

# We Energies – Third Ward Milwaukee River Sediment Remedial Action

A Component of the Milwaukee  
Estuary AOC

3/14/2024

## Acknowledgements:

We Energies (Patrick Kenny), GEI authors from abstract, JF Brennan

## AGENDA

- 1 Health and Safety Summary
- 2 History of the Milwaukee River Estuary
- 3 Design
- 4 Construction Implementation
- 5 Questions

# Safety Highlights

- GEI, J.F. Brennan, EDI, Pieper Electric, DOC Mapping, KL Engineering, Wiss, Janney, Elstner and Frattalone
- ~45-50 Workers/day
- ~60,000+ safe worker hours
- **0** Incidents
- Highlights
  - Air Quality
  - Underwater Utilities
  - Team Collaboration





# Milwaukee: A Place of Council

# Brief History of the Milwaukee River Estuary

Place of Council and Gathering dating back to approximately 13,000 BCE.

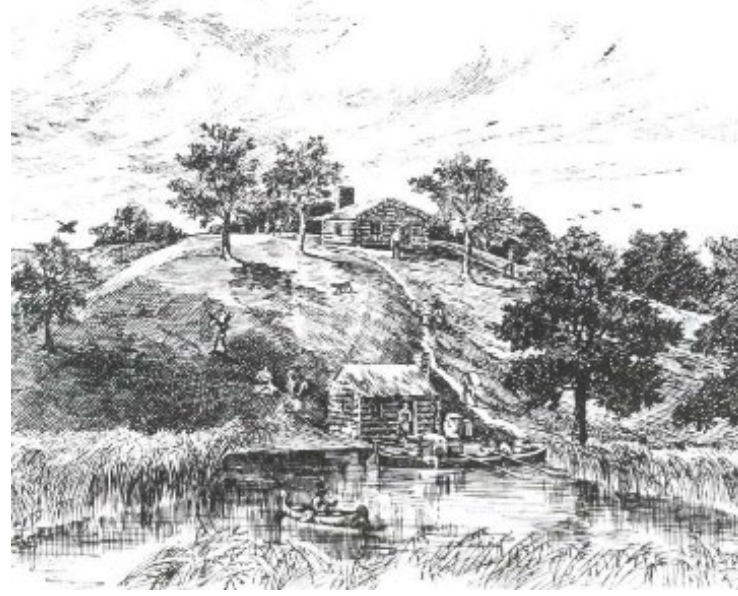
First Nation's Peoples from the Potawatomi, Ottawa, Ojibwa and Menominee bands shared the neutral ground.

Economic Center of Wisconsin for Manufacturing and Shipping 1750s – 1950s.

2017 Study Estimate **\$106M** in revenue from Port Milwaukee alone but the location has changed.

Currently the Milwaukee River serves as the focal point for the City  
It's now the center of Arts and Entertainment

Milwaukee's Riverwalk won the 2017-2018 Global Award of Excellence from the Urban Land Institute



# Project Need

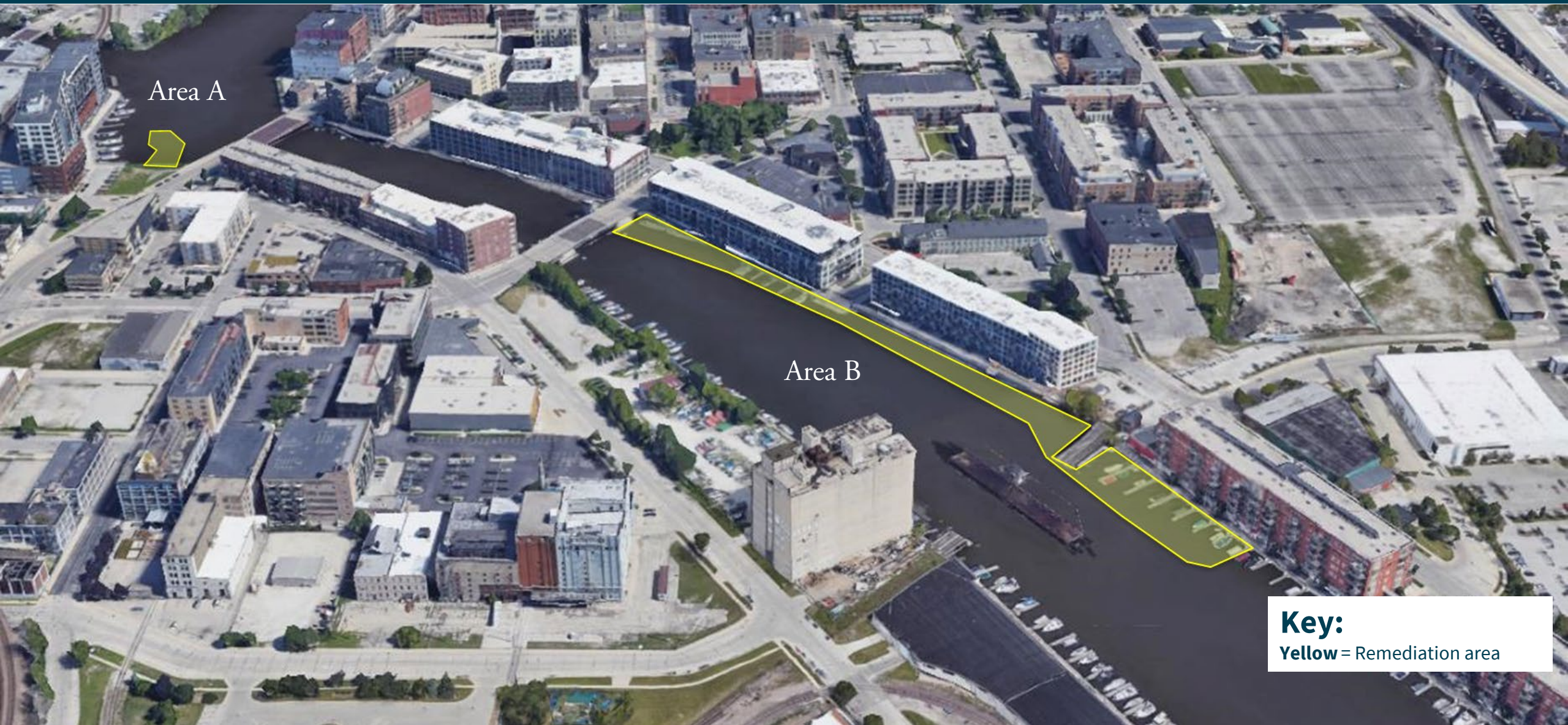
- Historic Impacts
  - Milwaukee-Menomonee-Kinnickinnic Rivers served as the main location for all of Milwaukee's industries.
- Milwaukee River AOC Targets and Goals
  - ~1.4M cubic yards of sediments planned for remediation
  - ~\$65.5M already spent on remediation projects.
- Desire to be good stewards of the communities we live and work in.
  - Sediment remediation projects as a part of urban waterway revitalization.
  - Removing NAPL (and other contaminants) impacts from the sediments.





# Design

# Challenges of an Urban Waterway



Area A



Area B

**Key:**  
Yellow = Remediation area

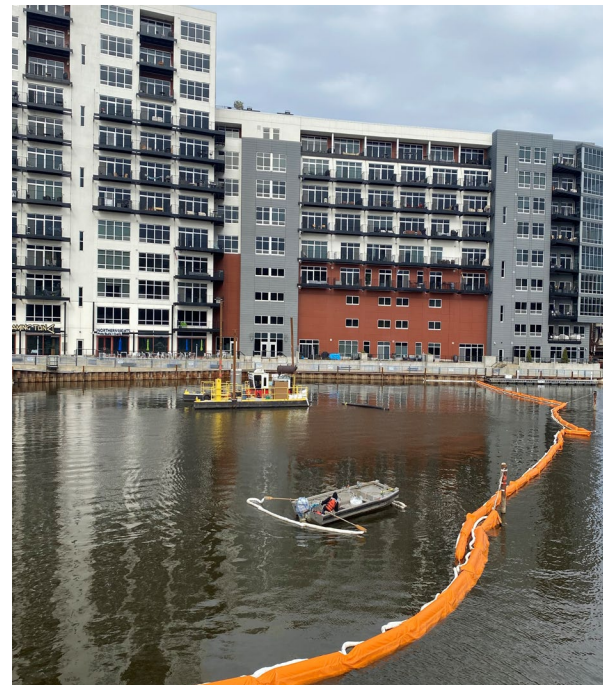


# Challenges of an Urban Waterway

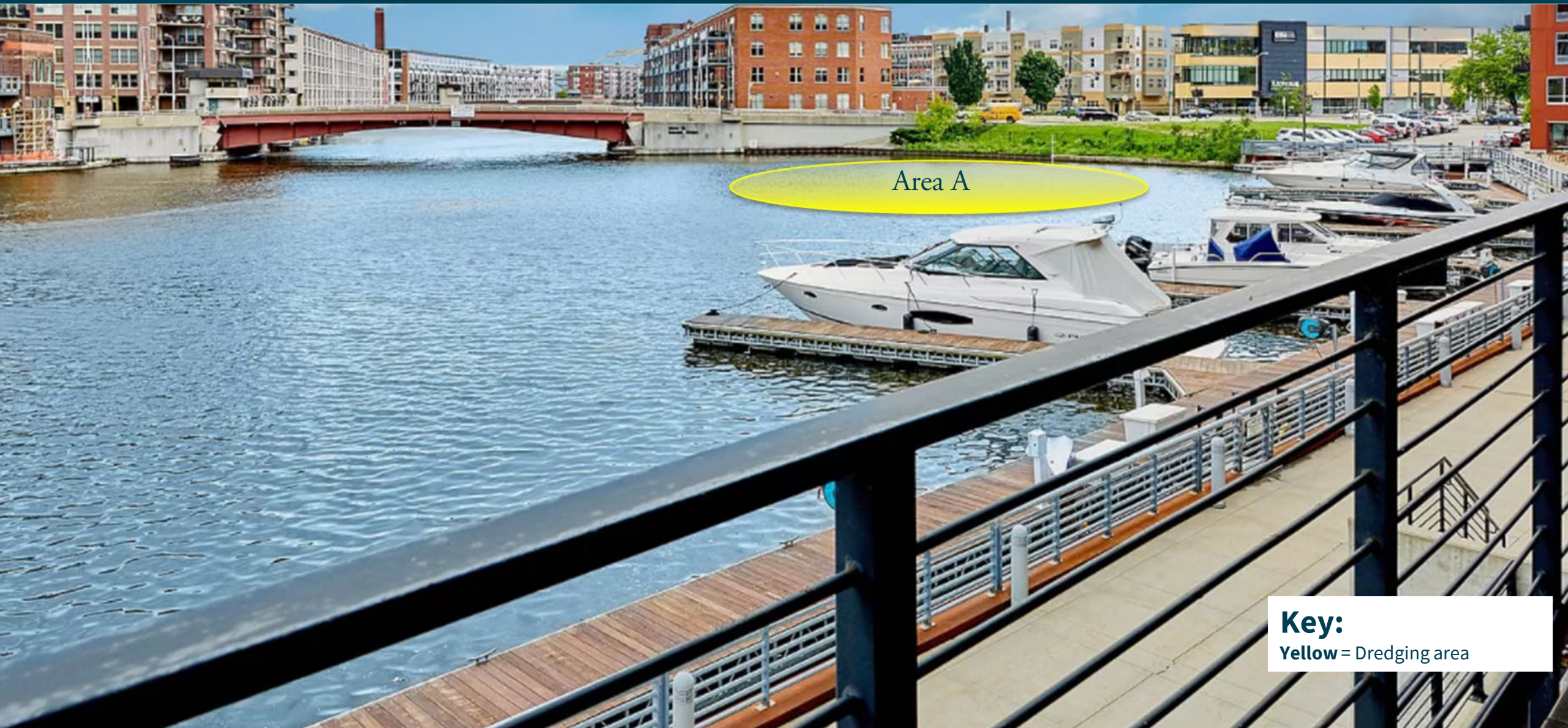


## Design

- Lacking as-Built data
- Deep water environment (15-35 feet deep)
- Potential for subsurface debris
- Protection of structures
- Seasonal limitations
- Removing NAPL containing sediments
- Treatment of the sediments post dredging
- Development of a monitoring program
- Cultural resources (shipwrecks)



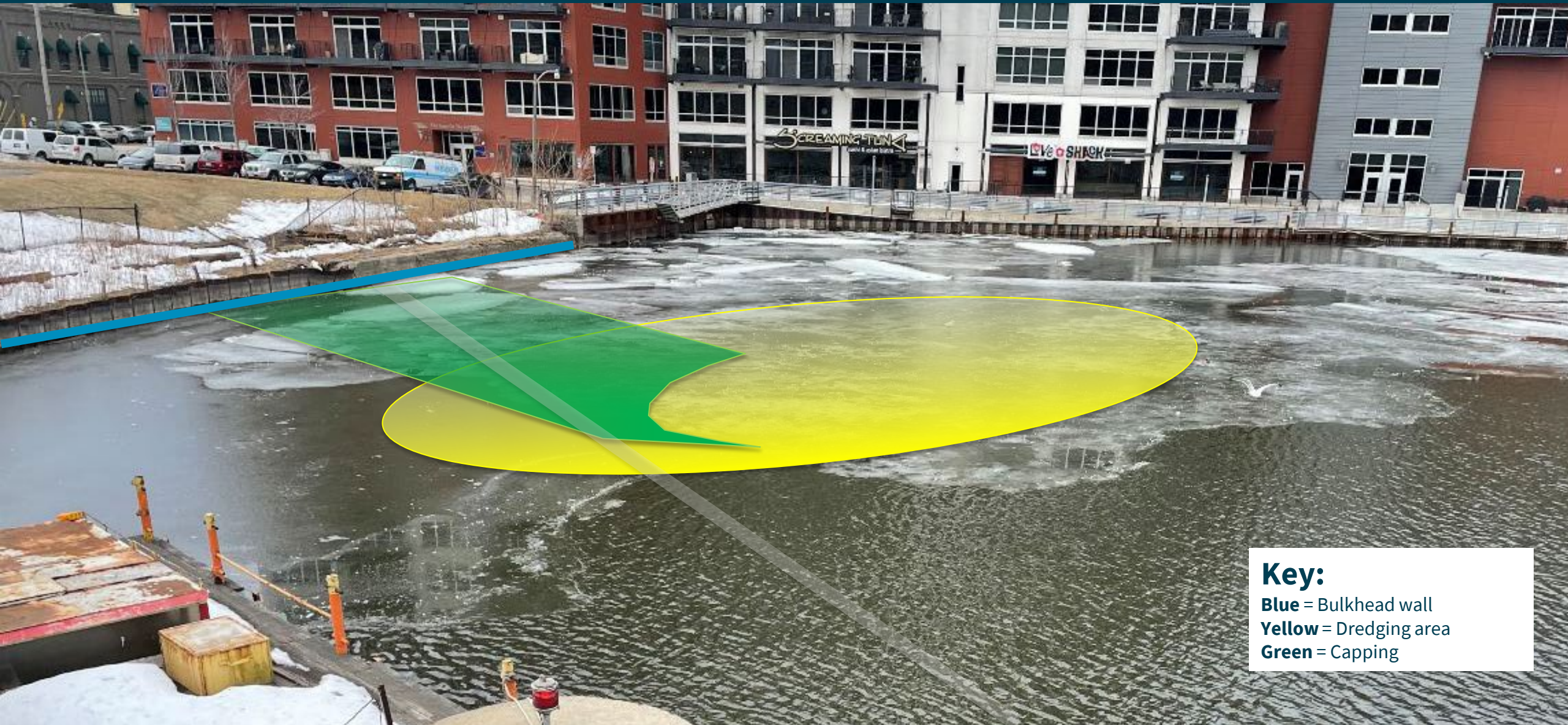
# Challenges of an Urban Waterway



Area A

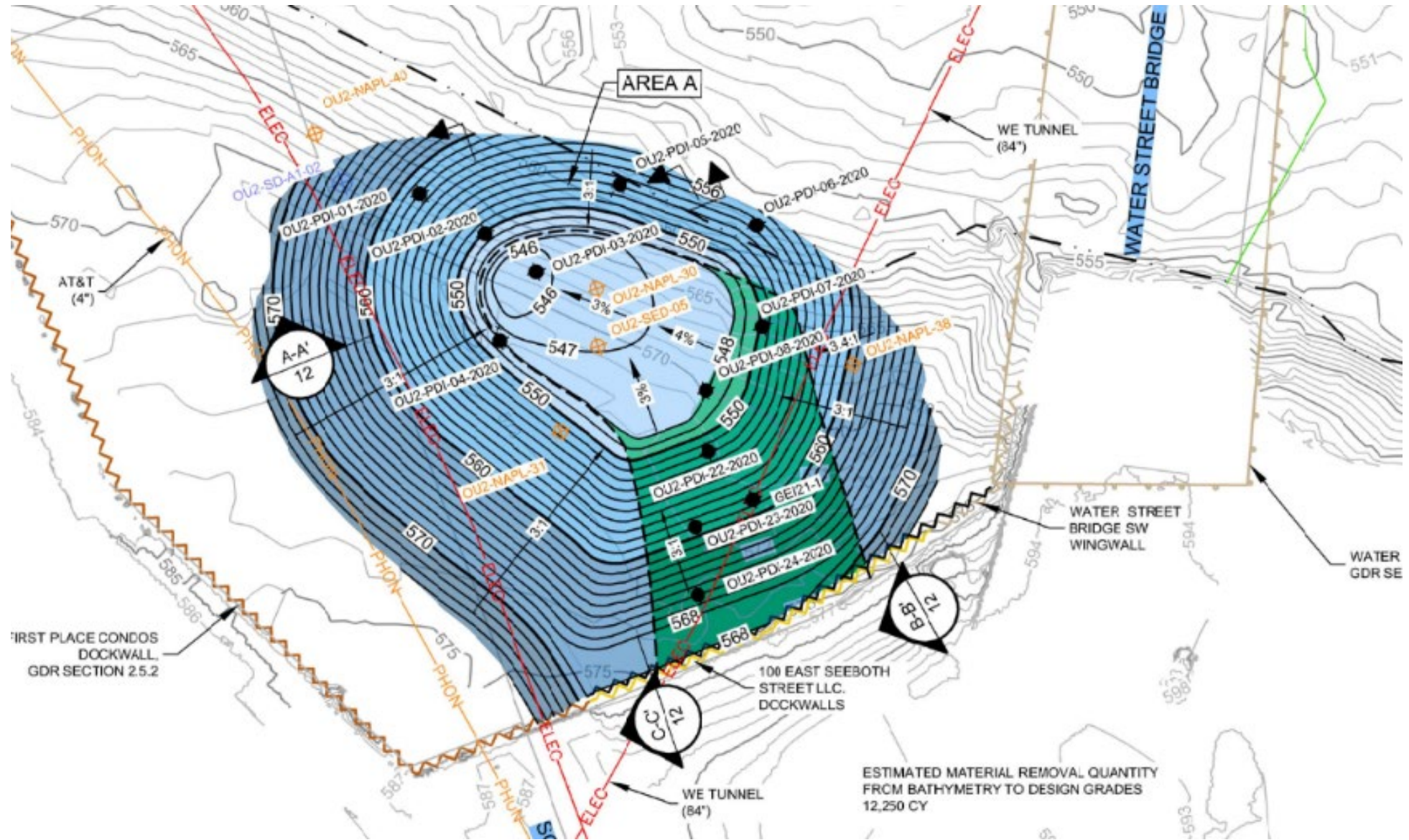
**Key:**  
Yellow = Dredging area

# Area A



**Key:**  
**Blue** = Bulkhead wall  
**Yellow** = Dredging area  
**Green** = Capping

# Area A

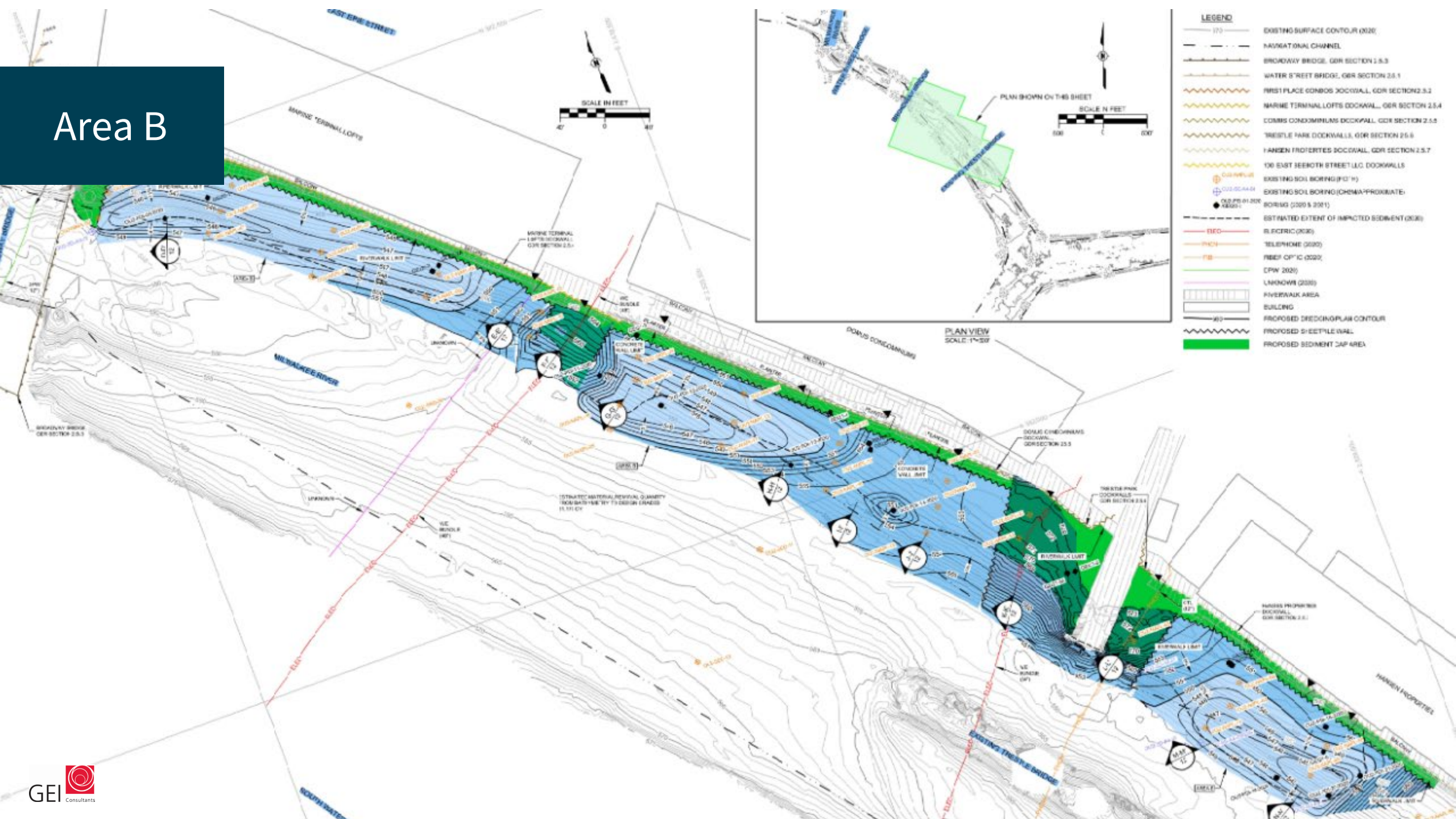


# Area B

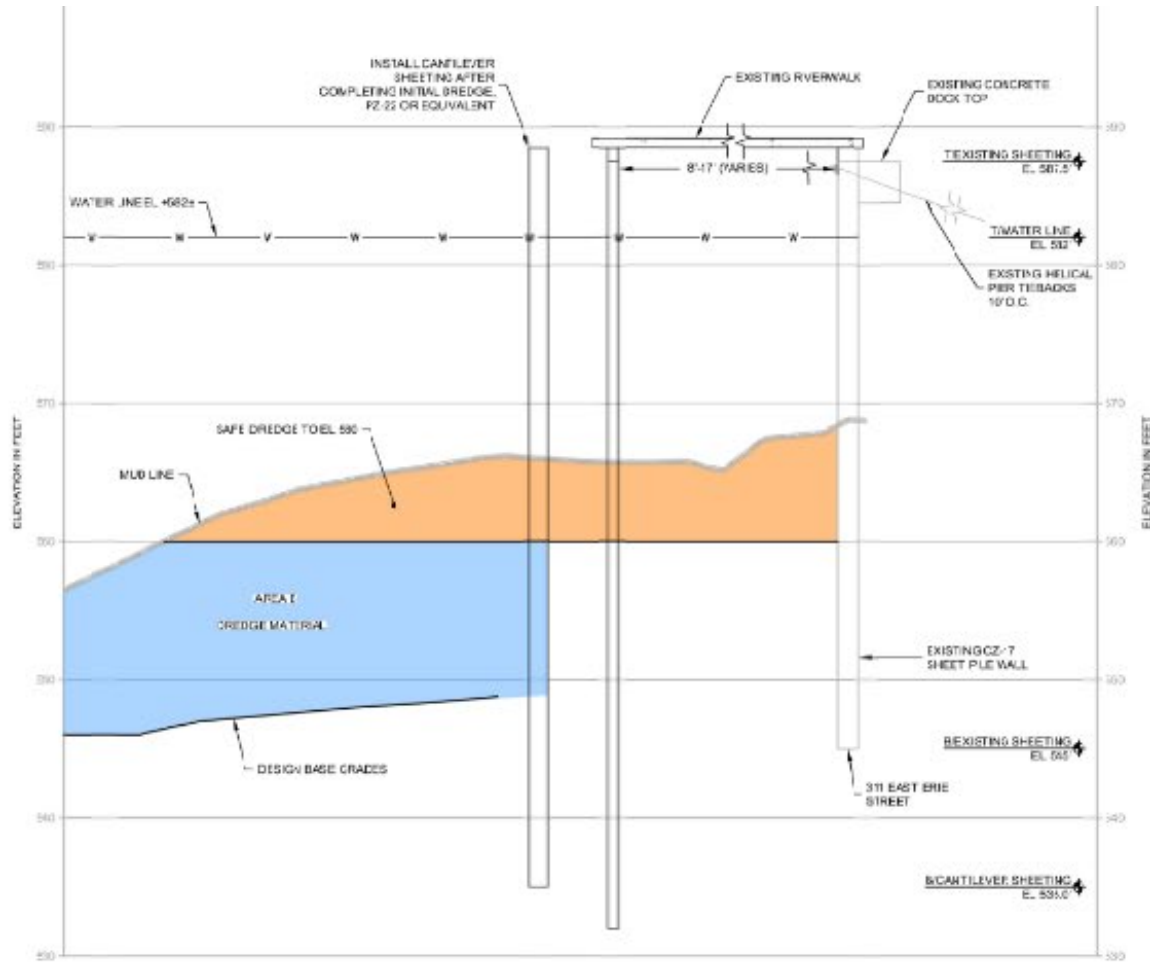


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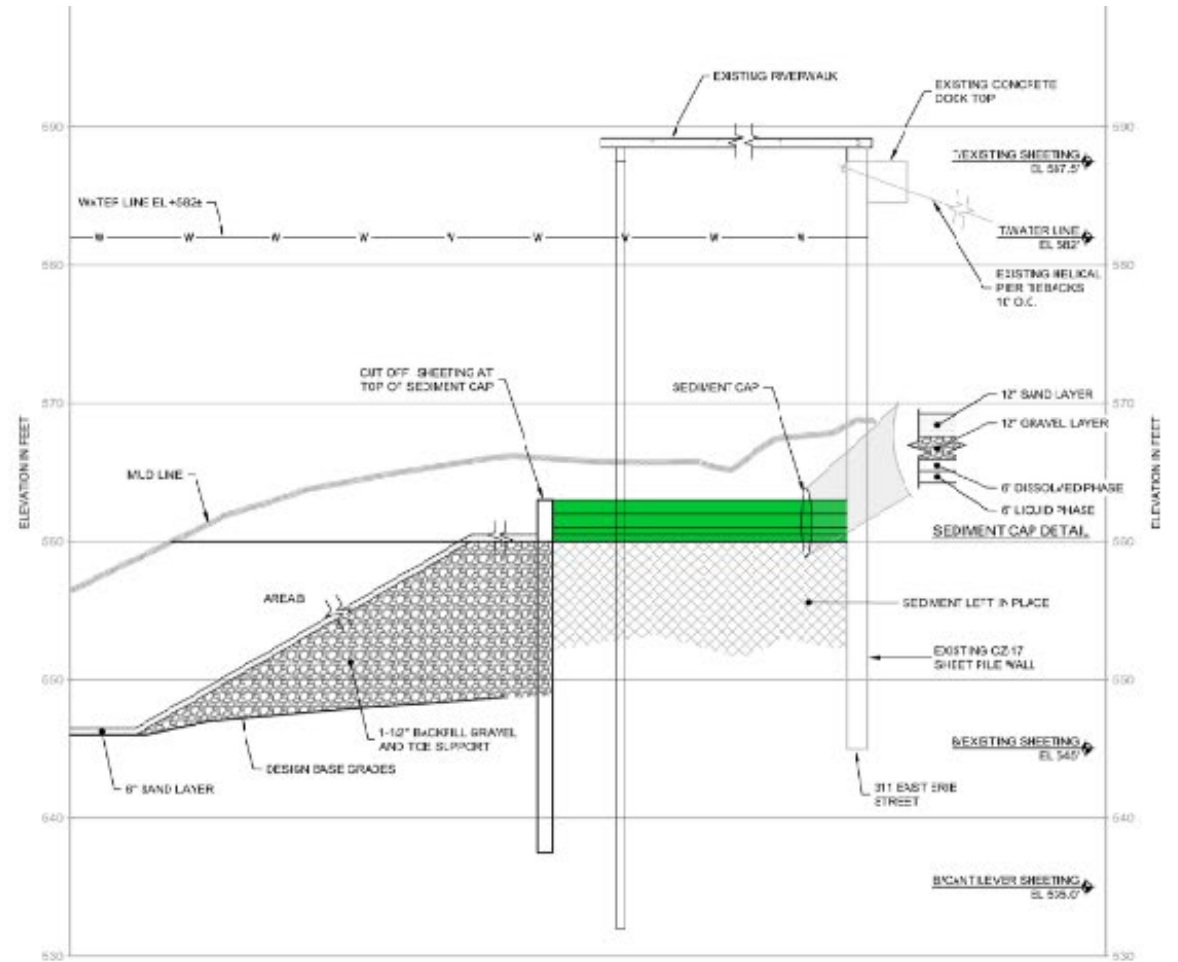
# Area B



# Typical Cross-Section



**STABILIZATION PRIOR TO DREDGING  
CROSS-SECTION D-D (WEST TO EAST)**  
Scale: H=2 V=2  
Vert. Exaggeration: 1



**FINAL RESTORATION CROSS-SECTION D-D (WEST TO EAST)**  
Scale: H=2 V=2  
Vert. Exaggeration: 1

# Engineered Cap

Residual Sand Cover

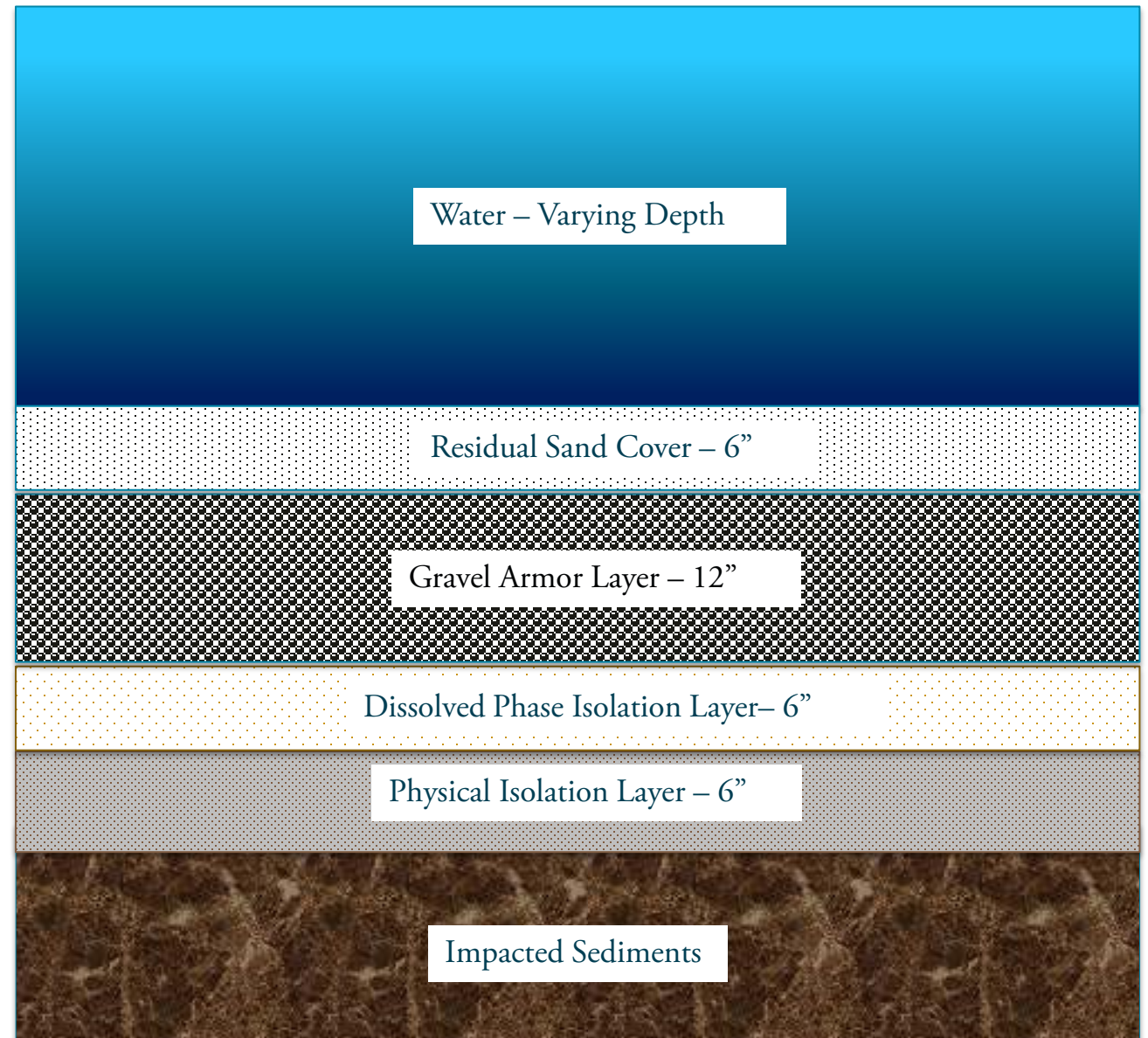
Gravel Armor Layer

Dissolved Phase Isolation Layer

Sand and Granular Activated Carbon (0.4 kg/sf)

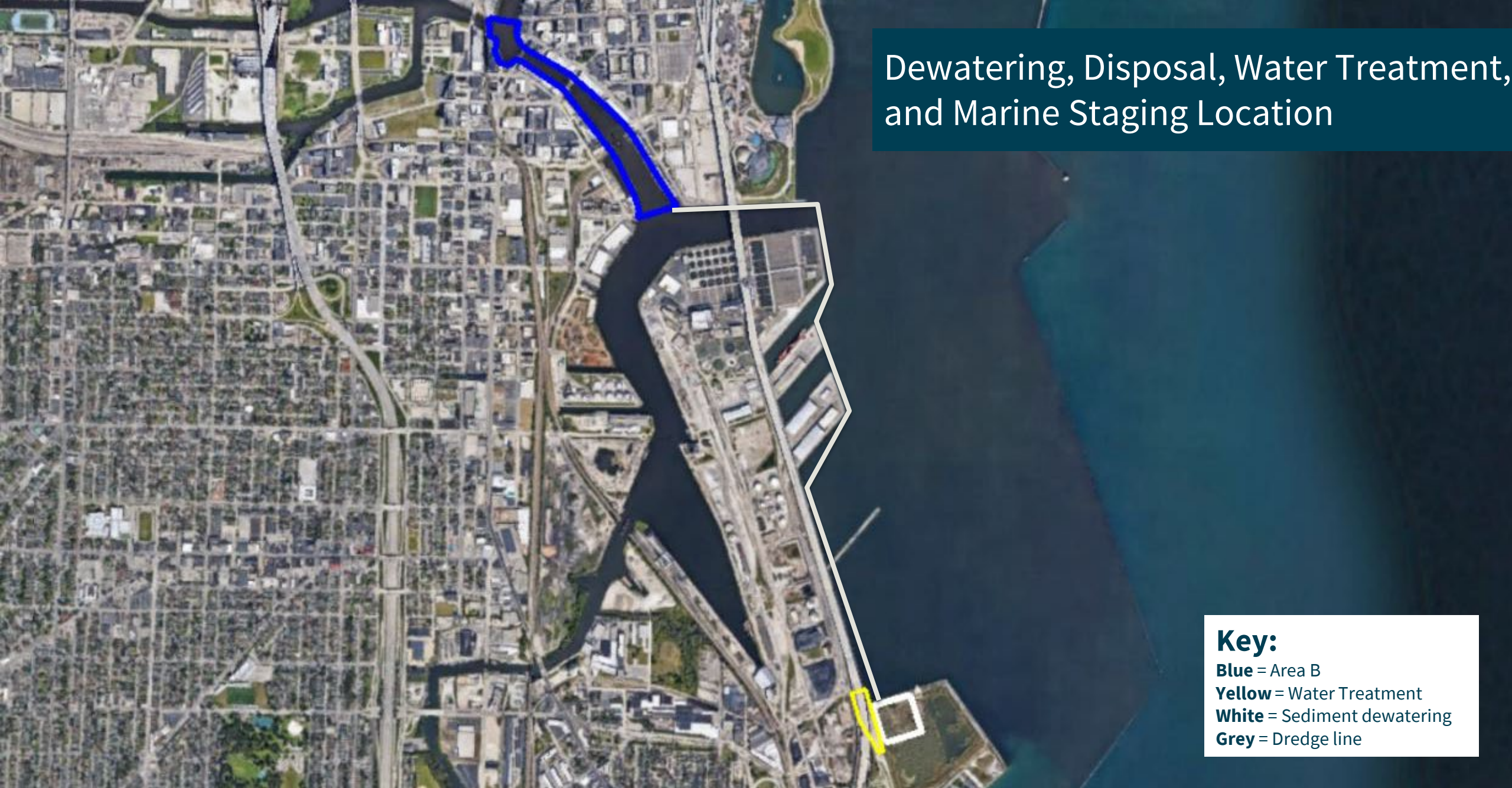
Physical Isolation Layer

Sand and Organoclay Layer (1.5 kg/sf)





# Dewatering, Disposal, Water Treatment, and Marine Staging Location



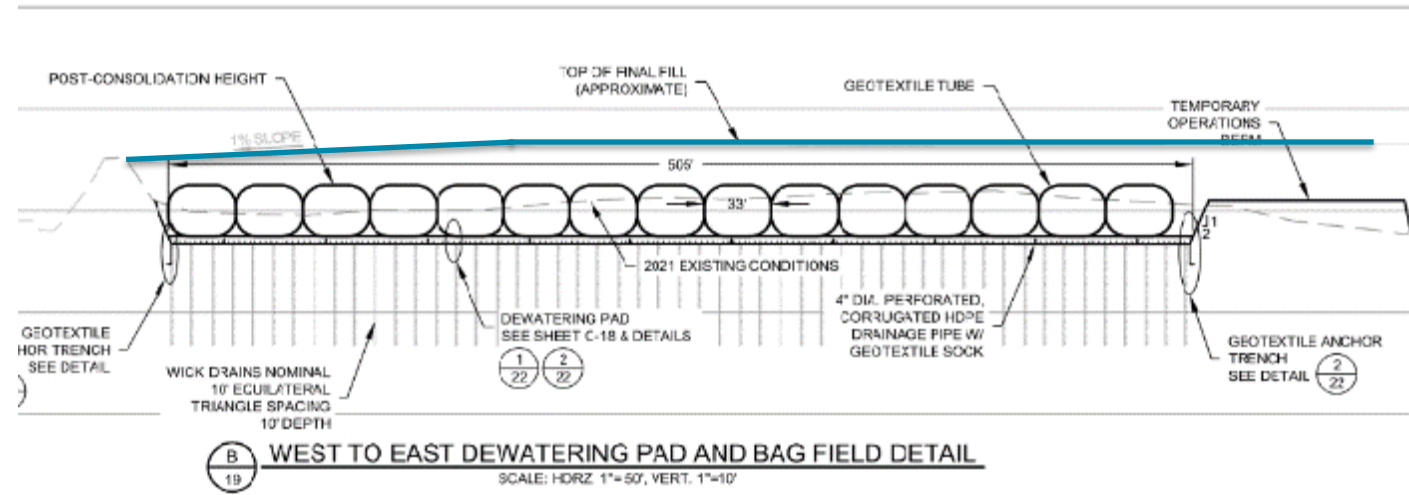
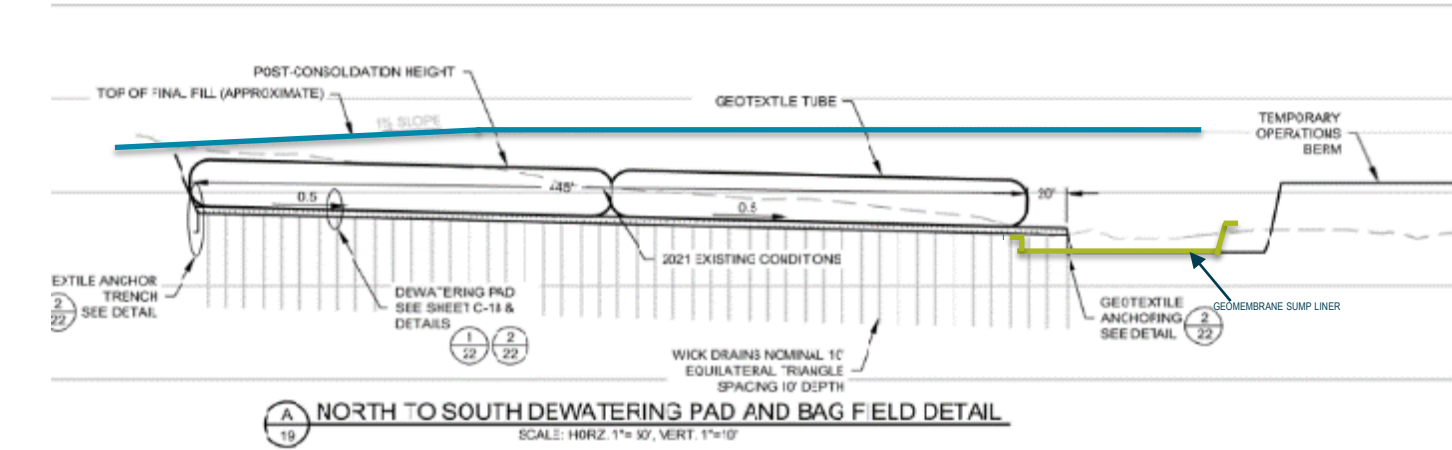
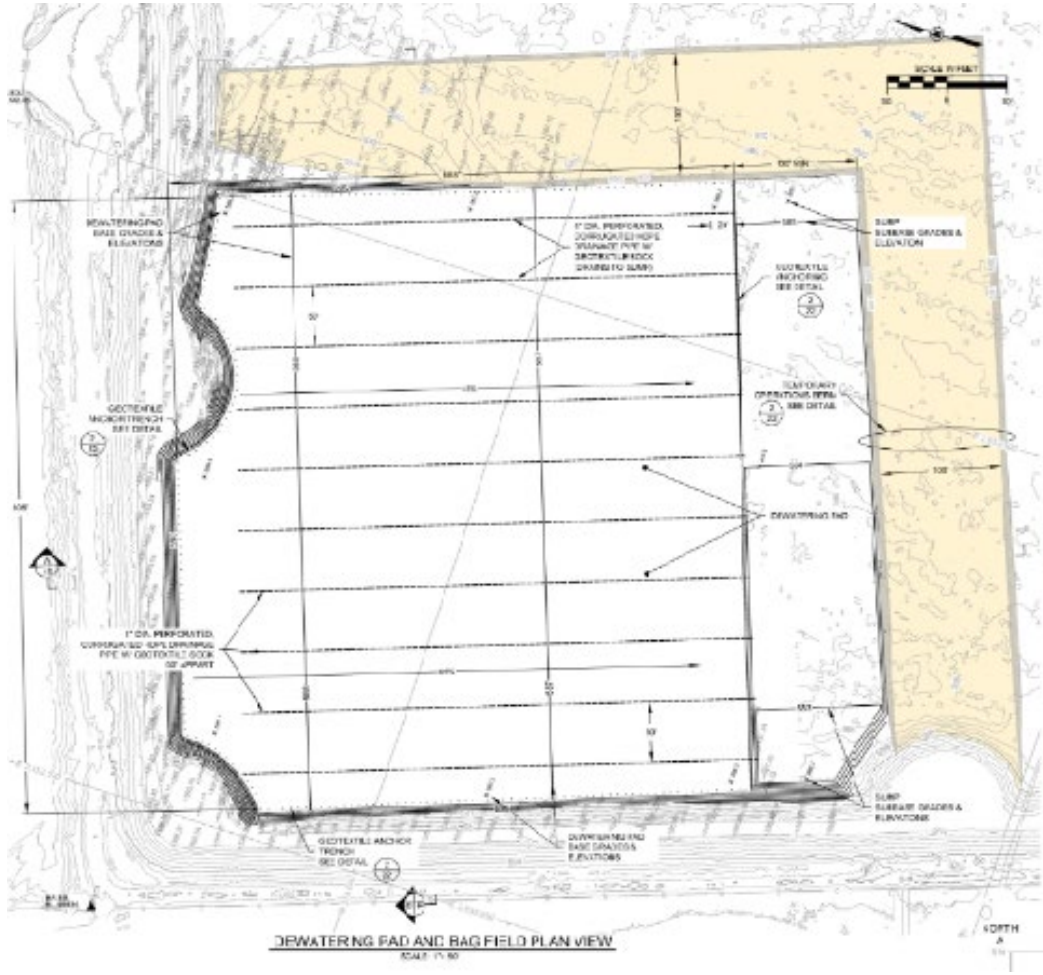
**Key:**  
**Blue** = Area B  
**Yellow** = Water Treatment  
**White** = Sediment dewatering  
**Grey** = Dredge line

# Sediment Dewatering, Water Treatment and Disposal Location



**Key:**  
**Yellow** = Water Treatment  
**White** = Sediment dewatering

# Dewatering/Disposal Pad



# Challenges of an Urban Waterway



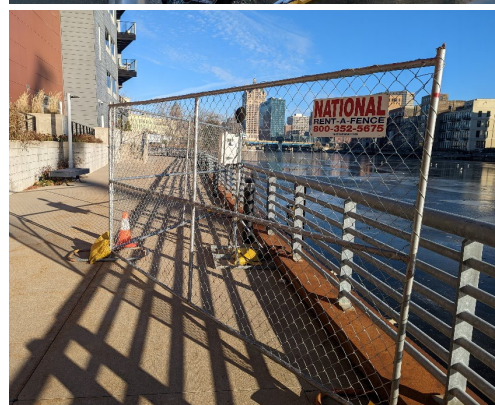
## Stakeholders

- Utility Companies
- Residents & Property Owners
- Riparian Owners
- City Officials
- State and Federal Regulators
- Event Planning Commissions
- Conservation & Recreation Clubs
- Adjacent Businesses
- Commercial & Pedestrian Traffic
- Public Safety
- Boat Slip Owners
- Railroads



# Design Lessons Learned

- Development of monitoring programs
  - Air – Real-Time and Grab Samples
  - Structural – Assessment/Surveys/Tiltmeters
  - Vibration
  - Noise
  - Turbidity and Water Quality
- Extensive project team
- Proactive stakeholder engagement
- Permitting – USEPA, WDNR, USACE, WisDOT, USCG, Port MKE, MMSD, City of MKE
- Cost/risk management
- Logistics of materials in an urban setting.





# Construction Implementation

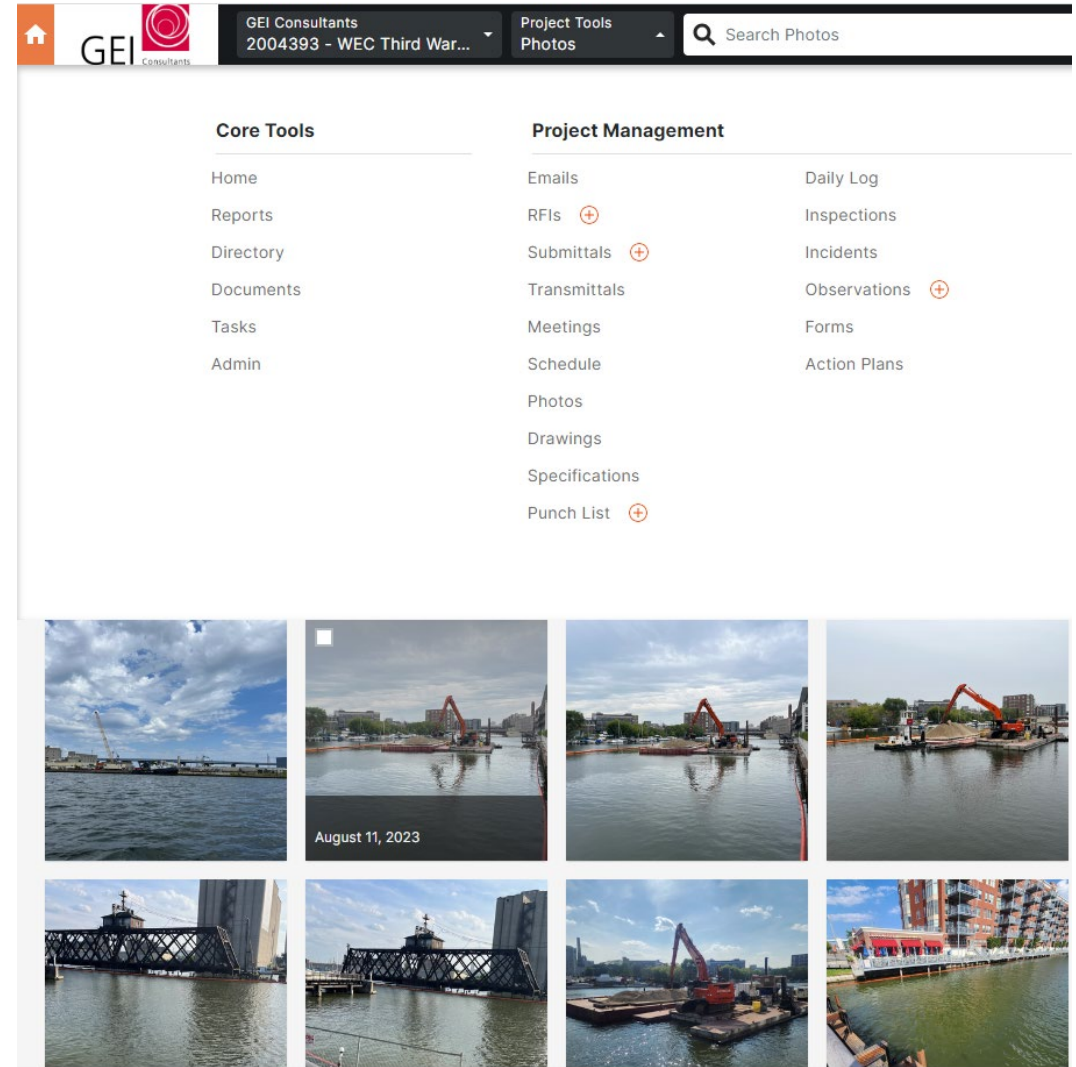
# Project Details

- ~45,000 CY impacted sediment
- 2 miles 10” submerged HDPE pipeline to DMDF
- 7-acre sediment dewatering pad
  - 35 geotubes
- 3,500 GPM water treatment system
  - >100M gallons treated (zero discharge exceedances)
- 1,500 LF steel sheet pile (55’)
- 35,000 SF engineered sediment cap
- >160 instruments monitoring structural movement, vibration, air quality, noise and turbidity



# CM/Management

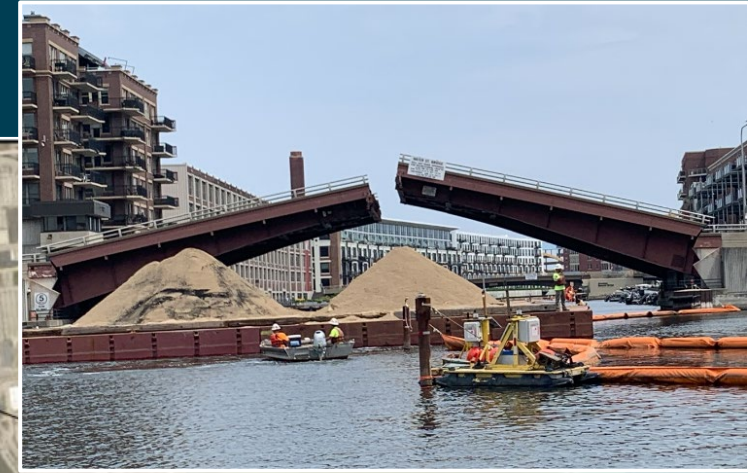
- 4-5 GEI Onsite fulltime
- 2-3 GEI office engineering
- Working hours
  - Six 12hr days (April-August)
- Four safety meetings at different locations
- Project Management Information Software - Procore
- Project Controls
- Significant effort
  - Stakeholder management
  - Communication (external/internal)
  - Documentation





# Urban Site Logistics

- Marine traffic
  - Commercial
  - Recreational
  - Tour Boats
- Riverwalk management
- Multiple bridges



# Public Announcement Video

<https://youtu.be/iJ6oeMTOHaA?si=kL-n7YvIbDbvA2xr>

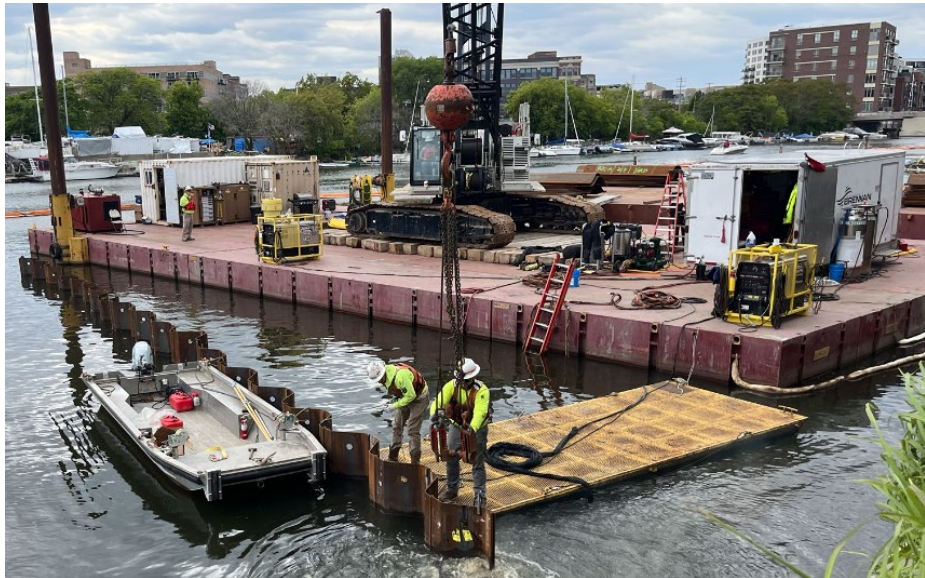
# Implementation - Dredging

- Safe Dredging
- Sheen Management
- Odors
- Final Dredge Pass



# Implementation – Sheet pile Installation

- 1,500 LF (55' sheets)
- Interlock Sealant
- 10' offset from existing bulkhead wall
- 2 drive crews
- Diver removal of 15'
- Only three sheets had obstructions



# Implementation - Capping

- Capping
  - Gravel buttress
  - Engineered Cap
  - Residual Sand Cover
- Placement Methods
  - Mechanical/Bucket
  - Broadcast Spreader
  - Slurry



# Implementation – Sediment Dewatering

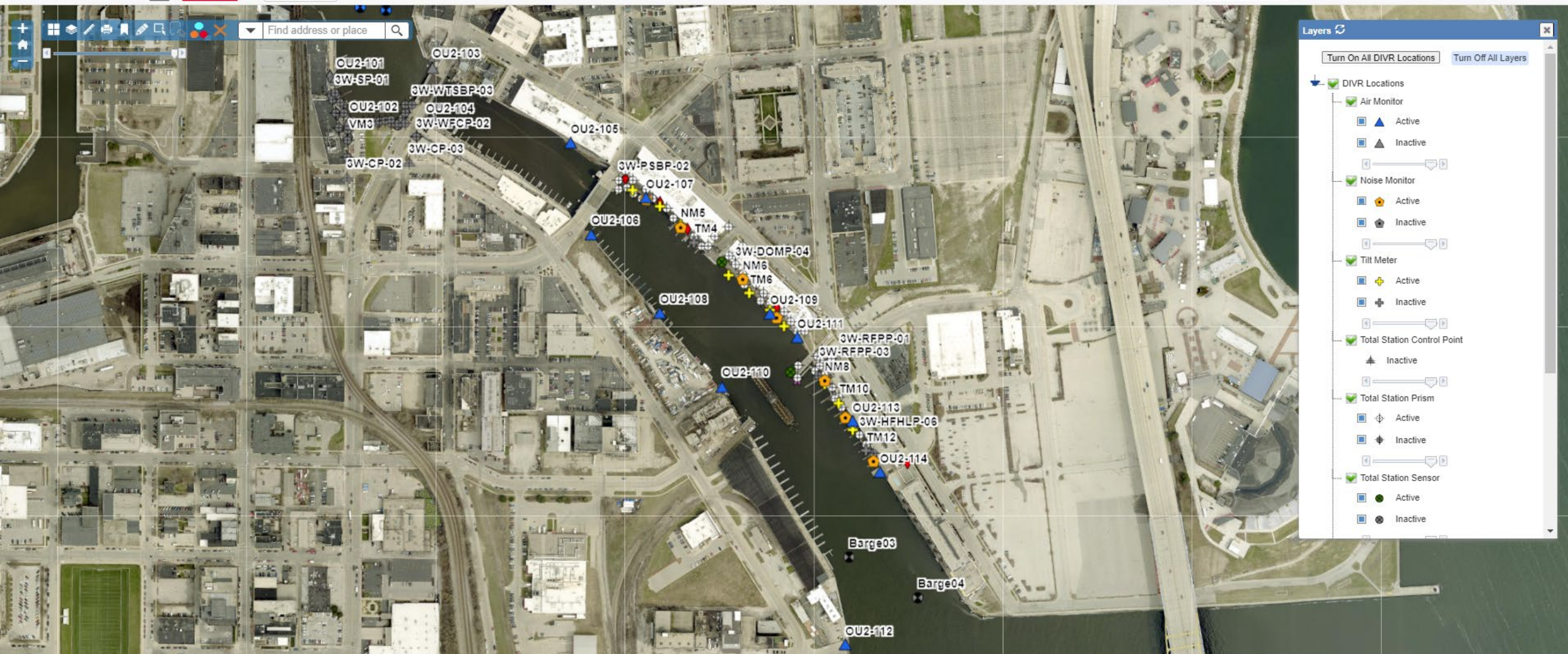
- 12” gravel drainage layer
- Lined sump
- Wick drains (promote consolidation)
- 36 Geotubes
  - 75’ diameter x 245’ long
  - Constantly working to break surface tension
  - Polymer
  - Coagulant
  - Ferric Chloride
  - Sodium Hydroxide
- Constant balancing flow
- Sometimes they rupture



# Implementation – Water Treatment

- 3,500 GPM
- Treated over 105M gallons
- Thickener/shaker
- Multimedia filters (12)
  - Gravel
  - Garnet
  - Filter sand
  - Anthracite
- Bag Filters
- Organoclay (6)
- GAC (10)
  - 200,000lbs
- 1,000 AMP service





Layers

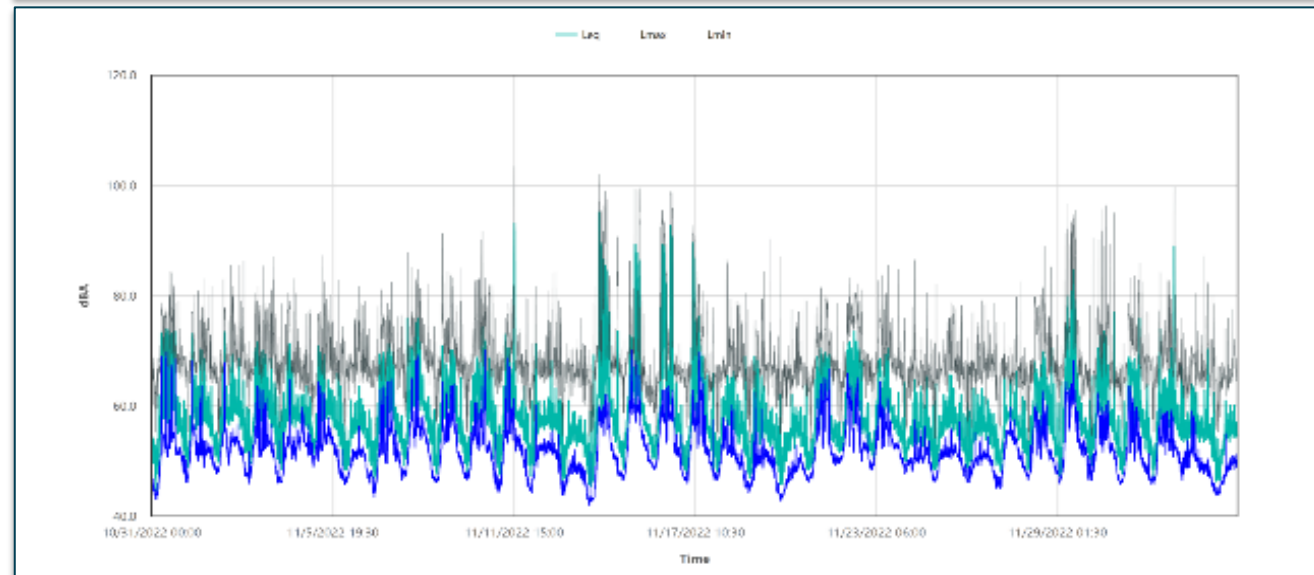
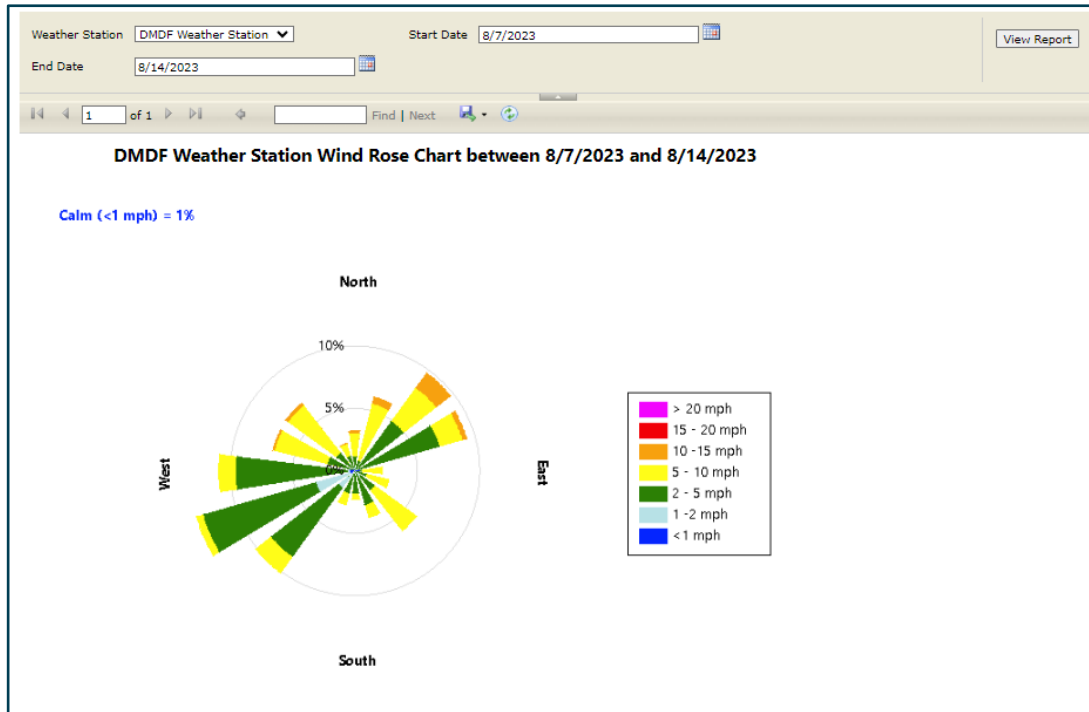
Turn On All DIVR Locations Turn Off All Layers

- DIVR Locations
  - Air Monitor
    - Active
    - Inactive
  - Noise Monitor
    - Active
    - Inactive
  - Tilt Meter
    - Active
    - Inactive
  - Total Station Control Point
    - Inactive
  - Total Station Prism
    - Active
    - Inactive
  - Total Station Sensor
    - Active
    - Inactive



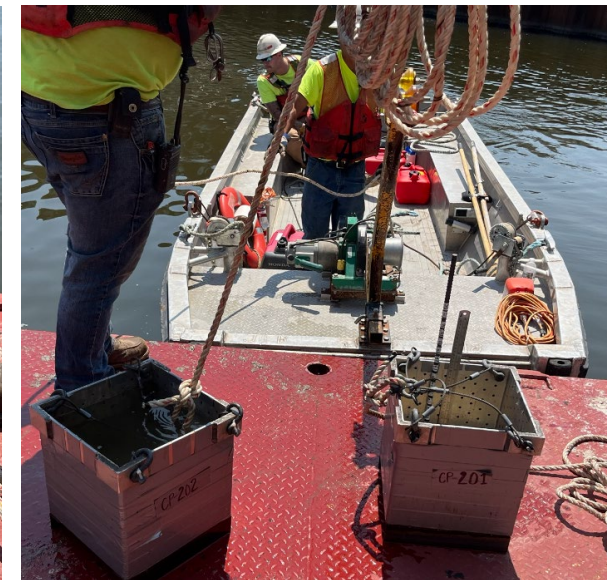
# DIVR

- Significant amount of data
- Real-time alarms
- Data trends
- User friendly
- Not perfect but getting better



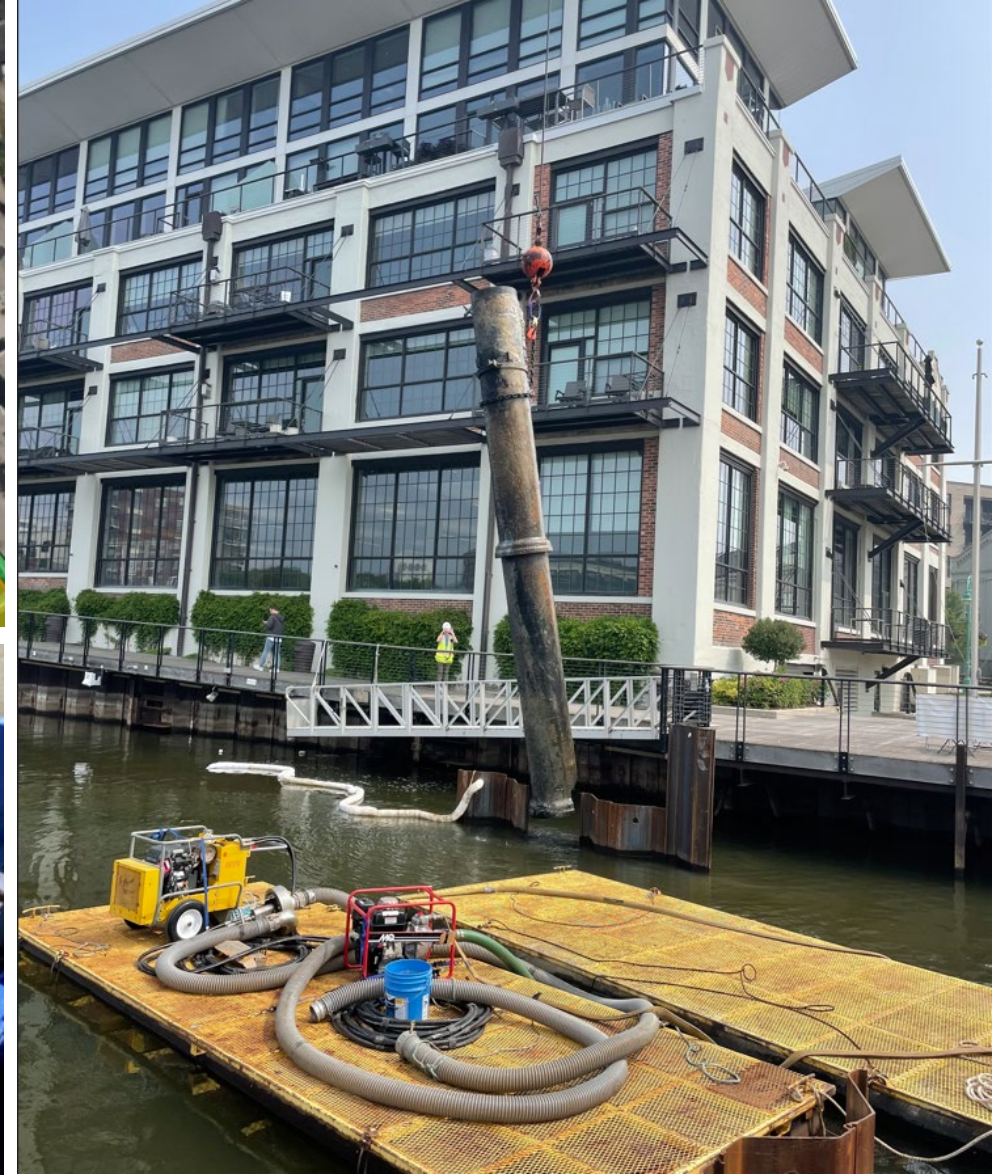
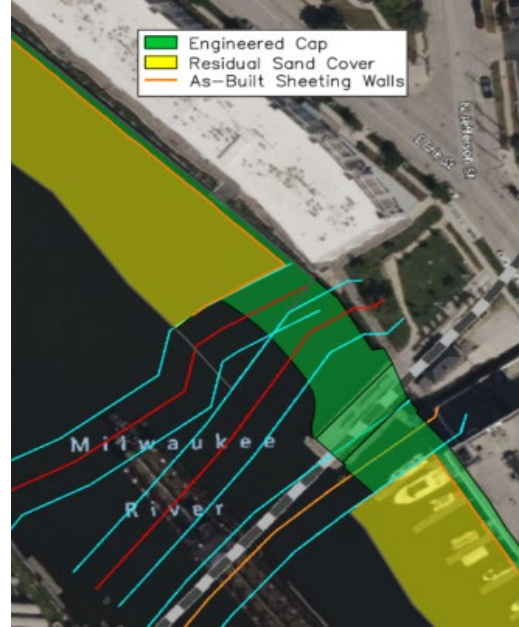
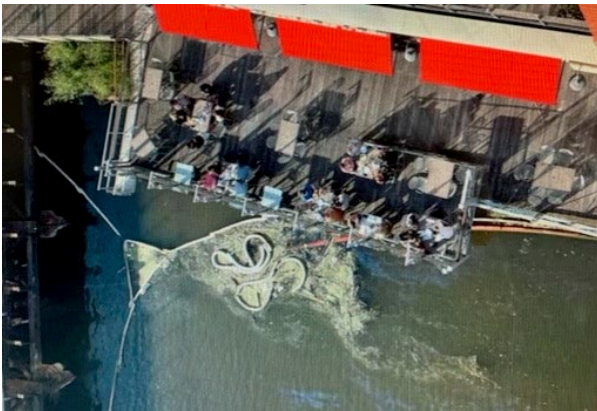
# QA/QC

- Confirmation sampling
- Cap Material testing
  - Pre- and post-placement testing
  - Light aggregate testing
- Survey
  - Significant CAD support to review
- Catch cans



# Managing Change

- Sequencing
  - Plan Upriver to Downriver
  - Lake Express Ferry
  - Restaurant/Condo Owner Complaints
- Temporary power supply
- Booster pump barge relocation
- Unknown utilities
- Previously cleared utilities
- Large abandoned utilities
- Significant debris (cable/wire)
- Bricks



# Key Takeaways



## Implementation

- Engage stakeholders, public, waterway users and authorities early
- Identification of and acquiring agreements for access and staging is critical
- Develop a Risk Register (expect the unexpected)
- Conduct pre and post construction structural inspections and have a sound monitoring plan
- Importance of project closeout (reporting, access agreements and permits)







GEI  
Consultants

