



Former Dzus Fastener Company Site Remediation  
Willets Creek and Lake Capri

# Community Liaison Plan

March 2019



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

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# Former Dzus Fastener Company Site Remediation Willetts Creek and Lake Capri Community Liaison Plan

*Prepared for*

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Environmental Remediation  
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose of The Dzus Fastener Site Community Liaison Plan

Any environmental project that involves remediation and restoration of local properties will naturally raise questions from the community on project activities. This Community Liaison Plan serves to identify the project, project team members, community, and stakeholders. It functions as a guide to project personnel and the community on the best ways to communicate project information; answer questions; and raise issues and concerns voiced by the public to the proper sources for resolution. In short, it is a roadmap to the sources for information regarding the Dzus Superfund Site itself, as well as, those project activities that may engender public interest and inquiries.

### 1.2 Project Overview

The Cleanup Action will address contamination related to the former Dzus Fastener Site located at 425 Union Boulevard, West Islip, New York. Sediment contaminated with cadmium and chromium has been identified in Willetts Creek and Lake Capri. Similarly, contaminated soils were identified on properties (private residences and West Islip Central School) abutting both banks of Willetts Creek and the shoreline of Lake Capri. Approximately 30,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment and soil will be excavated and removed from the Site for disposal at a landfill. Engineering controls and best management practices will be used to ensure that the public does not come into contact with any dust or contamination from the site during cleanup activities. Following the excavation, Willetts Creek will be restored to re-establish flow and increase storm flood capacity. Wetland habitats associates with Willetts Creek will also be restored with native wetland vegetation through plantings and seeding. Residential yards impacted by the cleanup will be restored with clean backfill. Sod will be placed in previously grassed areas and plantings conducted to replace lost trees to the extent practical. Property features (e.g., fences and sheds) that require removal prior to implementing the cleanup will be replaced in-kind in a manner agreed upon between New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the individual property owner.

### 1.3 Project History

Dzus Fastener (incorporated in the State of New York under the name Dzus Fastener Company, Inc. [Dzus] in 1936) produced fasteners and springs beginning in 1932. Wastes from metal plating, tumbling, electroplating, chromic acid, anodizing and special finishing operations consisted of oils, heavy metals, volatile organic compounds, and salts. Leaching pools onsite were used for the disposal of hazardous wastes.

The regulatory and site history is summarized as follows:

- Phase I Investigation completed by the NYSDEC in 1984.
- Phase II Investigation Report submitted by Dzus in August of 1990.
- Interim Remedial Measure consisting of soil removal was completed by Dzus in May 1991.
- In May 1992, NYSDEC initiated a Remedial Investigation under the State Superfund Program to determine the nature and extent of the contamination attributable to Dzus and to develop an appropriate remedy.
- In 1999, a removal action was conducted to remove contaminated sediment from Lake Capri and a portion of Willetts Creek.
- In 2001, the facility changed its name from Dzus Fastener Company, Inc. to DFCI Solutions, Inc.
- In 2015, DFCI Solutions, Inc. ceased operations and moved all equipment out of the facility.
- In 2016 and 2017, NYSDEC conducted Remedial Investigations for Willetts Creek and Lake Capri.

### 1.4 Project Stakeholders

- Residents of West Islip
- Town of West Islip
- Suffolk County
- West Islip Union Free School District
- Stop and Shop Plaza Tenants and owners
- Captree 2 Plaza
- NYSDEC
- New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)

- EA Engineering, P.C. (EA)
- Severson Environmental Services.

It is not unusual for projects of this type to have several teams working together to tackle the various aspects of an environmental cleanup.

The teams involved here at the Dzus site include NYSDEC, the lead State agency for State Superfund sites; NYSDOH, which oversees issues of human health; EA, the engineering firm that did the environmental design for the cleanup and will oversee construction management; and Severson Environmental Services, which will be doing the actual construction. All of these team members coordinate with each other to ensure that the work is done properly and efficiently, and that the community is kept informed of project activities. All project personnel will easily be identified by photo identifications and high-visibility safety vests or coats.

### 1.5 NYSDEC's Mission

The mission of the NYSDEC Division of Environmental Remediation is to protect public health and the environment of the State of New York by preventing releases to the environment through the regulation of petroleum and chemical bulk storage facilities, hazardous waste facilities, and radiation facilities; and responding to, investigating, and remediating releases of contaminants that have occurred.

The goal of the Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site Remedial Program, also known as the State Superfund Program, is to identify and characterize suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites (sites) and to ensure that those sites, which pose a significant threat to public health or the environment, are properly addressed.

New York State is committed to supervising a careful and thorough cleanup of Willetts Creek and Lake Capri, two areas related to the larger Dzus site. NYSDEC's foremost priority is ensuring the public (including residents, school-district staff, children, and visitors) does not come in contact with site-related contamination. This cleanup is being completed to address potential exposure to heavy metals (cadmium and chromium).

NYSDEC retained the services of an environmental consulting firm, EA, to develop the remedial design, and to provide construction management and inspection services. NYSDEC is in the process of procuring an environmental remediation contractor, Severson Environmental Services, to implement the remedy.

NYSDEC will oversee the remedial work, in consultation with the NYSDOH. NYSDOH will provide oversight of the remedial work to ensure that remedial activities are conducted in a way that is protective of public health.

Scarlett McLaughlin, P.G., is the NYSDOH Project Manager and a Professional Geologist with 23 years of experience in the remediation of contaminated sites.

The following are primary NYSDEC staff on this project:

Sarah Saucier, P.E., is NYSDEC's Project Manager and a Professional Engineer who has 15 years of experience managing environmental construction projects.

Kris Keenan is a NYSDEC construction manager who has 11 years' experience providing oversight of environmental construction projects.

John Nead will provide additional construction oversight and has 30 years' experience in the environmental field.

### 1.6 Remedial Team Contractors to NYSDEC on the Dzus Site Cleanup

#### EA Engineering, P.C.

EA opened for business in 1973 as Ecological Analysts, Inc., a part-time venture run from a single office. Founded by Dr. Loren Jensen, a college professor, the original staff consisted of a few fisheries biologists helping electrical utilities achieve compliance with new environmental regulations.

As the need for environmental services continued to expand, EA added more advanced scientific, engineering, and technology capabilities to keep pace with ever-changing client needs, regulatory demands, and public concerns. EA now supports clients through



a well-integrated network of offices that span the nation. EA has completed more than 100,000 environmental projects and performed more than \$2 billion of services worldwide. EA's clientele now includes the federal government, state governments, municipalities, private industry, and non-profit organizations.

EA was awarded a contract when NYSDEC sought qualified Proposers to provide engineering services for all its remedial programs. This contract was for work to be performed at or in support of activities at inactive hazardous waste (listed in the New York Registry of Inactive Disposal Sites), hazardous substance and petroleum contaminated sites. EA had to demonstrate its experience and qualifications, as well pass a rigorous vetting process, which confirmed EA was a responsible firm. A responsibility determination will consider four factors at a minimum: financial and organizational capacity, legal authority to do business in New York State, integrity, and past performance. To be considered responsible, an Engineer must establish to the complete satisfaction of NYSDEC, as a minimum, that it has adequate and satisfactory experience and financial resources to meet the obligations under the Contract, and award of the Contract would be in the best interest of the State. Contracts and contractors are reviewed and approved by NYSDEC, the Attorney General's Office, and the Office of the State Comptroller.

EA is providing staff and resources from its Syracuse office, which is staffed by 28 environmental professionals. The following are primary EA staff on this project:

Frank DeSantis, Jr. is EA's Project Manager and has 14 years of experience in the characterization and remediation of contaminated sites.

Vincent Barber is EA's Construction Manager and has over 30 years' experience overseeing environmental construction projects.

Ann Rychlenski is EA's Community Outreach Specialist and has over 20 years of experience as a Public Outreach Specialist working in Superfund with a specialization in sites dealing with sediment contamination.

### Sevenson Environmental Services, Inc.

Sevenson Environmental Services, Inc.'s roots go back to 1917 when architect Albert Elia of Niagara Falls, New York, founded a general construction business. In the 1940s, Elia's four sons joined and incorporated the business as the Albert Elia Building Company, Inc. While the company initially specialized in residential building construction, in the early 1950s, it expanded into industrial, institutional, and heavy civil construction work.

The Albert Elia Building Company, Inc., grew to become one of upstate New York's largest general contractors. In the 1970s, the third generation of the Elia family joined the company, and in 1982, acquired the business from their fathers and renamed it Sevenson Construction Corp. Six years later, to reflect the company's transition to a full-service environmental cleanup contractor, the company's name was changed to Sevenson Environmental Services, Inc. (Sevenson).

In 1979, the Albert Elia Building Co., Inc. received the first of a series of contracts let by the NYSDEC for cleanup work at Love Canal. The company's success at Love Canal led to other major environmental remediation projects. In the 1980s, the company, which was then operating under the Sevenson name, built a national reputation for competence and success in environmental remediation. Today, with the fourth generation actively involved, Sevenson is one of the country's most respected and accomplished environmental cleanup contractors, having completed more than 1,450 projects with a total contract value of over \$4.5 billion.

Sevenson owns and operates a full complement of dredges, pumps, filtration tanks, filter presses, centrifuges, and related support equipment, successfully dredging sediments from rivers, lakes, creeks, coves, marshes, waste ponds, and pits.

Sevenson has continued to work on some of the nation's most visible sediment sites. These include Hudson River, St. Lawrence River, Willamette River, Ohio River, Grasse River, Housatonic River, Hackensack River, Christina River, Pawtuxet River, Grand Calumet River, Raisin River, Menominee River, Saranac River, Emory River, Sheboygan Harbor and River, New Bedford Harbor and Gowanus Canal.

Sevenson was awarded a contract when NYSDEC sought proposals from qualified bidders to implement remedial activities associated with the removal and disposal of contaminated sediment and soil from Willetts Creek and Lake Capri. Proposals were only accepted from bidders who attended a pre-bid conference held onsite. In accordance with New York State Executive Order 170, a contract shall only be awarded to a responsible bidder capable of performing and completing the work in a satisfactory manner. Sevenson demonstrated this capability by submitting a statement of its experience and financial strength as well as the experience of any subcontractors, which they intend to use to perform the work. Contracts and contractors are reviewed and approved by NYSDEC, the Attorney General's Office, and the Office of the State Comptroller.

Sevenson is providing staff and resources from its Niagara Falls office which is staffed by 250 environmental construction personnel.

The following are primary Sevenson staff on this project:

Mike Muth is Sevenson's Project Manager and has 17 years of experience managing remediation projects.

Wayne Kostuk is Sevenson's Construction Manager and has over 30 years of experience in environmental construction.

Dan Kraatz is Sevenson's Site Superintendent and has of 20 years' experience overseeing environmental remediation projects.

Wyatt Beougher is Sevenson's Site Health and Safety Officer and has 13 years of experience performing environmental cleanups.

Robert Volker is Sevenson's onsite Project Engineer and has 12 years of experience in implementing environmental construction projects.

### 1.7 Remediation Team Roles and Responsibilities

Team Roles and Responsibilities

Team Member	Role	Contact Information
NYSDEC	NYSDEC is the lead regulatory agency for the cleanup and is responsible for ensuring that the cleanup is conducted according to New York State Environmental Conservation Law. A NYSDEC Construction Manager will be on site for the duration of the cleanup activities.	<p>Sarah Saucier, P.E. Project Manager (518) 402-9675 <a href="mailto:sarah.saucier@dec.ny.gov">sarah.saucier@dec.ny.gov</a></p> <p>Aphrodite Montalvo Public Participation Specialist (631) 444-0249 <a href="mailto:aphrodite.montalvo@dec.ny.gov">aphrodite.montalvo@dec.ny.gov</a></p> <p>Kris Keenan Construction Manager (518) 225-9691 <a href="mailto:krisopher.keenan@dec.ny.gov">krisopher.keenan@dec.ny.gov</a></p> <p>John Nead Construction Oversight (518) 226-1497 <a href="mailto:john.nead@dec.ny.gov">john.nead@dec.ny.gov</a></p>

**Team Roles and Responsibilities**

Team Member	Role	Contact Information
<p><b>NYSDOH</b></p>	<p>NYSDOH is responsible for identifying potential impacts to public health from the cleanup.</p>	<p>Scarlett McLaughlin Project Manager (518) 402-7860 <a href="mailto:scarlett.mclaughlin@health.ny.gov">scarlett.mclaughlin@health.ny.gov</a></p> <p>Cynthia Brownell (for cancer questions) <a href="mailto:canmap@health.ny.gov">canmap@health.ny.gov</a></p>
<p><b>EA Engineering, P.C.</b></p>	<p>EA is the design engineer and construction manager for the cleanup. EA will be responsible for ensuring that the cleanup activities are performed per the Remedial Design.</p>	<p>Frank DeSantis, Jr. Project Manager (315) 565-6554 <a href="mailto:fdesantis@eaest.com">fdesantis@eaest.com</a></p> <p>Vincent Barber Construction Manager <a href="mailto:vbarber@eaest.com">vbarber@eaest.com</a></p> <p>Ann Rychlenski Community Outreach Specialist (718) 641-4882 <a href="mailto:Arychlenski@louisberger.com">Arychlenski@louisberger.com</a></p>
<p><b>Sevenson Environmental Services</b></p>	<p>Sevenson is the remedial contractor tasked with performing the cleanup activities. Sevenson is responsible for the safe execution of the work, per the Remedial Design, and ensuring that site contaminants are contained within the work area boundaries.</p>	<p>Mike Muth Corporate Project Manager (716) 628-6524 <a href="mailto:mmuth@sevenson.com">mmuth@sevenson.com</a></p> <p>Wayne Kostuk Construction Manager <a href="mailto:wkostuk@sevenson.com">wkostuk@sevenson.com</a></p> <p>Dan Kraatz Site Superintendent <a href="mailto:dkraatz@sevenson.com">dkraatz@sevenson.com</a></p> <p>Wyatt Beougher Site Safety and Health Officer <a href="mailto:wbeougher@sevenson.com">wbeougher@sevenson.com</a></p> <p>Robert Volker Project Engineer <a href="mailto:rvolker@sevenson.com">rvolker@sevenson.com</a></p>



## 2. COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Hamlet of West Islip, Suffolk County, New York, is part of the Town of Islip on the south shore of Long Island. Great South Bay, Jones Beach, and Fire Island lie to its south; Babylon and North Babylon to the west; Bay Shore to the east; and, Deer Park and Brentwood to the north.

The area was settled by the Secatogue Indians over a thousand years ago. In the early 1600s, it was colonized by the Dutch, who held it until the 1660s, when it came under English Rule.

In 1692, the land was purchased by Thomas and William Willetts who had an agreement with the Secatogue Tribe. The land was found to be fertile for farming and its proximity to so many waterways made for great fishing.

The Willetts (for whom Willetts Creek is named) owned most of what is now West Islip and began selling parcels of land to other settlers in the 1770s. During the 19th century, the area became attractive to wealthy estate owners, with farming, fishing, and lumbering as the main occupations. With the completion of the Long Island Rail Road in the mid-19th century, West Islip's population began to slowly grow.

Many people from Ukraine began to migrate into West Islip in the mid-20th century, and Ukrainian heritage is still a part of the community. The time period immediately following World War II through the mid-1970s saw a significant population boost in West Islip, as it became the attractive suburban community it is today with a population of approximately 28,000 and numerous clubs, societies and organizations that make it a desirable place to live and raise a family.

### 2.1 Community Demographics

According to the 2010 census, there were 28,335 people in 904 households living in West Islip. Racial makeup is: 95.9% White; 1.75 Asian; 0.6% Black; 0.1% Native American; 0.6% from other races, and 1.1% are identified as being multi-racial. The population at that time indicated that approximately 25.6% were under the age of 18; 4.0% from 18 to 24; 31.8% from 25 to 44; 29.9% from 25 to 64; and, 12.2% who were age 65 or older.

### 2.2 Willetts Creek and Lake Capri Community

The area surrounding Willetts Creek and Lake Capri is comprised of the Beach Street Middle School, West Islip High School, single-family residential properties, and commercial properties. The school properties are located on western bank of Willetts Creek and are connected to residential properties via two foot-bridges on Edmore and Burling Lanes. There is no public access to Lake Capri, but the lake is visible from Montauk Highway at the southern end.

### 2.3 Local Government

West Islip is part of the Town of Islip, which is governed by the Islip Town Board, made up of the Town Supervisor; Town Clerk; Receiver of Taxes; and four Council persons. The principal function of the Town Board is to regulate land use within the Town, and to promote and protect the general welfare of Islip residents. Elections for the members of the Board are held every 4 years.

The Town Board meets in the upper level of the Town Board Room at the Islip Town Hall, located at 655 Main Street in Islip, New York. Residents may get information on the date and time of Town Board meetings by calling the Town Board Office at 631-224-5560. (provided in appendix of Local Government Officials for contact information).

### 2.4 County Government

West Islip is located in Suffolk County, where the County Government is headed by the County Executive, who oversees a variety of County Departments, including the Suffolk County Department of Health. (provided in appendix of Local Government Officials for contact information).

### 3. HISTORY OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FROM 2016 TO PRESENT

The Dzus investigation and remediation site, which includes Willetts Creek and Lake Capri, sits in an area of mixed business and residential properties, including two local schools (Beach Street Middle School and West Islip High School). Field activities such as soil sampling has taken place in the past, with additional sampling conducted in Spring 2019. NYSDEC and its contracting team have been working with affected residents, businesses, and schools to keep the community informed, and respond to concerns and suggestions to mitigate negative impacts and inconvenience to the neighborhood and property owners wherever possible.

- March 23, 2016—NYSDEC and NYSDOH held a public meeting at West Islip High School to discuss with the community presently that NYSDEC will reclassify the Dzus from a Class 4 to a Class 2 site (significant threat).
- March 16, 2017—NYSDEC holds a public meeting at the West Islip Public Library to inform the members of the Lake Association on the progress of Site Management.
- August 9, 2017—NYSDEC holds a public meeting at the West Islip Public Library to discuss the Proposed Remedial Action Plan for Operable Unit 3 (Willetts Creek and low-lying properties).
- October 16, 2018—NYSDEC holds a public meeting at the West Islip High School to discuss the Proposed Remedial Action Plan for Operable Unit 4 (Lower Willetts Creek and Lake Capri).
- January 29, 2018—NYSDEC holds a public availability session at Beach Street Middle School to discuss upcoming cleanup activities.

All project fact sheets, meeting presentations, and other informational materials are available to the public at the following website:

[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/114710.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/114710.html)

#### 3.1 Public Questions – Who, What, Where, When, Why?

Public questions are natural during the implementation of environmental clean-up activities in their community. Who is responsible for what; where will activities take place; when will they happen and why? and how do they affect me; are commonly posed questions. While NYSDEC cannot answer every question that may arise here in this publication, we have outlined some of the more likely inquiries and their responses, below.

#### 3.2 Cleanup Schedules and Timing of Field Activities

Cleanup activities for the removal of contaminated soil and sediments in Willetts Creek, Lake Capri, and surrounding properties is presently scheduled for Spring/Summer 2019. The removal of contaminated sediments at Beach Street Middle School is expected to be completed in October 2019. The expected completion date for the overall project is August 2020.

For more information contact: Sarah Saucier, NYSDEC Project Manager at 518-402-9675 or email at: [Sarah.Saucier@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Sarah.Saucier@dec.ny.gov).

#### 3.3 Protecting Health

From the inception of this project, NYSDEC has been working closely with NYSDOH to ensure that public health considerations are a priority in every aspect of the cleanup. Adjacent properties are serviced by a public water supply provided by the Suffolk County Water Authority, which is regularly tested and monitored, and is a safe source of drinking water in West Islip.

**Additionally, NYSDEC has issued fish advisories for Lake Capri that includes the following:**

For men over 15 and women over 50: American eel and carp – up to 1 meal per month; all other fish – up to 4 meals per month. For women under 50 and children under 15: do not eat American eel or carp or any other fish.

Regarding gardening, NYSDEC in conjunction with the NYSDOH recommends the following precautions be taken:

- Consider growing in raised beds
- Wear gloves when working in soil and avoid bringing soil indoors
- Wash hands with soap and water after gardening
- Always wash or rinse fruits or vegetables before eating
- Peel below ground vegetables and those grown in close contact with soil
- Remove outer leaves of leafy vegetables.

The public may contact NYSDOH for information, questions and/or concerns about human health in relation to the cleanup of the Dzus site. In addition, NYSDEC and NYSDOH are also working with the Suffolk County Department of Health to ensure that all the agencies involved are informed and able to provide timely responses to community concerns about health issues.

For more information on human health issues, contact Scarlett McLaughlin, Project Manager, NYSDOH at: 518-402-7860 or email at: [scarlett.mclaughlin@health.ny.gov](mailto:scarlett.mclaughlin@health.ny.gov).

### 3.4 Minimizing dust during field work/cleanup activities

NYSDEC will have a Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) in place to measure airborne particulate matter wherever contaminated soils may be disturbed during construction and excavation. Data from the CAMP will be posted at the following website: [www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/114710.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/114710.html). Air monitors will be placed around site perimeters to ensure dust is not dispersed outside the work zone; and no visible dust emissions will be allowed outside the work zone. The air monitoring triggers are highly sensitive, and detections will shut-down work activities until required corrective measures are taken. Where sediment processing is involved, a temporary fabric structure will be used to control dust. Covering of exposed piles with tarps will also be conducted to mitigate dust potential. Because most of the excavated material will be from Willetts Creek and Lake Capri, the material will have a high moisture content and dust is not expected to be a significant issue. The public should note that onsite

workers will have protective clothing and equipment on and that pedestrian corridors will be separated from these work areas by a chain link fence/gate system. Flag personnel will be present to escort users of the footbridges and gates that intersect the work area.

For more information about specific field concerns, contact: Sarah Saucier, NYSDEC Project Manager at: 518-402-9675 or email at: [Sarah.Saucier@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Sarah.Saucier@dec.ny.gov).

For more information about the CAMP program, contact: Scarlett McLaughlin, NYSDOH Project Manager at 518-402-9813 or email at [Scarlett.McLaughlin@health.ny.gov](mailto:Scarlett.McLaughlin@health.ny.gov).

### 3.5 Working safely at local schools and neighborhood

NYSDEC has been working closely with the West Islip Union Free School District and the individual schools to keep them informed of project plans, and to minimize impacts to students and staff. NYSDEC has held numerous meetings with the school district and stays in regular contact so all concerns raised are dealt with quickly and diligently. The safety of students and school staff is tantamount to all involved with the project, and all will be working to ensure that there are not threats to either safety or health.

Work hours are expected to be from 7:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. The total number of personnel onsite will vary based on the work being performed and may include representatives from NYSDEC, NYSDOH, EA, Severson, subcontractors, and vendors. The number of onsite workers is expected to generally range from approximately 5 to 25 individuals. All project personnel will be easily identified by photo identifications and high-visibility safety vests and/or coats. Traffic controls including flagmen and traffic control devices such as cones, signs, and barriers will be in use to ensure safe access for students and school personnel to and from the project site. NYSDEC will be working to coordinate the work with individual property owners effected by the remediation.

If you would like more specific information such as construction and field work schedules, or site safety details, please contact: Sarah Saucier, NYSDEC Project Manager at: 518-402-9675 or email at: [Sarah.Saucier@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Sarah.Saucier@dec.ny.gov).

### 3.6 Limiting local street closures, traffic, parking issues related to construction

Contractors will be coordinating with local officials as needed, to ensure public safety during construction activities, and will keep residents, schools, and local businesses in affected areas informed throughout the life of the project. Any changes to traffic routes closures to streets or roadways or impacts to parking and school routes will be communicated as soon as details are available. Truck routes will be clearly marked and areas in which heavy equipment is being used will be posted with signage and the presence of flag personnel. For information on this issue, you may contact: Michael Muth, Severson Corporate Project Manager, at: 716-628-6584, or email at: [mmuth@sevenson.com](mailto:mmuth@sevenson.com).

#### Protection of Local Footbridges

NYSDEC and construction teams are aware of the value placed by the community on historical structures such as the stone footbridge at Lake Capri. The team will be working closely with property owners to make certain that these important aspects of local history are protected from damage during construction activities. For information on this issue, contact: Sarah Saucier, NYSDEC Project Manager at: 518-402-9675, or email at: [Sarah.Saucier@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Sarah.Saucier@dec.ny.gov).

### 3.7 Elected Officials

Elected officials are also concerned about issues that may impact their constituents and the community they live in. Inquiries by elected officials are handled by NYSDEC Legislative and intergovernmental staff and can be directed to Aphrodite Montalvo, NYSDEC Project Manager who will contact appropriate NYSDEC Legislative Staff. Contact her at: 631-444-0249 or email at: [Aphrodite.Montalvo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Aphrodite.Montalvo@dec.ny.gov).

### 3.8 Impacts to Property Related to Remediation and Restoration

Because some remediation and restoration work will take place on private property, it is important for the impacted property owners to know the following:

NYSDEC will have an Excavation and Restoration Site Plan in place that shows the excavation and restoration plans for each property. NYSDEC will work closely with

property owners and take into consideration input provided regarding the property. NYSDEC and their contractors will visit properties to prepare an inventory that lists the number of plants and trees. They will meet with property owners and the landscaping contractor to agree on replacing plants and trees as well as plant bed edging and the restoration of flagstone and brick patios or walkways. Issues regarding fencing, sheds, decks, and steps (if involved) will be discussed in detail with NYSDEC and their contractors before any work is done. Excavated soil will be replaced with clean soil. The top 6 inches will consist of topsoil. Previously grassed areas will be replaced with sod, because using sod produces a fuller useable lawn faster than seeding. For more information on this process, you may contact Sarah Saucier, NYSDEC Project Manager at: 518-402-9675, or email at: [Sarah.Saucier@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Sarah.Saucier@dec.ny.gov).

#### Questions about property values and taxes

Impacts to property values and taxes are often a concern for property owners near a cleanup site. The state agencies overseeing the cleanup have no authority or control over property values or property taxes; however, site cleanup and restoration may actually increase property values. Following completion of the remediation project, NYSDEC will provide documentation of the cleanup done on each property. Specific questions about possible impacts on local taxes are a local issue and should be referred to: Alexis Weik, Town of Islip Receiver of Taxes at 631-224-5580 or email at: [aweik@islipny.gov](mailto:aweik@islipny.gov).

#### Laws governing environmental actions such as sampling and remediation

The laws and regulations that have jurisdiction over these issues are the within the scope of NYSDEC's Counsel. Initially, those inquiries may be made to Sarah Saucier, NYSDEC Project Manager at: 518-402-9675 or email at: [Sarah.Saucier@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Sarah.Saucier@dec.ny.gov); who will raise the question to State Counsel for response.

### 3.9 Documenting Public Inquiries and Concerns

Because the project involves a variety of stakeholders, it is important that a process be in place that provides information to the public, but also allows them to log-in

their inquiries and comments. This process will allow NYSDEC to track inquiries, resolutions to those inquiries, as well as those issues that remain outstanding. In order to accomplish this task, NYSDEC will provide an email address to the public where these issues may be raised. Questions and comments may be sent to the project's community outreach email at: [Dzus@eaest.com](mailto:Dzus@eaest.com).

#### 4. KEY MESSAGES

As work on the cleanup evolves, it is important that the community engage with NYSDEC in a dialogue that is open and enhances two-way understanding of both the community needs and concerns, and the requirements of the work to be conducted. Remediation work is by its nature, impactful, whether on private property, school property or on public streets. While NYSDEC and its team will do all they can to mitigate those invasive aspects such as noise, use of heavy equipment, changes to traffic patterns, impacts to schools, students and staff, and remediation work in yards and in proximity to homes, the public will still have questions and concerns.

Therefore, it is imperative that in addition to the commitment of public sensitivity by NYSDEC staff, the community keep in mind the following:

- Cleanup of contaminated sediments in Willetts Creek and Lake Capri will ensure that no future contamination of nearby soil occurs from flooding events that deposit those sediments up onto land. While removal of those sediments and impacted soil from the floodplain will be disruptive in the short term, it is a final remedy to address contamination from the site.
- Concerns about property value related to environmental remediation projects are understandably of great importance to property owners. Remediation and proof of that remediation (via documentation provided by NYSDEC) may increase property values.
- Because much of the work and staging of construction will take place on and near local schools (West Islip High School and Beach Street Middle School), there is community concern about the safety of students and staff as well as impacts to school activities. NYSDEC will continue to work with the school

district, school staff, and parents of students to ensure that these concerns are heard, acted on, and met. Public health and safety are the primary concerns of NYSDEC and NYSDOH, especially in proximity to schools, homes and work areas.

- The community has an open line to NYSDEC, its staff and contractual teams, who are able and willing to work with them throughout the life of the project.

Questions and comments may be sent to the project's community outreach email at [Dzus@eaest.com](mailto:Dzus@eaest.com). In addition, the following Community Relations and Outreach staff may be contacted as follows:

Aphrodite Montalvo, NYSDEC Public Participation Specialist at: 631-444-0249  
email at: [aphrodite.montalvo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:aphrodite.montalvo@dec.ny.gov)

Ann Rychlenski, Public Involvement Specialist, Louis Berger Corp. (Contractor to NYSDEC) at: 718-641-4882, email at: [arychlenski@louisberger.com](mailto:arychlenski@louisberger.com)

#### 5. AVAILABLE RESOURCES

##### Project Documents and Reports:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/114710.html>

##### January 2019 Fact Sheet:

[https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation\\_hudson\\_pdf/152033cubegins.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/152033cubegins.pdf)

##### Frequently Asked Questions:

[https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation\\_hudson\\_pdf/dzusqanda0918.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/dzusqanda0918.pdf)

##### Document Repository:

West Islip Public Library  
3 Higbie Lane, West Islip, New York  
(631) 661-7080  
[dmacgilvray@westisliplib.org](mailto:dmacgilvray@westisliplib.org)

##### NYSDEC Delivers Listserve:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>