampler

## Health & Safety

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



Total duration of construction work:  
25,000+ hours



Total number of safe worker hours:  
25,000+ hours

### 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



### 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>

## 2025 Project Activities



Final phase of cap repair is targeted to start in spring 2025.



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