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Our Ref.: 11215702-Appelt-24

November 25, 2024

Mr. Robert Appelt Environmental Protection Agency Remedial Project Manager 1201 Elm Street, Suite 500 Dallas, Texas 75270

Revised Final (100%) Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment Deliverables Submittal

Dear Mr. Appelt:

GHD Services Inc. (GHD), on behalf of International Paper Company (IPC) and McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation (MIMC; collectively referred to as the Respondents), hereby submits to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the Revised Final (Revised 100%) Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment (Northern Impoundment Revised 100% RD) for the Northern Impoundment of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site, located in Harris County, Texas.

On October 25, 2024, EPA provided a response to the Final (100%) Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment (Northern Impoundment 100% RD) in a letter to the Respondents titled Comments on Final 100% Remedial Design – Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site (October 25 Letter). The complete Northern Impoundment Revised 100% RD, in accordance with the October 25 Letter, is hereby being submitted. As part of this submittal, a Response to Comments is provided as Table 1-1. Should you have any questions or require additional information regarding this submittal, please don't hesitate to contact GHD at (832) 380-7655.

Regards,

GHD

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LJL/kdn/24

Encl.: Revised Final 100% Remedial Design (Revised 100% RD) – Northern Impoundment

Copy to: Katie Delbecq, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Brent Sasser, IPC Judy Armour, MIMC

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Revised Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment

San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

International Paper Company & McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation

November 25, 2024

Contents

Table index

- Table 1-1 Response to EPA Comments on 90% Remedial Design
- Table 2-1 First Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results
- Table 2-2 First Phase Pre-Design Investigation Waste Characterization Results
- Table 2-3 Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results
- Table 2-4 Supplemental Design Investigation Analytical Results
- Table 2-5 Supplemental Design Investigation Waste Characterization Results
- Table 2-6 RI, PDI-1, PDI-2, and SDI Dioxins and Furans Results Summary
- Table 3-1 Treatability Waste Material Characterization Results
- Table 3-2 Pilot Test Effluent Characterization Results
- Table 3-3 Bench-Scale Contact Water Filtration Results
- Table 3-4 Focused Filtration Testing Results
- Table 3-5 Armored Cap Material Test Results
- Table 3-6 Analytical Results from 2020 Field Filtration Testing
- Table 3-7 Results from Filtrate Generated from Particle Size Analysis Approach B Filtration Testing
- Table 3-8 Constituent Concentrations throughout Treatment Process Additional WTS Treatability Testing
- Table 4-1 ARAR Requirements
- Table 5-1 Excavation Removal Elevations Calculations
- Table 5-2 Water Treatment Basis of Sizing
- Table 6-1 Sand Separation Area Results

Figure index

Figure 5-4 Monthwise Boxplots for Daily Maximum Elevations

Appendices

- Appendix A Pre-Design and Supplemental Design Investigation Supporting Documents
- Appendix B Geotechnical Engineering Report
- Appendix C Treatability Testing Supporting Documents
- Appendix D ARAR Supporting Documents
- Appendix E Sand Separation Area Supporting Documents
- Appendix F Hydrodynamic Modelling Report
- Appendix G Design Drawing Package
- Appendix H Design Specifications
- Appendix I BMP Structural Design Report
- Appendix J Supporting Deliverables

List of Acronyms

1. Introduction

GHD Services Inc. (GHD), on behalf of International Paper Company (IPC) and McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation (MIMC; collectively referred to herein as the Respondents), submits to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this *Revised Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment* (Revised 100% RD) for the Northern Impoundment (NI) of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site in Harris County, Texas (Site). References in this Revised 100% RD to the "work site" are to the Northern Impoundment, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) right of way (ROW) that provides the only means of land access to the Northern Impoundment, and the associated locations to be used for staging, office trailers and activities such as wastewater treatment. This Revised 100% RD was prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for Remedial Design (AOC), Docket No. 06**-**02**-**18, with an effective date of April 11, 2018 (EPA, 2018a). The AOC includes a Statement of Work (SOW) that provides for a 100% RD for the Northern Impoundment to be submitted to the EPA. The *Preliminary 90% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment* (GHD, 2022f), the *Preliminary 90% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment (Northwest Corner Component)* (NW Corner Addendum) (GHD, 2022g) (collectively, the 90% RD) were submitted on June 27, 2022 and November 8, 2022, and the *Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment (100% RD)* was submitted on July 17, 2024 (GHD, 2024b). Comments on the 100% RD (Comments) were received in a letter dated October 25, 2024 (October 25 Letter; EPA*,* 2024c), and have been addressed in this Revised 100% RD and in accordance with the schedule contained in the Comments.

In a January 5, 2024 letter (January 5 Letter; EPA 2024a) titled Notification of Serious Deficiency, the EPA notified Respondents that it deemed there to be deficiencies in the 90% RD and requested that they submit a plan within 20 days to address such deficiencies. The Respondents, while disputing EPA's claims of deficiencies in the 90% RD, submitted a plan in response to the January 5 Letter in a letter dated January 25, 2024 (January 25 Letter; IPC and MIMC 2024a), which they supplemented with additional submissions dated March 28, 2024, and April 3, 2024.

The EPA then provided comments on the 90% RD in a letter dated April 18, 2024, (April 18 Letter; EPA, 2024c). The comments included EPA's comments on the 90% RD and comments from all relevant stakeholders and agencies. In the April 18 Letter, the EPA established a deliverable schedule of 30-days, 60-days, and 90-days for the Respondents' submissions to the EPA of a 100% RD. The Respondents subsequently made the 30-day, 60-day, and 90-day submissions to EPA, as required by the April 18 Letter.

The EPA then provided the Comments to the 100% RD in the October 25 Letter. The Comments included EPA's comments on the 100% RD and the comments from all relevant stakeholders and agencies. In the October 25 Letter, the EPA provided a 30-day deadline for submission of the Revised 100% RD.

The Respondents are submitting this Revised 100% RD in response to the Comments in the October 25 Letter. Further revisions of the Revised 100% RD are anticipated based on, among other things, resolution of issues related to use of the TxDOT ROW for purposes of the RA.

1.1 Background

The Site is located in Harris County, Texas, east of the City of Houston, between two unincorporated areas known as Channelview and Highlands. The vicinity of the Site is shown on Figure 1-1. In 1965 and 1966, pulp and paper mill waste was reportedly transported by barge from the Champion Paper, Inc. paper mill in Pasadena, Texas, and deposited in the Northern Impoundment. The Preliminary Site Perimeter established by EPA for the remedial investigation (RI) encompasses this impoundment and the surrounding in-water and upland areas of the San Jacinto River and is depicted on Figure 1-1. The Northern Impoundment is located immediately north of the I-10 Bridge over the San Jacinto River. An area referred to in the AOC as the Sand Separation Area (SSA; Figure 1-2) is located to the northwest of the Northern Impoundment.

The Northern Impoundment is shown on Figure 1-2. Beginning in 2010, a Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) was implemented by the Respondents under an Administrative Order on Consent with EPA (Docket No. 06-12-10, April 2010; EPA, 2010). Construction elements of the TCRA included placement of a stabilizing geotextile barrier over the eastern side of the Northern Impoundment, construction of a low-permeability geomembrane and geotextile barrier on the western side of the Northern Impoundment, and placement of armored cap material over the entire Northern Impoundment. Additional background information regarding the Northern Impoundment is contained in the *Remedial Investigation Report* (RI Report; Integral and Anchor QEA, 2013b). In June 2019, approximately 40,000 square feet of articulated concrete block mat (ACBM) were installed along the northwestern submerged slope of the armored cap, as described in the *Northwest Slope Enhancement Completion Report*, submitted to the EPA on August 13, 2019 (Integral and Anchor QEA, 2019).

The remedy selected by the EPA for the Northern Impoundment described in the ROD (EPA, 2017) includes the following:

- Removal of a portion of the existing armored cap material installed as part of the TCRA armored cap.
- Removal of approximately 162,000 cubic yards (CY) of waste material exceeding the clean-up level of 30 nanograms per kilogram (ng/kg) 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorinated dibenzo-*p*-dioxin (TCDD) toxicity equivalent (TEQDF,M) that is located beneath the armored cap and its stabilization, as necessary to meet the appropriate requirements for acceptance at a permitted disposal facility.

The ROD also specifies that Institutional Controls (ICs) will be used to prevent disturbance (dredging and anchoring) in the SSA and that monitored natural recovery (MNR) will be the remedy used for the SSA.

The Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs) for the Site, as identified in the ROD, include:

RAO 1: Prevent releases of dioxins and furans above clean-up levels from the former waste impoundments to sediments and surface water of the San Jacinto River.

RAO 2: Reduce human exposure to dioxins and furans from ingestion of fish by remediating sediments to appropriate clean-up levels.

RAO 3: Reduce human exposure to dioxins and furans from direct contact with or ingestion of paper mill waste, soil, and sediment by remediating affected media to appropriate clean-up levels.

RAO 4: Reduce exposures of benthic invertebrates, birds, and mammals to paper mill waste derived dioxins and furans by remediating affected media to appropriate clean-up levels.

The potential exposure of a future young recreational fisher to dioxin and dioxin-like compounds in sediment, as detailed in the *Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment* (BHHRA; Integral and Anchor QEA, 2013a), was considered in selecting a risk-based clean-up level for the Northern Impoundment. The BHHRA assumed that the young recreational fisher could be exposed through chronic (39 days per year for 6 years) incidental ingestion and dermal contact of impacted sediment and through ingestion of fish collected in areas with impacted sediment. The risk-based clean-up level for the Northern Impoundment was calculated to be 30 ng/kg TEQDF,M.

1.2 Remedial Design Approach

As an introductory note, the EPA has required Respondents to develop a RD based on the remedy selected in the 2017 ROD for the Northern Impoundment. Prior to and during the RD process, the Respondents have raised with the EPA the magnitude of the risks associated with the selected remedy, including the fact that the remedy requires excavation on a "no release" basis to more than 28 feet below the river surface in a complex riverine environment subject to extreme high-water events during which overtopping of the BMP wall might occur. In light of that risk, the Respondents, after discussions with the EPA, proposed in their 30% RD and 90% RD submissions that work be limited to a six-month season that did not include the hurricane season. The 90% RD comments asked that the Respondents commit to extend the excavation season well into the hurricane season. The Respondents are prepared to extend the excavation season on the basis set forth below in Section 5.3.2, if directed by the EPA to do so.

In accordance with the AOC, the remedial design (RD) process includes the use of a Technical Working Group (TWG) to provide technical expertise in the development and evaluation of the RD plans. The TWG has considered the pre-design investigation (PDI), Supplemental Design Investigation (SDI), Treatability Study results, and Northern Impoundment RD elements presented in this document. The TWG consists of representatives from the EPA, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), GHD, and other technical subject matter experts, as needed. TWG Meetings have been conducted a total of 25 times since the RD was initiated, including on April 30, 2018, May 14 to 15, 2018, May 30, 2018, June 13, 2018, May 3, 2019, December 17, 2019, January 27 to 28, 2020, February 19, 2020, March 25, 2020, April 22, 2020, July 29, 2020, November 12, 2020, December 15, 2020, February 4, 2021, March 10, 2021, April 19, 2021, June 4, 2021, August 5, 2021, August 30, 2021, October 19, 2021, November 16, 2021, December 14, 2021, March 10, 2022, March 25, 2022, and April 14, 2022.

In addition, during certain portions of the RD process, representatives from GHD and EPA conducted weekly meetings to discuss the ongoing design progress, key technical items, and decisions associated with these items.

With the exception of Monthly Progress Reports, a summary of the deliverables associated with the RD to-date are listed below:

- On June 8, 2018, the *Draft First Phase Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan* (Integral and Anchor QEA, 2018a) was submitted to the EPA. The EPA provided comments and the *First Phase Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan* (Integral and Anchor QEA, 2018b) was submitted to the EPA on August 24, 2018. It was approved by the EPA on September 12, 2018 (EPA, 2018b). An Addendum to the First Phase Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan (Integral and Anchor QEA, 2018d) was submitted on October 18, 2018.
- On September 10, 2018, the *Draft Remedial Design Work Plan* (RDWP, Integral and Anchor QEA, 2018c) was submitted to the EPA and outlined plans for implementing the RD activities identified in the SOW. The EPA provided comments on the Draft RDWP on October 24, 2018. The *Remedial Design Work Plan* (Integral and Anchor QEA, 2018e) was submitted to the EPA on December 24, 2018.
- On December 7, 2018, a letter was submitted to the EPA (GHD, 2018) requesting a 48-day extension of the deadline for submittal of the *Draft Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan* to allow time for the results from the First Phase Pre-Design Investigation (PDI-1) to be evaluated and incorporated. This extension request was approved by the EPA on December 18, 2018 (EPA, 2018c), effectively extending the date for all subsequent RD submittals.
- On February 11, 2019, the *Draft Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan* (GHD, 2019a) was submitted to the EPA. The EPA provided comments to the work plan on April 18, 2019 (EPA, 2019a). On June 3, 2019, the *Final Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan* (GHD, 2019d) was submitted to the EPA and approved by the EPA in written correspondence dated August 8, 2019 (EPA, 2019c).
- On February 11, 2019, the *Draft Treatability Study Work Plan* (GHD, 2019b) was submitted to the EPA. The EPA provided comments to the work plan on April 18, 2019 (EPA, 2019b). On May 20, 2019, the *Final Treatability Study Work Plan,* (GHD, 2019c) was submitted to the EPA and approved in written correspondence dated August 27, 2019 (EPA, 2019d).
- On September 27, 2019, a letter was submitted to the EPA (GHD, 2019e) requesting an extension to the deadline for both the 30% RD for the Northern and Southern Impoundments in response to a *force majeure* event caused by Tropical Storm Imelda, which caused significant flooding at the Northern Impoundment and the surrounding area beginning on September 17, 2019, and delayed the completion of field work related to the Second Phase PDI (PDI-2) from September 17 to October 7, 2019. In a letter dated October 30, 2019 (EPA, 2019f), the EPA approved a 24-day delay due to the *force majeure* event and an extension to the deadlines for submittal of the 30% RD for both the Northern Impoundment and the Southern Impoundment.
- On May 28, 2020, the 30% RD was submitted to the EPA. The EPA provided Comments on July 16, 2020 (EPA, 2020f).
- On August 21, 2020, a letter was submitted to the EPA (GHD, 2020e) requesting a 160-day extension of the November 13, 2020, deadline for submitting the 90% RD to April 22, 2021, to allow time to determine if significant constructability concerns raised in the 30% RD could be resolved and to obtain additional information about plans

being developed by other agencies. The extension was approved by the EPA in a letter dated September 10, 2020 (EPA, 2020g).

- On February 3, 2021, a letter was submitted to the EPA (GHD, 2021a) requesting a 270-day extension of the deadline for the 90% RD to January 17, 2022, to allow time to conduct the SDI to better delineate the extent of the impacted material for removal and to better understand geotechnical conditions to support the design. The extension was approved by the EPA in a letter dated March 29, 2021 (EPA, 2021a).
- On February 19, 2021, the *Supplemental Design Investigation Sampling Plan* (SDI Work Plan) (GHD, 2021b) was submitted to the EPA. EPA provided comments on the SDI Work Plan on March 29, 2021 (EPA, 2021b). On May 21, 2021, the *Supplemental Design Investigation Sampling Plan - Rev. 1* (Revised SDI Work Plan) (GHD, 2021c) was submitted to the EPA and approved by the EPA in written correspondence dated June 4, 2021 (EPA, 2021c).
- On October 1, 2021, a letter was submitted to the EPA (GHD, 2021f) requesting a 160-day extension of the deadline for the 90% RD to June 26, 2022, to allow for receipt, evaluation, and incorporation of the analytical, geotechnical, and supporting data from the SDI. As requested in an e-mail from the EPA dated October 28, 2021, a Request for Northern Impoundment Schedule Extension - Addendum (GHD, 2021h) was submitted on November 9, 2021, that included a revised schedule that provided for the staged submittal of all RD components required by the SOW to be included in the 90% RD. This extension request was approved by the EPA in a letter dated January 12, 2022 (EPA, 2022a). A further extension request specifically with respect to the northwest corner was submitted to the EPA on June 21, 2022 (IPC and MIMC, 2022b).
- On June 27, 2022, the 90% RD was submitted to the EPA (GHD, 2022f), to which the EPA provided comments in the April 18 Letter (EPA, 2024b).
- On November 8, 2022, the 90% RD Northwest Corner Addendum was submitted to the EPA (GHD, 2022g), to which the EPA provided comments in the April 18 Letter (EPA, 2024b).
- On January 25, 2024, the Respondents submitted in the January 25 Letter (IPC and MIMC, 2024a) a plan in response to the EPA's January 5 Letter and subsequently supplemented that plan in submissions dated March 28, 2024 and April 3, 2024. EPA collectively provided comments from other stakeholders on these submissions as part of the 90% RD comments (EPA, 2024b).
- On May 20, June 17, and July 17, 2024, the Final 100% RD was submitted to the EPA (GHD, 2024b), to which the EPA provided Comments on October 25, 2024 (EPA*,* 2024c). Responses to these Comments are summarized in Table 1-1 and these Comments have been addressed throughout this Revised 100% RD.

1.3 Objective

The objective of this Revised 100% RD is to present a summary, consistent with the SOW, of the RD for the Northern Impoundment.

This Revised 100% RD includes a summary of the results from the PDI-1, PDI-2, SDI, and Treatability Studies. This Revised 100% RD also includes a description of the primary design elements for the remedy selected in the ROD for the Northern Impoundment, including those related to the design and installation of the BMP wall, waste material removal methodology, and water treatment. Associated design drawings, specifications, and supplemental plans are also included in this Revised 100% RD.

1.4 Document Organization and Supporting Deliverables

The remaining sections of this Revised 100% RD are organized as follows:

- *Section 2* includes descriptions of the phased PDI and SDI for the Northern Impoundment that were performed and a summary of the results and conclusions from these events.
- *Section 3* includes a description of Treatability Studies performed for the Northern Impoundment and results.
- *Section 4* addresses the Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) that may be applicable to the Northern Impoundment remedial action (RA) work.
- **Section 5** details the design criteria assumptions that are the basis for the current BMP wall design, waste material removal and solidification methodology, transportation and disposal, and water treatment process elements of the Northern Impoundment RD.
- **Section 6** includes a description of the investigation activities conducted in the SSA during PDI-2 and the implications of the results of that investigation for MNR.
- **Section 7** includes a description of how the RA for the Northern Impoundment may be implemented in a manner that minimizes environmental impacts in accordance with the EPA's *Principles for Greener Clean-Ups* (EPA, 2009).
- **Section 8** includes a list of the drawings and associated technical specifications developed to date for this Revised 100% RD.
- *Section 9* includes descriptions of the supporting deliverables identified in the SOW: Health and Safety Plan (HASP), Emergency Response Plan (ERP), Field Sampling Plan (FSP), Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), Site-Wide Monitoring Plan (SWMP), Construction Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plan (CQA/QCP), Institutional Controls Implementation and Assurance Plan (ICIAP), Transportation and Off-Site Disposal Plan (TODP), Monitored Natural Recovery (MNR) Plan, and High-Water Preparedness Plan (HWPP).
- **Section 10** includes references to cited reports, correspondence and other documents.

This Revised 100% RD includes supporting figures and tables that are referenced throughout the document. This Revised 100% RD also includes the following appendices:

- **Appendix A** PDI and SDI Supporting Documents (including aquifer test results for the PDI-1, and analytical laboratory reports, data validation reports, and a photographic log for PDI-1, PDI-2, and SDI).
- **Appendix B** Geotechnical Engineering Report, including an SDI Geotechnical Data Report and the Updated Hydraulic Heave Analysis Report dated May 20, 2024 (GHD, 2024a; Updated Hydraulic Heave Report).
- **Appendix C** Treatability Testing Supporting Documents (including water and waste material analytical laboratory reports, data validation reports, and a photographic log).
- **Appendix D** ARAR Support Documents.
- **Appendix E** SSA Supporting Documents (including analytical lab reports and data validation reports).
- **Appendix F** Hydrodynamic Modelling Report.
- **Appendix G** Design Drawing Package.
- **Appendix H** Design Specifications.
- **Appendix I** BMP Structural Design Report.
- **Appendix J** Supporting Deliverables (including HASP, ERP, FSP, QAPP, SWMP, CQA/QCP, ICIAP, TODP, MNR Plan, and HWPP).

2. Design Investigations

In March 2011 and May 2012, the Respondents completed investigations at the Northern Impoundment as part of the RI. A summary and the results of these investigations are included in the RI Report. The RI included installation of eight borings to total depths ranging from 7.5 to 12.5 feet (ft) below ground surface (bgs) to characterize waste material chemistry, the results of which provided the basis for the remedial alternative selected in the ROD.

The main objective of the Northern Impoundment PDI and the SDI was to delineate and refine the depth and volume of materials likely requiring removal, as well as to obtain site-specific geotechnical data to inform the design of the BMP, specified in the ROD.

The PDI for the Northern Impoundment was conducted in two phases (in 2018 and 2019) and the SDI was conducted in 2021, as described below.

2.1 First Phase Pre-Design Investigation (PDI-1)

PDI-1 activities in the Northern Impoundment were completed by Integral Consulting and Anchor QEA between November 5 and December 9, 2018, in accordance with the *First Phase Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan* (Integral and Anchor QEA, 2018b), dated August 24, 2018, and approved by the EPA on September 12, 2018 (EPA, 2018b), and the *Addendum to the First Phase Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan*, dated October 18, 2018 (Integral and Anchor QEA, 2018d).

The purpose of the PDI-1 for the Northern Impoundment was to:

- Characterize the waste material in the Northern Impoundment that contains concentrations of dioxins and furans greater than 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M.}
- Evaluate the concentrations of dioxins and furans within the historic central berm separating the eastern and western sides of the Northern Impoundment, as well as the perimeter berm located at the southern edge of the Northern Impoundment.
- Evaluate geotechnical characteristics of the material contained within the Northern Impoundment to inform RD engineering controls.
- Assess the specific yield of the waste material in the Northern Impoundment and hydraulic conductivity and specific yield of the unconsolidated riverine deposits below the Northern Impoundment and above the Beaumont Clay formation, in order to evaluate permeability of the soils and the expected infiltration/seepage of water during excavation activities.

Northern Impoundment PDI-1 field activities included waste material sampling for chemistry, waste characterization, and geotechnical analyses at 17 boring locations (Figure 2-1). Soil borings were advanced from the surface to 18 ft bgs for dioxins and furans analysis, from the surface to 10 ft bgs for waste characterization analysis, and from the surface to the Beaumont Clay (to a maximum depth of 62 ft bgs) for geotechnical sampling and testing. Four monitoring wells were also installed and an aquifer test was conducted.

Upland soil borings were installed from November 5 to 19, 2018 at 10 locations (SJSB028 to SJSB037), from which analytical, geotechnical, and waste characterization samples were collected. Four of these borings were completed as monitoring wells to utilize for aquifer testing. Six geotechnical borings (SJGB018 to SJGB023) were installed outside the perimeter of the armored cap from November 28 to December 5, 2018. Finally, on December 9, 2018, boring SJSB038 was installed for analytical, geotechnical, and waste characterization sampling.

A photographic log documenting the PDI-1 field event is included as part of Appendix A.

2.1.1 PDI-1 Drilling Methodology

PDI-1 boring locations were placed in areas that could be accessed from either a barge secured outside the extent of the armored cap or from a land-based drilling rig.

A roto-sonic drilling rig was utilized to install the 17 geotechnical borings. Six geotechnical boring locations (SJGB018, SJGB019, SJGB020, SJGB021, SJGB022, and SJGB023) were located under water, outside the extent of the armored cap. For these locations, a barge-mounted roto-sonic drilling rig was used. A track-mounted Direct Push Technology (DPT) drilling rig was utilized for the analytical borings. All analytical borings were located on the upland portions of the Northern Impoundment. Boring SJSB038 was located in an area of the Northern Impoundment that is covered with water that fluctuates from 0 to 2 ft of water, depending upon the season and the tide. To ensure that the boring at this location could be completed with the terrestrial drilling equipment, road-base aggregate was brought in and placed to establish access to the boring location.

At locations accessible by standard terrestrial equipment, armored cap material was removed, and the geotextile and/or geomembrane liner was cut prior to drilling activities. At the conclusion of drilling, the borings were grouted to the top, the geotextile and/or geomembrane liner was repaired, and the armored cap material was replaced.

2.1.2 PDI-1 Analytical Sampling

A total of 11 borings were installed at locations in the Northern Impoundment for chemical sampling to fill in data gaps from the RI, as shown on Figure 2-1. Borings were generally installed to a depth of 18 ft bgs, with three borings (SJSB036, SJSB037, and SJSB038) installed to maximum depth of 12 to 13 ft bgs.

Discrete waste material samples were collected via DPT methodology and submitted for analysis consistent with the *First Phase Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan* (Integral and Anchor QEA, 2018b), with the exception of boring location SJS038 which was sampled with the use of a 7-inch diameter sonic core method, due to low recovery with the DPT methodology. With the exception of boring locations SJSB036, SJSB037, and SJSB038, all samples were collected in two-foot intervals. Borings SJSB036, SJSB037, and SJSB038 were used to determine a potential contact point differentiating waste from underlying soil. Samples for these borings were collected above and below the identified waste contact point.

All samples were analyzed by ALS Laboratories for dioxins and furans using EPA approved Method 1613B. Sample data validation was completed by a third-party validation firm (EcoChem, Inc.).

2.1.3 PDI-1 Geotechnical Sampling

A total of 17 geotechnical borings were installed in the Northern Impoundment to total depths ranging from 22 to 62 ft bgs to fill data gaps from the RI and to evaluate the geotechnical properties of the soil around the perimeter of the Northern Impoundment. PDI-1 geotechnical boring locations are shown on Figure 2-1. Disturbed samples were collected from standard penetration test (SPT) split-spoon samplers and analyzed for moisture content, plasticity (Atterberg limits), specific gravity, and grain size distribution. Undisturbed samples were collected using Shelby tube samplers and analyzed for consolidated undrained (CU) triaxial shear strength, direct shear strength testing, one-dimensional consolidation testing, and bulk density. All tests were performed in a laboratory setting, with the exception of blow counts that were conducted in the field. Geotechnical samples were analyzed by GeoTesting Express.

2.1.4 PDI-1 Waste Characterization Sampling

To support waste disposal planning, three composite samples were collected for waste characterization sampling, as depicted on Figure 2-1. Samples were collected from depths of 0 to 10 ft bgs. Samples were analyzed by ALS Laboratories for toxicity characteristic leaching procedure (TCLP) parameters (EPA Method 1311 [SW-846]), ignitability (Flashpoint - SW-846 1010A), corrosivity (pH - EPA 9040), and reactivity (Reactive cyanide - SW-846 7.3.3.2 and Reactive sulfides - SW-846 9034). All waste characterization samples indicate that the waste material did not exhibit any of the four characteristics of hazardous waste (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity) and, therefore, can be disposed of as non-hazardous waste.

2.1.5 PDI-1 Aquifer Testing

As part of PDI-1 field activities, four 4-inch diameter temporary monitoring wells (SJTW014, SJTW015, SJTW016, and SJTW017) were installed to total depths ranging from 36 to 42 ft bgs and screened from 10 to 15 ft bgs to total depth. Locations of the monitoring wells are shown on Figure 2-1. The monitoring wells were developed and utilized for an *in-situ* hydraulic aquifer test (i.e., constant rate discharge pumping tests).

Aquifer testing was conducted on each monitoring well from December 4 through December 7, 2018. Each test was run for approximately 3 hours, with a downhole transducer in the pumping well and periodic water level gauging at the other three monitoring wells being used as observation wells. Monitoring wells SJTW-015, SJTW-016, and SJTW-017 all yielded high pumping rates ranging from 16 to 26 gallons per minute (gpm). Each well had a relatively stable

drawdown ranging from 7 to 11 ft from the starting water level. After each test, recovery water level readings were collected and each well displayed a relatively rapid well recovery. Only well SJTW-014, in the southeast corner, exhibited slow recovery and supported a pumping rate of 0.2 gpm.

2.1.6 Summary of PDI-1 Results

2.1.6.1 PDI-1 Analytical Results

Of the 11 borings analyzed, 5 borings (SJSB029, SJSB030, SJSB031, SJSB034, and SJSB035) had dioxin and furan concentrations below 30 ng/kg $TEQ_{DE,M}$, in all intervals as seen on Figure 2-2. These borings were located within the historic central berm separating the eastern and western sides of the Northern Impoundment, as well as the berm located at the southern edge of the Northern Impoundment. This is consistent with the understood construction of the historic impoundment whereby native soil was used to create the central and southern berms.

Six boring locations (SJSB028, SJSB032, SJSB033, SJSB036, SJSB037, and SJSB038) had concentrations greater than 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M} in one or more intervals. Boring location SJSB028, installed on the far eastern edge of the southern berm, had concentrations above 30 ng/kg $TEQ_{DF,M}$, at a maximum depth of 6 ft bgs. Boring locations SJSB032 and SJSB033 were installed to 18 ft bgs along the western edge of the Northern Impoundment. Results from these boring locations indicated concentrations above 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M}, to depths of 10 and 12 ft bgs, respectively. Borings SJSB036 and SJSB037 were installed to terminal depths of approximately 13 ft bgs. Concentrations above 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M}, at these locations near the center of the western side were identified at a maximum depth of approximately 11 ft bgs at both borings. Boring SJSB038 on the eastern side of the Northern Impoundment was installed to a depth of 12 ft bgs and showed concentrations above 30 ng/kg $TEQ_{DF,M}$ at a depth of 11 ft bgs.

PDI-1 analytical results are shown on Figure 2-2. The validated analytical data, shown in Table 2-1, provides quality assurance that the data collected are usable. The analytical laboratory reports and data validation report are included as part of Appendix A.

2.1.6.2 PDI-1 Geotechnical Results

The PDI-1 geotechnical results identified the presence of interbedded clay, silt, and sand in the areas of the Northern Impoundment in which the geotechnical samples were collected. Soils down to 6 to 10 ft bgs have a high moisture content, with moisture content decreasing as depth increases. Atterberg classification of clay soils indicated that most of the clays are high plasticity, fat clays, with a slightly fewer number of samples classified as low plasticity, lean clays. Interspersed within these clays were samples showing high gravel/sand content. The PDI-1 geotechnical results are included in Appendix B and are further discussed in Section 5.3.3, as they relate to the Northern Impoundment RD.

2.1.6.3 PDI-1 Waste Characterization Results

Waste characterization results indicate that the Northern Impoundment waste material did not exhibit any of the four characteristics of hazardous waste (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity) and are not Listed Wastes, as defined in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 261, Subpart C. As a non-hazardous waste, the waste material would meet the definition of Class I or Class II industrial waste under the regulations governing classification of non-hazardous industrial solid waste in Texas (30 Texas Administrative Code [TAC] §335.505, 335.506, and 335.508).

Validated waste characterization data, shown in Table 2-2, provides quality assurance that the data collected are usable. The analytical laboratory reports and data validation report are included as part of Appendix A.

Additional waste characterization testing of Northern Impoundment waste material was performed as part of the 2019 Treatability Study, conducted concurrently with PDI-2, and as part of the 2021 SDI activities. See Section 3.3 for a summary of the Treatability Study waste characterization results. See Section 2.3.7.2 for a summary of the SDI waste characterization results.

2.1.6.4 PDI-1 Aquifer Testing Results

Analysis of the transducer and gauging data from the PDI-1 aquifer tests indicated that there was no meaningful connectivity between the observation wells and the temporary monitoring wells (SJTW014, SJTW015, SJTW016, and SJTW017) and that there is no influence on the water levels of nearby wells that is not also matched by the tidal fluctuations of the river. Results indicated that there is a strong hydrological connection between the river and the shallow sand/silt layer underlying the Northern Impoundment. The data show that the shallow groundwater system is controlled by the hydrological influence of the river. The BMP included in the design will cut off the interconnection between the shallow groundwater and the river within the areas of removal. The only groundwater infiltration to be considered in the design is local seepage of stored groundwater near the excavations. Aquifer test results are included as part of Appendix A.

2.2 Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation (PDI-2)

The PDI-2 fieldwork on the Northern Impoundment was conducted by GHD from September 4 through December 13, 2019, in accordance with the *Final Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan* (PDI-2 Work Plan; GHD, 2019d), dated June 3, 2019, and approved by the EPA on August 8, 2019 (EPA, 2019c). On September 17, 2019, Tropical Storm Imelda caused significant flooding at the Northern Impoundment, forcing all field activities to be suspended from September 17 to October 7, 2019. This event resulted in a *force majeure* event that delayed the completion of PDI-2 field activities. EPA approved a 24-day schedule extension due to the *force majeure* event on October 30, 2019 (EPA, 2019f),

The purpose of the PDI-2 was to:

- Fill data gaps identified in PDI-1 by refining the horizontal and vertical extent of the waste material with a $TEQ_{DF,M}$ greater than 30 ng/kg to quantify the volume of waste material requiring removal, and to inform the alignment of the BMP during removal activities.
- Fill geotechnical data gaps identified in PDI-1 by collecting geotechnical data to support evaluation of slope stability and inform the BMP design.
- Conduct topographic, bathymetric, and utility surveys to support design of access, staging, and excavation.
- Collect hydrographic data to inform engineering of the BMP.

The Northern Impoundment PDI-2 field activities included installation of 25 analytical sample borings and 9 geotechnical borings at a total of 29 locations, as shown on Figure 2-3. Cuttings from the geotechnical borings were also collected as composite samples for treatability testing, further discussed in Section 3. Borings were advanced from the surface to a maximum depth of either 18 or 30 ft bgs for analytical borings, and to a maximum depth ranging from 20 to 100 ft bgs for geotechnical borings.

A photographic log documenting the Northern Impoundment PDI-2 field event is included in Appendix A.

2.2.1 Drilling Methodology

Due to the location of the Northern Impoundment, portions of the impoundment are heavily influenced by tides and inclement weather. The water level across the Northern Impoundment can vary several feet in the course of one day, providing unique challenges to the use of the drilling methodologies implemented during the PDI-2. Boring installation and sampling were conducted by one of the following methodologies:

- Track mounted drilling rig (DPT and hollow-stem auger).
- Airboat-mounted drilling rig (DPT).
- Barge-mounted drilling rig (hollow stem auger).

Of the 29 boring locations selected for PDI-2, all but six were located in areas that were under water. The appropriate drilling equipment and methodology was selected specifically for each boring location as required by the site

conditions and water level of the San Jacinto River at the time each boring was advanced. PDI-2 boring locations are shown on Figure 2-3.

At locations accessible by standard terrestrial equipment, a mini-excavator was used to remove armored cap rock, then the geotextile and/or geomembrane liner was cut prior to drilling activities. At boring locations that were submerged under water, accessible only by airboat or barge-mounted drilling equipment, certified divers hand cleared the cap rock from each boring location, precisely cut the geotextile and/or geomembrane liner, and then installed a short surface casing (4 feet diameter High-Density Polyethylene [HDPE] pipe or 18-inch diameter steel pipe) to protect against sloughing of the surrounding surface cap materials during drilling. For underwater borings, a wider-diameter casing was first pushed through the extent of the impacted material (approximately 18 to 20 ft bgs) and then the drill rod was advanced through the casing to prevent the potential release of any impacted material to the river during drilling activities.

At the conclusion of drilling at all boring locations, the borings were grouted, the casing was pushed to the mudline (for underwater borings), the geotextile and/or geomembrane liner was repaired, and the armored cap rock was replaced.

2.2.2 PDI-2 Analytical Sampling

In accordance with the PDI-2 Work Plan (GHD, 2019d), the sampling program was designed to better define the placement of the outer BMP. To that end, 14 non-contingent, analytical borings (SJSB045 to SJSB058) were initially installed primarily along the outer perimeter of the Northern Impoundment, just inside the limits of the armored cap. Samples from these locations were analyzed and if the concentrations of dioxins and furans in a boring were found to be below 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M}, the associated contingent boring location (located interior to the non-contingent boring) was installed and sampled. This methodology was repeated until a boring was found to have concentrations above 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M}.

Nine contingent sample locations (SJSB046-C1, SJSB047-C1, SJSB049-C1, SJSB050-C1, SJSB052-C1, SJSB055-C1, SJSB055-C2, SJSB056-C1, and SJSB057-C1) were originally planned, as seen on Figure 2-3, but based upon the results of the 14 non-contingent analytical borings, only six out of the nine contingent borings (SJSB046-C1, SJSB047-C1, SJSB050-C1, SJSB052-C1, SJSB055-C1, SJSB056-C1) were installed and sampled. All borings were installed using DPT methodology to a depth of 18 ft bgs and samples were collected on two-foot intervals.

Several modifications were made to the original PDI-2 scope of work based upon field conditions and analytical data results. A *Work Plan Refinement Notice* (GHD, 2019f) was submitted to the EPA on October 11, 2019, and approved on October 22, 2019 (EPA, 2019e). Per this notice, sample location SJSB050-C1 was relocated approximately 100 ft to the east to better delineate the horizontal and vertical extent of the waste material on the eastern boundary of the Northern Impoundment. Also, per this notice, sample location SJSB058 was moved approximately 60 ft to the southeast to allow the boring to be completed as a land-based boring.

There were several instances where one of the perimeter non-contingent borings had results below the clean-up level, and the next interior boring location from that clean boring had results that exceeded the clean-up level at, or almost at, total depth. To better delineate the horizontal and vertical extent of waste material, borings were added between the clean boring and the impacted boring. An *Additional Work Plan Refinement Notice* (GHD, 2019g) was submitted to the EPA on November 1, 2019, and was approved on November 8, 2019 (EPA, 2019g*).* Per this notice, three borings (SJSB045-C1, SJSB048-C1, and SJSB053-C1) were added between clean and impacted borings as described above. In addition, two samples were taken at locations SJSB070 and SJSB071 along the southern boundary of the ACBM panels on the western side of the Northern Impoundment (see Figure 2-3). The five additional borings were sampled and analyzed at two-foot intervals from zero to 18 ft bgs.

A *Fourth Work Plan Refinement Notice* (GHD, 2019h) was submitted to the EPA on December 4, 2019, requesting to relocate boring location SJSB046-C1 approximately 45 ft to the north to better delineate the horizontal and vertical extent of waste material on the eastern side of the Northern Impoundment. The request was approved by the EPA on December 9, 2019 (EPA, 2019h).

Analytical results obtained during the initial PDI-2 sample data analysis indicated concentrations of dioxins and furans greater than 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M}, at the terminal depth of 18 ft bgs at 3 locations (SJSB046, SJSB058, and SJSB048-C1). To fully delineate the vertical extent of impacted material, duplicate borings were installed directly adjacent to the original borings at these locations, as outlined in the *Additional Work Plan Refinement Notice* (GHD, 2019f) and the *Fourth Work Plan Refinement Notice* (GHD, 2019h). Each duplicate boring was installed directly adjacent to the original borings to a depth of 30 ft bgs. Discrete samples were collected for every two-foot interval between 18 and 30 ft bgs, for a total of six samples per boring. The 18 to 20 ft bgs interval at each duplicate boring was analyzed, while the remaining five samples were held by the lab pending results of the first depth interval. Analytical results indicated that concentrations of dioxins and furans were below 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M} at the 18 to 20 ft bgs depth interval for all three locations; thus, the remaining samples for subsequent depth intervals were not analyzed.

In summary, 25 analytical borings were completed. Three were completed as land-based borings and 22 were completed as water-based borings. Three of the 25 borings were drilled to 30 ft bgs. All others were drilled to 18 ft bgs.

All analytical samples were analyzed by Eurofins TestAmerica Laboratory for dioxins and furans using EPA Method 1613B and percent moisture using Standard Method (SM) 2540G. Data validation was completed by GHD.

2.2.3 PDI-2 Geotechnical Sampling

Upon review of the geotechnical data obtained during the PDI-1, data gaps were identified and documented in the PDI-2 Work Plan (GHD, 2019d). Additional geotechnical data was needed on the interior of the Northern Impoundment boundary on the eastern side of the central berm to inform the design of possible internal BMPs (being considered at the time) for a multi-cell remediation approach. The geotechnical analyses performed during the RI and PDI-1 were determined to be insufficient to inform BMP design. Specifically, there was no unconsolidated-undrained (UU) triaxial compression data to evaluate shear strength. As such, a total of nine geotechnical borings (SJGB024 through SJGB027, SJSB047, SJSB050, SJSB053, SJSB057, and SJSB058) were installed during the PDI-2. The geotechnical boring locations are shown on Figure 2-3.

Geotechnical borings were installed using a Central Mine Equipment (CME) mud-rotary drilling rig. Samples were collected and analyzed for moisture content (per American Society for Testing and Materials [ASTM] D2216), grain size with hydrometer (per ASTM D6913 and ASTM D7928), plasticity (Atterberg limits; per ASTM D4318), torvane shear (per ASTM D2537), and UU triaxial shear strength (per ASTM D2850) to depths ranging from 20 to 100 ft bgs. Geotechnical samples were sent to Tolunay-Wong Engineers, Inc. for analysis.

2.2.4 Sand Separation Area Sampling

Samples were collected during the PDI-2 sampling event to establish current conditions in the SSA. The samples were collected from nine locations shown on Figure 2-4 using Vibracore sampling devices and a dive team. At each location, samples were collected at depth intervals of 0 to 1 ft, 1 to 2 ft, 2 to 4 ft, and 4 to 6 ft below the sediment/surface water interface and analyzed for dioxins and furans. Eurofins TestAmerica analyzed the samples by EPA Method 8290 and percent solids. Samples were also collected at depth intervals of 2.5 centimeters (cm) (0.98 inches) from the sediment/surface water interface to a depth of 82.5 cm (32.5 inches) and analyzed for cesium-137 (¹³⁷Cs) and lead-210 (²¹⁰Pb) using EPA Method 901.1 by Teledyne Brown Engineering, Inc.

A detailed summary of sampling activities and results is included in Section 6.

2.2.5 Transducer Installation

On July 22, 2019, two transducers were installed on the west side of the Northern Impoundment to evaluate the hydrological conductivity of the shallow sand and silt zone beneath the Northern Impoundment and the river. One transducer was installed in monitoring well SJTW-016 and the other was installed in a piezometer that was

manually driven into the river sediment just off the shore to the west of SJTW-016. Each was fitted with a telemetry device and transmits data that can be remotely accessed. The locations of the transducers are shown on Figure 2-3.

2.2.6 PDI-2 Topographic, Bathymetric, and Utility Survey

To support design elements related to access, staging, and excavation, a topographic and bathymetric survey was completed on the Northern Impoundment from July 8 through August 2, 2019. The survey was conducted by a surveyor (Morrison Surveying, Inc.) licensed in the state of Texas. Field data were collected using conventional surveying equipment, including a Trimble R8 GNSS, Trimble R10 global positioning system (GPS), and Geometrics 882 marine magnetometer using Hypack software to collect geophysical data, CEE Scope Fathometer using Hypack software to collect bathymetric data, and a Trimble SX10 scan station to collect topographic data. Surveying was completed on a 50-feet grid over the Northern Impoundment boundaries. Above-ground utilities were also noted during survey activities. Survey data was utilized to develop a topographical digital elevation map of the Northern Impoundment. This surface and all identified above and below-ground utilities have been incorporated into the design drawings.

2.2.7 Summary of PDI-2 Results

2.2.7.1 PDI-2 Analytical Results

A total of 25 analytical borings were sampled and analyzed for dioxins and furans during the PDI-2 activities. Of the 25 borings, 12 had concentrations above 30 ng/kg $TEQ_{DF,M}$ to depths ranging from 4 to 18 ft bgs and the remaining borings were all below 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M} down to 18 ft bgs, as shown on Figure 2-5. Consistent with the objectives of the PDI-2 investigation, borings along the northeastern and eastern sides of the Northern Impoundment exhibiting TEQ_{DF,M} concentrations below 30 ng/kg are to be used in the RD to define the extent of the excavation and the alignment of the outer BMP. This is further discussed in Section 5.2.

All subsurface analytical results from the RI, PDI-1, and PDI-2 are shown in Table 2-6 and on Figure 2-9. The data bars on Figure 2-9 show the interval results as elevations, adjusted to account for the depth of surface water atop each boring location, giving an indication of the total depth of waste material to be excavated during the RA. Two borings locations (SJSB046-12 and SJSB071) had samples above 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M} in the deepest sample interval collected. These locations were further investigated in the 2021 SDI event.

The validated analytical PDI-2 data, shown in Table 2-3, provides quality assurance that the data collected are usable. The PDI-2 analytical laboratory reports and data validation reports are included as part of Appendix A.

2.2.7.2 PDI-2 Geotechnical Results

During the RI and PDI-1, the Northern Impoundment soil lithology was characterized as interbedded Recent Alluvial Sediments (silts, sands, and clays) to an approximate depth of -30 ft North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88), which was confirmed during the PDI-2. The previous investigations also indicated that the Beaumont Clay formation extended below this reference elevation (-30 ft NAVD88) to a minimum elevation of -60 ft NAVD88 on the western side of the Northern Impoundment and to approximately -50 ft NAVD88 on the eastern side of the Northern Impoundment. Additional geotechnical borings installed during PDI-2 (specifically boring SJSB057) encountered the Beaumont Clay formation at approximately -80 ft NAVD88 (an additional 20 ft of thickness) on the western side and at approximately -50 to -65 ft NAVD88 (up to an additional 15 ft of thickness) on the eastern side. Additionally, the investigations prior to PDI-2 indicated a sand formation extending below the clay formation across the Northern Impoundment to approximately -80 ft NAVD88. These sands, although encountered in the PDI-2, were not found to be consistent across the Northern Impoundment.

The PDI-2 geotechnical results are included in Appendix B. Further analysis and discussion of the geotechnical data as it relates to the RD of the BMP are included in Section 5.2.3.

2.2.7.3 Transducer Results

Consistent with the results of the PDI-1 aquifer tests, data from the transducers indicated that there is a strong hydrological connection between the river and the shallow sand/silt layer underlying the Northern Impoundment. The water levels are nearly identical in all observed data, with a slightly dampened response time observed in the monitoring well data that matches pressure changes in soils versus a free-flowing river. As part of the RD, water pressure heads from the shallow permeable layer have been correlated with fluctuations in the river water levels and accounted for, as such.

2.3 Supplemental Design Investigation (SDI)

The BMP design detailed in the 30% RD was subsequently deemed to be infeasible and following submittal of the 30% RD, a new design approach for the BMP (a double wall BMP system) was developed, the alignment of the BMP was changed, and new approach to the excavation methodology was developed. Based on the changes in BMP design and alignment and changes in excavation methodology, data gaps were identified in the available analytical delineation and geotechnical data.

As discussed during a TWG Meeting on December 15, 2020, an additional field investigation was deemed necessary to address these data gaps in the analytical and geotechnical data and better inform the RD. A proposed plan to collect additional analytical and geotechnical data was presented in a TWG Meeting on February 5, 2021, and then formalized in the SDI Work Plan, submitted to the EPA on February 19, 2021 (GHD, 2021b). A TWG Meeting was held to discuss the details of the SDI Work Plan on March 10, 2021, and the EPA provided comments on the SDI Work Plan (EPA, 2021b) on March 29, 2021. On April 15, 2021, a draft Response to Comments table and figures were sent to the EPA in response to the EPA's comments and were then discussed in detail during a TWG Meeting that took place on April 19, 2021. After further discussion with the EPA regarding the SDI scope of work and other significant modifications to it, a revised SDI Work Plan (Revised SDI Work Plan) was submitted to the EPA on May 21, 2021 (GHD, 2021c). The EPA approved the Revised SDI Work Plan on June 4, 2021 (EPA, 2021c). Between the February submittal of the SDI Work Plan and the June approval of the Revised Work Plan, the scope of the SDI event grew substantially. Most notably, seven analytical boring locations were added, with six of those additional borings being located in very challenging water-based locations. The original 10-week schedule for field work thus expanded to more than 12 weeks. The SDI fieldwork was conducted by GHD from June 28, 2021, to September 16, 2021.

The objectives of the SDI included the following:

- Further delineate the vertical extent of the waste material exceeding the ROD clean-up level around the perimeter of the excavation area to support the BMP design, elements of the anticipated excavation methodology, and other aspects of the RD.
- Address data gaps for the vertical and horizontal extent of waste material exceeding the ROD clean-up level across the area anticipated to be excavated to better refine the estimated excavation bottom elevations and the volume of material to be removed (which had already increased due to the depths of the waste material encountered during the PDI).
- Collect additional geotechnical data along the conceptual alignment of the BMP to inform the BMP design.
- Collect additional hydraulic conductivity data of the material to be excavated to better estimate the amount of seepage water that will require management during the RA.
- Collect additional hydraulic conductivity and pore pressure data to evaluate the risk of hydraulic heave during the RA.

The SDI field activities included installation of 35 analytical sample borings and 17 geotechnical soundings (13 Cone Penetrometer Test [CPT] soundings and 4 instrumented boreholes), as shown on Figure 2-6. Borings were advanced from the surface to a maximum depth of 24 ft bgs for analytical borings, and to a maximum depth ranging from 24 to 75 ft bgs for geotechnical soundings.

A photographic log documenting the SDI field event is included in Appendix A.

2.3.1 SDI Drilling Methodology

Similar to the PDI-2 event, several drilling methodologies were employed to account for variable water levels at the Northern Impoundment. Boring installation and sampling were conducted using the following methodologies:

- Track mounted drilling rig (DPT).
- Airboat-mounted drilling rig (DPT).
- Track-mounted drilling rig (mud rotary).
- Truck-mounted CPT drilling rig.
- Truck-mounted CPT drilling rig secured to a floating modular barge.

Of the 35 analytical boring locations selected for SDI, all but 11 of them were located in areas that were under water. All water-based analytical borings were installed utilizing an airboat-mounted DPT rig and all land-based analytical borings were installed utilizing a track-mounted DPT rig. The three land-based piezometers were installed using a track-mounted mud-rotary rig and the land-based CPT soundings were performed using a truck-mounted CPT drilling rig. The water-based CPT soundings were taken using a truck-mounted CPT drilling rig secured to a floating modular barge. SDI boring and CPT locations are shown on Figure 2-6.

At locations accessible by standard terrestrial equipment, a mini-excavator was used to remove armored cap rock, then the geotextile and/or geomembrane was cut prior to drilling activities. At boring locations that were submerged but were accessible by airboat-mounted drilling equipment, certified divers hand cleared the cap rock from each boring location, precisely cut the geotextile liner, and marked the location with a buoy. The drilling rig then installed a short surface casing (4 ft diameter HDPE pipe or 18-inch diameter steel pipe) to protect against sloughing of the surrounding surface cap materials during drilling. For underwater borings, a wider-diameter casing was first pushed until refusal was encountered (approximately 5 to 7 ft bgs on the shallower locations and approximately 5 to 10 ft bgs on the deeper locations) and then the drill rod was advanced through the casing to prevent the potential release of any impacted material to the river during drilling activities. At the conclusion of drilling at all boring locations, the borings were grouted, the casing was pushed to the mudline (for underwater borings), the geotextile and/or geomembrane was repaired, and the armored cap rock was replaced.

As required by the Revised SDI Work Plan (GHD, 2021c), turbidity curtains were deployed around the northwest corner of the Northern Impoundment during the installation of the four soil borings in that area. The initial plan utilized curtains that spanned the full extent of the water column, but due to higher-than-expected water velocities in that area, it was not possible to maintain that configuration and the curtains were realigned to allow for shorter curtains across the deeper areas. The timeline of activities and the significant challenges encountered were detailed in a letter to the EPA dated September 28, 2021 (GHD, 2021e).

2.3.2 SDI Analytical Sampling

In accordance with the Revised SDI Work Plan (GHD, 2021c), the sampling program was designed to further delineate the vertical and horizontal extent of material exceeding the ROD clean-up level. To that end, a total of 373 discrete samples (including 61 field and lab duplicate samples) were collected from 35 locations across the Northern Impoundment. Discrete samples were collected from two-foot intervals to a total depth of 24 ft bgs. The sample intervals from 0 to 18 ft bgs were analyzed by the analytical laboratory, and the sample intervals from 18 to 24 ft bgs were archived by the laboratory pending the results of the 16 to 18 ft bgs sample interval. Analysis of the 16 to 18 ft bgs interval from each location was prioritized to expedite the determination as to whether the samples from the deeper sample intervals should be analyzed. If the 16 to 18 ft interval yielded an analytical result with $TEQ_{DF,M}$ levels above 30 ng/kg, one or more of the three deeper intervals from 18 to 24 ft were also analyzed.

There were five boring locations (SJSB072, SJSB075, SJSB077, SJSB083, and SJSB101) that were co-located with historical boring locations in which a sample interval below the clean-up standard was not observed at the bottom of the boring (SJGB010, SJGB012, SJSB036, SJSB046-C1, and SJSB071). Three of the five locations were in upland

areas (SJSB072, SJSB075, SJSB077), and the other two locations (SJSB083 and SJSB101) were in areas that are normally covered in water.

For the co-located borings adjacent to historical borings with $TEQ_{DF,M}$ levels above 30 ng/kg, with the exception of SJSB083 and SJSB101 which were analyzed for waste characterization purposes, only sample intervals in the co-located borings that were deeper than the terminal depth of each historical boring with $TEQ_{DF,M}$ levels above 30 ng/kg were analyzed. For example, at proposed boring location SJSB072, the first sample interval analyzed was 8 to 10 ft bgs, because co-located historical boring SJGB012 had a $TEQ_{DE,M}$ level above 30 ng/kg at its terminal depth of 8 ft bgs.

All analytical samples were analyzed by Eurofins TestAmerica Laboratory for dioxins and furans using EPA Method 1613B and percent moisture using SM 2540G. Data validation was completed by GHD.

2.3.3 SDI Geotechnical Sampling

To delineate the subsurface stratigraphy along or in reasonable proximity to the conceptual BMP alignment, thirteen CPT soundings were taken.

Twelve of these CPT soundings (SJCPT-001 through SJCPT-010, SJCPT-002A, and SJCPT-006A) were taken along or in reasonable proximity to the conceptual BMP alignment. The initial contractor engaged to complete the water-based CPT borings was unable to successfully reach terminal depth due to the insufficient capacity through resistive force of its CPT drill rig and associated vessel. After multiple attempts by the initial contractor to successfully anchor and reach terminal depth, the initial CPT contractor and CPT drill rig demobilized and a second contractor with a larger capacity truck-mounted CPT drilling rig secured to a floating modular barge was retained to complete the CPT soundings.

A thirteenth CPT sounding (SJCPT-011) was taken adjacent to piezometer location, SJMW-016, as a "calibration sounding" to provide both CPT data and geotechnical laboratory test data for comparison with the newly-collected CPT data from the other 12 CPT soundings.

To provide the corresponding laboratory test data for comparison, geotechnical samples were collected at different locations (depths) during borehole SJMW-16 advancement and sent to Thompson Engineering Geotechnical Laboratory for laboratory analysis. The samples were collected along the entire length of this deep boring, including from the surficial alluvium, Beaumont Clay and Beaumont Sand layers (historical investigations gathered limited data from these lower geological strata).

In addition, nine vane shear tests were performed near CPT locations SJCPT-01 to SJCPT-03, and SJCPT-05 to SJCPT-10 using manual equipment. Vane shear tests were conducted in approximately 1.5 ft increments and progressed up to 24 ft bgs or until refusal, in order to define shear strength values within the surficial alluvions and calibrate the CPT results. The locations of the CPT soundings are shown on Figure 2-6.

Using the common set of information and well-defined relationships for various parameters available, the CPT results obtained from the 12 soundings along the current conceptual BMP alignment were calibrated against data from SJMW-016 and correlated to vane shear tests and existing geotechnical laboratory test data from past investigations. Physical geotechnical samples were collected and analyzed from SJMW-017 as supplemental geotechnical data.

2.3.4 Waste Characterization Sampling

Six waste characterization samples were collected from three analytical borings (SJSB083, SJSB101, and SJSB102). The original plan, as detailed in the Revised SDI Work Plan (GHD, 2021c), had been to collect duplicate samples from each planned 2-ft interval from 0 to 24 ft bgs in soil borings SJSB083 and SJSB101 and to archive the duplicates for potential waste characterization, pending dioxins analytical results. Upon receipt of the dioxins analytical results, the two samples in each boring with the highest dioxins concentration would have been identified and the duplicate samples from each of those intervals would have been analyzed for Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste characteristics per EPA-required test methodology in 40 CFR Part 261. As detailed in SDI Sampling Plan Refinement Notice - 1, submitted to the EPA on July 26, 2021 (GHD, 2021d) and approved by the EPA on August 4, 2021 (EPA, 2021d), due to short analytical hold times for some of the RCRA hazardous waste characteristics parameters, the plan was revised to pre-select the intervals for analysis based upon historic dioxins data from nearby soil borings. Based upon data from historic soil boring SJSB046-C1, the 8 to 10 ft bgs and 10 to 12 ft bgs intervals were selected for waste characterization analysis from SJSB083. Based upon historic soil boring SJSB071, the 0 to 2 ft bgs and 2 to 4 ft bgs intervals were selected for waste characterization analysis from SJSB101.

Due to shipping delays, the waste characterization samples for SJSB083 were delivered to the analytical laboratory outside of the approved temperature range. The samples were analyzed, but in order to bolster the dataset for waste characterization, a third location was selected to collect waste characterization samples. Duplicate samples from two, 2-ft intervals (8 to 10 ft bgs and 10 to 12 ft bgs) were collected from SJSB102 to analyze for waste characterization parameters. Waste characterization data is included in Table 2-5 and Appendix A.

All waste characterization samples indicate that the waste material did not exhibit any of the four characteristics of hazardous waste (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity) and, therefore, can be disposed of as non-hazardous waste.

2.3.5 Supplemental Data Collection

In addition to the sampling described above, supplemental data was collected to support the design of turbidity control measures for use during installation and removal of the BMP during the RA. These data collection activities focused on thicknesses of surface materials, geotechnical characteristics of surficial sediment, and velocity measurements in locations outside the proposed BMP alignment. Each of these data collection activities is described below.

2.3.5.1 Sediment and Rock Thickness

The extent and thickness of armored rock cap along the conceptual alignment of the BMP was investigated, together with the thickness of any sediment deposited on top of the armored rock cap. The information was collected by diver-assisted probing at specific intervals and further verified by examining past quarterly bathymetry surveys. The sediment and rock thicknesses varied across the Site with an average rock thickness of approximately 1.5 ft.

2.3.5.2 Surficial Sediments Geotechnical Properties

Ten samples of river sediment that had deposited on top of the armored rock cap were collected in Lexan® tubes that were hand driven into the sediment to collect a minimum 6-inch thick sample. The sediment within each tube was composited to form a single sample for geotechnical analyses. Samples were collected in proximity to corresponding CPT locations (SJCPT001 through SJCPT010, not including SJCPT-002A and SJCPT-006A) as shown on Figure 2-6.

Divers were required to clear surficial rock at six locations (SJCPT005 through SJCPT010) prior to driving each of the performed CPTs. At the time of clearing the CPT locations, the nearby six surficial sediment samples were collected at these six locations. An additional four locations (SJCPT001 through SJCPT004) were also sampled in a similar manner though the removal of rock at these locations was not necessary. Some boring locations were adjusted based on field conditions.

Both sets of samples were shipped under chain of custody procedures to a geotechnical laboratory for testing. Each sample was tested for water content (ASTM D2216), dry density (ASTM D2937), Atterberg limits (ASTM D4318), specific gravity (ASTM D854), particle size distribution (ASTM D422) and organic carbon content (ASTM D2974). The samples were also tested for consistency/stickiness using the Natural Resources Conservation Service method. The results are presented in the geotechnical report included as Appendix B.

2.3.5.3 Water Velocity and Turbidity Measurements

During the week of November 8, 2021, two velocity meters (e.g., acoustic doppler current profiler) were deployed in locations outside of the conceptual BMP alignment, in accordance with the Revised SDI Work Plan (GHD, 2021c). Four turbidity monitors were deployed at the same time in accordance with the *Revised Ambient Turbidity*

Measurements Plan, submitted to the EPA on October 6, 2021 (GHD, 2021g) and approved by the EPA on October 15, 2021 (EPA, 2021e). The four turbidity monitors and one of the two velocity monitors (Velocity Monitor A to the northwest) were removed from the river during the week of June 7, 2022. Velocity Monitor B is currently still deployed. The locations of the meters are shown on Figure 2-8. Data from the velocity and turbidity monitors will be used to inform the turbidity monitoring and controls plan to be implemented during installation and removal of the BMP during the RA. Data from December 2021 through June 2022 is summarized in the SWMP (Appendix J).

2.3.6 Piezometer Installation

Four piezometers were installed using mud-rotary drilling equipment during the SDI to better understand the hydraulic conductivity and subsurface hydrostatic pressure of the groundwater bearing units below the Northern Impoundment. The locations of the piezometers are shown on Figure 2-6.

A shallow piezometer was installed and screened from the ground surface to -8 ft NAVD88 at boring SJMW-014 to get a better understanding of the hydraulic conductivity of the waste material itself. An intermediate piezometer was installed and screened from approximately -15 to -25 ft NAVD88 at boring SJMW-015 to obtain a better understanding of the hydraulic conductivity of the zone directly below the waste material. Deep piezometers were installed at borings SJMW-016 and SJMW-017 to better evaluate the potential for hydraulic heave during excavation activities. These piezometers extend into the sand layer below the Beaumont Clay Formation. SJMW-016 was screened from approximately -60 to -70 ft NAVD88, and SJMW-017 was screened from approximately -65 to -75 ft NAVD88, each representing the top ten feet of the lower sand layer below the Beaumont Clay.

During the installation of deep piezometers (SJMW-016 and SJMW-017), split spoon and Shelby Tube samples were collected as explained in Section 2.3.3. The samples were shipped under chain of custody procedures to the Thompson Engineering geotechnical laboratory for testing. Selected samples were analyzed for Unconsolidated Undrained Compression Test (ASTM D2850), Atterberg limits (ASTM D4318), moisture content (ASTM D2216), grain size (ASTM D6913/D7928), and #200 wash (ASTM D1140).

All four piezometers were constructed of 2-inch diameter Schedule 40 polyvinyl chloride (PVC) threaded casing. After development, a transducer was installed in each, and a slug test was performed to evaluate the lateral hydraulic conductivity of the strata through which each piezometer was screened. The locations of piezometers SJMW-014 and SJMW-015 were selected from adjacent boring log data to capture the highest representative conductivity values to inform choices on peak excavation seepage rates and water volumes. The hydraulic head in the lower sand was measured after development of the two deep piezometers (piezometer locations SJMW-016 and SJMW-017) to determine the confined hydrostatic pressure.

Pressuremeter Tests (PMT) were also performed by Braun Intertec at multiple intervals in the two deep piezometer boreholes using Texam Pressuremeter equipment. The tests were performed to evaluate the pressuremeter modulus, the limit pressure, and the at-rest horizontal pressures of the surficial alluvium and Beaumont Clay Formation.

2.3.7 Summary of SDI Results

2.3.7.1 SDI Analytical Results

A total of 35 analytical borings were sampled and analyzed for dioxins and furans during the SDI activities. Of the 35 borings, 30 borings had concentrations above 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M} to depths ranging from 0 to 22 ft bgs and the remaining borings were all below 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M} at a depth of 18 ft bgs, as shown on Figure 2-7. Consistent with the objectives of the SDI, an interval below 30 ng/kg $TEQ_{DF,M}$ was encountered at the terminal depth of every soil boring, establishing vertical delineation of the waste material. Data from the SDI also identified waste material exceeding 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF.M} at elevations deeper than previously encountered (-28.36 ft NAVD88 at SJSB098).

Due to the apparent variability of the SDI results in some borings (which often include an interval with results above 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M} below several feet of material with results below 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M}), a subset of data consisting of 36 selected sample intervals from the full SDI dataset was selected to be re-extracted and reanalyzed by the analytical laboratory. These re-extractions are identified in Table 2-4 as Laboratory Duplicates and the results from these

samples are in addition to the 19 field duplicates that were collected and analyzed as a part of project quality assurance procedures. To evaluate the data, the relative percent difference (RPD) was calculated for each set of duplicates. Consistent with the criteria listed in the QAPP for sediment field duplicate samples, the RPD was compared to an acceptance criteria of 100% or less. Using this criteria, analysis of the duplicate data found there to be 8 of the 36 sets of data in the lab duplicate set that were above the 100% RPD threshold and four of the 19 sets above the threshold for the field duplicate sets. Given the small sample extraction amount required for the analysis and the notoriously high variability of sediment samples, this amount of variation in the duplicate datasets was deemed realistic and within normal ranges of variability for sediments. The data presented on Figures 2-7 and 2-9 and in Table 2-6 represents the highest value obtained from either the parent, field duplicate, or laboratory duplicate samples for each sample interval.

All subsurface analytical results from the RI, PDI-1, PDI-2, and SDI are shown on Figure 2-9. The data bars in this figure show the interval results as elevations, adjusted to account for the depth of water atop each boring location. Table 2-6 also presents all subsurface analytical results as elevations.

The validated analytical SDI data, shown in Tables 2-4 and 2-6, provides quality assurance that the data collected are usable. The SDI analytical laboratory reports and data validation reports are included as part of Appendix A.

2.3.7.2 SDI Waste Characterization Sampling

Consistent with the results from waste characterization sampling performed as part of the PDI-1 and PDI-2 Treatability Testing, all six samples collected during the SDI for analysis of waste characterization parameters were below the thresholds to be classified as RCRA hazardous waste. Notably, the dioxins results from three of the six samples were significantly elevated (4,400 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M} at SJSB083 [8 to 10 ft bgs], 52,000 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M} at SJSB101 [0 to 2 ft bgs], and 47,000 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M} at SJSB101 [2 to 4 ft bgs]) indicating that these samples targeted locations with high dioxins concentrations. Waste characterization results are included in Table 2-5. Analytical laboratory reports and data validation reports are included as part of Appendix A. Conclusions of the waste characterization testing are further discussed in Section 3.3.

2.3.7.3 SDI Geotechnical and Hydrogeological Sampling

Additional geotechnical sampling was conducted during the SDI, including Shelby tube and SPT testing at SJMW-016 and SJMW-017. PMT was also completed at these locations. Results were within expected ranges, with alluvium being underlain by the Beaumont Clay, which was underlain by the deep Beaumont Sand. The CPT soundings indicated that the compressible clay strata consisted predominantly of one layer on the west side of the Northern Impoundment but on the east side, this layer may be interlayered by thin occasional granular lenses. The CPTs also provided a continuous profile of the undrained shear strength of the Beaumont Clay to the termination depth of the tests. The SDI geotechnical results are included in Appendix B. Further analysis and discussion of the geotechnical data as it relates to the RD of the BMP are included in Section 5.3.3.

Single well response aquifer tests (slug tests) were conducted at the newly installed piezometers at SJMW-014, SJMW-015, SJMW-016, and SJMW-017 on August 13, 2021. The test results were evaluated with the aquifer testing software AQTESOLV version 4.50 and can be viewed in Appendix A.

The shallow alluvium piezometer SJMW-014, which was screened through the waste material, yielded a hydraulic conductivity value of 0.000127 centimeters per second (cm/s), which is appropriate for a silty material. The deeper alluvium piezometer SJSMW-015 screened in the more permeable zone directly below the waste material, yielded a hydraulic conductivity value of 0.001175 cm/s, which is within expectations for a fine-grained sand.

The deep Beaumont Sand piezometers SJMW-016 and SJMW-017 were installed and screened in the ten-foot interval below the Beaumont Clay. The confined Beaumont Sand was found to have a relatively gradual hydraulic gradient sloping to the east. The two measurement points obtained from SJMW-016 and SJMW-017 were compared to each other and available historical well measurements to confirm the gradual hydraulic gradient. This low gradient allowed the water levels taken at SJMW-016 and SJMW-017 to be extrapolated to approximate water levels across

the entire excavation area. The two deep piezometers yielded hydraulic conductivity values of 0.000170 cm/s and 0.000313 cm/s, which are appropriate for a silty sand.

Hydraulic conductivity data was used to verify and refine assumptions for water storage and treatment during the RA, as further described in Section 5.2.

2.3.7.4 SDI Surficial Sediments Geotechnical Properties Sampling

Surficial sediments/alluvium deposits consisting of clay, silt and sand with organic matter contents ranging from 0.7 percent to 9.7 percent were encountered at the surface at all boreholes and CPT locations. The alluvium deposit is black to grey in color with specific gravity ranging from 2.58 to 2.79 and dry bulk density ranging from 45.3 pounds per cubic foot (PCF) to 95.0 PCF. Further details regarding geotechnical conditions are included in Appendix B.

2.4 PDI and SDI Conclusions and Recommendations

When the ROD was issued, only eight subsurface borings had been installed in the Northern Impoundment. As part of PDI and SDI activities, an additional 71 subsurface borings were installed, providing additional horizontal and vertical (to as deep as -36 ft NAVD88) characterization. Analytical results from these samples indicate that the vertical impact of material with TEQ_{DF,M} exceeding 30 ng/kg extends much deeper than initially determined. As shown in Table 2-6 and on Figure 2-9, data from the PDI and SDI indicate that the excavation elevations during the RA range up to an elevation of -28.36 ft NAVD88 with an average elevation of -12.8 ft NAVD88. The average depth of waste referenced in the ROD was -8 ft NAVD88. The corresponding volume of waste material was found to be approximately 50 percent greater than what was known at the time of the ROD. The horizontal and vertical waste extents were used as part of this RD to determine the type of BMP necessary to implement the selected remedy and the appropriate removal methodology. The data from the PDI and SDI was also used to determine the area of the Northern Impoundment that will require remediation and the alignment of the BMP. Data analysis, civil excavation contouring, and BMP design are further discussed in Section 5.

Understanding the geotechnical characteristics of the soils beneath the Northern Impoundment is a critical component of the RD. Given the significantly deep elevations of waste material encountered during the SDI, a detailed evaluation was conducted to examine the potential for hydraulic heave during excavation activities. The evaluation examined the thicknesses of the underlying strata beneath the Northern Impoundment including the alluvium and underlying Beaumont Clay and the interface between the Beaumont Clay and Beaumont Sand. The evaluation also examined the pore pressures of the Beaumont Sand, as measured by the deep piezometers to determine the hydraulic head level. Finally, the evaluation examined the properties of the soils including the unit weight of the clay and overlying alluvium and the presence of sand lenses in some parts of the clay layer. This evaluation was intended to assess whether the pore pressures within the Beaumont Sand and/or sand layers within the clay would be sufficient to overcome the weight of the overburden considering the planned excavation depths and water drawdown.

Based on this evaluation, it was determined that there are several areas across the Northern Impoundment (primarily in and throughout the northwest corner) in which there would be significant risk of hydraulic heave if material is removed in the dry to the currently known elevations presented in this document (See Table 5-1). The evaluation indicated a total stress analysis safety factor (SF) below 1.25 for removal of material to the depths of deepest impact in these areas. A total stress analysis SF of 1.25 is considered protective of hydraulic heave and is in accordance with USACE guidance. Based upon the results of this evaluation, it was determined that it would be unsafe to excavate the material in the northwest corner to the currently known depths in the manner required by the ROD. The results of this evaluation were detailed in a Hydraulic Heave Analysis Report submitted to the EPA on December 9, 2021, (GHD, 2021i) and in a follow-up letter submitted to the EPA on December 22, 2021 (GHD, 2021j). Based upon this evaluation, excavation of the northwest corner is technically impracticable as prescribed by the ROD (i.e., "in the dry") and that area will be addressed with mechanical dredging to mitigate the hydraulic heave risk and based on the Updated Hydraulic Heave Analysis Report submitted as part of this Revised 100% RD.

A detailed analysis of the geotechnical conditions at the Northern Impoundment, as they relate to the RD, are included in Appendix B and are discussed in Section 5. The Updated Hydraulic Heave Analysis Report is also included as an attachment to the Geotechnical Engineering Report included in Appendix B.

3. Treatability Studies

3.1 2019 Treatability Study Overview

As part of the PDI-2 field activities in October 2019, waste material, porewater, and armored cap material samples were collected and contact water was generated from the Northern Impoundment for treatability testing, as specified in the *Treatability Study Work Plan* (TSWP) (GHD, 2019c) submitted to the EPA on May 20, 2019, and approved on August 27, 2019 (EPA, 2019d). Treatability testing was conducted in the GHD Treatability Laboratory in Niagara Falls, New York (GHD Treatability Lab). Analytical testing was completed by Eurofins TestAmerica Laboratories.

Four composite waste material samples were collected from the four quadrants of the Northern Impoundment for additional waste characterization sampling to determine eligibility for Texas Class I and/or Class II non-hazardous industrial waste disposal and evaluation of solidification mix design, as necessary. Three composite samples of armored cap material were collected for characterization and evaluation for reuse.

As described in the TSWP, two water management approaches were evaluated, as part of the Treatability Study: traditional treatment through clarification and filtration, and thermal evaporation.

To assess the traditional treatment approach, contact water was generated in an excavation on the southwest quadrant of the Northern Impoundment and a field pilot test which involved on-site clarification and filtration was performed. Effluent from the on-site treatment was also utilized in bench-scale treatability testing at the GHD Treatability Lab, to evaluate particle size and the effectiveness of filtration to remove Constituents of Potential Concern (COPCs) for water discharge criteria.

Concurrently, a pilot study was conducted to evaluate the proposed thermal evaporation treatment approach using the clarified contact water. The fate of dioxins and furans was evaluated at different steps of the evaporation treatment process.

3.2 2019 Treatability Study Objectives

As outlined in the TSWP, the objectives of the Northern Impoundment treatability testing included:

- Evaluation of optimum solidification mix designs to solidify the waste material for off-site transportation and disposal.
- Evaluation of optimum solidification mix designs to meet requirements for Texas Class I and/or Class II non-hazardous industrial waste disposal, in accordance with 30 TAC 335.505-506 and 335.508.
- Evaluation of evaporation technology, including processing capacities, fuel consumption, evaluation of the characteristics of the brine produced by the evaporation process, and air emissions.
- Evaluation of traditional water treatment technology.
- Determination of optimum treatment alternatives for contact water to comply with ARARs.
- Evaluation of the armored cap materials at the Northern Impoundment to determine whether such materials can be reused on-site during or post-remedy implementation.

3.3 2019 Waste Material Treatability Testing

Based on the origin of waste material in the Northern Impoundment, the waste material is not listed as hazardous under 40 CFR Part 261, Subpart D. Further, waste characterization samples collected during the PDI-1 were analyzed for ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, and toxicity, as defined in Title 40 of CFR Part 261, Subpart C, to determine if the material is characteristically hazardous. The results indicate that the material is not a characteristic hazardous waste under RCRA or EPA or TCEQ regulations. Validated PDI-1 waste characterization data are included in Table 2-2.

Additional testing was conducted during the Treatability Study to further classify the non-hazardous waste under applicable Title 30 of the TAC, (Industrial Solid Waste and Municipal Hazardous Waste) (30 TAC 335). The material was also tested in accordance with EPA Method SW-846 Test Method 9095B (i.e., paint filter test), to determine whether free liquids were present which would prevent the material from being disposed of without solidification. Solidification tests were also performed on the waste material to determine the level of solidification necessary to achieve a target unconfined compressive strength (UCS) that may be required for off-site disposal.

Additional waste characterization testing was also performed on six samples collected during the 2021 SDI to supplement the previous dataset.

3.3.1 Treatability Testing Sample Collection

As part of the Northern Impoundment PDI-2 activities conducted from September to December 2019, four approximately 30-gallon composite samples of waste material were collected from the southwest, northwest, northeast, and southeast quadrants of the Northern Impoundment to utilize for treatability testing, as shown on Figure 3-1. Composite Sample 1 in the southwest quadrant was composited from waste material removed from the excavation to create contact water for water treatability testing. The samples were containerized in 5-gallon buckets, sealed, and transported via freight to the GHD Treatability Lab on September 19, 2019. The remaining three samples were composited from cuttings in the first 20 feet from the geotechnical borings in each quadrant (Composite Sample 2 from the northwest quadrant, Composite Sample 3 from the northeast quadrant, and Composite Sample 4 from the southeast quadrant). The samples were containerized in 5-gallon buckets and transported via freight to the GHD Treatability Lab on December 17, 2019.

3.3.2 Baseline Characterization

An initial baseline characterization was performed to determine if there was significant variation of the chemical and physical properties between the four quadrant waste material samples collected within the Northern Impoundment and to provide data for further waste characterization.

Each waste material sample was analyzed for the following parameters to determine whether it met TCEQ Class I or Class II non-hazardous waste landfill disposal requirements:

- Percent Solids SM for the Examination of Water and Wastewater 2540G.
- TCLP Dioxins and Furans EPA 1613B.
- TCLP Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) EPA 8260C.
- TCLP Semi-volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs) EPA 8270D.
- TCLP Organochlorine Pesticides EPA 8081B.
- TCLP Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) EPA 8082A.
- TCLP Herbicides EPA 8151A.
- TCLP Glycols EPA 8015D Direct Injection.
- TCLP Metals EPA 6010C.
- TCLP Mercury EPA 7470A.
- TCLP Methomyl EPA 8321A.
- Total Cyanide EPA 9014.
- Sulfide EPA 9034.
- Ignitability EPA 1020B.
- pH EPA 9045D.

3.3.3 Waste Material Treatability Results and Conclusions

Consistent with the results obtained during PDI-1 and PDI-2, results from the SDI testing characterization indicated that all waste material samples are expected to meet disposal criteria for a Class II landfill and that the material is a non-hazardous waste under RCRA. The basis for this classification is discussed in the sections below.

The results from the PDI-1 waste characterization testing are shown in Table 2-2, the results of the SDI waste characterization testing are shown in Table 2-5, and the results from the PDI-2 Treatability waste characterization testing are shown in Table 3-1. Analytical laboratory reports for the PDI-1 and SDI testing are included as part of Appendix A and analytical laboratory reports for the PDI-2 Treatability Testing are included as part of Appendix C.

3.3.4 Waste Characterization Conclusions

The EPA's guidance regarding the management of remediation waste states that "contaminated environmental media, of itself, is not hazardous waste and, generally, is not subject to regulation under RCRA." (*Management of Remediation Waste under RCRA*, EPA, 1998). The material to be excavated during the Northern Impoundment RA for disposal off-site is the environmental media to be evaluated, and it is subject to regulation under RCRA as hazardous waste only if one of the following two conditions exists:

- 1. The media is impacted with a listed hazardous waste at concentrations that are above the health-based risk levels.
- 2. Any constituent in the media exhibits one of the characteristics of hazardous waste.

GHD submitted a waste characterization evaluation for the Northern Impoundment to the EPA on October 20, 2020 (Waste Characterization Letter; GHD, 2020g). The purpose of the evaluation was to describe how pulp and paper mill waste, proposed to be excavated as part of the Northern Impoundment RA, has been characterized and classified in accordance with the RCRA regulations as non-hazardous waste. EPA subsequently concurred with the conclusions contained in the Waste Characterization Letter in a letter to GHD dated November 19, 2020 (EPA, 2020h).

As part of this evaluation, the following sections of Title 40 of the CFR Part 261 - *Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste*, were evaluated:

- Subpart A Definition of Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste & Exclusions (261.1-.9).
- Subpart B Criteria for Identifying the Characteristics and Listing of Hazardous Wastes (261.10-.11).
- Subpart C Characteristics of Hazardous Waste (261.20-.24).
- Subpart D Lists of Hazardous Wastes (261.30-.33).

3.3.4.1 Listed Waste Evaluation

The listed waste evaluation involved determining whether the material contains a "listed" hazardous waste at concentrations above regulatory thresholds. The categories of listed hazardous wastes, using the codes assigned to each category, are:

- "F" codes = Non-Specific Sources.
- "K" codes = Specific Sources.
- "P" codes = Commercial Chemical Products (acutely hazardous).
- "U" codes = Commercial Chemical Products (non-acutely hazardous).

According to EPA guidance, information about the source of the waste is to be used in making the determination. Information about the waste material was summarized in the Waste Characterization Letter. The evaluation concluded that the material did not meet any of the listed descriptions.
3.3.4.2 Characteristic Waste Evaluation

Under RCRA, a solid waste is a hazardous waste if it exhibits any of the following characteristics:

- Ignitability (D001).
- Corrosivity (D002).
- Reactivity (D003).
- Toxicity (D004 D043).

The evaluation involved a review of available waste characterization data from PDI-1 and PDI-2 and information from the RI about the material deposited in the Northern Impoundment. It concluded that the excavated material at the point of generation (when it is excavated) would not exhibit the characteristics of a RCRA hazardous waste (i.e., ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity).

In its letter to GHD dated November 19, 2020, the EPA stated that "based upon information provided in the October 20, 2020 evaluation, EPA agrees with GHD's determination that the initially generated waste would not be a listed hazardous waste meeting the current definitions of an F, K, P or U waste. From review of the analytical testing results, the samples are all non-hazardous" (EPA, 2020h). Additional waste characterization sampling was conducted during the 2021 SDI, the results of which further support the conclusions summarized in GHD's October 2020 letter. Additional sampling may be required to further characterize excavated material to determine whether it meets the definition of Class 1 or Class 2 non-hazardous waste under the regulations governing classification of non-hazardous industrial solid waste in Texas. If additional characterization is conducted it will be done so in accordance with the guidance provided in Chapter Nine "Sampling Plan" of the *Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods* (EPA, 1986) and in *RCRA Waste Sampling Draft Technical Guidance* (EPA, 2002). If at any time a hazardous waste, as defined in 40 CFR Part 261, is identified, it will be managed and disposed of in accordance with RCRA regulations.

3.3.5 Solidification Testing

Solidification testing was conducted to determine the appropriate reagent dosages to solidify the waste material for transportation to an off-site disposal facility. Off-site disposal facilities typically require incoming waste to pass paint filter testing (an indicator of moisture content) and meet a minimum UCS criteria. A series of tests were performed on material with various levels of the following parameters:

- 1. Moisture content to simulate a wide range of site conditions.
- 2. Reagent concentration to develop optimal dosage percentage to address paint filter and UCS disposal requirements.
- 3. Reagent mix to develop optimal reagent blend for cost analysis.

The solidification testing methodology and results are summarized in the sections to follow.

3.3.5.1 Solidification Testing Methodology

Waste material composite Sample 3 and composite Sample 4 from the Northern Impoundment were utilized for solidification testing. The testing mixtures were prepared by placing 400 grams (g) of waste material with the predetermined amount of reagent in a mechanical mixer. Waste material and reagent were mechanically mixed for five minutes and then placed into a mold for curing. Reagent doses and blends tested are summarized in Table 3-A, as follows:

Notes:

(1) Portland/Lime reagent blends were utilized to evaluate cost effective substitutes.

(2) "5/5" indicates percentage of Portland cement and lime used (i.e., 5% Portland + 5% lime).

Curing was monitored using a pocket penetrometer and samples were monitored for the presence of free water which would be a leading indicator of not passing a Paint Filter Test. Pocket penetrometer testing was conducted on molds starting from two days after mixing up to 14 days. Results of solidification testing is summarized in Section 3.3.5.2.

3.3.5.2 Solidification Results and Conclusions

The results of the solidification testing indicated that free water (Paint Filter testing) and UCS requirements of an off-site disposal facility can be met across a range of waste material percent solid scenarios (35 to 70 percent) utilizing Portland cement and/or lime. In general, Portland cement was more effective at achieving both disposal requirements. Lime dosages did not result in significant strength (UCS) or free water reduction. In addition, combining lime with Portland cement did not result in the ability to lower the percentage of Portland cement utilized.

Based on these solidification tests, the required dose of Portland cement increases with decreasing percent solids and ranges from a dose of two percent for waste material with 70 percent solids to 10 to 20 percent (depending on potential landfill strength requirements) for material with 35 percent solids. Material with 45 percent solids or less has the potential to fail the Paint Filter test without adequate treatment. The selected Remedial Contractor (RC) may perform their own testing at the time of the RA. The specifics of the off-site disposal facility requirements will be worked out between the RC and the selected off-site disposal facility at the time of the RA. The results for these solidification treatability tests are presented in Appendix C.

3.4 2019 Water Treatability Testing

During the RA, as specified in the ROD, as sections of the armored cap are removed, water will come into contact with the waste material through seepage or stormwater and will require management. Additionally, water generated from equipment decontamination and the water treatment system (WTS) containment area will need to be managed. Water treatability testing was performed to evaluate two water management options: (1) traditional treatment and (2) discharge using clarification and filtration and thermal evaporation.

To generate a sufficient quantity of representative contact water for all necessary testing, an open excavation area was constructed in the waste material in the southwestern quadrant, as shown on Figure 3-1, and filled with potable water to simulate potential stormwater or seepage that may come into contact with the impacted waste material. A sample of the raw contact water was collected and sent to the GHD Treatability Lab for baseline characterization and filtration testing.

The remaining generated contact water was processed on-site through a modular filtration treatment system, including polymer addition with inline mixing followed by clarification, sand filtration, and bag filtration. Samples were collected at each step of the treatment process to evaluate the concentration of dioxins and furans. Additional focused filtration testing was performed on a sample of the final clarified and filtered effluent to further evaluate dioxin and furan concentrations using different filter sizes. Treatability testing was also conducted on the clarifier underflow (solids that settle out during the clarification process) to evaluate the level of settling and solidification necessary to prepare the waste stream for off-site disposal.

A batch of clarified water, prior to filtration, was sent to the Purestream pilot test facility in Logan, Utah for a thermal evaporation pilot test to evaluate air emissions.

All water testing results were evaluated against calculated water discharge criteria, as discussed below.

3.4.1 Water Discharge Concentrations

So that discharge of treated water during the RA meets water quality standards, COPC discharge concentrations were developed by conducting a water quality-based effluent limitation (WQBEL) assessment. The Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (TSWQS) are specific to water bodies, not to discharges, so WQBELs take into account the load that the site-specific discharge would add to the water body as a whole to determine the necessary limits to maintain protection of human health and aquatic life.

The TCEQ utilizes the Texas Toxicity Screening (TexTox) Menus to determine WQBELs. TexTox Menus include all relevant formulas and inputs found in the *Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards* (Implementation Procedures), June 2010 (TCEQ, 2010). Depending on the type of receiving water body, different TexTox Menus would be assigned. During the RA, treated water from the Northern Impoundment will discharge to either Segment 1005 (Houston Ship Channel/San Jacinto River Tidal, south of I-10) or Segment 1001 (San Jacinto River Tidal, north of I-10) of the San Jacinto River, which is classified as a bay/wide tidal river.

For discharges into Segments 1005 or 1001, TCEQ would assign the TexTox Menu #5 to calculate WQBELs. This TexTox Menu requires inputs for Total Suspended Solids (TSS), effluent flow, and effluent fractions for chronic and acute aquatic life and human health. Based on the planned location of the outfall and the type of water body, the following default dilution fractions were used, per TCEQ guidance: 30 percent for Zone of Initial Dilution (Acute), eight percent for Aquatic Life Mixing Zone (Chronic), and four percent for Human Health Mixing Zone. Since Segments 1005 and 1001 are tidal water bodies, they are dominated by the ebb and flow of tides rather than from upstream flow. These effluent fractions, along with an estimated effluent flow, serve as main inputs for the discharge information required by the TexTox Menu to calculate WQBELs. The estimated discharge flow rate for the RA ranges from 300 to 1,000 gpm (0.432 to 1.44 million gallons per day [gpd]). The default dilution factors are recommended for any discharge into a bay/tidal river greater than 400 ft wide with a flow rate less than 10 million gpd.

Using default dilution factors, river segment specific inputs, and expected TSS and discharge flow rates from the Northern Impoundment WTS discharge, preliminary discharge concentrations were determined. These preliminary calculated discharge concentrations were used to evaluate water treatability testing results and can be found in Table 3-2.

3.4.1.1 Compliance with the Texas Surface Water Quality Standard - Dioxins and Furans

The EPA has made a determination regarding compliance with the TSWQS for dioxins and furans as an ARAR, based on the substantive requirements of the TCEQ's regulation for surface water discharge, as detailed in e-mail correspondence dated February 18, 2020 (EPA, 2020b; included in Appendix D).

EPA has determined that compliance with the TSWQS ARAR will be attained as follows:

- *The state surface water quality standard for Dioxins/Furans is 7.97 x 10-8 micrograms per liter (μg/L)¹ (0.0797 picograms per liter [pg/L] 2) (as TCDD equivalents).*
- *Compliance with the TSWQS will be determined using the minimum level of the EPA approved method (1613B), cited in 40 CFR Part 136 (Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants), in sampling of surface water discharges during the site remedial action.*
- *If an effluent sample analyzed for dioxin is below the Minimum Level (ML) using the EPA approved method, the sample result would be identified as non-detect and the discharge would be determined to be in compliance with the ARAR.*
- *The ML for each analyte is defined as the level at which the entire analytical system must give a recognizable signal and acceptable calibration point. It is equivalent to the concentration of the lowest calibration standard, assuming that all method-specified sample weights, volumes, and clean-up procedures have been employed.*
- *This approach is consistent with the state's guidance and other permits issued by the TCEQ. EPA's determination is contingent on the water treatment facility using a 1-micron final filtration step in the water treatment process*.

3.4.2 Contact Water Pilot Testing

3.4.2.1 Contact Water Creation

Contact water for pilot testing was generated from the Northern Impoundment by creating an open excavation in the southwestern portion of the Northern Impoundment, with approximate dimensions of 20 ft by 20 ft and a depth of 10 ft. The excavated material was temporarily stored in roll-off containers. The excavation remained open overnight, and water that seeped into the excavation was collected and submitted for analysis. Approximately 20,000 gallons of

potable water was then transferred into the excavation and mixed using an excavator bucket to generate a worst-case sediment and water mixture that may be encountered during the RA. This simulated contact water was then pumped into two storage tanks and the contents of the two tanks were homogenized prior to treatment.

3.4.2.2 Pilot Test Overview

Once the contact water was created and removed for treatment testing, as described above, the excavation was backfilled with the stockpiled waste material, the geomembrane cover was replaced and sealed, and the armored cap material was replaced. A sample of contact water created from the on-site excavation was shipped to Evoqua Water Technologies LLC (Evoqua), to determine the optimum polymers for addition during the on-site field filtration pilot testing. The modular filtration treatment system included polymer addition with inline mixing followed by clarification, sand filtration, and bag filtration, as depicted on Process Flow Diagram (PFD) shown on Figure 3-2. During the treatment system operations, the storage tanks were continuously mixed, while the water was recirculated between the two tanks to homogenize the feed to the treatment system.

One batch of contact water was treated through clarification only, and one batch was treated through both clarification and sand filtration. The batch of clarification-only water was sent to the Purestream pilot test facility in Logan, Utah, and used to evaluate thermal evaporation technology for water management. The batch of clarified and filtered water was sampled and used to evaluate traditional pump-and-treat technology through on-site field and bench-scale testing, as described in the subsequent sections.

The pilot test treatment system was operated at a flow rate of approximately 30 gpm. The system was initially flooded with contact water, which was directed to an off-specification wastewater storage tank. Clarifier effluent turbidity was monitored as the polymer dosage rates were adjusted. Once the clarifier effluent turbidity dropped below 10 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTUs), the clarified water was directed to a separate holding tank. After 7,500 gallons were collected, the clarified effluent was directed to the sand and bag filters, and the effluent to the off-specification tank. Once turbidity levels remained at a consistent value of 10 NTUs in the effluent out of the clarifier, and at approximately one NTU in the filtrate from the filters, the filtered effluent water was discharged to a separate holding tank. Clarifier underflow solids were discharged to a holding tank and allowed to further settle. Photographs from the water treatment pilot test activities are included in the photographic log included in Appendix C.

3.4.2.3 Filtration Pilot Test Water Samples

As discussed previously, contact water was generated in the southwestern part of the Northern Impoundment by placing potable water in an open excavation. This simulated contact water was then processed through an on-site pilot treatment system which included polymer addition with inline mixing followed by clarification, sand filtration, and bag filtration. Water samples were collected and analyzed at different steps in the process, as depicted in the PFD included as Figure 3-2.

A contact water sample taken from the storage tank prior to homogenization was sent to the GHD Treatability Lab for bench-scale testing. This sample and the excavation seepage water were analyzed for the following parameters:

- Total and Dissolved Dioxins and Furans EPA Method 1613B.
- VOCs EPA Method 8260C.
- SVOCs EPA Method 8270D.
- Organochlorine Pesticides EPA Method 8081B.
- Herbicides EPA Method 8151A.
- PCBs EPA Method 8082A.
- Anions EPA Method 300.0R2.1.
- Total Metals EPA Method 6010C.
- Total Mercury EPA Method 7470A.
- Alkalinity SM 2320B.
- Ammonia Nitrogen EPA Method 350.1.
- Biochemical Oxygen Demand SM 5210B.
- Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) EPA Method 410.4.
- Cyanide EPA Method 9012B.
- Ferrous iron SM 3500.
- Hydrogen sulfide EPA Method 15.
- pH EPA Method 9040C.
- Phosphorus EPA Method 6010C.
- Sulfide EPA Method 9034.
- Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) SM 2540C.
- Total Organic Carbon (TOC) SM 5310C.
- TSS SM 2540D.

The two homogenized contact water samples, the clarified effluent sample, and the filtered effluent sample were analyzed for any COPC that had a detection in the results of the previous non-homogenized contact water sample. Based on those results, these samples were analyzed for all of the same constituents listed above, except the following which were found to be non-detect: VOCs, SVOCs, Organochlorine Pesticides, Herbicides, and PCBs.

In addition, samples were collected from the clarifier underflow and settling tank for treatability testing and TSS analysis.

3.4.2.3.1 Filtration Pilot Test Results

Results of the water samples from each step of the on-site pilot testing are summarized in Table 3-2 and were compared to the estimated discharge criteria established by the EPA (ML), as described in Section 3.4.1. Analytical laboratory reports are included as part of Appendix C.

The homogenized contact water initially exhibited levels of dioxins and furans, TSS, and some metals (including copper, lead, and zinc) above the estimated discharge criteria. Following clarification, the metal concentrations in the clarified effluent sample were below the estimated discharge criteria. Following filtration, dioxins and furans concentrations were also below the ML. The table on Figure 3-2 shows the stepwise decrease in dioxins, metals, and TSS levels at each step in the treatment process. This treatment process is being used as the basis for the RD with additional proposed unit processes, as discussed in Section 5.9.

Turbidity was monitored online at both the clarifier effluent and the filtered effluent. Turbidity results are presented on Figure 3-3. Clarifier turbidity was typically at 10 NTUs or less, while filtered effluent turbidity was typically at one NTU or below. The clarifier effluent TSS concentration was 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L), while the filtered/clarified effluent TSS was 2 mg/L. Based on the observed relationship between turbidity and TSS (see Figure 3-A), turbidity levels can be used as an indication of the TSS concentration. One dioxin congener was above the ML in the clarified effluent, but below the ML in the filtered effluent. For the RA, due to the strong correlation between TSS and dioxan and furan concentrations, TSS and turbidity levels could potentially be used to indicate if the dioxin and furan level is below the ML based on these pilot testing results, as well as the bench-scale filtration results. However, further field testing will be required during the operations of the treatment system. The strong correlation between TSS and dioxin and furan concentrations was noted during bench scale and pilot testing where a direct linear concentration between TSS and concentration of dioxins and furans was observed and filtration testing showed that dioxins and furan concentrations in filtered water decreased with the size of filter used. Water treatment is discussed further in the document in Section 5.9.

A turbidity spike occurred at the 19:30 hour mark during the filtration pilot test as a result of the loss of polymer feed. Once this issue was observed, the polymer feed was changed from automatic to manual then restarted, and turbidity dropped to the pre-spike levels. This result supports the benefit of polymer, as well as the ability to monitor performance using turbidity as an indicator.

Figure 3-A Turbidity vs. TSS

3.4.2.4 Thermal Evaporation Pilot Test

For the thermal evaporation evaluation, approximately 5,000 gallons of clarified contact water were transported to the Purestream pilot test facility in Logan, Utah, for a three-day pilot test. The pilot test facility utilized a 1/10 scale replica pilot test model of a Flash thermal evaporation unit, which utilizes a direct flame to evaporate influent water to the atmosphere, creating a brine byproduct only (that would need to be disposed) with no effluent water stream for river discharge. The pilot test included three days of stack testing to evaluate emissions of COPCs. Results of the stack testing indicated that none of the COPC emissions were above the levels of the applicable air emissions ARAR (the Permit by Rule [PBR] 30 TAC §106.261(a)(3)). This indicates that most of the COPCs remain in the brine byproduct generated by thermal evaporation.

As part of the RD evaluation, water treatment rates and storage requirements were evaluated for both water management alternatives. The treatment flowrate for the traditional pump-and-treat option is 300 gpm. In order to achieve a 300-gpm flowrate using the thermal evaporation option, 25 thermal evaporation units would be needed. It was determined that it would not be feasible to stage and operate this large a number of units at the Northern Impoundment during the RA. As a result, contact water would need to be stored and evaporated at a lower flow rate, resulting in storage of larger volumes of water over a longer duration as compared to the treat-and-discharge option. As a result, traditional treatment through clarification and filtration was selected for use in the 90% RD and thermal evaporation was not further evaluated. Thus, results of the thermal evaporation evaluation are not included in this Revised 100% RD.

3.4.3 GHD Treatability Bench-Scale Testing

The bench-scale testing of the non-homogenized contact water is described in Section 3.4.2.3. In addition to the initial analysis and characterization of the contact water, bench-scale filtration tests were performed on the generated contact water (Section 3.4.3.1, below). Bench-scale testing was also performed on the clarified and filtered effluent from the pilot test (Section 3.4.3.2, below) to evaluate additional filtration steps.

As part of the clarification process, solids settle out of the water into a sludge. This clarifier underflow sludge will be disposed off-site as a separate waste stream. Because the sludge will have a very high moisture content, it may need to be solidified prior to off-site transport. Treatability testing was performed to evaluate options for solidification of the

sludge. To optimize the amount of reagent necessary for solidification, additional settling treatability testing was performed to evaluate the effectiveness prior to solidification (Section 3.4.3.3, below).

3.4.3.1 Contact Water Filtration Testing

A serial filtration test was performed on the non-homogenized contact water during the bench-scale testing in order to determine the size distribution of the particles present in the contact water and any relationship between particle size and the concentration of dioxins and furans in the sample.

The test was performed on a 7-liter sample of non-homogenized contact water. The entire sample was filtered through a pre-weighed 100-micron (um) filter paper. A one-liter sample of the filtrate was then collected for analysis of dioxins and furans. This process was repeated using the remaining filtrate water and pre-weighed 10, 1, 0.45 and 0.1 µm filter papers, with collection of a filtrate sample after each filtration. After the filtration test was complete, each filter paper was dried and then weighed to determine the amount of particulate captured on the filter, and the filtrate samples were analyzed for dioxins and furans.

Testing of other water treatment technologies identified in the TSWP, such as those for metals and ammonia removal, were not required as these compounds did not exceed discharge criteria in the baseline characterization.

Contact Water Filtration Test Results

The results of the filtration test showed more than 90 percent of the particulates were larger than 10 μ m in size. Concentrations of dioxins and furans that exceeded the MLs were observed in the filtrate that had passed through the 100 µm and 10 µm filters; however, after filtration with a 1 µm filter, concentrations of all dioxins and furans were below their MLs. These results are summarized in Table 3-3 and shown graphically on Figure 3-4. Analytical laboratory reports are included as part of Appendix C.

3.4.3.2 Focused Filtration Testing

The on-site filtration pilot test water treatment included clarification, followed by sand filtration and nominal bag filtration. In order to determine the effect of additional filtration on the already filtered effluent from the pilot study, the pilot study filtrate water was filtered through 1 µm, 0.45 µm, 0.1 µm, 0.05 µm and 0.025 µm filters. The filtrate from each filter was collected and analyzed for dioxins and furans.

Further testing on the effluent included coagulation/flocculation testing and testing of granular activated carbon (GAC) for polishing.

Focused Filtration Testing Results

The filtrate from the 1 µm, 0.45 µm, 0.1 µm, 0.05 µm and 0.025 µm filters was analyzed for dioxins and furans. These results are summarized in Table 3-4 and shown graphically on Figure 3-4. Analytical laboratory reports are included as part of Appendix C. Consistent with the results obtained from the initial effluent bench-scale filtration testing, none of the filtrate samples contained dioxins and furans above the MLs. This confirms that a 1 µm filter is sufficient for removal of the dioxins and furans from the water. This and the contact water filtration testing data (Section 3.4.3.1) were presented and discussed with members of the TWG on January 27, 2020. Based upon the results and the TWG discussion, the EPA sent correspondence to the Respondents on February 18, 2020 (EPA, 2020b), stating that "compliance with the TSWQS will be determined using the minimum level of the EPA approved method (1613B)." The correspondence further specified that this determination would be "contingent on the water treatment facility using a 1 µm final filtration step in the water treatment process."

Coagulation/flocculation jar testing was performed on the non-homogenized contact water by Evoqua, and the results were used to inform the polymer dose utilized during the pilot test discussed in Section 3.4.2.

Further testing of the effluent included polishing with GAC. As dioxins and furans were not present above their MLs prior to GAC treatment, removal of dioxins and furans by GAC could not be quantified. However, GAC treatment will be included in the RD to provide a final polishing step to the effluent discharge.

3.4.3.3 Clarifier Underflow Solids Testing

As previously discussed, bench-scale treatability testing was performed to evaluate the effectiveness of additional settling of the clarifier underflow prior to solidification for off-site disposal. As part of the settling test, a sample of the clarifier underflow was agitated to resuspend solids and an initial sample was analyzed for TSS. A subsample of the material was poured into a 500 mL graduated cylinder and allowed to settle. The height of the sediment/water interface was recorded every five minutes and a sample of the supernatant was analyzed for turbidity every ten minutes. After settling was complete (i.e., no change in the sediment/water interface was observed), a sample of the supernatant was analyzed for TSS.

Solidification tests were also performed on both the raw clarifier underflow and the clarifier settled solid samples that were generated, as described above. The solidification tests were conducted by placing 400 grams of waste material with the amounts of solidification agent, stated below, and water in a mechanical mixer. The waste, water, and solidification agent were mixed for five minutes and then placed in a plastic mold. The samples were allowed to cure for two weeks. During curing, the hardness of the sample was evaluated using a pocket penetrometer three times per week. After curing, the samples were analyzed for UCS.

For the raw clarifier underflow sample, solidification was tested using the sample alone and the sample mixed in a 1:1 ratio with a sample of waste material composite. Cement doses between 15 percent and 85 percent were tested with and without the addition of lime at doses between 20 percent and 70 percent.

For the settled solids sample, solidification was tested using the sample alone and the sample mixed in a 1:1 ratio with a sample of waste material composite. Cement doses between 10 percent and 30 percent were tested with and without the addition of lime at doses between 20 percent and 30 percent.

Similar solidification testing was performed with the brine from the evaporation pilot test. Since evaporation is no longer being considered as an option for water treatment, these results will not be discussed in this Revised 100% RD.

Clarifier Underflow Solids Test Results

Settling of the clarifier underflow solids occurred quickly; the bulk of the solids settled within four minutes and the supernatant gradually cleared to produce a low turbidity, low TSS liquid within two hours. These results indicate that settling is useful in removing suspended solids. Photographs of the settling tests are shown in the photographic log included in Appendix C.

For the raw clarifier underflow solidification tests in which lower Portland cement and lime doses were used, even though good solidification of the solids was achieved, standing water remained on top of the solidified mass. This showed that the water had not been incorporated into the solidified material.

To eliminate standing water in the samples, a dose of 35 percent Portland cement and 60 percent lime was required for the raw clarifier underflow sample and a dose of 70 percent Portland cement was required for the clarifier underflow sample mixed at a 1:1 ratio. A pocket penetrometer hardness of >64 pounds per square inch (psi) was achieved for these samples.

These data show that a large dose of Portland cement and lime would be required to solidify the clarifier underflow on its own and that mixing with the waste material at a ratio of less than one part underflow per part of waste material would be recommended in order to minimize the reagent dose for solidification.

For the solidification test using the settled solids, standing water was observed initially in some tests with lower doses of cement and lime. However, after two days, the standing water had been absorbed by the solidified solids. The minimum reagent doses to achieve a pocket penetrometer hardness of >64 psi and a UCS of >50 psi were 25 percent Portland cement with 30 percent lime or 20 percent Portland cement with a 1:1 mixture of waste material and settled solids.

These data show that the settled solids can be solidified on their own but that mixing with waste material at a 1:1 ratio can reduce the required reagent dose. The selected RC may perform its own testing at the time of the RA. The specifics of the off-site disposal facility requirements will be worked out between the RC and the selected off-site

disposal facility at the time of the RA. More detailed data for these solidification treatability tests can be made available upon request.

3.5 2019 Armored Cap Material Treatability Testing

The TSWP scope of work included generation and testing of an elutriate to characterize the armored cap material and evaluate the potential for reuse as part of the RA. During the December 17, 2019 TWG Meeting, the EPA requested that the scope be revised to include additional analyses of the sediment that is generated from the rinsing of the armored cap material, as well as analysis of the crushed rock itself. The revised scope was documented in a *Treatability Study Work Plan Refinement Notice*, submitted January 10, 2020, (GHD, 2020a) and approved by the EPA on January 17, 2020 (EPA, 2020a).

Composite samples of the armored cap material were collected from three different locations in the Northern Impoundment (the west side of the impoundment, the east side of the impoundment and the bermed areas). The sample locations included submerged and non-submerged areas, and the samples were collected only from areas in which a geotextile and/or geosynthetic liner separates the rock from the waste material. Two five-gallon buckets of armored cap material were collected per composite sample area. All treatability activities were performed at the GHD Treatability Lab. Approximate locations of the armored cap material samples are shown on Figure 3-5.

The elutriate was generated by mixing the armor rock with deionized (DI) water at a ratio of 1:5, agitating the mix for 30 minutes before removal of rock, settling the solids in the supernatant water for one hour, and finally, centrifugation of the supernatant water. The resulting elutriate water was then analyzed for dioxins and furans using EPA Method 1613B.

The settled solids from the containers comprising the same armored cap material sample, as well as any solids that resulted from centrifugation of the respective rock water, were combined and sent to the laboratory for analysis of dioxins and furans.

The armored cap material that was washed during the elutriate testing was crushed using a rock crusher and the crushed material from the three separate armored cap locations was analyzed for dioxins and furans.

Armored Cap Treatability Testing Results

No dioxins or furans were detected in any of the elutriate samples above their MLs. Similarly, all TEQ_{DF, M} results from the solids that were washed from the rocks and of the crushed rocks, themselves were below the 30 ng/kg clean-up level. These data are shown in Table 3-5. Analytical laboratory reports are included as part of Appendix C.

3.6 Additional Treatability Testing

Treatability activities performed prior to the submittal of the 30% RD and summarized in the previous sections of this Revised 100% RD, were designed to evaluate the water treatment process for the pump-and-treat approach where water generated from the RA would be stored in aboveground tank(s) and then treated. The 30% RD described an alternate remediation approach (Approach B) that was being considered for the Northern Impoundment. Water treatment under this approach would have included water treatment technology similar to that of the pump-and-treat approach except that water would be treated in-situ in a flooded excavation cell via a recirculation and filtration process. The feasibility of the Approach B excavation methodology hinged on the success of the Approach B water treatment methodology. As described in the 30% RD, additional treatability testing was proposed to evaluate the effectiveness of the Approach B water treatment methodology. In addition, a field filtration test was proposed to evaluate operation of an absolute filter for the reduction of dioxin and furan concentrations in the clarified and sand-filtered contact water that remained on-site following the 2019 field pilot testing.

The planned treatability testing was summarized in an *Additional Treatability Testing Notice* submitted to the EPA on April 16, 2020 (GHD, 2020b). Comments were received from the EPA on May 5, 2020 (EPA, 2020c). The EPA's comments were addressed in the *Revised Additional Treatability Testing Notice* (Revised Notice; GHD, 2020c), submitted to the EPA on June 4, 2020. The Revised Notice was approved by the EPA on June 11, 2020

(EPA, 2020d). In response to revisions that were requested by the EPA during a call on October 9, 2020, a *Refinement Notice - Revised Additional Treatability Testing Notice* was submitted to the EPA on October 15, 2020 (GHD, 2020f)

The two treatability testing scopes included in the Revised Notice were conducted in 2020. In addition, some supplemental filtration confirmation testing was performed in October 2021. The results of these three treatability scopes are presented in the following sections.

3.6.1 Field Filtration Testing

As described in the Revised Notice, a field filtration testing was conducted on May 28, 2020, at the Northern Impoundment to further refine the filtration design requirements (specifically the use of nominal versus absolute filters) evaluated in the initial October 2019 field pilot testing. Absolute filters provide a higher removal efficiency than nominal filters at the same pore size. Therefore, the use of absolute filters was expected to provide more efficient removal of dioxins and furans than the nominal filters.

The May 2020 field filtration testing consisted of filtration of contact water that had previously been clarified and sand filtered during the October 2019 field pilot testing through absolute filters.

The primary objectives of the field filtration testing were to:

- Evaluate water quality using 1 μm and 0.5 μm absolute filters.
- Evaluate the operating costs of 1 μ m and 0.5 μ m absolute filters.
- Evaluate which pore size filter is more appropriate for the application, based on operational efficiency.

3.6.1.1 Field Filtration Testing Process

The field filtration tests were conducted in May 2020.

ProAct, a subsidiary to Evoqua, provided a modular filtration system containing both 1 μm and 0.5 μm absolute filters with a design flow of 80 to 100 gpm. Filtration tests were conducted in one day over the course of ten hours. Prior to filtration, turbidity was measured in the filter feed tank while mixing until readings stabilized, indicating that tank contents were sufficiently mixed and solids were adequately suspended. Flow was then passed through the filter housing with no bag filters so that influent samples could be collected.

The 0.5 μm absolute bag filter was placed inside the housing and then flow was passed through the filter, during which time flow and differential pressure across the filter were continuously monitored. After approximately 35 minutes, flow through the 0.5 μm filter was stopped, and the test was repeated with the 1 μm absolute filter. Again flow and differential pressure were continuously monitoring across the filter. The 1 μm filter test ran for approximately 25 minutes before the volume of water available was expended.

Samples of influent (i.e., the previously sand filtered and clarified contact water), filtrate through 0.5 μm filter, and filtrate through 1.0 μm filter were analyzed for water quality parameters. Parameters of interest were total dioxins and furans, TSS, total metals, and dissolved metals (field filtered).

3.6.1.2 Field Filtration Test Results

Flow and differential pressure measurements for the 0.5 μm and 1 μm absolute filters were plotted versus time and then extrapolated over a longer duration as shown on Figure 3-6.

Figure 3-6 shows that flow decreased rapidly, especially through the 0.5 μm filter, which dropped to nearly 0 gpm after 40 minutes of operation. Flow through the 1 μm filter was projected to drop by almost 20 percent after operating for 50 minutes, although this is based on limited data (due to only a limited volume of water being available to use in the testing). Differential pressure variations appear to correlate with flow variations, increasing significantly even after short operational durations. Differential pressures through the 0.5 μm filter were projected to increase to almost 30 psi

after only 40 minutes of operation. Differential pressures through the 1 μm filter show a more gradual increase, but projections are based on fewer data points.

Analytical results from the influent, 1 μm filtrate, and 0.5 μm filtrate samples for parameters of interest are presented in Table 3-6.

Results show that concentrations of TSS and dioxins and furans were low in the influent water, with TCDD levels already below the MLs. As expected, filtration further reduced TSS and dioxins and furans to levels below the MLs after the 1 μm filter, with additional reduction after the 0.5 μm filter. Both filters achieved dioxins and furans concentrations below MLs. Finally, results for both total and dissolved metals showed no concentrations above the discharge criteria.

3.6.1.3 Field Filtration Testing Conclusions

Analytical results indicate that the 0.5 μm and 1 μm absolute filters achieve concentrations of dioxins and furans below the MLs however, the data shown on Figure 3.6 indicate that operations using absolute filters at the small pore sizes evaluated (0.5 μm and 1 μm) may cause operational difficulties, such as rapid increase in differential pressures due to filter fouling, that would require frequent filter changeout. These difficulties are addressed in the WTS design by providing a two-step filtration process after the media filters using a 10-μm filter system before the 1 μm filter system. In addition, the WTS design includes redundant 10 μm and 1 μm filtration systems in parallel, which will allow rapid change over from the duty to the standby system to reduce downtime. Subsequent filtration tests (summarized in Section 3.6.3) indicate that filters provide effective removal of dioxins and furans to below the MLs; therefore, the WTS described in this Revised 100% RD prescribes the use of 95% efficient 10 μm and 1 μm filter cartridges or bags. Actual filtration during treatment may improve based on refining chemical addition and filter feed rates during operation.

3.6.2 Approach B Water Filtration Testing

Approach B excavation methodology considered in the 30% RD included removal of soils through a water column. Approach B in-situ water treatment would have involved adding chemicals to the water column within the barrier wall and then sending the water through a recirculating filtration system (with filter pore sizes down to 1 µm) to reduce TSS concentrations which is also expected to remove dioxins and furans.

The primary objectives of the Approach B water filtration testing were to:

- Quantify volume of soil particles that become suspended in the water after excavation.
- Determine particle size distribution and dioxin load of the suspended soil particles.
- Determine settling properties of the suspended soil particles.
- Determine time needed for the filtration system to reduce TSS of the water column to acceptable levels.
- Evaluate effects of adding polymer to the water column containing suspended soil particles.
- Evaluate polymer/coagulant mix required to condition soil for filtration and the design parameters for this filtration.

3.6.2.1 Approach B Water Filtration Testing Process

The Approach B water filtration tests were conducted in the GHD Treatability Lab in Niagara Falls, New York from October 2020 through January 2021. Test activities included the following steps:

- Two (2) tanks with sampling ports were constructed to simulate the water column in the excavation cell. The two tanks were used to run parallel tests as follows:
	- Tank #1 tests evaluated treatment effectiveness with the addition of coagulant and polymer.
	- Tank #2 tests evaluated treatment effectiveness without any chemical addition.
- A slurry was prepared with simulated river water and waste materials collected from the Site.
- The slurry was added to each tank and then solids were allowed to settle to mimic an in-situ water column.
- Excavation was simulated in the tanks to reagitate the solids.
- Chemicals, including coagulant and polymer, were added to facilitate setting and filtration.
- After chemical addition, solids were allowed to settle in the tank. Supernatant was sampled for TSS.
- Solids were resuspended then recirculated through a series of filters with decreasing pore sizes down to 1 µm. For this test, Geotube® fabric was used for initial filtration to remove larger particles of TSS and mitigate clogging of the subsequent finer filters.
- Filtrate was then collected for analysis of general chemistry parameters, specifically dioxins and furans.

3.6.2.2 Approach B Water Filtration Testing Results

After simulating the excavation within the water column in the tanks, settling tests showed that the chemical addition increased the rate of solids settling, reaching low levels of TSS and turbidity within three hours of settling as compared to more than 24 hours of settling that was required without chemical addition. However, results from both tests produced supernatant with dioxins and furans still above the MLs.

Geotube filtration tests showed that chemical addition improved TSS removal, reducing TSS in settled supernatant by 90 percent as compared to 50 percent without chemical addition. Recirculation filtration of Geotube filtrate did not remove TSS as much as expected based on calculations using Geotube filtrate particle size distribution. Figure 3-7 shows the actual versus expected TSS values over the time of the recirculation filtration.

After recirculation tests were completed, the solids were mixed to simulate the full-scale operation excavation that would be conducted while recirculating the water column through filters. Particle size distribution was evaluated on samples from both tanks after completion of the recirculation tests and after simulating excavation.

Results showed that there was some decrease in solids particle sizes after excavation simulation, suggesting that excavation activities along with recirculation breaks down particles to sizes that may pass through filtration, even after chemical addition. Additionally, larger particle sizes were observed in the tank where chemicals were added, indicating that chemical addition effectively increases particle sizes of the solids.

Water in the tanks after recirculation testing was analyzed for dioxins and furans. Data show that a series of recirculating filters did not reduce dioxins and furans as expected/calculated. Analysis of dioxins and furans in the filtrate water from each filter size showed significant reduction in dioxin/furan concentrations. However, filtrate through even the smallest 0.1 µm filter did not achieve dioxins and furans below the MLs, compared with previous tests on the pump-and-treat methodology that achieved dioxins and furans below the MLs after a 1 µm filter (Section 3.4.3.). Analytical results from these tests are shown in Table 3-7.

Further review of the particle size distribution test results showed that the majority of particulates containing dioxins and furans are between the sizes of 10 and 41 µm; therefore, it was expected that the filtration through the 10 µm should have produced filtrate with dioxins and furans close to or below the MLs. Inadequate removal of dioxins and furans observed during recirculation testing suggests that the mixing energy imparted from recirculation may break down solids into smaller sizes that can pass through a 0.1 µm filter and allow breakthrough of dioxins and furans in the filtrate.

3.6.2.3 Approach B Water Filtration Testing Conclusions

Treatability testing showed that the Approach B in-situ water treatment approach is not effective. This is due to challenges in mixing in order to keep solids in suspension to allow for effective removal via filtration.

Based on these results, this approach was eliminated as an option for the WTS and was not carried forward in this Revised 100% RD.

3.6.3 Additional WTS Treatability Testing

Following the Approach B water filtration testing which demonstrated that in-situ filtration methodology was not effective, the design shifted to focus on a dry excavation and pump-and-treat aboveground WTS.

The WTS design included herein includes pumping contact water from the excavation area to a separate aboveground WTS utilizing chemical treatment (i.e., coagulation/flocculation) followed by filtration and activated carbon treatment to reduce the TSS, which would be expected to also remove dioxins and furans. Previous filtration testing of contact water from the site showed that filtration through a 1 μ m filter reduced solids to achieve dioxins and furans concentrations below MLs (Section [3.4.3\)](#page-41-0).

Certain tests that had been conducted in previous testing (including polymer addition and settling) were not applicable to the design of the WTS process, as they had been conducted to evaluate the Approach B methodology. As such, to verify the effectiveness of the treatment process included in this Revised 100% RD and to evaluate its operational feasibility, additional WTS treatability testing was conducted.

The primary objectives of the additional WTS treatability testing were:

- Determine particle size distribution and dioxin load of the suspended soil particles.
- Determine settling properties of the suspended soil particles.
- Evaluate polymer/coagulant dosages required for effective setting and filtration.
- Develop design parameters for the chemical addition and filtration processes.

3.6.3.1 Additional WTS Treatability Testing Process

The additional WTS treatability testing was conducted at the GHD Treatability Lab in Niagara Falls, New York in October 2021. Test activities included the following steps:

- Contact water was prepared using simulated precipitation water and waste material collected from the site during the SDI activities.
- The contact water was added to a tank and then solids were allowed to settle.
- Chemicals were added to facilitate setting and filtration.
- After chemical addition, solids were allowed to settle in the tank. Supernatant was pumped to a separate tank and sampled for TSS.
- Supernatant was then sent through a series of filters with decreasing pore sizes to simulate the filtration included in the design of the WTS.
- Filtrate was then collected for analysis of general chemistry parameters, specifically dioxins and furans.

3.6.3.2 Additional WTS Treatability Testing Results

Supernatant from initial one-hour settling tests had high TSS and concentrations of dioxins and furans well above the MLs. Chemicals were added to facilitate solids settling; 100 mg/L of polyaluminum chloride coagulant and 25 mg/L of polymer were added. After chemical addition, settling times decreased, with the majority of solids settling after five minutes. Supernatant from settling after chemical addition was then filtered through 5 µm and 1 µm filters. TSS and dioxins and furans were analyzed after each treatment step with results shown in Table 3-8.

Results showed that filtration achieves very low concentrations of dioxins and furans, with concentrations of all congeners below the MLs, using a 5 µm filter with chemical addition.

Because dioxins and furans are organic compounds, GAC is being included in the treatment process downstream of the 1 µm filter to remove residual dioxins and furans prior to discharge. TOC concentrations were measured in the 5 µm and 1 µm filtrates at 21 mg/L and 19 mg/L, respectively. These are relatively low concentrations that maintain the ability of the GAC to adsorb residual dioxins and furans prior to discharge.

3.6.3.3 Additional WTS Treatability Testing Conclusions

The additional WTS treatability testing confirmed that the pump-and-treat WTS process included in the RD will successfully remove dioxins and furans to levels below MLs and will meet all TSWQS for discharge. This testing also indicated that chemical addition followed by the use of a 5 µm filter is effective in removing an adequate amount of

solids to achieve the target dioxin and furan concentrations, with 1 µm filtration and GAC provided as an additional SF for water treatment prior to discharge. Settling tests indicated that the addition of 100 mg/L of coagulant followed by 25 mg/L of polymer was the most effective at achieving solids settlement prior to filtration.

Based on these results, the design of the optimized WTS is further outlined in Section 5.9.

3.7 Treatability Study Conclusions

Waste Material

- Characterization results for the Northern Impoundment waste material samples collected during PDI-1, PDI-2, and SDI indicate that the waste material is non-hazardous and is not subject to regulation under RCRA. This position was detailed in a Waste Characterization Letter, submitted to the EPA on October 20, 2020 (GHD, 2020g) and approved by the EPA in a letter dated November 19, 2020 (EPA, 2020h). In addition, the characterization results from the SDI suggest that the waste material should meet criteria for disposal in a Texas Class II landfill.
- Solidification testing on waste material samples indicates that an addition of a low dose (2 to 10 percent) of Portland cement will allow the removed waste material to meet landfill paint filter and compressive strength requirements.

Water

- Results of the particle size analysis and filtration testing of both simulated contact water and filtered effluent indicate that dioxins and furans in water are primarily associated with the TSS in the water. TSS and turbidity demonstrated potential to serve as an indicator parameter for dioxins and furans.
- The results of the 2019 bench-scale testing show that filtration with a 1 µm filter can reduce concentrations of dioxins and furans in the contact water to below the ML. Further testing in the 2021 Additional WTS Treatability Testing suggest that filtration with a 5 µm filter with chemical addition can reduce concentrations of dioxins and furans to levels below the ML. Further evaluation of the use of a 5 µm filter in lieu of a 1 µm filter may be warranted depending upon the long-term operational performance of the 1 µm filter.
- Treatment of simulated contact water by clarification and filtration resulted in an effluent that meets the discharge criteria established by the EPA. The success of the treatment process and methodology was corroborated through the implementation of parallel bench-scale tests conducted in 2019 and 2021. This technology has been selected to be advanced in the RD for water treatment. The treatment process will be designed in accordance with EPA correspondence to Respondents dated February 18, 2020, (EPA, 2020b) which stated that "if an effluent sample analyzed for dioxin is below the ML using the EPA approved method, the sample result would be identified as non-detect and the discharge would be determined to be in compliance with the ARAR."
- In-situ recirculation water treatment methodology (Approach B) was unsuccessful at achieving an effluent that met the TSWQS. This methodology has not been carried forward in the RD.
- Solids in the clarifier underflow will likely require further settlement to produce a concentrated stream for solidification. The settled solids from the clarifier can be solidified with doses as low as 20 percent Portland cement if mixed with waste material in a 1:1 waste material to settled solids ratio.

Armored Cap Material

– No dioxins or furans were detected in any of the armored cap elutriate samples above their MLs. Similarly, all TEQ_{DF,M} results from the sediment that was washed from the rocks and the crushed rock samples themselves were below the 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M} clean-up level. These results support the proposed reuse of the existing armored cap material during or after execution of the Northern Impoundment RA.

4. Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs)

Compliance with ARARs does not include formal submission of permit applications to the agencies for permits or approvals. Instead, information sufficient to demonstrate compliance at the work site with the relevant ARARs will be presented to the EPA and coordinated with other agencies.

The EPA recognizes the following three types of ARARs:

- *Chemical-Specific ARARs*: Chemical-specific ARARs include health- or risk-based numeric limits or methods that establish the acceptable amount or concentration of a chemical that may be found in or discharged to the environment.
- *Location-Specific ARARs*: Location-specific ARARs include limits on allowable concentrations or on activities associated with hazardous substances solely because they occur in special locations.
- *Action-Specific ARARs*: Action-specific ARARs include technology- or activity-based requirements or limitations on actions involving the management of hazardous substance.

As part of the RD, and since the submittal of the 30% RD, 90% RD, and 100% RD, focused efforts have been made to engage with the relevant regulatory stakeholders that may have interest in the Northern Impoundment RA to make them aware of the anticipated scope of the RD and to ensure that all substantive permit requirements are identified for purposes of this Revised 100% RD. These efforts at engagement included meetings between the Respondents and the EPA with the following agencies: TCEQ, USACE, United States Coast Guard (USCG), TxDOT, Port of Houston Authority (POHA), Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD), Harris County Pollution Control, and the Coastal Water Authority (CWA). Applicable regulatory requirements along with project-specific comments that explain how these regulations apply to the project, and how the RD and RA will comply with the regulations are summarized in Table 4-1. Table 4-1 addresses each of the ARARs identified in the ROD and certain additional ARARs applicable to the Northern Impoundment RD. In addition, several supporting documents are included in Appendix D, as referenced in Table 4-1.

5. Remedial Design

This Section provides an overview of the remedial approach for the Northern Impoundment to implement the remedy selected in the ROD and outlines the corresponding RD components, including the following:

- Excavation (traditional dry excavation and mechanical dredging).
- Engineered Barrier BMP.
- Water Management.
- Transportation and Disposal.
- Monitoring and Controls.

5.1 Remedial Design Background

The remedy selected for the Northern Impoundment, as outlined in the ROD, includes the excavation and off-site disposal of waste material located beneath the TCRA armored cap such that the resulting bottom surface is below the prescribed clean-up concentration of 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M}. As described in the ROD, the selected remedy is to utilize a BMP, such as a cofferdam, to isolate the excavation area from the river.

At the time that the remedial alternative was selected, the only subsurface data available had been collected during the RI in 2011 and 2012. At the time the ROD was issued, eight soil borings had been installed from elevations ranging from -7.6 ft to -22.7 ft NAVD88. As part of the RD process, 71 additional subsurface soil borings were installed in the Northern Impoundment at deeper elevations up to -35 ft NAVD88. Analytical results from these borings have further defined the vertical and horizontal extent of material located beneath the TCRA armored cap and have significantly increased the volume of waste material to be excavated from the volume and depth estimates that was the basis for the ROD.

The selected remedial alternative in the ROD was based on an expected excavation with an average depth of approximately -8 ft NAVD88 and a maximum depth of -20 ft NAVD88. However, results from the PDI and SDI indicate that the actual excavations necessary to remove materials exceeding 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M} are significantly deeper, with an average depth of approximately -13 ft NAVD88 and a maximum depth of -28 ft NAVD88. Furthermore, based on geological and geotechnical data collected during the SDI and not available at the time the ROD was selected, some of the deeper excavation elevations pose a significant risk of hydraulic heave if the remedy is conducted as stated in the ROD (i.e., in the dry).

The following summary provides context to the transition in the RD from the 30% RD submitted in May 2020 (GHD, 2020d) to the RD included in the 90% RD (GHD, 2022f), prior to the northwest corner being addressed in a subsequent submission.

Approach B Water Treatability Testing

During a TWG Meeting in February 2020, newly obtained PDI-2 data was discussed which showed that material exceeding the ROD clean-up level extended to depths that were significantly deeper than were previously understood. It was further explained that utilizing traditional excavation methodology in dry conditions (referred to as "Approach A" in the 30% RD) would pose significant risk and technical challenges for the deeper areas within the Northern Impoundment, as excavating within the confines of a BMP, to the required depth could undermine the structural integrity of the BMP. Therefore, when the 30% RD was submitted, it included an alternative for excavation (referred to as "Approach B") in areas of deeper waste depths. This approach included installing the BMP and then removing material exceeding the clean-up level through a column of water using barge-mounted excavation equipment. As described in the 30% RD, this approach would require that prior to the end of an excavation season, the water within the BMP would be recirculated through a treatment system until it achieved the TSWQS (as demonstrated through compliance with the ML). In order to evaluate the practicality and effectiveness of this conceptual approach, additional treatability testing was proposed. This additional treatability testing was summarized in the *Revised Additional Treatability Testing Notice*, submitted to the EPA on June 4, 2020 (GHD, 2020c), and approved by the EPA on June 11, 2020 (EPA, 2020d).

The additional treatability testing, as described in the approved notice, included a bench-scale simulation of the recirculation process through a bench-scale filtration system to determine if the ML could be met. The recirculation testing was conducted by the GHD Treatability Laboratory in Niagara Falls, New York from November 2020 to January 2021. As summarized in Section 3.6.2, treatability data indicated that after 16 days of recirculation the TSS reduction had plateaued at around 500 mg/L and the resulting dioxin and furan concentrations remained above the ML.

As presented during a TWG Meeting in December 2020, based on the results of the recirculation testing, Approach B water treatment was deemed technically infeasible for full-scale application during the RA. This treatability testing was strictly limited to an approach where material would be excavated through a water column and the water would be treated through recirculation and filtration in the excavation. Since the water treatment for Approach B was shown to be technically infeasible, Approach B excavation methodology was also deemed technically infeasible. As a result, the design process was again significantly altered to focus on performing all excavation work "in the dry." As such, additional data, including full vertical delineation and geotechnical data along the revised BMP alignment, was required to evaluate the feasibility of excavating the deeper areas "in the dry." Other methods to excavate through the water column and manage the water in compliance with the ROD were later evaluated and are included in the RD.

Supplemental Design Investigation

A major uncertainty identified in the 30% RD was the constructability of the BMP wall. Even with the assumption that the majority of the Northern Impoundment would be excavated through a column of water, the required BMP design included in the 30% RD was extremely robust and was arguably technically infeasible. The pile types necessary would have been 5.5-ft diameter tubular pipe piles and double I-beam piles, driven to tip depths as deep as -93 ft NAVD88 into Beaumont Sand layer. Significant concerns were identified in the Northern Impoundment 30% RD about the ability to successfully drive and/or remove the piles. Given these concerns and the poor performance of the Approach B water treatability testing, following the submittal of the 30% RD, the design team began evaluating other BMP types and excavation methodologies that could overcome these limitations. An optimized BMP design was identified. The optimized BMP design includes a double wall system that allows for shallower embedment depths than the single cantilever wall proposed in the 30% RD. The double wall in this optimized design is further offset, except in limited circumstances, by a minimum of 30-ft from the area of excavation than the BMP described in the 30% RD to increase the structural stability of the BMP system.

Previous investigations had not included collection of data regarding soil properties and stratigraphy in the areas of the new BMP wall. Given the modified alignment of the BMP, the Respondents and EPA agreed that it was necessary to collect additional analytical data to more fully delineate the waste material and geotechnical data to better understand the soil properties and thickness of the shallow stratigraphy in locations in and near the proposed conceptual BMP alignment. With the change in excavation methodology, an additional risk that needed to be evaluated was the potential for hydraulic heave.

The SDI was performed in the summer of 2021 to supplement the delineation of the vertical extent of material requiring excavation and to provide information to aid in designing a structurally robust BMP, potentially capable of withstanding forces associated with excavation in the deeper areas of the Northern Impoundment.

Risk of Hydraulic Heave

The SDI was conducted from June through September 2021 in accordance with the Revised SDI Work Plan, submitted to the EPA on May 21, 2021 (GHD, 2021c) and approved by the EPA on June 4, 2021 (EPA, 2021c). The investigation included the installation of 35 analytical soil borings and 17 geotechnical borings (13 CPT soundings and four instrumented boreholes). Data from the SDI indicated that impacted material above the clean-up level was at deeper elevations than previously understood, with impacts as deep as -28 ft NAVD88 in the northwest corner. Based on these deeper impacts, a focused evaluation was conducted to assess the potential for hydraulic heave while excavating to target depths of known impact. The technical evaluation regarding hydraulic heave was discussed with the EPA, USACE, and TCEQ in detail during the October 19, 2021; November 16, 2021; and December 14, 2021, TWG Meetings. It was documented in the Hydraulic Heave Analysis Report submitted to the EPA on December 9, 2021, (GHD, 2021i) and written correspondence to EPA dated December 22, 2021 (GHD, 2021j). It also was updated as part of this Revised 100% RD submission in Updated Hydraulic Heave Analysis Report, which is included as part of Appendix B.

Based upon the results of this evaluation, it was determined that it is not technically feasible to excavate the material in the northwest corner to the currently known depths in the dry. An alternative approach using mechanical dredging to mitigate the potential for hydraulic heave in the northwest corner has been incorporated in the Revised 100% RD in Section 5.7.

5.2 Remedial Approach

An overall remedial approach has been developed, in coordination with members of the TWG, and includes several fundamental elements that are described below.

BMP Alignment and Lateral Excavation Extent

The lateral extent of the excavation for purposes of the RD is defined by the lateral extent of waste material above the 30 ng/kg TEQDF,M dioxin clean-up level underneath the armored cap. The lateral extent of the planned removal is shown in green shading on Figure 5-A, below.

Figure 5-A BMP Alignment and Excavation Extent

The lateral limits of the planned removal area also define the corresponding outer alignment of the BMP. The optimized double wall BMP system includes two parallel single cantilever walls spaced approximately 30-ft apart, connected with tie-rods and walers, and filled with aggregate.

In the Revised 100% BMP wall design, the existing riverbed between the BMP (interior wall) and the excavation area is referred to as the "Soil Buttress." This Soil Buttress is essential to the stability of the wall and the ability to excavate to the target elevations "in the dry." In some instances, additional fill material is added to the Soil Buttress to raise the riverbed elevation and reduce the exposed height of the BMP above riverbed elevation. That additional fill is referred to as a "Raised Bench."

Along the west, north, and east sides of the BMP, the system includes at least a 30-ft wide Soil Buttress between the inner wall and the top edge of any excavation inside the BMP to support the wall system and in one section on the west side, a Raised Bench. Along the south side of the BMP, the Soil Buttress in some locations is less than 30-ft wide, due to space constraints.

This optimized wall system pushed the alignment of the BMP further out from the excavation area than the alignment considered in the 30% RD. The alignment of the BMP is shown on Figure 5-A, above. A conceptual depiction of the BMP and a conceptual cross-section of the BMP system are shown below on Figure 5-B.

Figure 5-B BMP Alignment and Excavation Extent

Seasonal Excavation and Top of Wall Elevation

The ROD states that performing the removal of the waste material using a BMP would reduce short-term impacts, prevent any material release to the San Jacinto River during removal, and ensure compliance with ARARs. As such, to design the BMP, historical San Jacinto River water surface elevation data, dating back to 1994, was obtained and evaluated. Based upon an evaluation of that historical data, the San Jacinto River seasonally has experienced high water levels between May and October. Therefore, as a risk management measure, an excavation period of November to April was selected for use in the RD and approved by the EPA and members of the TWG during the February 19, 2020 TWG Meeting. This same excavation season had been used as the basis for the 30% RD.

During the non-excavation season and during the first and last year of construction, the RC will perform necessary work activities that do not involve managing impacted material. This work will include, but not be limited to: installing and removing the BMP, developing infrastructure for the project along the TxDOT ROW, constructing and then demobilizing or partially demobilizing the WTS at the end of each excavation season, re-installing the portions of the WTS that were demobilized prior to the next excavation season, dewatering excess water within the BMP and treating and discharging the remaining water in the BMP, water sampling, protecting office trailers and truck laydown equipment from flooding, visual inspections of the BMP and work site properties, importing and staging clean fill material, mobilizing and demobilizing trucks scales and washes, and mobilizing and demobilizing heavy equipment. As discussed in Section 5.3.2, if directed by the EPA, the length of excavation season will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, as directed by EPA, and potentially extended into the months of May, June, and July, while following the requirements of a High-Water Preparedness Plan prepared for the work site, which is included in Appendix J.

The historical San Jacinto River elevation data were also used to identify a top elevation for the BMP assuming that any high-water events during the planned excavation months of November to April would not exceed historical levels. Based upon the hindcasted data in the vicinity of the Northern Impoundment, since 1994 there were no highwater events that exceeded an elevation of +10 ft NAVD88, the top elevation of the exterior wall of the BMP, with the exception of Hurricane Harvey in August 2017, which took place outside of the excavation season of November to April. This information is contained on Figures 5-2 and 5-3. Therefore, for design purposes, the top of pile elevation for the BMP was established as +10 ft NAVD88 for the exterior wall. As further detailed in Section 5.12, the use of this design top elevation will not eliminate the risk of overtopping during any of the excavation seasons, and the protectiveness of this design top elevation will need to be confirmed following receipt of modelled flow data from the CWA in relation to its planned improvement project for the Lake Houston Flood Control structure located upriver of the Northern Impoundment. Additional information is provided in the HWPP (Attachment 10) of Appendix J.

The excavation of the Northern Impoundment will be approached as seasonal cells - with a single cell being excavated each excavation season. The exact shape and size of the seasonal cells will not be pre-defined but will be based upon production efficiency each season. This is different than the plan proposed in the 30% RD which included pre-defined seasonal cells divided by interior barrier walls. Instead, during an excavation season, only the portion of the TCRA armored cap covering the area targeted for excavation during that season will be removed, with the rest of the TCRA armored cap remaining intact. At the end of each excavation season, the exposed slope between that seasonal cell and the remaining TCRA armored cap will be covered with a cap, consistent with the design used during the TCRA. At the start of the next excavation season, the water inside the Northern Impoundment BMP will be handled as "non-contact water" as described in Section 5.9.2 and returned to the river and the process will start again.

A conceptual visualization of the overall project sequencing, including a potential seasonal cell layout is included on Figure 5-C, below. This Revised 100% RD has been prepared to be "implementable" as designed. The northwest corner will be completed in the first excavation season due to access issues and bathymetric conditions. If the other areas of the Northern Impoundment were completed first, it would eliminate land access to the northwest corner and make it very difficult to complete a remedy in that area. Completing the northwest corner first will also be appropriate due to the deep bathymetry in that area and the implications of that deep bathymetry on water management.

It is anticipated that the RA excavation activities can be completed in 5 seasons. The planned number, size, and configuration of the cells are flexible and may change based upon the following factors:

- *Volume and Removal Rates* -The tentative cell sizes ensure that the volume of planned removal from within each cell could be achieved within the excavation period of November through April (potentially extending to July).
- *Excavation Depth* Depending upon the results of confirmation sampling, the depths of the seasonal excavations could increase, which may, in turn, limit the area effectively excavated in that season.
- *Access and Implementability* The tentative seasonal cells assume sustained access to each area for necessary excavation equipment and trucks.
- *Transportation and Disposal* The target seasonal production rate used to define the tentative cell sizes is dependent on the ability to efficiently and consistently load out waste material and transport it to an offsite landfill, an activity which, as addressed above, requires full access to the TxDOT ROW and I-10.

Year 1: BMP Installation & Site Prep **Year 2:** Excavation Season 1 **Year 3:** Excavation Season 2 **Year 4:** Excavation Season 3

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Year 5: Excavation Season 4 **Year 6:** Excavation Season 5 **Year** 7: BMP Removal & Site Restoration

Excavation Approach

An excavation approach was developed across the Northern Impoundment that is implementable, mitigates hydraulic heave risk, is protective of human health and the environment, is consistent with the methodology used to develop the clean-up standard outlined in the ROD, and would result in an exposed surface that is below the clean-up level. Figure 5-D, below illustrates the benefits of this excavation approach relative to the risk of hydraulic heave. When the design excavation surface is compared to the hydraulic heave risk elevations, the "hot spots" of hydraulic heave sensitivity are identified and will require local mitigation measures to excavate and offset the hydraulic heave.

The water will be pumped down to allow material in the northwest corner that is above elevation -15 ft NAVD88 to be excavated in the dry. The submerged material below elevation -15 ft NAVD88 will then be excavated by mechanical dredging to mitigate the hydraulic heave risk.

Figure 5-D Hydraulic Heave Sensitivity

Table 5-1 presents the design excavation elevations at all the borings. This excavation surface results in approximately 230,000 CY of total volume removed. This excavation surface is intended to provide an indication of where the initial excavation ends (i.e., design elevations); the data collected during the PDI and SDI has been used to inform this. The excavation surface will be refined based on confirmation sampling, which would be used to determine whether the clean-up level has been achieved, as detailed in the FSP (Appendix J, Attachment 3) and in Section 5.6.4.

Excavation Methodology

The approach would include (1) installation of a physical BMP around the perimeter of the Northern Impoundment, (2) processing of river water prior to removal of the TCRA armored cap, (3) removal of the waste material with land-based excavation equipment working within a seasonal cell, removing the TCRA armored cap as work progresses (while leaving in place the portions of the TCRA armored cap not being excavated), and (4) placing an engineered cap over the exposed slope of the seasonal cell excavation at the end of each excavation season. A conceptual illustration of the excavation methodology is shown on Figure 5-E.

Figure 5-E Conceptual Excavation Methodology

Water Management

Following installation of the BMP, and at the beginning of each excavation season, non-contact water trapped behind the BMP wall will be pumped from the excavation to the non-contact portion of the water treatment system (non-contact water treatment system) where it will be treated to remove solids and then discharged back to the river. Non-contact water is water within the BMP that has not contacted impacted material and occurs 2 ft or more above the lowest elevation at the time of the dewatering activity. Impacted material is material that is not covered by the TCRA cap and has not been excavated to the defined clean excavation limits. When removing the non-contact water, the RC will be required to maintain the pump intake a minimum height of 2 feet above the bottom floor to minimize solids in the water pumped to the non-contact water treatment system. Sampling is not required for the non-contact water.

The remaining 2 feet of water, and any water that has come in contact with impacted material, will be managed as contact water. In addition, any non-contact water that somehow mixes with contact water will also be managed as contact water. The contact water will be pumped from the excavation to the contact water treatment system (contact water treatment system), treated through clarification and filtration, and discharged to the river. The contact water will be sampled and tested for compliance with WTS effluent discharge concentration criteria.

Re-Use of TCRA Armored Cap and Historic Berm Material

The Northern Impoundment is currently covered by an armored cap comprised of 6- to12-inch diameter rock on top of a low-permeability geomembrane and/or geotextile barrier, and/or ACBM, as shown on Design Drawing C-02 in Appendix G. As described in Section 3.5, treatability testing was performed on the TCRA armored cap material and results demonstrated that the rock, its elutriate, and sediment generated from its elutriate did not exhibit dioxin concentrations above the ML (as defined in Section 3.4.1) or the clean-up level of 30 ng/kg $TEQ_{DF,M}$.

Prior to removal of the waste material, the TCRA armored cap rock will be removed. The TCRA armored cap rock will be stockpiled at or near the Northern Impoundment for potential reuse or disposal during or after execution of the Northern Impoundment RA. The northwest portion of the TCRA cap, including the ACBM, will not be sampled for re-use and will be removed and sent off-site for disposal.

It is anticipated that during the RA approximately 30,700 CY of unimpacted material from the historic central and southern berms at the Northern Impoundment will be excavated. Based upon characterization data from the PDI (see Figure 2-9), the berm material does not contain dioxin concentrations above the clean-up level. During the RA, this unimpacted material will be considered for reuse for various site activities, construction of site features, cover material, etc. The material will be segregated from the waste material during excavation activities, stockpiled, and sampled prior to reuse, as detailed in the FSP (Appendix J, Attachment 3). Any material not reused will be sent off-site for disposal.

The locations of the historic berm and the TCRA armored cap rock planned for re-use are shown on Figure 3-5.

Preliminary RA Schedule

Based on the current remedial approach, it is anticipated that the implementation of the Northern Impoundment remedy following EPA final approval of the RD will require a period of at least 7 years to complete. This 7-year period will be preceded by an initial period in which parties undertaking the RA will select an RC and engage in steps to procure necessary materials and other resources needed to begin construction of the BMP. Following that initial period, it will then take a minimum of one year to construct the BMP and then to conduct confirmation sampling, followed by an estimated 5 years of waste removal (one cell per excavation season), and concluding with an additional and final year for BMP removal, site restoration, and project demobilization. The estimated five years of waste removal is based on the assumptions described above. This schedule assumes coordinated access to the TxDOT ROW during the implementation period, both to construct the BMP wall and also for purposes of ingress and egress. Limitations on the use of the ROW, which is needed for the approximately 4,600 truck trips required each excavation season to transport the excavated material off-site and reduced production due to traffic and access issues related to an I-10 Bridge replacement project, could extend the overall project schedule.

5.3 Basis of Design

5.3.1 Historic River Level Evaluation

To design the BMP and plan for the RA, all available historical San Jacinto River elevation data dating back to 1994 was evaluated. Data evaluated included continuous monitoring data from the Sheldon gage (described below) and a United States Geological Survey (USGS) Fact Sheet which reported a major flood event in October 1994. The Northern Impoundment is subject to both tidal fluctuations, as well as increases in river level from rainfall and tropical storm events. As such, installation of BMPs requires an understanding of both the vertical range of typical water surface elevations, as well as the temporal variation in water surface elevations, based on available historical data, that would be encountered during the RA.

To evaluate these influences, GHD developed a model to create a history of water surface elevations at the Northern Impoundment by hindcasting historical water level data from an upriver USGS gage in the San Jacinto River near Sheldon, Texas (i.e., Sheldon gage). This was required as historical routine water level readings had not been collected at the Northern Impoundment, whereas the Sheldon gage has a historical record dating back to 1996. This gage is upstream of the Northern Impoundment and is subject to large increases in surface elevation due to major rainfall events in the area. Although the Sheldon gage data are indicative of trends at the Northern Impoundment, the data are not appropriate for understanding the full pattern of water surface elevations at the Northern Impoundment. Historical water surface elevations for the USGS Sheldon gage are shown on Figure 5-1.

To understand the pattern of local variation in water surface elevations, a transducer gage was installed at the Northern Impoundment during the PDI-2 (see Section 2.2.5). Data collected from the transducer provided a direct understanding of water levels at the Northern Impoundment, which could be correlated with the Sheldon gage data thereby allowing for the hindcasting of the long history of data at the Sheldon gage to the Northern Impoundment.

The current hindcasted model utilizes a fixed data set of Sheldon gage inputs compared to site-specific data collected from the transducer at the Northern Impoundment to produce a dataset of calculated site-specific historical river levels dating back to 1996. Northern Impoundment transducer data and Sheldon gage data continue to be collected. As new data become available, the model can then be periodically re-hindcasted to reflect the additional data and provide increased confidence in the outputs.

The original hindcasted data provided in the May 2020 30% RD and the June 2022 90% RD was based on approximately 6 months of site-specific transducer data (July 2019 through December 2019) available at the time of the 30% RD. In connection with the November 2022 NWC, the hindcasted model was updated and rerun with a larger, more recent dataset from both the Sheldon gage and the onsite transducer (July 2019 through December 2021). For purposes of this Revised 100% RD, the hindcasted model has been updated and rerun using available data from February 2023 through February 2024.

To hindcast the Sheldon gage data to the Northern Impoundment, synchronous observations from the Sheldon gage and the Northern Impoundment were subjected to a machine learning model, Multivariate Adaptive Regression Splines (MARS). MARS is an advanced form of linear regression that allows varying relationships between dependent and independent variables across the range of the independent variable. For example, in this case the model has the flexibility to predict different correlations between the Northern Impoundment and Sheldon gage depending on the water surface elevation at the Sheldon gage.

The model selects relationship terms using a generalized cross validation (GCV) method which takes the form of:

$$
GCV = RSS/(N \times (1 \text{ Ne})/N2)
$$

Where RSS is the residual sum of squares of the model, N is the number of observations, and Ne is the effective number of parameters. Thus, the GCV algorithm balances minimization of RSS (which may result in an overfitted model) with parameter number (which allows more flexibility in the model).

The form of the hindcasting model for the Northern Impoundment is:

 $WSESJ.t = WSESH.t \times LSH.t$

Where, WSESJ,t is the water surface elevation at the Northern Impoundment at time t, WSESH,t is the water surface elevation at the Sheldon gage at time t, and LSH,t is the either rising or falling limb of the hydrograph at the Sheldon gage at time t.

The hindcasted model utilizes a fixed data set of Sheldon gage inputs compared to site specific data collected from the transducer at the Northern Impoundment to produce the hindcasted outputs. When new data becomes available, the model can then be re-hindcasted to reflect the additional data available and allow increased confidence in the hindcasted outputs.

The hindcast model data was provided in the 90% RD and since that time the model has been updated and rerun with a larger, more recent dataset from both the Sheldon gage and the on-site transducer (July 2019 through December 2021 and February 2023 through February 2024). The updated model data was submitted as a technical memo to the EPA in March 2024. On-site data was collected between December 2021 and February 2023; however, there was an issue with the transducer and data cable that ultimately corrupted the entire dataset recorded during this period. During this period the transducer's telemetry was damaged and stopped transmitting data while the transducer continued to log data. The corrupted data was not immediately discovered until months later when the data was retrieved by manually downloading and evaluating the data. Exploration of the time series alignments has revealed how better pre-processing of the time series results in a dataset that more accurately enables comparison between

them. Further analysis has also been conducted on how to present extreme events based on the predicted San Jacinto water levels during different months of the year. One way of visualizing these events is by projecting values as boxplots with overlays of different heights, and conducting a flood frequency analysis. In evaluating the hindcasted predictions back to 1996, a maximum level of +8.72 ft NAVD88 was predicted in November 1998 for the planned excavation season (November through April).

The updated river level hindcasted predictions for the full year and the planned excavation season, November through April, are shown on the attached Figures 5-2 and 5-3, respectively. The boxplot in the attached Figure 5-4 also highlights the predicted month-wise river levels at the Northern Impoundment. Figure 5-4 demonstrates that all of the predicted outliers or rare events where water levels exceeded +9 ft NAVD88 occurred outside the planned excavation season.

As stated above, the hindcasted model was updated and rerun with additional river stage data collected since the last modelling run in connection with the modelling report submitted in November 2022. This rerun of the model is based on a dataset that is nearly double the size of the dataset available for purposes of the previous hindcasted modelling report submitted in November 2022. Because of this larger dataset, the hindcasted model has more information to draw on when building and predicting the correlation and relationship between the river stages for the Sheldon gage and on-site.

The hindcasting model was then used to hindcast water surface elevations at the Northern Impoundment using the Sheldon gage record. Figure 5-2 shows the 24-year hydrograph for the Sheldon gage and the 24-year hindcasted water surface elevations for the Northern Impoundment.

Results of the model and surface water elevations were evaluated and discussed during the December 2019, January 2020, and February 2020 TWG Meetings. Based on the evaluations and discussions, the TWG agreed on the need to complete removal activities during a specified "excavation season," and also agreed on the proposed design elevation of +9 ft NAVD88 for the top of the BMP. The hindcast model data was provided in the 90% RD and since that time the model has been updated to incorporate recent river levels. Based on the latest update to the hindcast model and as a risk mitigation measure, the BMP elevation has been adjusted from +9 ft NAVD88 to +10 ft NAVD88 for the outer wall. These topics as they relate to the Revised 100% RD for the Northern Impoundment are further discussed below.

5.3.2 Excavation Season and BMP Height

Based on the historic river elevations, the San Jacinto River seasonally experiences high water levels between May and October due to rainfall and tropical storm events. Therefore, an excavation season of November to April was selected for the 90% RD. If directed by the EPA, and to increase production and shorten the overall project schedule, the excavation season will be evaluated on a year-by-year basis and possibly extend into the months of May, June, and July based on the conditions and progress of the work. To allow for the removal of waste material during the excavation season, the Northern Impoundment RA work will likely be divided into five cells with a single cell being remediated each excavation season. During the non-excavation season, based on the Respondents' ability to perform such activities with regards to weather, and during the first and last year of construction, the RC will perform necessary work activities that do not involve managing impacted material. This work will include, but not be limited to: installing and removing the BMP, developing infrastructure for the project along the TxDOT ROW, constructing and then demobilizing or partially demobilizing the WTS at the end of each excavation season, reinstalling the portions of the WTS that were demobilized prior to the next excavation season, dewatering excess water within the BMP and treating and discharging the remaining water in the BMP, water sampling, protecting office trailers and truck laydown equipment from flooding, visual inspections of the BMP and work site properties, importing and staging clean fill material, mobilizing and demobilizing trucks scales and washes, and mobilizing and demobilizing heavy equipment.

The historical San Jacinto River elevation data was also used to determine a top elevation for the BMP that would be protective of high-water events (based on the available historical data) during the planned excavation season (but also during the months of May, June, and July). High-water extreme events that would have overtopped the BMP have historically occurred during the non-excavation season, as shown on Figures 5-1 and 5-2. For example, in

August 2017, Hurricane Harvey made landfall in the Galveston Bay area. During this event, water surface elevation peaked at 14.28 ft NAVD88 at the Northern Impoundment. More recently, Tropical Storm Imelda caused significant flooding in September 2019, with water surface elevation peaking at 8.9 ft NAVD88 at the Northern Impoundment. For reference, the typical river stage for September at the Northern Impoundment fluctuates between 1 to 3 ft NAVD88.

Comparison of the Sheldon gage and Northern Impoundment hydrographs for both the full year (shown on Figure 5-2) and for the excavation season (shown on Figure 5-3) show that excluding the months of May to October would substantially reduce the number of high-water events that could be expected, based on the available historical data. These data were reviewed with the members of the TWG during the February 19, 2020 TWG Meeting and it was agreed that excavation activities should only take place between November and April.

A comparison of the Sheldon gage and Northern Impoundment hydrographs from 1996 through 2024 show that there were no high-water events that exceeded an elevation of +9 ft NAVD88 during the proposed excavation season. The members of the TWG agreed that an excavation season of November through April each year and a top of BMP elevation of +9 ft NAVD88 would reduce the risks of water overtopping and should be protective of all events in the hydrographic record dating back to 1996 and the October 1994 flood event. After further evaluation of the hindcast data and as an additional protective measure, the outer wall of the BMP has been raised to +10 ft NAVD88. In addition, the excavation season will be evaluated on a year-by-year basis and may be extended into the months of May, June, and July. As further detailed in Section 5.12, the protectiveness of this design top elevation will need to be confirmed following receipt of modelled flow data from the CWA in relation to the CWA's planned improvement project involving the Lake Houston Flood Control structure located upriver of the work site.

The WTS is sized to treat, in the case of an overtopping event, both contact and non-contact water generated.

5.3.3 Geotechnical Conditions

A primary objective of the SDI was to collect additional geotechnical data to provide a better understanding of the geotechnical properties of the underlying substrata to support the design of the double wall BMP system. A Geotechnical Engineering Report was prepared by Ardaman & Associates Inc. and GHD, and is included as Appendix B. A brief summary of the geotechnical subsoil conditions and the BMP design is presented, below.

The results of the SDI CPT investigation confirmed PDI-2 results and showed that the subsoils in the Northern impoundment, and particularly along the BMP footprint, are principally composed of the three following stratigraphic units:

- 1. Fairly heterogenous alluvium sediments consisting of a mixture of sand, silt, and clay in varying proportions, present from the riverbed to elevations ranging from -20 to -35 ft NAVD88.
- 2. Stiff-to-very-stiff high plasticity clay formation (Beaumont Clay) encountered starting at elevations ranging between -20 to -35 ft NAVD88.
- 3. Compact-to-dense sandy formation (Beaumont Sand) encountered beneath the Beaumont Clay deposit at elevations ranging between -50 to -70 ft NAVD88.

Continuous profiles of different geotechnical parameters were defined from the CPT results using robust published correlations (undrained shear strength, the pre-consolidation pressure, undrained modulus, hydraulic conductivity, friction angles etc.). All CPT defined parameters were compared and validated with those measured in previous investigations.

The Northern Impoundment characteristics vary across the impoundment and necessitate evaluation of multiple sections using soil-structure interaction. The presence of the thick cohesive formation that behaves in a drained or undrained state, requires consideration of both quick and slow loading cases (Q and S cases respectively).

The soft heterogeneous alluvium deposit on the riverbed may temporarily develop pore pressure upon backfilling between the sheet piles and will increase the loads against these sheet piles. The design of the BMP wall includes the full extent of the wall encircling the Northern Impoundment, including the portions of the wall surrounding the northwest corner. Due to deeper mudline depth in the northwest corner, dewatering within the BMP causes a large load differential between the interior and exterior sides of the BMP. In order to mitigate these challenges, design

features such as additional buttressing on the interior and staged construction of the BMP such as installing fill in multiple layers with intentional delay between layers and selecting appropriate fill height before installing tie-rods, will be required.

Since the BMP will be driven in the alluvium and Beaumont Clay with tip depths at elevations of approximately -40 ft NAVD88, no excessive vibrations and no detrimental impact on the stability of the existing slope on the riverbed are anticipated during installation.

5.3.4 Excavation Extent and BMP Alignment

Analytical data obtained from the RI, the PDI, and the SDI were used to inform the RD and determine excavation extents and volumes and the alignment of the BMP.

Lateral Extent

As described in the EPA-approved PDI-2 Work Plan (GHD, 2019d), the lateral extent of excavation is based on analytical data. Areas with TEQ_{DF,M} levels below the clean-up level of 30 ng/kg will not require excavation, as depicted on Figure 2-9. The historic central and southern berms depicted on Figure 2-9 have been shown to have levels of dioxins and furans below the clean-up level. To allow for efficient waste removal, the berm material may be excavated in conjunction with the waste material. The unimpacted berm material may be disposed of with the waste or segregated and reused on-site, pending analysis, as described in the FSP (Appendix J, Attachment 3).

The double wall BMP design requires a significant lateral footprint, in addition to the 30-ft width of the wall itself. A Soil Buttress with a minimum width of 30 ft is also necessary between the inner wall and the top of the excavation slope to support the wall. To accommodate the footprint of the BMP wall and to avoid installation of the BMP wall through the TCRA armored cap, the alignment of the BMP was moved outward to fully encircle the Northern Impoundment area.

On the south side of the Northern Impoundment, SDI results indicated that waste material was much deeper than previously understood (as deep as -20 ft NAVD88 while the ROD had assumed that area was -5 ft NAVD88). As the south side of the Northern Impoundment abuts the TxDOT ROW property, there is not sufficient space to accommodate a double wall system (including a slope out of the excavation, 30-ft Soil Buttress, and double wall) without encroaching on the TxDOT ROW property. As further detailed in Section 5.5.6, several different wall types and alignments were evaluated as part of an effort to identify a structurally sound wall with a thinner profile than the double wall system. Ultimately, the only wall-type that proved to be structurally sound for installation on the south side of the Northern Impoundment was the double-wall system, the majority of which will need to be placed on the TxDOT ROW property. Figure 5-A shows the alignment of the BMP and the extent of the excavation area.

TxDOT submitted comments on the 100% RD related to the BMPs wall design and the placement on the TxDOT ROW. Respondents, EPA, and TxDOT are engaged in continued technical discussions regarding the southern wall alignment and the double wall system.

Vertical Extent

Analytical data from the RI, PDI, and SDI were also utilized to determine the vertical extent of the waste material requiring removal. As previously mentioned, results from the PDI and SDI indicated that waste material is present at elevations significantly deeper than was known at the time the ROD was issued. During the SDI, the elevation of waste material in the Northern Impoundment was found to be as deep as -28.3 ft NAVD88 with an average depth of -12.8 ft NAVD88. The excavation surface was developed by targeting excavation depths/elevations that were identified across the Northern Impoundment such that the resulting surface will meet the clean-up level of 30 ng/kg TEQDF,M. Due to the deeper elevations of waste material and the goal to design a remedy that includes excavation "in the dry," a detailed hydraulic heave evaluation was conducted. This evaluation indicated that there are hydraulic heave risks in certain areas, with the most significant risk in the northwest corner.

Table 5-1 presents the analytical data at all borings based on elevations (rounded to the nearest foot), with concentrations greater than 30 ng/kg TEQDF,M indicated by bold text. The red line on Table 5-1 identifies the elevation at each boring at which there is a calculated risk of hydraulic heave, with a SF of 1.25. The green line indicates the

design excavation elevation at each boring based on the 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M} criterion. Five boring locations (SJGB010, SJGB012, SJSB036, SJSB046-C1, and SJSB071) had results above 30 ng/kg TEQDF,M in the deepest sample interval collected, as seen on Figure 2-9. At these locations, the design considered the adjacent co-located borings to determine the appropriate excavation elevations to complete the excavation bottom contours. All borings located within the northwest corner, where there is a significant hydraulic heave concern, are marked with a dark grey tone. Based on this evaluation, it was determined that the northwest corner is technically impracticable to excavate in the dry and will be addressed with mechanical dredging to mitigate the hydraulic heave risk.

The design excavation contours can be seen in Design Drawings C-08 through C-12 in Appendix G. As noted in Section 5.2, these design excavation elevations are the initial excavation depths and will be verified through confirmation sampling.

The approximate volume of material to be excavated in the Northern Impoundment is estimated at 230,000 CY. To facilitate a seasonal excavation approach, the total volume of material will be divided into multiple cells, with a single cell excavated each excavation season.

5.4 Pre-RA Activities

5.4.1 Property Access

To implement the RA, it will be necessary to have access to approximately 15 to 20 acres of dry land to utilize for lay-down storage of equipment, water storage and treatment, office trailers and parking. It is preferred that the property(ies) be located as close as possible to the Northern Impoundment to minimize the distance over which water requiring treatment needs to be conveyed. Property access will also need to be secured for the duration of the RA, which is expected to require at least 7 years and additional time to procure and mobilize equipment and personnel. Currently, several properties located in the vicinity of the Northern Impoundment are being evaluated. The general layout of the WTS is depicted in Drawings P-04 and P-08 (Appendix G). These layouts will need to be updated with site-specific detail in future design submittals once access to a property for laydown/staging has been secured.

Implementation of the Northern Impoundment RA will also require access to and utilization of the TxDOT ROW that runs parallel to I-10, as well as properties owned by POHA and Houston Fleeting Services, LLC between the TxDOT ROW and the bank of the San Jacinto River. As previously mentioned, in addition to providing the only land access route to the Northern Impoundment, the southern extent of the BMP will need to be installed on the TxDOT property. Executing the Northern Impoundment RA will require that an agreement be reached with TxDOT to allow for use of the TxDOT ROW both for access and purposes of construction of the BMP. In addition, as is discussed in more detail in Section 5.11.3, TxDOT plans to replace the I-10 Bridge beginning in the next 2 to 3 years. It is currently unknown as to how TxDOT's plans may impact its ability to allow access to its ROW for purposes of the Northern Impoundment RA, but it is expected that significant coordination between the two large construction projects will be required to minimize delays.

As part of RD efforts, the Respondents have engaged with the POHA, USCG, TxDOT, and the HCFCD to inform these stakeholders about the planned alignment and design of the BMP wall that will be present in the San Jacinto River for at least 7 years. As requested by the HCFCD, a Floodplain Drainage Impact Analysis was conducted to evaluate the effect that the BMP could have on the surrounding floodplain. Water levels in the vicinity of the Northern Impoundment were evaluated with and without the BMP present under 2-year, 10-year,100-year, and 500-year flood scenarios. Modelling results indicated that the effects of the BMP on the surrounding floodplain would not be significant under any of the four scenarios. The evaluation was submitted to the HCFCD in a letter dated March 30, 2022 (GHD, 2022a). Comments were received from the HCFCD via e-mail on April 8, 2022 (HCFCD, 2022) and a revised letter was submitted on May 6, 2022 (GHD, 2022b). This letter is included in Appendix D. The hydrodynamic modelling data was also provided to TxDOT on April 4, 2022, to allow TxDOT to begin evaluating the effects of the BMP on its bridge structures.

Additional comments were received as part of the EPA Review of the 90% RD (EPA, 2024b) and 100% RD (EPA, 2024c). The hydrodynamic model was updated to address EPA's comments and is included as Appendix F.

The RC will need to continue to engage these stakeholders and coordinate accordingly as the project progresses.

5.4.2 Northern Impoundment Preparation and Layout

In order to facilitate waste material removal, solidification, and water treatment, the RC will be required to complete several activities to prepare to implement the Northern Impoundment RA.

Assuming that access can be obtained to use the existing TxDOT ROW to implement the RA, the existing TxDOT ROW cannot accommodate two-way traffic for haul trucks; therefore, the TxDOT ROW would need to be enhanced/widened in order to make Northern Impoundment RA operations efficient and safe. Widening the ROW may necessitate installation of a bulkhead along the north side of the TxDOT ROW to bolster and protect the roadway. This access road will also need to be built up as it approaches the south side of the Northern Impoundment, such that the elevation of the access road at the entrance of the Northern Impoundment will be at or above the BMP top elevation of +10 ft NAVD88. This access ramp will be constructed to allow truck traffic to traverse in and out of the Northern Impoundment, over the BMP wall, while maintaining a protective BMP height to prevent overtopping during the excavation season. In addition, the elevated roadway would need to be constructed in a manner that will accommodate TxDOT's need for its vehicles to have access to the ROW for purposes of maintenance of the existing I-10 Bridge structure and future construction of a replacement bridge structure. The area immediately north of the TxDOT ROW is owned by a third-party landowner and access to it will be required to improve the access road.

Working and staging areas on the Northern Impoundment are limited due to the existing topography and tidal conditions. On the west side of the impoundment, the existing TCRA armored cap rock creates uneven terrain that is not suitable for truck traffic. The east side of the impoundment is consistently covered in water during high tides. Therefore, access roads to and within the Northern Impoundment may need to be constructed in different areas of the Northern Impoundment, depending on which cell is being addressed, in order to allow for truck access and turnarounds. The exact nature and extents of these access roads will be determined by the RC as part of its initial work plan submittals.

Staging and laydown pads may need to be constructed on the selected off-site property for materials staging and water storage and treatment equipment. The RC will also provide power, communications, and water utilities for the water treatment equipment, as necessary.

The RC will construct mixing areas for soil solidification as shown on the design drawings on Appendix G. These mixing areas will be constructed with berms and will be lined to contain the waste and prevent contamination of the underlying material. The exact location of the mixing areas may vary from excavation season to excavation season. For each excavation season, the RC will determine the exact nature and location of mixing areas to be used during that season. It is anticipated that these mixing areas will be constructed in areas adjacent to active cells to mitigate excessive handling and transport of wet material.

5.5 BMP Wall

The following guidelines, standards, and technical manuals are the primary sources used to develop the design of the BMP:

- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 7-16, Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Building and Other Structures.
- USACE Engineer Manual (EM) 1110-2-2504, Design of Sheet Pile Walls by USACE.
- American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) 360-16, Steel Construction Manual 15th Edition.
- USACE Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System Design Guidelines, updated June 2012.
- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) LRFD Bridge Design Specifications.
- Nucor Skyline Technical Product Manual, 2021 Edition.
- Arcelor Mittal Impervious Steel Sheet Pile Walls Design & Practical Approach.

5.5.1 Structural Definitions

ASCE 7-16 categorizes structures into four Risk Categories (I through IV). During an excavation season, the BMP may be considered to be similar to structures or facilities that process, handle, or store toxic substances. ASCE 7-16 categorizes such structures or facilities as being in Risk Category IV, in which the failure of such structures or facilities may pose a significant hazard to the public.

EM 1110-2-2504 defines the following load case conditions based on severity and probability of occurrences during the design life of the structure:

- *Usual:* Service level loading experienced frequently such as static earth pressure, hydrostatic pressures after installation of the BMP and during excavation with normal water levels in the river.
- *Unusual:* Loads larger than those considered usual and experienced less frequently, such as 100-year probability storm events and flood levels in the river.
- *Extreme:* Worst-case scenario loads, rarely experienced during the design life of the structure, such as hurricane level winds, flood levels in the river and barge impacts.

5.5.2 Material

Material grades for the various structural components are summarized below:

For purposes of the design, the standard sections for sheet pile and tie-rods were selected from the Nucor Skyline Technical Product Manual. The manual also included the section properties used for design calculations. Alternative sections with equivalent properties are available from other manufacturers and may be used in construction.

5.5.3 Design Parameters

5.5.3.1 In-Situ Soil

The soil parameters specific to the Northern Impoundment are discussed in detail in Appendix B and Appendix I. The subsurface soils include fine grained material that is expected to behave differently in drained (long-term) and undrained (short-term) condition. Both drained and undrained loading conditions were considered. The designations for soil parameters are in accordance with the Unified Soil Classification System (USCS).

Drained and undrained clays and silts behave differently under loading and have different strengths with respect to time and duration of the applied load. Submerged clays loaded rapidly and for short duration behave the same as an undrained soil since drainage cannot occur through the clay particles in a short time, a condition which is referred to as the Q-case (EM 1110-2-2504). Over longer time frames, clay will drain, and the apparent strength will change. This condition represents the S-case loading (EM 1110-2-2504). Results of the stability analysis include strength from both cases, Q-case and S-case.

5.5.3.2 River Water Levels

The loading from the river water with a density of 62.4 pound per cubic feet (lb/ft³) would be applied as hydrostatic pressure to the exterior and interior BMP faces.

Water elevations for various load case conditions are as follows:

- *Usual* +5 ft NAVD88
- *Unusual* +10 ft NAVD88
- **Extreme** +10 ft NAVD88 (used for Barge Impact loading condition)
- *Note: The river water is influenced by the tidal waters from the bay and Gulf of Mexico. The water density will be* in the range of 62.4 lb/ft³ (freshwater) to 64 lb/ft³(seawater). The maximum difference of 1.6 lb/ft³ (2.5%) will not *have any impact on the design.*

Tide data is available from the NOAA^{[1](#page-66-0)} Station 8770613 located is approximately 9 miles south of the Northern Impoundment. The mean higher high water (MHHW) elevation is 1.33 ft with respect to the mean lower low water (MLLW). The daily tide variation is significantly lower than the water levels assumed for the design of the BMP. Hence, tides will not govern the design.

5.5.3.3 Scour at BMP Exterior

The presence of the BMP can affect the natural flow state of the San Jacinto River in the vicinity of the Northern Impoundment. The scour potential of the river flow around the BMP installation was evaluated using the Hydrodynamic Model developed for the Northern Impoundment. The shear stresses determine the capability of the river flow to move the riverbed material (sediment). The analysis method and results are provided in Appendix F.

The model evaluated the changes in water circulation with and without the BMP installation for 2-year, 10-year, 100-year and 500-year flow events in the river. The analysis results show that average flow velocity increases as the river discharge increases, and it decreases with the increase in water surface elevation.

With the measured average sediment size, it is noted that shear stress exceeding 0.15 Pascals (Pa) has the potential to mobilize the sediment in the vicinity of the Northern Impoundment. The analysis results show maximum increase in shear stress of 2.65 Pa, maximum value of shear stress of 4.34 Pa and an average value of 0.24 Pa. The shear stress values are large compared to the critical shear stress value of 0.15 Pa for the sediment in the area, indicating that the soil particles are mobile and there is potential for scour and/or sediment deposition along the outside perimeter of the BMP.

The maximum shear stresses differences were observed in two locations - the southwest corner and the north side of the BMP installation. The elevated shear stresses are due to the increase in the river flow within these areas due to the presence of the BMP. However, the bathymetry in the model does not account for modifications of the access road for purposes of the RA which will elevate the area in the southwest corner, limiting the river flow and in effect, preventing increase in the shear stress reflected in the analysis model.

The relatively small value of the maximum shear stress indicates that, except for the two locations discussed above, the conditions overall remain similar to the existing conditions (without the BMP in place). The pattern is similar for all four modelled storm conditions (2-year, 10-year, 100-year and 500-year flow events) with only small differences in magnitude.

Scour protection measures such as rock or riprap will be required around the majority of the perimeter of the wall.

5.5.3.4 Scour at BMP Interior

Based on the evaluation of the historic data for the water levels and hindcast model (Section [5.3.1](#page-58-0) and Figure 5-4), there have been five (5) instances of water level exceeding elevation +10 ft NAVD88 that occurred outside the planned excavation season. The BMP is designed for water levels ranging from normal levels (elevation +2 ft) to top of the exterior wall (elevation +10 ft NAVD88).

For the rare instances where the water level exceeds elevation +10 ft NAVD88, the plunging water may cause scour at the interior base of the BMP wall. The riverbed elevation within the Northern Impoundment varies between 0 to -5 ft NAVD88 on the interior of the BMP walls, except in the northwest corner where the riverbed elevation is approximately -15 ft NAVD88. The riverbed elevation will be raised to elevation -4 ft NAVD88 along the northwest corner by installing a 30 ft wide bench (See Section [5.5.6.1\)](#page-76-0).

¹ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Station at Morgans Point, Barbours Cut, Texas.

Based on the calculated flow rate over the height of the BMP, the entire BMP will fill to the top of the wall within 1 to 2 hours when the river level rises only 6 inches above the top of the BMP wall. The water levels in the river may continue to rise for several hours but as the Northern Impoundment starts filling with water, the energy of the water overtopping the structure will be dissipated before it reaches the base of the BMP wall and the potential for scour will be reduced.

Scour protection measures such as rock or riprap will be provided along the entire interior perimeter of the walls for the initial stages of river water overtopping the BMP wall, should this occur.

5.5.3.5 Wind

The 3-second gust design wind speeds and hurricane exposure are defined in ASCE 7-16 Chapter 26. The web-based hazard tool by ASCE (**https://asce7hazardtool.online**) provides site-specific information. The standard design wind speeds relate to a maximum recurrence interval (MRI) of 100-years. The wind speeds for Risk Category IV structure in hurricane exposure areas correspond to MRI of 3000-years. All wind speeds are defined at 33-ft above ground level.

- Design wind velocity, 3-second gust, MRI 100-years, $V_{100} = 116$ miles per hour (mph).
	- Equivalent to 77 mph wind sustained over 1 hour
- Design wind velocity, 3-second gust, MRI 3000-years, $V_{3000} = 154$ mph.
- Exposure Category C.
- Wind directionality, $K_d = 0.85$ (solid freestanding wall).
- $-$ Topographic Factor, $K_{zt} = 1.0$.
- Ground Elevation Factor, $K_e = 1.0$.
- Velocity Pressure Exposure Coefficient, $K_z = 0.85$.

Velocity Pressure, $q_z = 0.00256$ K_z K_{zt} K_d K_e V^{2.}

Using $V = V_{100}$, qz $_{100} = 24.89$ pounds per square foot (lb/ft²) (Unusual load condition).

Using $V = V_{3000}$, $qz_{3000} = 43.87$ lb/ft² (Extreme load condition).

Velocity pressure from wind (qz) was applied as uniformly distributed load on the exposed exterior of the BMP.

5.5.3.6 Waves

Wind-waves are generated by sustained winds over unobstructed open waters (fetch). The Northern Impoundment is sheltered by land on all sides within 0.2 miles except the north and northwest directions as shown in Figure 5-F. There are barges moored on the north side within 0.3 miles interrupting the open waters and beyond that, the nearest land is 0.5 miles away. The fetch distance perpendicular to the northwest is less than 1.5 mile.

A detailed analysis of wind generated waves including the water levels and fetch distance near the Northern Impoundment is provided in Attachment 3. The analysis showed a maximum wave height of 0.86 ft is generated over the longest fetch with winds approached from North.

Since the BMP will be designed for water surface elevation at top of the wall (elevation +10 ft), the wind-waves will not govern the BMP design over the loading scenarios with the total hydrostatic pressure applied from top of the wall and barge impact as described in Section [5.5.3.7.](#page-68-0)

Figure 5-F Fetch Distance near Northern Impoundment

Wake-waves are generated by passing vessels in the area and approach the BMP walls at an angle as the navigation channel flows parallel to the walls. Similar to the wind-waves, wake-waves should also be combined with the normal water levels in the area (elevation +2 ft to +5 ft). Wind-waves are not combined with wake-waves since passing vessels overlapping with a storm event is unlikely. Since the BMP will be designed for water surface elevation at top of the wall (elevation +10 ft), the wake-waves will not govern the BMP design over the loading scenarios with the total hydrostatic pressure applied from top of the wall and barge impact as described in Section [5.5.3.7.](#page-68-0)

5.5.3.7 Barge Impact

Given the heavy barge traffic in the San Jacinto River, there is a potential for the BMP to be struck by a barge. An impact could be the result of a barge coming off its mooring and drifting toward the BMP during a storm or it could be the result of a towed barge veering off course. The segment of the river around the BMP actively used by barges is shown on Figure 5-G. The barges traveling in the navigational waterway, either empty or loaded, would be likely to make contact with the BMP at an angle. The barges moored directly north of the BMP would be likely to make head-on contact with the BMP. The impact energy from a barge moving at the river flow velocity will be absorbed by the combination of a barrier wall system installed outboard of the BMP and the BMP structure.

Impact Energy

The kinetic energy from impact can be determined as follows, where velocity may be either the flow velocity or the navigation speed. The energy of impact will be lower for any impact angle other than head-on collision.

Kinetic Energy of Impact = 0.5 x Mass x (Velocity x cosine (α))^{2.}

Where:

Mass = Mass of the vessel Velocity = Speed of the vessel at impact cosine (α) = directional factor for impact angle relative to the velocity vector

= 1 for Head-on impact, i.e., 0 degrees relative to velocity vector

The kinetic energy will be absorbed by the structures (barrier wall and BMP) but the barge itself will absorb some energy and suffer damage. The AASHTO^{[2](#page-69-0)} method to determine impact force absorbed by bridge piers is being used for evaluating the BMP. This method is conservative since the BMP has a larger profile area than the typical bridge piers to absorb impact and distribute the energy.

Figure 5-G Navigational Waterway - Northern Impoundment

USACE developed design guidelines outlining minimum impact forces for hurricane protection structures[.](#page-69-1)³ These include structures in protected waterways not exposed to tidal surge (Zone 1A), similar to the conditions at the Northern Impoundment. The extreme load condition criterion for Zone 1A corresponds to an impact force of 400 kilopounds (kips) from a light (empty or ballast condition) barge applied at the top of the wall with hydrostatic pressure induced by the 100-year still water level and wind load applied on any exposed portion of the wall. It should be noted that heavier (loaded or laden condition) vessels did not govern the design as the velocities of these vessels were considerably less.

AASHTO requires all bridge piers located in navigable waterway crossings to be designed for ship and barge impact. The required minimum impact load corresponds to a 195-ft long, 35-ft wide and 12-ft tall empty hopper barge (displacement = 200-ton), drifting toward the structure. This barge size is representative of the barges in the area.

TxDOT's design criteria for the dolphin and fender system protecting the I-10 Bridge piers includes impact from a 30,000-barrel (BBL) barge, one of the larger barges in the area. A typical 30,000 BBL barge is 300-ft long, 54-ft wide, and 12-ft tall. In laden condition, the barge is loaded to full capacity and displaces 30,000 BBL equivalent or approximately 168,500 cubic feet (ft³) of water. Thus, the barge weighs approximately 5,250 US-tons or 10,500 kips in

² AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, Section 3.14.

³ USACE Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System Design Guidelines, Section 5.2.1.

laden condition. In ballasted condition, the barge carries only fuel and ballast water, and weighs approximately 910 US-tons or 1,820 kips.

The head-on impact from the 54-ft wide, 30,000 BBL barge resulted in impact energy (and force) greater than the values recommended using USACE and AASHTO vessels. Therefore, the 54-ft, 30,000 BBL barge is considered the design barge for evaluating impact. A contact width of 50-ft was assumed to account for variations in barge bow shapes.

Impact Velocity

The hydrodynamic model (Appendix F) evaluated the flow velocities for four storm conditions at 2-year, 10-year, 100-year and 500-year recurrence intervals, both with and without the BMP present. The maximum and average velocities for the river flow from the hydrodynamic analysis report are summarized in Table 5-A.

Velocity (t ^t /s)	Existing Conditions (No BMP)				With BMP in Place			
	2-Year	10-Year	100-Year	500-Year	2-Year	10-Year	100-Year	500-Year
Maximum	2.79	2.68	2.95	2.95	2.68	2.93	3.14	3.14
Average	0.56	0.55	0.66	0.68	0.61	0.60	0.71	0.72

Table 5-A Velocity - Hydrodynamic Model

The buoys installed at the Northern Impoundment have collected velocity measurements since January 1, 2022. A total of 129,593 observations were evaluated and processed to remove unrealistic spikes in the data. The methodology is described in Attachment 3. There were 11 individual instances (10-minute each) of measurements greater than 4 ft/s, with a maximum value of 5.2 ft/s. Since these 11 instances are not sustained, they are not considered in the design parameters of the barge impact analysis.

Based on the results from the hydrodynamic model and evaluation of the buoy data, the barge impact is evaluated for a velocity between 3.14 to 4 ft/s.

5.5.3.8 Earthquake

The area of the Northern Impoundment is generally considered to have low seismicity. This is also reflected by the following low seismic accelerations noted in the Geotechnical Report (Appendix B).

- PGA: 0.034 g Ss: 0.069 g
- S1: 0.040 g

Typical retaining wall structures are impacted by earthquake loads due to reduction in strength of the foundation soils, fill material and/or the backfill. Structures that are founded on saturated, cohesionless soils or lenses of such soils within the cohesive soils can lose foundation support when subject to earthquake loading.

The seismic accelerations will not affect the alluvium and Beaumont clay layers. There will be impact on Beaumont sand layers or other granular material but as the BMP walls do not extend into the sand layers, the seismic accelerations do not impact the stability of the wall.

5.5.4 Load Combinations

The following load combinations (LC) are appropriate for the structural design in accordance with Allowable Stress Design in ASCE 7-16, Section 2.4.

 $LC#1$ $D + H + F$

 $LC#1A$ $D + H + F + I$

 $LC#5$ $D + H + F + 0.6W$

Where:

- $D = Dead load$
- $F =$ Fluid load (hydrostatic pressure)
- H = Lateral earth pressures (active and passive)
- W = Wind Load on exposed surfaces (interior and/or exterior)
- I = Barge Impact

LC#1 was evaluated for both Usual and Unusual load conditions. LC#1A was used to evaluate the barge impact as extreme load condition with impact near top of the wall. An impact at lower levels will cause less rotation in the structure.

LC#5 combines wind load with other loads acting on the BMP. It is noted that wind load is applicable only to the exposed height of BMP above ground or water level. At the design water level for Unusual or Extreme conditions (+10 ft NAVD88), the BMP exterior would not be exposed to wind.

A parametric evaluation was performed for the effect of wind loads on the design of BMP using LC#5. The 0.6 reduction factor for wind load was conservatively ignored for the evaluation. The net load ($F + W_{Exterior}$ - W_{Interior}) on the BMP, calculated as sum of the hydrostatic load and the wind load applied to both interior (above ground) and exterior (above water level), was compared to the hydrostatic load with water level at +9 ft NAVD88 acting alone. The net load was determined to be lower. Given that $D + H$ are common to both load cases, LC#5 did not govern over LC#1 and was not evaluated further.

ASCE 7-16 recommends reduction in the load factor for resisting (passive) lateral earth pressure to 0.6. The intent of the reduction is to design structures resistant to overturning by reducing the resistance. Since the BMP wall was designed for overturning (rotational) stability with adequate embedment as described in Section 5.5.6, a reduction for lateral earth pressure was not considered.

5.5.5 BMP Design Criteria

5.5.5.1 Failure Modes

EM 1110-2-2504 describes the following three primary failure modes for sheet pile wall systems:

1. The unstable slopes may cause a deep-seated rotational failure of the entire soil mass. The slope failures are independent of the sheet pile embedment and location of the anchor system. This type of failure can be addressed by changing the geometry of the retained material or improving the soil strength.

The double wall system of the BMP presented in the Revised 100% RD is evaluated using PLAXIS 2D, a finite element software program. The program can model complex soil profiles, structural sections and perform soilstructure interaction analysis to achieve a solution with compatible forces and displacements. The program evaluates the soil stability around the sheet piles to determine if slope failure is a concern.

2. The sheet piles with inadequate embedment depth can be subjected to rigid-body rotational failure due to the lateral pressures exerted by the retained material. The classical design procedures such as the "free earth" Limit Equilibrium Method calculate the sheet pile embedment depths by balancing the active pressures behind the wall against the passive pressures provided by soil in front of the sheet piles. Adequate embedment depth is achieved at depth where the sum of horizontal forces and sum of moments is zero. Rigid-body rotational failure can be prevented, according to EM 1110-2-2504, by incorporating safety factors to decrease the passive pressures as appropriate for different loading conditions.
The double wall system of the BMP is an atypical sheet pile system. Unlike a cantilever or anchored system, rotational failure is mitigated by the counterbalancing axial forces on the two walls. Instead of increasing the *embedment depth of the single wall, the width of the double wall system can be increased to an extent such that it beneficially contributes to resolving the overturning forces into axial components along the length of the wall. Thus, this mode of failure is not applicable to the double wall system.*

3. The sheet pile systems with stable slopes and adequate embedment may fail if the sheet pile sections, tie-rods, and/or the anchor components are overstressed or inadequately sized. Such failures can be prevented, according to EM 1110-2-2504, by incorporating safety factors in the design by limiting the allowable stress as appropriate for different loading conditions.

5.5.5.2 Safety Factors

The following safety factors and allowable stress limits were adopted in the design of the BMP with respect to the failure modes described in Section 5.5.5.1, consistent with EM 111-2-2504.

5.5.5.3 Embedment Depth

EM 1110-2-2504 recommends the minimum safety factors provided in Table 5-B to determine embedment depth for cantilever or anchored sheet pile wall systems. It should be noted that the safety factors are suitable for the "free earth" Limit Equilibrium Method where the sheet pile is considered a rigid body allowed to rotate about a point below ground level, and the active and passive pressures are balanced to determine the embedment depth. Adequate embedment depth is achieved at depth where the sum of horizontal forces and sum of moments is zero. The pressures, and resulting forces in the system, are considered independent of the wall displacement in the Limit Equilibrium Method.

The BMP design evaluated with the finite element analyses using soil structure interaction incorporates the nonlinear behavior of the soil, wall displacements and flexibility of the sheet pile and anchors. The active and passive pressures vary as the system flexes to achieve a solution by balancing the forces and displacements in the entire system. By inherently balancing the forces and displacements, the system achieves a larger safety factor against rotational failure than the Limit Equilibrium Method. Thus, the safety factors are not *applied to determine effective soil parameters for calculating passive pressures.*

The cantilever wall BMP presented in the 30% RD acted as both a floodwall and a retaining wall by maintaining differential water (higher water in the river) and soil elevations (excavation below riverbed elevation). However, the current BMP system in the new alignment primarily serves as a floodwall by maintaining a different water elevation between the excavation area and the San Jacinto River. The sheet piles are terminated in the fine grain soils of the Beaumont Clay layer. Hence, both the undrained (Q-Case) and drained (S-Case) conditions were evaluated to determine the stability of the BMP.

Sheet Pile Sections

EM 1110-2-2504 recommends the maximum allowable stresses provided in Table 5-C for the sheet piles subject to different load case conditions. By definition of the various load case conditions (Section 5.5.3), the BMP is subject to Unusual and Extreme load case conditions less frequently than the Usual load case conditions. Hence, the allowable stresses are relatively higher for the more severe loading scenarios to provide design solutions appropriate for Unusual and Extreme load case conditions.

Load Case Conditions	Combined Bending and Axial Stress	Shear Stress
Usual	0.50 F _v	$0.33 F_v$
Unusual	$0.67 \, \mathsf{F}_\mathsf{v}$	$0.44 \, \text{F}_v$
Extreme	0.88 F _v	0.58 F _v

Table 5-C Allowable Stresses for Sheet Piles - EM 1110-2-2504

Tie-Rod Sections

The tie-rod sections, included in Table 5-D, are designed using allowable stress design methods in accordance with AISC 360. The tie-rods are critical to balance the forces and displacements of the BMP.

If one tie-rod fails, the loads will be redistributed to the adjacent tie-rods. The individual tie-rods are designed for 150 percent of the demand loads, accounting for a tie-rod failure event where the loads are redistributed to adjacent tie-rods and preventing progressive failure and thereby, increasing the safety factor.

Walers

The walers are longitudinal beams connected to the tie-rods on the exterior face of the sheet piles. The walers distribute the loads from the sheet piles to the tie-rods and minimize variations in displacement along the BMP. In order to provide a continuous longitudinal beam, the individual waler beams will be spliced using bolted connections.

The waler are evaluated as simply supported multi-span beams with tie-rods providing the support reactions. The walers are also evaluated for condition with a longer span (150 percent) accounting for a tie-rod failure thus able to redistribute loads to the adjacent tie-rods. The walers are designed using allowable stress design method in

Table 5-E Overstrength Factor for Walers - AISC 360

Limit State	Overstrength Factors
Flexure or Bending Stress	67
Shear	.67

5.5.5.4 Deflection

Total system displacement comprised of structural steel deformation, rotation and translation of the entire BMP and soil system was evaluated for the proposed BMP.

Neither EM 1110-2-2504 nor ASCE 7-16 provide guidance on limiting system deflection. For a cantilever sheet pile system, structural steel can deform significantly before structural failure occurs; hence, structural steel deformation could not be used as a limiting parameter in the previous submittal (30% RD).

The combination of tie-rod anchors and adequate embedment of sheet piles restrain the deflection in the sheet piles. The deflection at the top of the sheet pile translates to local deformations in the structure. These deformations are accounted for by the bending stress in the sheet piles and tensile stress in the tie-rods. The stresses will be limited to the allowable stress (Section 5.5.5.2) and within the elastic range (less than F_v) to avoid structural failure of the BMP.

5.5.5.5 Corrosion Protection & Maintenance

The Northern Impoundment BMP structures were designed for temporary, short-term use. It was assumed that the sheet piles would remain in place for a period of approximately 7 years after installation. Figure 5-H shows the five exposure zones typically considered for corrosion. It also shows a schematic for varying thickness loss along the height of the steel sheet piles exposed to a marine environment.

Figure 5-H Typical Thickness Loss - Nucor Skyline Catalog, Ports & Marine Construction

The loss of thickness due to corrosion relative to different exposure conditions are listed in Table 5-F. The corrosion rates are representative of industry-wide accepted rates where site-specific data is unavailable. Since the Northern Impoundment is located in brackish water, an average of total thickness loss for river (0.008 inches) and seawater (0.027 inches) exposure is appropriate (these two values are indicated in bold font in Table 5-F, below). The duration of exposure to each zone varies significantly on the exterior and interior face of the BMP. It is conservative to assume the same thickness loss on both sides of the sheet pile. A uniform sacrificial thickness of 0.035-inches (2 x 0.0175 inches) was included for each side of the sheet pile for the entire height of the wall. No additional maintenance should be required for the assumed 7-year RA period.

Notes:

- 1 Eurocode 3 Design of Steel Structures, Part 5: Piling, BS EN 1993-5:2007.
- 2 Interpolated between 5 Years and 25 Years.

5.5.6 BMP Wall Analysis

The BMP cross-sections were analyzed for stability and determining stress in the structural components using Plaxis 2D, a finite element software program developed by Bentley Systems, Inc. The program can model complex soil profiles, structural sections and perform soil-structure interaction analysis to achieve a solution with compatible forces and displacements. The analysis also incorporates a time variable simulating the various stages of construction, such as end of sheet pile installation, adding fill between the walls, installing tie-rods, dewatering the excavation area after BMP is installed, and excavation to allow for consolidation or dissipation of porewater pressures. Additional details of the analyses for all cross-sections are provided in Appendix I.

The finite element analyses using soil-structure interaction incorporate the non-linear behavior of the soil, wall displacements and flexibility of the sheet pile and anchors. The active and passive pressures vary as the system flexes to achieve a solution by balancing the forces and displacements in the entire system. By inherently balancing the forces and displacements, the system achieves a larger safety factor against rotational failure than the "free earth" Limit Equilibrium Method. Thus, the safety factors (Section 5.5.5.2) are not applied to determine effective soil parameters for calculating passive pressures.

The behavior of the BMP varies with the height of the sheet piles above riverbed and the subsurface strata. Hence, multiple cross-sections were evaluated to account for the variations in riverbed elevations, cross-slope of the riverbed along the BMP alignment, thickness of Alluvium Sediments, anticipated top of Beaumont Clay layers, and distance from the BMP to the excavation. Figure 5-I, below, shows the approximate extent of each cross-section selected for the analyses and the summary of results are provided in Table 5-H. These extents are approximate and may change in the final design to accommodate design optimizations, and other considerations related to standardizing construction practices.

Additional considerations were applied to Cross-Sections C2, C6, and C7 due to reasons described, below.

Figure 5-I BMP - Limits of Cross-Sections C1 to C7

5.5.6.1 Cross-Section C2

Cross-Section C2 represents the extent of the tallest height of the BMP above riverbed elevation (approximately -15 ft NAVD88). The approximate wall height on both the exterior and interior sides is 24 ft. The large height above the riverbed overstressed the sheet piles and tie-rods. Hence, a 30 ft wide Raised Bench (imported fill material) constructed above the Soil Buttress, to elevation -4 ft NAVD88 is required on the interior side to reduce the stresses. The sheet piles and tie-rods required to meet the demand loads are the among the largest standard sections available. The tie-rods are required to be installed at elevation +3 ft NAVD88.

This cross-section was analyzed and determined to be adequately designed assuming use of excavation methodology similar to that used in other areas in the Northern Impoundment as well as for other remedial alternatives. However, it should be noted that the areas in the northwest corner are subject to pronounced risk of hydraulic heave as described in the Geotechnical Engineering Report (Appendix B), and hence a different excavation methodology as described in Section [5.7](#page-87-0) will be deployed in this area. The change in excavation method does not impact the design of the BMP structure.

5.5.6.2 Cross-Sections C6 and C7

Cross-Sections C6 and C7 represent the BMP along the alignment parallel to the I-10 Bridge. In the alignment previously presented in 30% RD, the BMP was placed directly at the edge of the existing berm and excavation limits extended to the sheet pile. The existing ground elevation varies between elevation 0 ft and Elevation +5 ft NAVD8S. The BMP design elevation at bottom of excavation is -14 ft NAVD88 and -20 ft NAVD88 for Cross-Section C6 and

Cross-Section C7, respectively. The TxDOT ROW runs between the elevated portion of the freeway and the southern boundary of the Northern Impoundment.

Several concepts for the BMP, as described in the BMP Design Structural Report (Appendix I), were evaluated to determine if there an implementable solution along the original alignment. The significantly large height retained above the anticipated excavation bottom, the inability due to space constraints to include a Soil Buttress, and the need for active excavation along the face of the BMP resulted in the BMP (and the anchor system, where applicable) extending into the deeper sand layers. Due to concerns with pile driveability and associated vibrations in the vicinity of the I-10 Bridge, the ExxonMobil pipeline assets, and other underground utilities and other considerations, these concepts were considered unfeasible.

The only workable solution was a double-wall system, approximately 30-ft wide, similar to the double-wall around the balance of the Northern Impoundment. This required moving the BMP alignment farther south into the TxDOT ROW to allow for a sloped Soil Buttress beginning at Elevation 0 ft NAVD88 and extending into the excavation area. This placed the double wall within the TxDOT ROW, with the outer wall being approximately 20 ft from the I-10 Bridge guardrails on the TxDOT ROW.

Additional details are provided in Appendix I.

5.5.7 Barge Impact

The impact energy from a barge moving at the river flow velocity will be absorbed in the following two stages -

- 1. Primary or first contact will be with a barrier wall system comprising of fiberglass reinforced polymer (FRP) composite piles. The barrier wall is designed to absorb impact energy corresponding to velocity of up to 2.2 ft/s (laden barge) or up to 5.3 ft/s (ballasted barge).
- 2. As the barge damages the barrier wall and breaks through, it will lose energy. The BMP will be subjected to the remaining energy of 1.8 ft/s (i.e., energy corresponding to the difference between approach velocity of 4 ft/s and energy absorbed by the barrier wall at 2.2 ft/s). In the 90% RD, the BMP was evaluated for impact velocity of 2.2 ft/s (laden barge) and 5.3 ft/s (ballasted barge). The analysis results are valid for this evaluation.

5.5.7.1 Barrier Wall

A FRP barrier wall will be installed at approximately 20 to 25 ft beyond the exterior wall of the BMP along the north and east side to provide increased protection in areas exposed to potential barge impacts. See Figure 5-F. The barrier wall will be comprised of 18-inch diameter FRP composite piles spaced at 8 ft on center. Four rows of 12-inch x 12-inch reinforced high-density polyethylene (HDPE) walers will be installed horizontally on the exterior side of the FRP piles, evenly spaced between Elevation +2 and +12 ft above mean water level [\(Figure](#page-78-0) 5Figure 5-J).

The barge will contact the walers and in turn, multiple FRP piles will be engaged, and the barrier wall system will deflect to absorb the impact energy. The system is designed to absorb impact from the design barge up to a velocity of 2.2 ft/s (laden) and 5.3 ft/s (ballasted barge). The largest moment demands on the pile sections are seen when the barge impact is at or near the top of the barrier wall. At lower elevations of impact, the moment demands are lower and do not govern the design.

Figure 5-J FRP Barrier Wall - Alignment

Figure 5-K FRP Barrier Wall - Typical Section

The details of the analysis and results are provided in Appendix I.

5.5.7.2 BMP Impact

The BMP was analyzed for barge impact near the top of the wall (exterior sheet pile). With the FRP barrier wall system as the primary protection, the BMP will absorb the excess impact energy equivalent to an impact from the design barge at velocity of 1.8 ft/s (See Section [5.5.7\)](#page-77-0).

In the 90% RD, the BMP was evaluated for impact at a higher velocity, so the same analysis results (demand loads on BMP sheet pile) are valid for the current evaluation of impact at lower velocity.

Two Cross-Sections, C2 and C4 were analyzed with barge impact loads in Plaxis. These Cross-Sections have the largest retained height above the riverbed and are expected to be the most critical Cross-Sections for evaluating a potential impact at the top of the wall. A 400 feet long three-dimensional model was created with the same stratigraphy, material properties and stages as the analysis sections described in Section 5.5.6. The linear elastic plates representing the sheet piles were assigned orthotropic parameters to capture the difference in stiffness of the vertical and horizontal directions.

The barge impact load was applied as a static uniformly distributed load over a 50-ft x 1-ft area at top of the wall. Due to the instantaneous nature of the impact, the loads are evaluated using the undrained soil parameters and considered an Extreme load condition, with the impact near top of the wall with the water levels at +9 ft NAVD88.

The following two loading scenarios, considering a combination of multiple impact velocities and barge displacement conditions (ballasted or laden), were evaluated. The loads correspond to higher velocities of flow for impact, than as summarized in Table 5-A, with a barge in ballasted condition, hence conservative for the analysis. However, for the laden condition, the loads represent the limiting loads for the BMP.

Case 1: 20 kip/ft x 50 ft = 1000 kip

– Corresponds to contact with 54 ft wide barge in ballasted condition at impact velocity of 3.8 ft/s

Case 2: 28 kip/ft x 50 ft = 1400 kip

- Corresponds to contact with 54 ft wide barge in ballasted condition at impact velocity of 5.3 ft/s or,
- Contact with 54 ft wide barge in laden condition at impact velocity of 2.2 ft/s.

As Cross-Section C2 is not near the navigational waterway, any impact on the west and northwest portion of the BMP will likely be from barges moored on the north side of the BMP that may come off the mooring in a storm event. Thus, Cross-Section C2 is only evaluated for Case 1 loading scenario. The results from Cross-Section C4 are applicable to all other locations, except C2.

The barge impact loads caused localized deformation of the wall along with increase in soil shear strains. However, the strains did not indicate a global failure would occur. In this scenario, there would be localized damage to the BMP due to limiting flexural capacity. The analysis results are summarized in Table 5-G. The section stresses from demand loads are compared to the allowable stresses in the sheet piles for extreme event loading i.e., 0.88 Fy (combined bending moment and axial stress) and 0.58 Fy (shear stress).

The results show a 5% overstress in the sheet piles at Cross-Section C2 for impact with a ballasted barge at 3.8 ft/s. Impact forces are directly proportional to the impact velocity squared (Section [5.5.3.6\)](#page-67-0). Therefore, the stresses in Cross-Section C2 will be lower for impact at 1.8 ft/s as the impact force will reduce by 27%. Considering the low

probability of impact in the area of Cross-Section C2, reduction in impact force at lower velocity and engineering judgement, the 5% overstress for condition evaluated is considered acceptable for design.

The Cross-Sections closer to the navigational waterway would be expected to potentially encounter impact with barges, ballasted or laden, as they are towed. Results from Cross-Section C4 show that the BMP is adequate for impact with barges in ballasted and laden condition at velocity 2.2 ft/s even without the FRP barrier wall system.

It should be noted that the barges and tugboats typically slow down as the width of the navigational waterway reduces closer to the I-10 Bridge. Navigational signs can be posted on the exterior face of the BMP to require marine vessels to reduce speeds along the eastern side of the BMP.

Additional details of the analyses, results, and plots are provided in Appendix I.

5.5.8 Scour Protection at BMP Exterior

Scour protection countermeasures for the BMP exterior are developed based on Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidance provided in Hydraulic Engineering Circular No. 23 (HEC-23), Bridge Scour and Stream Instability Countermeasures (Publication No. FHWA-NHI-09-111, September 2009) which provides design guidelines for use of rock riprap to mitigate scour at bridge abutments. Although the BMP is not a bridge abutment, its influence on floodplain hydraulics is similar in that overbank flows are concentrated through a narrower section of the river resulting in localized increase in shear stress.

Design Guideline 14 was applied to the design of the rock riprap scour protection concepts. The median stone diameter for riprap scour protection is calculated based on depth, velocity and abutment geometry using the Isbash equation. The results from the Hydrodynamic Analysis (Appendix F) indicate maximum peak velocities would be approximately 3.14 ft/s. To account for uncertainties related to complex hydrodynamics and potential for localized flow accelerations along the BMP, an additional safety factor was applied to the predicted maximum velocity. The median rock size for the riprap was designed for a velocity of 6 ft/s.

Based on this approach, the riprap scour protection apron will consist of a median stone diameter of 10 inches and an overall layer thickness of 1.5 ft.

As noted in Section [5.5.3.3,](#page-66-0) scour protection is required around the majority of the perimeter of the wall, including the east side of the BMP as the channel narrows near the I-10 Bridge. A 25 ft wide riprap apron will provide sufficient stability along the exterior perimeter of the BMP.

5.5.9 Scour Protection at BMP Interior

Scour protection countermeasures for the BMP interior are designed by calculating the velocity of water reaching the base of the wall, resulting impact pressure, length of the turbulent flow at the base of the wall and potential for flow jump where the soil slopes away from the wall.

The most critical scour can occur in the initial stages where the river water level rises over the top of the BMP wall. When water rises 6 inches above the BMP wall, it can fill the entire area to the top of the wall within 1-2 hours. As the river water level continues to rise in the initial hours, the BMP will fill faster and reduce the time where the soils at the base of the BMP are directly exposed to the overtopping water.

Additional details of the analysis for a wide range of river water levels between elevation +10.1 ft to +14.0 ft are provided in Appendix I. However, only the initial stages where water level reaches elevation +10.5 ft is considered critical for interior wall scour.

Based on this approach, the interior riprap scour protection will consist of median stone diameter of 18 inches and an overall layer thickness of 3 ft. As an added measure, the riprap will be grouted with flowable concrete of 3000 psi strength to withstand the plunging water flow over the BMP wall. The riprap apron will be extended to 25 ft from the base of the BMP wall.

At the northwest corner of the BMP, the raised bench is required for stability of the wall. Due to limited space available without encroaching into the excavation area, the riprap will be incorporated into the bench to protect the entire 30-ft width of the raised bench. All the interior scour protection will be monitored routinely and maintained for the duration of the project.

5.5.10 Summary of Results

The summary of the structural sections required for the BMP is provided in Table 5-H. As extents of Cross-Sections 3 and 3A overlap, the BMP will be conservatively built as evaluated for Cross-Section 3.

Analysis Section	Sheet Pile Section		Tie Rod Section		Waler Section
	Nucor Skyline	Length (ft)	Diameter (inches)	Spacing (f _t)	
C ₁ , C ₃ , C ₃ A, C4, C4A	AZ36-700N	50	2.25	5	MC 12X35
C ₂	AZ40-700N	55	3.00		MC 18X45.8
C ₅	AZ36-700N	60	2.25		MC 12X35
C6, C7	AZ26-700	60	2.25	5	MC 12X35

Table 5-H Summary of Analysis Results

5.5.11 Pile Driveability and Vibration Analysis

During the March 25, 2020 TWG Meeting, the design team was asked to perform an evaluation to quantify the risks associated with pile driving-induced vibrations and potential releases from the Northern Impoundment that may result from these vibrations. A vibration analysis for driving large diameter steel pipe piles into deep sands was performed and included in the 30% RD*.* Since the submittal of the 30% RD, the BMP concept has changed from cantilever (large diameter pipe piles) to a double wall system with Z-shaped steel sheet piles. The alignment of the BMP has been revised to install the sheet piles outside the perimeter of the TCRA armored cap and beyond the edges of the steep slopes present near both the northwest corner and east side adjacent to the I-10 Bridge.

The Z-shaped sheet piles will be installed using a press-in method of installation. The first few pairs of sheet piles need to be installed using a vibratory hammer to set up the press-in equipment. Then a reaction-based press-in system will use these installed sheet piles to press-in the next pair of sheet piles and move forward to continue installing the remaining length of the BMP using the press-in method. As the press-in piling system uses hydraulic force without the use of percussion (impact hammer) or vibration to install piles, the noise and vibration impact on nearby structures can be diminished. The sheet piles will also be terminated in the Beaumont Clay layer instead of driving into the stiffer sand layers, thereby reducing the potential for vibrations significantly even while using a vibratory hammer for the initial set of sheet piles.

Pile driveability and vibrations resulting from the installation procedure are a function of the equipment selected by the RC. Since information on actual equipment is unavailable at this time, pile driveability and corresponding vibrations were evaluated for one impact hammer and one vibratory hammer. The Wave Equation Analysis of Pile Driving (WEAP) showed that both equipment types can install the sheet piles to required depth. WEAP output for PACO Model 36-5000 (impact hammer) and APE Model 100 (vibratory hammer) are provided in Appendix I.

Caltrans[4](#page-81-0) provides guidance on calculating vibration amplitudes in terms of peak particle velocity (PPV) and threshold criteria for damage potential for various type of pile installation equipment. The equations used in the manual are based on several data points collected at various distances from the location of pile installation and for various installation equipment.

For Impact Hammers,

 $PPV_{impact} = PPV_{Ref} (25/D)^n (E_{Equip}/E_{Ref})^{0.5}$

⁴ Transportation and Construction Vibration Guidance Manual, April 2020, California Department of Transportation

Where:

PPV_{Impact} = Vibration amplitude for the pile installation equipment at distance D from the location of installation.

 PPV_{Ref} = Vibration amplitude for a reference impact hammer at 25 ft from the location of installation (0.65 in/sec).

 $D =$ Distance from pile installation equipment to the receiver in ft.

n = Constant related to the vibration attenuation rate through ground (maximum suggested value of 1.4).

 E_{Ref} = Rated energy of the reference pile installation equipment (36,000 ft-lb).

EEquip = Rated energy of the impact hammer to be used for pile installation (PACO Model 36-5000: 15,000 ft-lb).

For Vibratory Hammers,

$$
PPV_{Vibro} = PPV_{Ref} (25/D)^n
$$

Where:

 $PPV_{Vibro} = Vibration amplitude for the pile installation equipment at distance D from the location of installation.$

 PPV_{Ref} = Vibration amplitude for a reference impact hammer at 25 ft from the location of installation (0.65 in/sec).

D = Distance from pile installation equipment to the receiver in ft.

n = Constant related to the vibration attenuation rate through ground (maximum suggested value of 1.4).

The calculated PPV for the impact and vibratory hammer are shown in Figure 5-L. The threshold for damage to new residential structures, modern industrial or commercial building type structures due to vibrations from continuous or frequent intermittent sources such as the pile installation procedure is 0.5 in/sec (Table 19[4](#page-81-1)). This threshold is considered appropriate for the structures near the BMP, including the I-10 Bridge. The anticipated vibration from the vibratory hammer is below the acceptable threshold at 35 ft or farther from the sheet pile installation. The vibration reduces significantly with the distance. The RC will be allowed to use a vibratory hammer or impact hammer only for the initial setup of sheet piles and with the press-in equipment at locations that are at least 35 ft away from the I-10 bridge. Thus, no significant impact to the I-10 bridge or other industrial structures is anticipated due to the sheet pile installation.

Figure 5-L Vibration Amplitude (PPV) for Pile Installation Equipment

The RC will be required to update the pile driveability and vibration analysis for the equipment to be used during the RA and for allowed use of a vibratory hammer at a minimum distance of 35 ft from the nearest structures.

5.6 Excavation Procedures

5.6.1 Pre-Excavation Sampling

Pre-excavation sampling will be completed after installation of the BMP wall is completed and prior to the commencement of excavation and mechanical dredging activities. Pre-excavation sampling will allow for delineation to be completed before excavation begins. The final excavation surface would be defined using all sampling data from prior investigations, as well as the pre-excavation sampling data, for EPA review and approval prior to any excavation. This will avoid potential delays and risks associated with conducting sampling during excavation and avoid the need for the RC to leave an area of excavation open pending the sampling results. Pre-excavation sampling will reduce the overall schedule and potentially could reduce the length of the overall excavation since there will not be time lost during excavation activities waiting on laboratory analytical results and over-excavating locations, if needed, above clean-up levels. This will also help limit the risk of severe weather and flooding events. Since the limits of the excavation will be known prior to the commencement of excavation activities, excavation can proceed uninterrupted. Based upon pre-excavation sampling results, design elevations will be revised prior to excavation, if needed. The final depths of the excavation will be confirmed post-excavation by comprehensive surveying to demonstrate that the surfaces defined by the pre-excavation sampling have been achieved. In addition, pre-excavation sampling avoids the need for personnel to enter areas being excavated to collect samples.

If the pre-excavation sampling results indicate that excavation is required at depths greater than originally anticipated, having this data prior to excavation will allow the RC time to evaluate options for safely addressing those areas, particularly areas vulnerable to hydraulic heave.

As detailed in the FSP (Appendix J, Attachment 3), Decision Units (DUs) were developed by overlaying a grid system on the NI and Northwest Corner. Given that the NI and the Northwest Corner are not a uniform size and shape, this resulted in some variability in the size and shape of DUs. Within each DU, nine discrete samples will be collected from sample locations at intervals 0 to 1 feet below the initial excavation elevation and from 1 to 2 ft below the initial

excavation elevation as evenly spaced across the DU as possible, given the irregular shape of some of the DUs. A composite sample of these (9) discrete samples will be prepared for each DU for laboratory analysis. While composite sampling is proposed to confirm that remedial objectives have been met, it is important to note that extensive sampling of the NI was completed during the RI, PDI 1, PDI 2, and SDI field events. This robust data set has been used to inform the initial excavation elevations so that intervals with higher dioxin and furan concentrations have already been included in the areas identified for excavation. Therefore, the intervals identified for pre-excavation sampling are anticipated to have concentrations near or below the clean-up level, which further supports the use of composite sampling for confirming remedial objectives have been met. Additionally, a portion of each discrete sample that was used for the composite sample will also be held by the laboratory pending the results of the composite sample analysis.

A summary of completed and proposed sampling for the NI is as follows:

Prior to sampling, the sample locations will be surveyed by a licensed surveyor and the depth of the pre-excavation sample will be based upon the initial excavation elevation. A drill rig will be used to collect a sample from each surveyed location. In order to minimize the potential for soil from a shallower depth to slough into the boring, an outer casing will be set to the depth of the initial excavation elevation.

Following laboratory analysis of the 0 to 1 ft composite sample, the result will be compared to the clean-up level. Results will be evaluated, as described below.

- If the result of the composite sample for a DU from 0 to 1 ft below the initial excavation elevation is below the clean-up level, the remedial action objective has been met and the DU will be excavated to the initial excavation elevation.
- If the result of the composite sample for a DU from 0 to 1 ft below the initial excavation elevation is above the clean-up level, the composite sample for the DU from the 1 to 2 ft interval below the initial excavation elevation will be analyzed by the Approved Laboratory.
- If the result of the 1 to 2 ft composite sample from the DU is below the clean-up level, the remedial action objective will be met by either:
	- The discrete samples from the 0 to 1 ft interval for the DU will be analyzed by the Approved Laboratory and discrete locations above the clean-up level will be excavated; OR
	- The DU will be excavated to 1 ft below the initial excavation elevation.
- If the result of the 1 to 2 ft composite sample from the DU is above clean-up level:
	- Analysis of the discrete samples from the 1 to 2 ft interval will be evaluated for the DU; and

The path-forward for that DU will be determined pending risk management evaluation with the EPA. The maximum overcut will vary dependent on the location, depth of excavation, and distance from the inner BMP wall. The pre-excavation sampling will define the maximum vertical extent of material exceeding the cleanup level. The excavation depths for each DU will be defined in consultation with the EPA based on the pre-excavation sampling analytical results and whether additional excavation at the location would potentially compromise the BMP, excavation integrity, or pose a safety risk to workers.

– For the northwest corner, a 6-inch overcut will be performed in that DU to serve as a final pass and remove any settled residuals.

5.6.2 Excavation Sequencing

To allow for the removal of waste material during the excavation season, the Northern Impoundment RA work will likely be divided into five cells, one of which would include the northwest corner which will be mechanically dredged. A single cell will be remediated each excavation season. Prior to commencing any excavation activities, the initial season will involve site preparation activities and installation of the BMP around the entire excavation area, as detailed in Section 5.5. The order of cell excavation will likely include a sequence that allows the cell containing the northwest corner to be remedied first and the cell containing the upland working area (southwest corner) to be excavated last, although the excavation volume for each season will be determined by the RC and optimized based on weather conditions and productivity achieved during each season. The conceptual project sequencing is shown on Figure 5-C.

5.6.3 Excavation Methodology

Following BMP installation and water removal, the material in a seasonal cell will be excavated. For the cells other than the one encompassing the northwest corner, excavation will be performed utilizing standard track-mounted excavators located on dry land. The excavator will be positioned where it can reach into the excavation and swing around to load trucks or place material directly into a mixing pad. Where required, the excavator could track down to a ledge or bench to reach deeper or further, but generally, the excavator would operate from upland locations. Excavation methodology is detailed below. The details provided below are for excavation of the cells other than the cell encompassing the northwest corner.

5.6.3.1 Pre-Excavation Dewatering

Following the installation of the BMP around the entire excavation area, river water will become trapped behind the BMP. At the beginning of each excavation season (and prior to removal of any portion of the TCRA armored cap to be removed during that excavation season), the river water located behind the BMP would be pumped out to allow waste material removal activities within each cell to be conducted using land-based equipment in relatively dry conditions. At the end of each excavation season, the exposed slope of the excavation will be capped. At the start of the next excavation season, water trapped behind the BMP will again be pumped out to allow the seasonal excavation to be reinitiated. Management of the pumped-out water is discussed in Section 5.9.

5.6.3.2 TCRA Armored Cap Removal

During each excavation season, after the cell to be excavated during that season is dewatered, the portions of the TCRA armored cap within that cell will be removed to expose the waste material for excavation. The location of the TCRA armored cap is shown on Design Drawing C-02 in Appendix G. Areas where the TCRA cap may be re-used are underlain by liner that segregates the rock from the underlying waste material. The RC will be directed to remove the rock in a manner that does not compromise the underlying liner as not to mix waste material with rock. Rock removal above the liner will be visually inspected to confirm that the liner has not been compromised. If any rock has been mixed with the waste material it will be sent off-site for disposal. It is anticipated that only the portion of the TCRA armored cap in the specific area in which waste material is being excavated will be removed (and the waste material exposed) at any given time. The rock may be salvaged for re-use or disposed of with the waste material. Depending on the space available on the Northern Impoundment, the rock removed during each excavation season may be stockpiled on the impoundment itself or at a nearby location. As part of TCRA armored cap removal, the geotextile and geomembrane barrier of the TCRA armored cap will be disposed of off-site.

5.6.3.3 Excavation Procedures

For each area in which the TCRA armored cap has been removed, excavation of the waste material to the target excavation elevations will take place using excavators. Any waste material that does not contain free liquids and/or does not require solidification may be loaded directly in haul trucks for off-site disposal. Waste material that contains free liquids and/or requires solidification will not be directly loaded into the haul trucks for off-site disposal and may be managed as described in Section 5.6.4.

As excavation activities advance below grade, dewatering sumps may be required to remove water in advance so the waste material can be dried out as much as possible prior to it being excavated. Following dewatering, the waste material may still be too wet (i.e., would not pass the paint filter test based on visual inspection) to be directly loaded into haul trucks. This material would need to be temporarily staged and allowed to dry naturally and/or be solidified for off-site disposal. An earthen ramp will be constructed over the lip of the BMP to allow truck traffic into and out of the Northern Impoundment. As part of the earthen ramp, the RC will incorporate measures to protect the top of the BMP, potentially using crane mats, steel plate, or construction techniques to protect the sheet pile wall. The RC will submit its means and measures for crossing the BMP with the earthen ramp prior to construction. Interior berms will be constructed seasonally to convey stormwater such that non-contact stormwater that falls directly onto the TCRA armored cap or areas of the excavation that have been confirmed clean can be segregated from contact stormwater that falls directly onto waste material. Non-contact water will be pumped off and handled as described in Section 5.8. Contact water that accumulates in the excavation area during the excavation season will be pumped out, as needed to maintain excavation operations, to a WTS where it will be treated and discharged to the river, as described in Section 5.8. Waste handling or waste management areas will not be conducted on surfaces that have been determined to be clean, without a barrier system, such as a liner. Contact water will be segregated from non-contact water by constructed berms or other stormwater controls as best management practices.

As discussed in Section 5.2, there are localized "hot spot" areas outside of the northwest corner with potential hydraulic heave risk. Section 31 23 16 of the Design Specifications (Appendix H) provides the requirements that the RC will meet in excavating within these potential heave areas. Prior to any excavation, stratigraphic borings and piezometers will be installed as described in Attachment B of the Design Specifications. The RC will coordinate with the engineer to review the data from these borings/piezometers in combination with the results of the pre-excavation sampling to define the safe excavation depths and delineate the areas with potential heave risk. The RC will then prepare a Heave Mitigation Plan for these areas that will provide detailed procedures for excavation. Options described in the specifications for the RC to consider include 1) limiting excavation to periods of low river/potentiometric levels, 2) excavating through a water column, and 3) excavating in localized trenches. The RC may use one or more of these options or propose another approach in the Heave Mitigation Plan. The Heave Mitigation Plan will be submitted to the engineer and EPA for approval prior to excavation in these areas.

At the end of an excavation season, the transition areas between clean surfaces and impacted material and any other potentially contaminated surfaces that are exposed will be secured. These areas will be graded to a stable slope (between 2:1 and 3:1) and covered with a 40-mil synthetic liner and non-woven geotextile that will be anchored into the soils. The liner will be covered with rip rap, which will be either imported or on-site rock that has been sampled and determined to be clean. The heave condition will be evaluated for the excavated surfaces using the data from the Pre-Excavation Stratigraphic Borings and Piezometers described in Attachment B of the design specifications. Areas susceptible to heave will be backfilled to elevations protective of the river reaching the top of the BMP at +10 NAVD88.

5.6.3.4 Excavation Season Production Rates

The approximate volume of material removal within the Northern Impoundment is estimated at 230,000 CY. To facilitate a seasonal excavation approach, the total volume of material would be divided into multiple cells, with a single cell excavated during each excavation season. Seasonal cell sizes will not be prescribed, but instead a target production rate will be maintained that should accomplish the full excavation over the course of five excavation seasons (including the northwest corner). The volume of waste that can be removed, transported, and disposed of during an excavation season (i.e., production rate) is based upon the following factors, and will continue to be analyzed/optimized throughout the RA:

- *Volume and Removal Rates* -The tentative cell sizes have been established so that the volume of planned removal from within each cell could be achieved within the excavation period.
- **Excavation Depth** Depending upon the results of confirmation sampling, the depths of the seasonal excavations could increase, which may, in turn, limit the area that can excavated in that season.
- *Access and Implementability* The tentative seasonal cells assume sustained access to each area for necessary excavation equipment and trucks.

– *Transportation and Disposal* - The target seasonal production rate that the tentative cell sizes are based on is dependent on the ability to efficiently and consistently load out and transport waste material to an off-site landfill.

The assumptions and limitations of waste transport and disposal as a basis of the design are further discussed in Section 5.8.2.

5.6.4 Solidification and Load-Out

If the waste material does not pass the paint filter test for direct load out, it may need to be solidified prior to transport to the off-site disposal facility. This may be achieved by mixing in drier material, either from the excavation or using a solidifying reagent, such as Portland cement or lime. Solidification activities will likely be conducted on a designated mixing pad inside the confines of the BMP, or at a nearby location as space becomes limited within the BMP, prior to load out in the haul trucks. Water collected within the mixing pad will be collected and pumped to a temporary storage tank and then to the WTS, or pumped directly to the WTS.

5.6.5 Excavation Area Restoration

There are no post-excavation restoration measures identified or required as part of the ROD. However, restoration activities may utilize the recycled TCRA armored cap rock, clean berm material, and/or clean imported sand or aggregate (including aggregate inside the BMP) for restoration activities in lieu of disposing of these clean materials. These post-excavation restoration measures may be employed during the work, at the end of a working season, or after the completion of all excavation activities. After excavation along the south edge of the impoundment has been completed, a soil embankment would be constructed at an approximate 4-foot horizontal to one-foot vertical (4:1) slope along the vertical excavation face to support the exposed bank. Rip rap will be placed on top of the soil embankment for erosion control. At the conclusion of the RA, the BMP will be removed from the waterway and will not require maintenance.

5.7 Northwest Corner

5.7.1 Background

The northwest corner design was initially submitted, in the November 2022 NW Corner Addendum, as a separate document from the June 2022 90% RD for other areas of the impoundment (*GHD, 2022f*). Below is a summary of correspondence, submissions, and meetings held between the Respondents and the EPA pertaining to the northwest corner and additional information developed regarding conditions in the northwest corner.

On June 8, 2022, an in-person meeting between the EPA and the Respondents took place at which the concerns and risks associated with the RD in the northwest corner were discussed. These concerns were further outlined in a letter to the EPA dated June 21, 2022 (IPC and MIMC, 2022b).

An in-person meeting between Respondents, GHD, and EPA was scheduled for August 4, 2022, to discuss a path forward for the northwest corner design. On the day prior to the meeting, EPA provided to the Respondents a Memorandum to the File dated August 3, 2022, (Memo to File) in which the EPA provided clarification of the phrase "in the dry" used in the Record of Decision (ROD [EPA, 2017b]) in describing the selected remedy for the Northern Impoundment (EPA,2022c).

During the August 4, 2022, meeting, the Respondents expressed the need to perform an updated hydraulic heave evaluation specifically focused on the northwest corner to confirm the conclusions of the previous investigation and to evaluate the level of water that would need to be maintained to overcome the risk of hydraulic heave in a dredging scenario.

Following the August 4, 2022, meeting, the Respondents began the focused hydraulic heave evaluation, which resulted in a reduction of the area defined as the "northwest corner" and in a refinement of the assumptions for the river elevation used in the hydraulic heave calculations. The hydraulic heave evaulaion has been further updated and is discussed in Section 5.12.3, and as updated, is attached Appendix B1.

Based upon the information provided in the August 3, 2022, EPA Memo to File, and the Respondents' discussions with the EPA during the August 4, 2022, meeting, the Respondents submitted a Request for Schedule Extension Northwest Corner Component to the EPA on August 18, 2022 (GHD, 2022d). The EPA sent a letter to the Respondents dated August 31, 2022 (EPA, 2022d) which extended the deadline for the 90% RD Northwest Corner Component to November 8, 2022.

The EPA subsequently sent a letter to GHD dated September 14, 2022 (EPA, 2022e) that addressed, among other things, certain aspects of the 90% RD Northwest Corner Component and a second letter to GHD dated September 28, 2022, (EPA, 2022f) regarding options for residuals management in a dredging scenario.

The Respondents submitted a letter to EPA dated October 7, 2022, (IPC and MIMC, 2022c) with respect to their understanding of the Memo to File and to which EPA responded in a letter dated October 13, 2022 (EPA, 2022g). GHD submitted a letter to EPA dated October 27, 2022, (GHD, 2022e) regarding certain aspects of the September 14, 2022, letter, and Respondents also submitted a letter to EPA on that date regarding the September 14, 2022, letter (IPC and MIMC, 2022d).

5.7.2 Remedial Evaluation

5.7.2.1 Overview

The northwest corner of the Northern Impoundment excavation area contains approximately 15,000 cubic yards (CY) of impacted material. Following issuance of the ROD, during the RD phase, three design investigations were conducted (as summarized in Section 2) which resulted in a much larger dataset, a clear vertical and horizontal delineation of the Northern Impoundment, and other newly-identified information that significantly changed the characterization and understanding of the Northern Impoundment.

5.7.2.2 Northwest Corner Basis of Design

It was determined that design of excavation in the dry in the northwest corner was technically impractical due the potential for hydraulic heave to occur as the waste is removed. To support a design for the northwest corner that addresses and controls the potential for hydraulic heave, a more focused evaluation of the conditions in the northwest corner was performed.

Hydraulic heave is a mechanism that can occur when the downward forces associated with the weight of material (water, waste material, soil, etc.) are not great enough to overcome the upward forces exerted by an aquifer under pressure, as is the case with the Beaumont Sand underlying the Beaumont Clay. Magnifying this potential risk in the northwest corner is that previous geotechnical evaluations have identified the presence of a sand lens in the Beaumont Clay approximately 50 ft below ground surface (ft bgs). The pressure in the sand lens and potential connectivity to the river were evaluated based on potentiometric data from piezometers and historic river stage data. Safe levels for dry excavation and the required water elevation to be maintained in order to overcome hydraulic heave risk under a dredging scenario were then developed, taking into consideration these upward pressures and the soil conditions in the northwest corner.

5.7.2.3 Piezometric Pressure Evaluation

The sand lens within the Beaumont Clay plays a critical role in evaluating the potential for hydraulic heave in the northwest corner. The sand lens was observed in area borings and based on potentiometric data from the underlying Beaumont Sand, is assumed to be hydraulically connected to the river. Beginning in August 2020, water level data were collected from on-site transducers placed both in the San Jacinto River and in a piezometer installed in the Beaumont Sand. These data showed that there was a direct correlation between the Beaumont Sand and the water level in the river, with the river elevation being approximately 4.2 ft higher than the piezometer elevation. Assuming that there is a dampening effect that is proportional to the clay thickness, the piezometric head gradient between the river and the Beaumont Sand was calculated to be approximately 0.11 ft per foot of clay. When this factor is applied to the upper sand lens where there are approximately 16 ft of clay, the estimated piezometric head in the sand lens would be 1.7 ft lower than the river elevation. Based on this evaluation, the upward pressure in the sand lens in the

northwest corner for the hydraulic heave evaluation was estimated to be the river stage elevation minus the 1.7 ft differential. For example, when the river stage is at +5 ft NAVD88, the piezometric head in the sand lens is estimated to be +3.3 ft NAVD88. The conceptual dampening effect of the piezometric head is shown on Figure 5-M, below.

Figure 5-M Conceptual Dampening Effect

The upward presssure from the piezometric head level in this 50-foot sand lens and the the weight of the overlying materials are the basis for the hydrauic heave evaluation in the northwest corner.

5.7.2.4 Hydraulic Heave Evaluation

Since submittal of the 90% RD - Northwest Corner Component, the Respondents have continued to evaluate the hydyraulic heave conditions at the work site and specifically in the northwest corner. The Updated Hydraulic Heave Analysis is included as Attachment E in Appendix B. The following assumptions are used is the updated analysis and provide the basis for the removal approach in the northwest corner:

- The San Jacinto River stage is assumed be at +5 ft NAVD88. At higher river stages, there would not be access to the work site and no removal activitities would be occurring.
- The Beaumont Sand is hydraulically connected to the San Jacinto River.
- The 50-ft sand lenses detected in the Beaumont Clay layer is hydraulically connected to the Beaumont Sand.
- The piezometric head in the 50-foot sand lens is assumed to be the San Jacinto River stage at + 5 ft NAVD88 dampened by 1.7 ft head loss, or +3.3 ft NAVD88.
- Conditions after removal and sand placement are to be protective of an overtopping event at river elevation +10 ft NAVD88 and +8.3 ft NAVD88 in the 50-foot sand lens.
- The hydraulic heave was evaluated by analyzing total stress.

The approach for the northwest corner described in this Revised 100% RD includes adjusting water levels and placing sand to specific elevations to offset heave considering the assumptions listed above and the Updated Hydraulic Heave Anaysis. The approach also assumes that removal will be to the design elevations. Following BMP installation in the

RA, the RC is required to complete stratigraphic borings in the area and install piezometers in the sand zone(s) that are encountered to measure potentiometric elevations prior to excavation commencing. In addition, preconstruction sampling will be conducted to define the final removal elevations. The specified water and sand elevations to manage the heave will be adjusted during the RA based on the updated potentiometric data from the RA borings and piezometers and the actual removal depths defined by the preconstruction sampling.

5.7.3 Mechanical Dredging

The approach for the northwest corner is to remove the material in the dry that can be performed without the potential for hydraulic heave, and then remove the remaining material by mechanical dredging techniques while maintaining sufficient water in the excavation to off-set the heave. Under this approach, the water level in the northwest corner will be lowered to -15 ft NAVD88; the impacted material above -15 ft NAVD88 will be excavated in the dry, and the remainder of the material to the target removal elevations will be removed via mechanical dredging. The following sections describe the procedures planned for the northwest corner.

Section 35 24 00 (the dredging specification in Appendix H) provides the RC requirements for dredging the northwest corner. Attachment A to the design specifications is a Residual Managment Plan that describes best management practices, dredging procedures and water management procedures for the RC to follow in the northwest corner to minimize dredging residuals and to control the residuals that are generated.

5.7.3.1 Site Preparation Activities

Prior to disturbing ground in the northwest corner, erosion control structures will be installed in conformance with the SWPPP. The site preparation activities will also include constructing roads and truck loading area(s) for the dry excavation. A mixing pad will be constructed adjacent to the northwest corner at the loading area to solidify the excavated material, as necessary, prior to its transport off-site. For the dredging operation, a staging area will be constructed adjacent to the dredging location to support a crane that will assist with assembling the dredging equipment and placing the dredging equipment into the water. The size of the pad will be determined by the RC and is expected to be constructed of crushed concrete or similar over the top of geotextile fabric spread and rolled to provide a base to support the crane. The RC will provide a plan that describes the details of the excavation and dredging operations and associated roads and support facilities. The work in the northwest corner will take place prior to work in other areas so that access for vehicles and a mixing pad is available.

5.7.3.2 Excavation and Dredging Procedures

5.7.3.2.1 Cell Dewatering

Following the installation of the BMP, river water will be trapped within the Northern Impoundment. Based on historical river stage data, it is assumed that the water elevation will be at approximately +/- 0 ft NAVD88 on both sides of the BMP wall prior to any waste removal. The bulk water located inside the BMP wall will be pumped out to achieve an elevation of -15 ft NAVD88 in the northwest corner. Removal and treatment of the bulk water within the BMP are discussed in Section 5.9. Once the water is pumped to -15 ft NAVD88, the existing bathymetry in the northwest corner will effectively form a natural bowl that will contain the water in this low spot and prevent it from flooding out into the surrounding areas of the Northern Impoundment. This is only possible if the northwest corner is addressed prior to the remainder of the Northern Impoundment. At -15 ft NAVD88, approximately 0.67 acres of the northwest corner will be exposed for excavation using land-based equipment in relatively dry conditions. The remaining 0.33 acres, where the mudline is deeper, will remain flooded to off-set the potential for heave. Figure 5-N below shows the water extent within the northwest corner at a water elevation of -15 ft NAVD88 before and after the dry excavation work.

Figure 5-N Mechanical Dredging Area Flooded to - 15 ft NAVD88 (Before and After Dry Excavation)

5.7.3.2.2 TCRA Armored Cap Removal Above -15 ft NAVD88

After pumping the water down to -15 ft NAVD88, and prior to excavation activities, the TCRA armored cap atop the exposed 0.67 acres will be removed using standard land-based excavation equipment to access the underlying waste material for excavation. The rock suitable for potential reuse will be staged on the Northern Impoundment or at a nearby location. Any geotextile and/or geomembrane barrier of the TCRA armored cap will be removed and disposed of off-site with the excavated waste material.

5.7.3.2.3 Dry Excavation

After removal of the TCRA armored cap, excavation of approximately 8,000 CY of waste material to an elevation of -15 ft NAVD88 will take place in the dry using land-based excavation equipment. The excavator will be positioned so it can reach into the excavation and swing around to load trucks or place material directly into a mixing pad. Any waste material that does not contain free liquids and/or does not require solidification will be loaded directly into haul trucks for off-site disposal. Excavated material that is too wet (i.e., will not pass the paint filter test) to be directly loaded into haul trucks will be temporarily staged and allowed to drain by gravity and/or be solidified on the mixing pad prior to loading for off-site disposal. An earthen ramp will be constructed over the lip of the BMP wall (at a location adjoining the TxDOT right-of-way) to allow truck traffic into and out of the work area (see Drawing C-07 in Appendix G). As part of the earthen ramp, the RC will incorporate measures to protect the top of the BMP, potentially using crane mats, steel plate, or construction techniques to protect the sheet pile wall. The RC will submit its means and measures for crossing the BMP with the earthen ramp prior to construction.

Containment features will be installed within the northwest corner to control run-on and run-off from the excavation surface, as described in Section 5.7.3.3. Any water that contacts the excavation surface will be pumped out, as needed to maintain excavation operations, to the WTS where it will be treated and discharged as described in Section 5.9 Dredging Procedures**.**

After completion of the dry excavation, the northwest corner will be prepared for mechanical dredging by raising the water to a minimum elevation of -10 ft NAVD88. The water will be pumped into the northwest corner directly from the river and/or pumped to the area from the clean WTS effluent. During dredging, additional water will need to be added to account for the volume of dredge material that has been removed.

The higher water elevation is necessary to offset the heave potential when removing material to the deeper target depths in this area and to provide sufficient draft to float the dredge. Features to contain the residuals during dredging are described in Section 5.7.3.6.

Figure 5-O, below, shows the limits of the flooded area at elevation -10 ft NAVD88, as contained by the natural bathymetry of the land around the northwest corner. It also shows the approximate locations of the containment features to control the spread of generated residuals that are described in Section 5.7.3.6.

Figure 5-O Mechanical Dredging Area Flooded to - 10 ft NAVD88

5.7.3.2.4 Dredging and Processing Equipment

Mobilization for the dredging operation will occur after construction of the staging area and concurrent with the dry excavation activities. Any equipment requiring assembly will likely require the assistance of a crane. It is expected that the dredge platform will be constructed of FlexiFloat sectional barges or similar and spuds will be installed on the platform for positioning purposes. After assembly of the FlexiFloat dredge platform, the mechanical dredging excavator will be tracked onto the barge or placed onto the barge with the crane. Material barges will be placed into the water and assembled for the purpose of managing the dredge spoils and transporting the spoils to a location at the edge of the dredge area and within the northwest corner as shown on Drawing C-45 in Appendix G for processing.

An aboveground solidification containment area will be constructed adjacent to the shore and will be sized, subject to space limitations, to manage at least 2 days of dredged materials based on the RC's planned production rate. The solidification containment area will be designed to manage both the solidification and loading operations. The containment area will be lined and it will be constructed within a larger bermed area that will also be lined to contain any spillage from the material management and loading operations. The containment area will be equipped with a sump to capture the water draining from the dredge spoil pile. If the TSS in the water from the containment sump is

too high to treat in the WTS, additional solids removal methods will be required by the RC. For the purpose of the Revised 100% RD, it is assumed that if TSS removal is necessary, the water will be pumped to a geotextile tube that will drain directly back to the removal area. However, the RC will have the option to use another solids removal technology that can be demonstrated to be effective. Section 35 24 00 of the design specifications require that the RC provide a proposed method for solids removal from the containment sump water using either geotextile tubes or another proposed method.

The barge-mounted excavator will first remove the remaining TCRA armored cap material over the submerged portion of the northwest corner. The TCRA armored cap material will be loaded onto barges and transported to the edge of the dredge area for offloading and transportation off-site.

For the dredging operation, the excavator will be outfitted with an environmental bucket designed to minimize turbidity and resuspension of sediment. Managing resuspension and residuals is discussed further in Section 5.7.3.6. The dredged sediment will be removed and placed into sealed hopper barges, which will be moored to the dredge platform while they are being loaded. Once full, the hopper barges will be transported to the edge of the dredge area for offloading at the stabilization containment area.

5.7.3.2.5 Dredging and Verification Procedures

A pre-dredge bathymetric survey will be performed to develop the pre-dredge surface. The information from the survey, in combination with the CAD surface of the target remediation limits, will provide the basis for the dredge prisms and target volumes for the dredging production passes. Additional bathymetric surveys will be performed during the dredging to provide project operational data for routine evaluation of dredging operations and to allow for analysis of daily production, measurement of removal accuracy, and process adjustments.

For positioning and accuracy purposes, the dredge excavator will be equipped with real-time kinematic global positioning system (RTK-GPS) that will confirm that the removal activities met the horizontal and vertical requirements of the project. The RTK-GPS signals will be combined with various sensors located on the excavator to incorporate the numerous variables of an excavator's operation, including real-time adjustments for water fluctuations. The excavator includes sensors that will measure the angle of the stick and the boom, and the rotation of the bucket, as well as the pitch and roll of the machine itself. The desired design depths within the dredge prism will be displayed in real-time on a screen located on the dredge to assist the operator in determining target depths while operating the equipment. The information generated from the GPS system and the sensors will be processed in real-time using Hypack, Inc. Dredgepack® software or similar.

The dredging operation will require the addition of makeup water to maintain the -10 ft NAVD88 water elevation. The make-up water will either be pumped into the northwest corner directly from the river and/or pumped to the area from the clean WTS effluent.

5.7.3.3 Solidification and Loading

After loading material into hopper barges and pushing the barges to the staging area with work boats, the material will be allowed to gravity drain. Water that accumulates in the hopper barges will be pumped to a settling tank where the sediments will settle out. The water will then be removed and pumped to the WTS, as described in Section 5.8. The accumulated sediments will be periodically removed from the settling tanks and incorporated in with the dredge spoils for solidification. If the TSS in the water from the settling tanks is too high to treat in the WTS, solids will be removed using the method as planned for the water from the containment sump described in Section 5.7.3.2.5

After the water is pumped from the hopper barges, a material handler or similar equipment, will be used to offload the dredge spoils from the hopper to the solidification containment area. The material will be mixed with a solidification agent in the stabilization containment area and allowed to cure, as needed, to meet the paint filter test. Section 3.3.5 provides the result of solidification treatability testing performed on the waste material; however, the RC will be required to perform its own treatability testing to define the reagents and mix ratios prior to the RA. After curing, the solidified material will be removed from the solidification containment area, loaded into haul trucks, and transported to the off-site landfill.

5.7.3.4 Clean-up Pass

After the production pass the residuals will be allowed to settle as described below in Section 5.7.3.6. A clean-up pass will be conducted to remove generated residuals that have settled (to the extent practicable). The depth of dredging for the clean-up pass will be a minimum of 6 inches below the base of the residual layer. A bathymetric survey will be performed to define the top of the residuals. The base of the residuals will be defined by the original dredged elevation, as measured by the operational data collected during dredging as described in Section 5.7.3.2.6, and then confirmed by the RC by probing.

Prior to the clean-up pass, a thin sand layer will be placed across the dredged area using a sprayer barge or similar subaqueous capping equipment. The purpose of the thin sand layer is to stabilize the residuals so they can be effectively captured by mechanical dredging techniques.

The clean-up pass will use the same general procedures for minimizing residuals described in below in Section 5.7.3.6 for the production pass with the addition of a shallow, level bottom cutting bucket to capture the residuals.

5.7.3.5 Residual Management Layer

After the clean-up pass, the suspended sediments in the water column will again be allowed to settle. The Residual Management Layer (RML) will not be placed until the turbidity is below 100 NTUs at three locations generally spaced equally across dredged area. The turbidity measurements will be taken with a hand-held turbidity meter within two feet of the mudline. The RC will have the option of waiting to allow the material to settle to the specified NTUs, or using polymers, coagulants and/or other additives to promote settling.

Granular material will then be placed over the dredged area to achieve the following:

- Provide weight to offset the heave potential as the weight from the water is removed.
- Facilitate complete removal of contact water at the surface.
- Provide a cover for the small mass of any remaining generated dredging residuals.

Initially, subaqueous capping techniques will be utilized to distribute the granular material in thin lifts to evenly cover the dredged surface while minimizing disturbance at the mudline. Bathymetric surveys will be performed during the placement of this initial cover layer to confirm that the appropriate thickness has been achieved throughout the dredging area. Once the initial two feet of granular material has been placed and confirmed by the bathymetric surveys, the RC may install the remaining granular material for the RML at a more rapid pace, while limiting the disturbance of the underlying RML that has already been placed.

During RML placement, the water will be maintained above the elevation of the granular material to continue to offset the heave potential. When the RML reaches -17 ft NAVD88, the water level can be lowered below the sand level, exposing the upper slope of the excavation. Any remaining residuals on the upper slopes will be excavated in the dry and the RML will then be raised to the target elevation of -14 NAVD88. The water that is displaced by the granular material will be captured and pumped to the WTS for treatment. Figure 5-P, below, shows the limits of the granular material after placement.

Granular material will also be placed in a low area located to the northeast of the dredging area where there is a risk of hydraulic heave, as shown in green shading on Figure 5-P, below. The heave calculations indicate that, for this area, the heave potential at a river level of +5 ft NAVD88 and a SF of 1.25 is within the level defined as acceptable for purposes of the RD, but there may be a potential for heave if the river would reach the top of the BMP at +10 ft NAVD88. Considering that this area may be dewatered for up to 7 years during construction across the Northern Impoundment, granular material will be added to elevation -14 ft NAVD88 to protect against heave during a potential high-water event.

Figure 5-P Post-Dredging Fill Placement to -14 ft NAVD88

5.7.3.6 Residuals Management and Controls

Section 35-24-00 is the dredging specification in Appendix H and provides the RC requirements for dredging the northwest corner. Attachment A to the specifications is a Residual Management Plan that describes best management practices, dredging procedures and water management procedures for the RC to follow in the northwest corner to minimize dredging residuals and to control the residuals that are generated. The residual management procedures required by the RC are summarized below.

Construction of BMPs to Control Residuals

The existing bathymetry in the NWC effectively forms a natural bowl to contain water and migration of dredging residuals within the general vicinity of the NWC. Containment features will be constructed as best management practices (BMPs) along the northeast and southwest boundaries of the removal area to further contain the residuals to within the removal limits during the dredging and water management phases to the work in the NWC. The BMPs will extend to a minimum top elevation of -8 ft NAVD88. Several BMP types were considered including sheet piles, impermeable turbidity curtains, earthen dams, and portable dams (e.g. AquaDams®). Considering that the entire area will already be protected by sheet piles and the significant effort and cost to install additional internal piles around the NWC, other BMP options were considered more favorable as described below.

The river bottom surface topography on the northeast side of the dredging limits varies significantly from elevation -10 ft NAVD88 to -17 ft NAVD88. Earthen berms with sufficient slope to be stable during dredging are not feasible, and portable dams are not suitable due to the steep slopes of the river bottom profile. Therefore, a double-wall impermeable turbidity curtain will be constructed along this northeast boundary of the dredging area. The inner curtain will be anchored approximately 10 ft outside the outer limits of the dredge area. The outer curtain will be positioned just outside the inner curtain. Both curtains will be weighted at the bottom and extend the full length of the water column into the mudline and anchored in place. The RC will conduct daily visual inspections of the turbidity curtain to confirm its effectiveness in the field and make any adjustment or repairs as necessary.

On the southwest side of the dredging area, the river bottom topography is shallower with a maximum depth of about -15 ft NAVD88. An earthen berm with a top elevation of -8 ft NAVD88 is more feasible to construct in this area. The RC will have the option to use the double turbidity curtains, construct an earthen berm or use portable dams to contain the residuals on this southwest boundary.

The top elevation of the buttress berm on the north side of the excavation will be at -7 ft NAVD88 with approximately a 3-foot layer of rip rap on top, bringing the top elevation of the buttress to -4 ft NAVD88, which will provide effective containment in this area. Figure 5-M shows the northwest corner, the limits of the water at -10 ft NAVD88, and the BMP components to contain the residuals during dredging.

Dredging Procedures - The RC will be required to perform the mechanical dredging using an environmental dredging bucket that is specifically designed to reduce the release of sediments during closure and retrieval to minimize resuspension. Additional measures required during dredging to minimize resuspension and the generation of residuals include:

- Setting and sequencing production cuts to reduce concentrations in residuals.
- Placing bucket accurately so as not to allow missed sediments between bucket placement.
- Controlling bucket overpenetration and overfilling.
- Overdredging a six-inch overdredge will be used for the clean-up pass.

Settling of Residuals - After completion of the initial production pass, the residuals in the water column will be allowed to settle. The clean-up pass described in Section 5.7.3.4 will not be allowed to start until the turbidity is below 100 NTUs at three locations generally spaced equally across dredged area. The measurements will be taken with a hand-held turbidity meter within two feet of the mudline.

The RC will have the option of waiting to allow the material to settle to the specified NTUs, or using polymers, coagulants and/or other additives to promote settling based on treatability testing performed by the RC. A settling test treatability study was performed as part of the 2020 Approach B Water Filtration Testing (see Section 3.6.2 of the Revised 100% RD). Polymer and coagulant were added to a tank with suspended solids from the Northern Impoundment simulating conditions in a dredging scenario. Using 250 parts per million (ppm) polyaluminum chloride and 25 ppm Nalco polymer 7194, the turbidity in the tank dropped quickly from 4,060 NTUs to below 40 NTU after 30 minutes of settling. Final turbidity values after 3 hours of settling were between 4 and 5 NTUs. These results were compared to a control test performed without the addition of polymers or coagulants, where the turbidity was above 75 NTUs after 60 hours (with an initial turbidity of 9,190 NTUs). Although results of the laboratory settling tests using polymers and coagulants were favorable, application of these additives in an area much larger than a laboratory setting could prove difficult to provide consistent application and proper mixing. The RC is required by the specifications to evaluate the GHD treatability data and perform its own testing to develop a plan for application and mixing of polymers, coagulants and/or other additives, and be prepared to implement this technology in the event it is necessary to accelerate the settling. Attachment C of the specifications provide the requirements for the testing.

Sand to Stabilize Residuals - Prior to the clean-up pass, a minimum 3-inch sand layer will be placed across the entire northwest corner using a sprayer barge or similar subaqueous capping equipment. The purpose of the thin sand layer is to stabilize the residuals so they can be effectively captured by mechanical dredging techniques.

Clean-up Pass - A clean-up pass will be conducted after completion of production passes to remove the settled residuals to the extent practicable as described above in Section 5.7.3.4.

Residual Management Layer - To overcome the potential for hydraulic heave in the northwest corner while pumping out the contact water, imported granular material will be placed atop the dredged area to an elevation of -14 ft NAVD88. This fill material will also serve as a residuals management layer to cover the remaining residuals. The initial layers will be placed using subaqueous capping techniques that distribute the material in thin lifts to effectively cover any residuals while minimizing sediment resuspension. The residual management layer will be constructed to -14 ft NAVD88, which will protect from hydraulic heave up to the top of the BMP (a river level of +10 ft NAVD88) and will provide as much as 11 ft of imported granular material over the dredged area.

Dry Excavation of Residuals on Slope - During RML placement, the water will be maintained above the elevation of the granular material as it is placed to continue to offset the heave potential. The water that is displaced by the granular material will be captured and pumped to the WTS for treatment. At elevation -17 ft NAVD88, the area can be pumped dry, exposing the upper slope of the excavation. Any remaining residuals on the upper slopes will be excavated in the dry and the RML will then be raised to the target elevation of -14 ft NAVD88, effectively covering any residuals.

5.7.3.7 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and Controls (SWPPP) and Controls

After pumping the water down, and prior to beginning construction activities in the northwest corner, soil erosion and sediment controls will be implemented. When removing waste material during the dry excavation phase, the area will need to be maintained to be free of water, as much as practicable. Measures that mayq be taken to keep water out of the open excavation include grading the excavation to drain stormwater away from the excavation and/or berm construction to prevent water from entering the excavation. The effectiveness of these water management procedures depends in large part on the northwest corner being addressed prior to the other portions of the Northern Impoundment. To the extent practicable, measures will be put in place to segregate non-contact water (water that falls on the TCRA armored cap, BMP wall soil buttress area, and/or areas that have been confirmed clean) from contact water (water that has come into direct contact with waste material) to control the spread of impacted sediments. The RC will be required to develop a SWPPP for the Northern Impoundment prior to the start of the RA.

5.8 Characterization, Loading, Transportation, and Disposal

The RD elements related to the loading, transportation and off-site disposal of waste material from the Northern Impoundment are outlined in the TODP, included as Appendix J Attachment 8 to this Revised 100% RD.

5.8.1 Waste Characterization

As summarized in Section 3.3, the waste material in the Northern Impoundment is not a listed hazardous waste under 40 CFR Part 261, Subpart D. Furthermore, waste characterization samples collected during the PDI-1, PDI-2, and SDI were analyzed for ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, and toxicity, as defined in Title 40 of CFR Part 261, Subpart C, to determine if the material was a characteristically hazardous waste. The results indicated that the material is not a characteristic hazardous waste under RCRA or TCEQ regulations.

GHD submitted a Waste Characterization Letter for the Northern Impoundment to the EPA on October 20, 2020 (GHD, 2020g). The evaluation described the detailed characterization evaluation and concluded that the waste has been characterized and classified in accordance with the RCRA regulations as non-hazardous waste. EPA concurred with the conclusions in a letter to GHD dated November 19, 2020 (EPA, 2020h). Additional testing was conducted during the Treatability Study to further classify the non-hazardous waste under applicable TCEQ regulations, 30 TAC §335.505, 335.506, and 335.508. The material was tested for leachability using TCLP. The results of the treatability testing indicate that the waste material from the Northern Impoundment is non-hazardous and is eligible for disposal as a Class II non-hazardous waste per 30 TAC §335.505, 335.506, and 335.508.

Solidification testing, in accordance with EPA Method SW-846 Test Method 9095B (i.e., paint filter test), was also conducted to determine the appropriate reagent dosages to solidify the waste material for transportation to an off-site disposal facility. Off-site disposal facilities typically require incoming waste to pass paint filter testing and sometimes meet a minimum UCS criteria. The results of the solidification testing indicated that these criteria can be met across a range of waste material percent solid scenarios utilizing Portland cement and/or lime with doses typically ranging from 0 to 20 percent solidification reagent depending on the actual percent solids present. The RC may conduct additional tests to determine the appropriate reagent dose at the time of the RA.

5.8.2 Loading, Transportation, and Disposal

5.8.2.1 Transportation Alternatives Evaluation

During the early phases of the RD, Respondents completed a transportation alternative evaluation, including barging. An RAO for the Site, as stated in the ROD, is to "*Prevent releases of dioxins and furans above cleanup levels from the former waste impoundments to sediments and surface water of the San Jacinto River*." Barging significantly increases the risk of a potential release to the river as compared to trucking due to multiple handling operations from loading and offloading material over the water. Specifically, waste material would have to be lifted up and over the BMP and over the FRP barge protection (for a significant portion of the BMP perimeter) and then placed in a barge moored in the river. This would entail waste being lifted approximately 60-feet laterally over the BMP at elevation 10 ft and over the FRP barrier at elevation 12 ft. With trucking, all loading operations would take place within the confined limits of the BMP and protected from the river. There is also the potential for a release while managing a barge that contains waste on the river, including releases during a flood event and during decontamination of the barge. A barging alternative also does not relieve the need for trucking as the evaluation determined that nearby landfills could not accommodate barge traffic directly. Barging would require an additional handling and transportation step by barging the waste material to a transfer station, offloading over the water into trucks, and then transporting waste material to a landfill by truck; consequentially increasing the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, the local community of Channelview has long expressed concern and objection to increased barge traffic on both the north and south sides of the I-10 bridge.

In addition, hydraulic pipelines were considered as another possible transportation alternative during the RD. The removal method presented in the Revised 100% RD is excavation in the dry for most of the impoundment and excavation through the water column by means of mechanical dredging in the Northwest Corner. Hydraulic pipelines are typically used in projects where hydraulic dredging is the removal method, not mechanical dredging. In order to move material via a hydraulic pipeline, the excavated material would have to be slurried by adding a significant amount of water. Once the material is transported via pipeline, the slurry would have to be dewatered prior to off-site disposal. This dewatering process would require significant property, would drastically increase the amount of contact water that would require treatment, would increase the chance of a release occurring should an overtopping event occur during dredging activities, and would likely extend the overall duration of the project. Therefore, hydraulic dredging is not considered a viable alternative for this project.

Based on further evaluation since the submittal of the 90% RD, Respondents still believe trucking to be the safest and most effective transportation method. After submittal of the 90% RD, there were additional meetings (July 28, 2022, November 15, 2022, March 22, 2023, August 16, 2023, and April 22, 2024) between the Respondents, EPA, GHD, and TxDOT regarding access to the right-of-way. In those meetings, TxDOT stated that with proper planning, access could be provided to the TxDOT right-of-way for transporting the material by truck, including during periods when the I-10 bridge replacement project was underway. With respect to the I-10 project, TxDOT has specifically and publicly expressed concern regarding barge traffic in the area of the site, and the risk of barge strikes. Specific plans will need to be developed and commitments from TxDOT will need to be obtained as details regarding the I-10 bridge replacement project become known. Further, the work on the Southern Impoundment RA has demonstrated that trucking is a safe and effective way to move material from the Site to a landfill at production rates similar to those planned for the Northern Impoundment.

5.8.2.2 Waste Material Transportation and Disposal

The total in-ground volume of material anticipated to be removed from the Northern Impoundment is approximately 230,000 CY. Removal will likely be completed over a minimum of five excavation seasons. Approximately 15,000 CY of material from the northwest corner during the first excavation season and approximately 53,000 to 55,000 CY of material will be excavated, transported, and handled over the course of each subsequent excavation season. The tentative seasonal cells have been sized based on the amount of waste material that could reasonably be excavated and transported for disposal during one excavation season, although there will be many factors during implementation, including weather and access issues involving the TxDOT ROW, that will determine the actual productivity rate and volumes removed during each excavation season. It should also be noted that the actual volume sent for disposal may be larger due to the addition of solidification reagent if the waste material is too wet (i.e., cannot pass the paint filter test) for transport to the disposal facilities. Based on solidification testing discussed in Section 3.3.5, it is estimated that the use of reagent could increase the total volume for disposal by approximately 10 percent or 23,000 CY. This could increase the total volume for disposal to approximately 253,000 CY.

Because of limited access and staging area at the Northern Impoundment, the transportation and off-site disposal of waste material may be a limiting factor to the overall volume that can be successfully removed in an excavation season. The single-entry point onto the Northern Impoundment is the existing road within the shared TxDOT ROW. An agreement will need to be reached with TxDOT for the use of that road during the Northern Impoundment RA. TxDOT currently uses that road to access the San Jacinto River I-10 Bridge for maintenance, but as previously referenced in Section 5.4 and discussed in detail in Section 5.11.3, TxDOT is planning to replace the bridge within the next two to three years. The Revised 100% RD assumes that there would be land access to the Northern Impoundment using the TxDOT ROW and that TxDOT will permit improvements to the existing access road, such as grading and widening, to allow for two-way traffic on that road. Even with these improvements, there will still be only a single land access point to the Northern Impoundment. The limited working areas, both on and adjacent to the Northern Impoundment, restrict the space available for truck staging, loading, and turnarounds.

One of the major factors influencing cell sizing is the ability to successfully transport and dispose of all removed waste material within an excavation season. Several off-site disposal facilities are currently under evaluation as disposal sites for the RA waste. These facilities are varying distances from the Northern Impoundment, ranging from 60 to 120 miles away. The transport distance to the furthest of these facilities was used as the design basis to influence the target cell size and excavation volume that can be completed in one excavation season. Based on the longest expected distance (120 miles, one way), it is estimated that haul trucks could complete a maximum of two roundtrips, or "turns," per working day. Additional factors that were considered when determining the anticipated transportation production rates and cell sizing were based on experience with similar projects, and included anticipated downtime related to mechanical issues, traffic delays, bridge or roadway closures, and other factors. The limited number of truck turns, limited area for staging and loading haul trucks, and anticipated delays all influence the estimated volume of waste material that can be transported and disposed of during an excavation season.

5.9 Water Management

This section describes the basis of design and process design for the WTS that is proposed to treat water generated during the remediation of the site. The process design is based on the successful processes used during the remediation of the South Impoundment. The processes include a lamella filter, multimedia filters, 10 µm bag/cartridge filters, and 1 µm bag/cartridge filters to remove suspended solids and associated adsorbed dioxins and furans. In addition, granular activated carbon (GAC) is included to remove residual/dissolved dioxins and furans. Like the South Impoundment remediation, treated water will be held in the effluent tanks and analyzed for the contaminants of concern. The water will only be discharged to the San Jacinto River if it is verified to meet the ARARs. The system has provisions to retreat water that does not meet the ARARs, however, all treated effluent generated during the remediation of the South Impoundment complied with the limits established in the ARARs.

Following installation of the BMP, river water behind the BMP down to 2 ft above the lowest elevation at the time of dewatering will be treated by the non-contact water treatment system and returned to the river as described below and in the attached design drawings. Water in the BMP within 2 ft of the lowest elevation at the time of the dewatering

activity and any other contact water generated during construction will be treated by contact water treatment system as described below and in attached design documents. At the conclusion of each excavation season, the exposed areas of the excavation will be covered.

During excavation activities, measures will be taken to segregate stormwater that comes into contact with impacted material from clean stormwater that only contacts TCRA armored cap or confirmed clean excavation areas. All contact water will be treated through the WTS.

The contact water treatment process will include removal, treatment, and discharge of contact water generated during the RA to allow excavation to continue. The water will be pumped from the excavation area to storage tank(s), treated to remove dioxins and metals below discharge criteria, and then discharged to the river. This section describes the basis of design and design elements for the WTS.

5.9.1 WTS Basis of Design

5.9.1.1 Contact Water Characterization

As described in Section 3.4, water treatability testing was performed in accordance with the TSWP (GHD, 2019b) to inform the RD of the WTS. The results from treatability testing indicated that the average TSS concentration for the simulated Northern Impoundment contact water sample could be as high as 4,600 mg/L. This represents a maximum expected value since waste solids were actively mixed with water in the pilot test excavation to increase TSS concentrations to create this contact water. This worst-case TSS value was used as the basis of design for water treatment.

Treatability testing results indicated that the majority of metals and dioxins found in contact water were associated with the suspended solids and were not found in the dissolved phase.

Seepage water that entered the pilot test excavation during the PDI-2 was characterized to determine the required treatment if a sufficient volume accumulates in the excavation during the RA.

Water characterization results from PDI-2 are presented in Table 3-2.

5.9.1.2 Parameters Requiring Treatment

As described in Section 3.4, discharge criteria were estimated for COPCs in the Northern Impoundment; those discharge limits are presented in Table 3-2. Dioxins and several metals, including copper, lead, and zinc, were detected in the simulated contact water sample above estimated discharge criteria. Dioxins were detected in the seepage water at levels above the ML, but no other COPCs were above discharge criteria. Treatability test results indicate that metals and dioxins are primarily associated with solids, demonstrating that a treatment system that removes solids should reduce COPCs to levels below the discharge criteria.

5.9.1.3 Treatment Process

The WTS is proposed to treat contact water generated during the RA at the Northern Impoundment. Contact water may be generated from the excavation, mechanical dredging, stormwater, seepage, overburden stockpiles, dewatering activities, WTS containment, and equipment decontamination. Contact water will be pumped to large, aboveground storage tanks. Water from the storage tanks will be processed through the WTS. WTS treatment processes will include chemically enhanced solids precipitation/flocculation, gravity settling, multimedia filtration, cartridge/bag filtration, and GAC adsorption. Treated water will be stored in large effluent tanks and tested before discharging to the river. Based upon water treatability testing results, described in Sections 3.4 and 3.6, the process described herein has been proven effective in laboratory, pilot testing, and remediation of the South Impoundment at reducing concentrations of COPCs in water to levels below their respective discharge limits.

5.9.1.4 Water Volume and Storage

For the Northern Impoundment, contact water includes any water from the following:

- 3. *Rainwater:* water from any rain event that contacts impacted material.
	- a. Rainfall will comprise a majority of the contact water that will be generated.
	- b. Although measures will be taken to segregate contact water from non-contact water, the storage and treatment capacities included herein were designed to account for a worst-case assumption that all stormwater that falls within the BMP area is managed as contact water. The area inside the BMP is \sim 730,000 square feet (ft²).
	- c. All rainfall collected inside the WTS containment areas will be treated by the WTS system. The WTS containment area is \sim 290,000 ft².
	- d. Each area is multiplied by the 99th Percentile for a 24-hour storm event during the period from November through July of 9.3 inches/day.
	- e. The predicted contact water generated from the 99th Percentile for a 24-hour storm event is ~790,000 ft³ or ~5.9 million gallons.
	- f. The estimated volume of contact water generated by rainfall during the period from November through July is 22 million gallons. This is based on the average total rainfall during the that period from 1880 to the present.
- 4. **Water in Excavation:** Water that contacts impacted material.
	- a. Any water that contacts impacted material
	- b. Water within the BMP below a level that is 2 ft above the lowest elevation at the time of dewatering non-contact water at the start of construction or non-contact water after an overtopping event, has been agreed to be treated as contact water.
	- c. During the first year of construction, contact water is estimated to be \sim 3.9 million gallons.

5. Mechanical Dredge Water

- a. During the first excavation season, a mechanical dredge shall be used for part of the excavation.
- a. Contact water will be generated by the dredging process and the clean-up pass.
- b. The estimated volume of water generated by mechanical dredging is \sim 240,000 ft³ or \sim 1.8 million gallons.
- 6. *Equipment Decontamination Water:* water that will be associated with the washing/rinsing of equipment (e.g., truck wash).

7. Mounded Water:

- a. Mounded water will primarily be generated at the start of excavation as the mounded water drains into the excavation.
- b. The following assumptions were used to model the steady state flow of mounded water into the excavation.
	- Mounded Water is in a cube/block above the low point of the excavation (-15 ft NAVD88)
	- Groundwater level is assumed to start at 1.5 ft NAVD88 across the block
	- Block is 750 ft long, 600 ft wide, and has 16.5 ft of water column height above the river bottom
	- All water will flow to the side of the cubic block facing this low point
	- No base flow from stored water below the river (i.e., cofferdam is watertight)
	- Homogeneous hydraulic conductivity of 3 ft per day (ft/day) across the block
- c. Modelling predicts the highest flowrate of mounded water into the excavation will be ~90,000 gpd.
- d. The estimated volume of mounded water that will flow into excavation during excavation from November through July is 18 million gallons.
- e. Daily and annual mounded water discharge will be reevaluated after the first excavation season.
- 8. *Persistent Infiltration:* water that infiltrates through impacted soil from the river when the base of the excavation is below the average mean sea level of the river (i.e., 1.5 ft NAVD88), however since the BMP wall will be driven into the underlying Beaumont Clay, such persistent infiltration is assumed to be insignificant.
- a. The BMP is assumed to be watertight and is keyed into the Beaumont Clay. Therefore, persistent infiltration is assumed to be insignificant.
- b. Water that infiltrates through clean soils or TCRA cap material is not considered contact water unless comingled with contact water.
- 9. *Miscellaneous Contact Water:* other water that comes into contact with waste material not associated with water types listed above. This includes water from an overtopping event that contacts contaminated surfaces or water generated by comingling of non-contact and contact water.

For the Northern Impoundment, non-contact water includes any water from the following:

- 1. *Non-Contact Water***:** water removed from the BMP that does not come in contact with impacted material and is 2 feet above the lowest elevation at the time of the dewatering activity.
	- a. The estimated volume of water generated during the first year of construction is ~19.4 million gallons, assuming the BMP is closed at low water level (~1.5 ft NAVD88).
	- b. Rainfall that does not comingle with contact water and does not come into contact with impacted materials.
	- c. Non-contact water will be processed to remove solids by the non-contact water treatment system. See Drawings P-001 in Appendix G for a process flow diagram (PFD) of the non-contact water treatment system.

A summary of the maximum expected contact water generated, shown in gpd, from each source is provided in Table 5-I, below.

Influent Sources	Estimated Water Generation	Notes
Contact Rainfall in BMP	4.2 million gallons after a 9.3 inch 24-hour rain event.	Assumes all rain that falls within the BMP could be contact water. Area $= 730,000$ ft ² . The 99 th percentile 24-hour rain event (1930 to 2019) = 9.3 inches
Rain Collection - WTS and Effluent Containment Areas	1.7 million gallons after a 9.3 inch 24-hour rain event.	Assumes all rain that falls within the containment areas could be contact water. Combined area = $290,000$ ft ² . The 99 th percentile 24-hour rain event (1930 to 2019) = 9.3 inches
Contact Water (at start of construction)	3.9 million gallons	Contact water generated at the start of construction when the area behind the BMP is being dewatered for the last 2 feet above the lowest elevation.
Mechanical Dredge Water	1.8 million gallons	During the first year of excavation, a mechanical dredge will be used.
Mounded Water (gpd)	90,000 GPD	See assumption above
Truck Wash	Minimal volume	Assumed to be accounted for in the BMP-area contact water

Table 5-I Summary of Maximum Expected Contact Water Generated

Design Treatment Capacity of WTS

The design treatment rate for the WTS is 300 GPM with an influent storage capacity of 2.1 million gallons. The WTS was designed with treatment and storage capacity to dewater, store, and/or treat the contact water from the entire BMP area in approximately 8-15 days after a $99th$ percentile 24-hour rain event (1930 to 2019) = 9.3 inches. Dewatering time will be dependent on treatment flowrate and hours of operation or the WTS. The dewatering time assumes a laboratory turnaround time of 7 days. Since the 90th percentile 24-hour rain events will be less than two inches, the contact water accumulated in the entire BMP area can dewatered, stored, and/or treated in less than 24 hours for most rain events.

At the start of construction, the non-contact water (~19.4 million gallons) will be treated with the non-contact WTS at a high treatment rate (3,000 to 4,000 GPM). Depending on the treatment flowrate and hours of operation, the non-contact water is expected to be removed from within the BMP in approximately 2-3 weeks.

At the start of construction, the contact water $(-3.9$ million gallons) will be treated by the WTS at design rate of -300 GPM. Depending on the treatment flowrate and hours of operation the contact water is expected to be removed from within the BMP in approximately 1-2 weeks. The dewatering time assumes a laboratory turnaround time of 7 days.

5.9.2 Treatment System Design

A treatment system with multiple processes will be employed to reduce concentrations of suspended solids, dioxins and furans, and metals in the contact water to meet discharge criteria.

- *Non-Contact Water Treatment* The treatment system will use pumps, influent storage tanks, multimedia filters, and bag/cartridge filters to treat non-contact water generated during the RA by reducing suspended solids before discharging the treated water back to the river via a diffuser. No storage of treated non-contact water will occur.
- *Contact Water Treatment -* The treatment system will use pumps, influent storage tanks, chemical addition, inclined plate clarifier, sludge dewatering, multimedia filters, bag/cartridge filters, and GAC to treat contact water generated during the RA. The treated water will be stored in effluent storage tanks and tested for compliance with discharge criteria. Treated water that meets discharge criteria will be discharged to the river via a diffuser. If treated water does not meet discharge criteria, the water will be recirculated through the contact water treatment system. Any non-contact water that mixes with contact water or has come into contact or mixes with waste materials will be managed as contact water.

The treatment process is anticipated to include the following unit processes:

- *Influent Storage* Two (2) B-31 Lake Tanks (1.33 million gallons of working capacity each) are proposed to store water prior to treatment. Storage tanks will allow for water to be removed from the excavation area and stored prior to treatment. No mixing is proposed for these tanks. Some TSS settling will occur in these tanks and will be removed as needed.
- *Chemical Addition* Coagulant and flocculant will be used to precipitate and flocculate TSS and contaminants of concern. Organosulfide, acid and/or caustic may be used if needed for metals removal. Chemicals will be added to mixing tanks using metering pumps. The mixing tanks will have adequate residence time to allow for adequate solids and floc formation.
- *Bulk Solids Removal Using an Inclined Plate Clarifier* Conditioned solids out of the flocculation tank will be settled in an inclined plate clarifier. An inclined plate clarifier is a vessel which includes multiple parallel plates at an angle greater than 45 degrees. As solid particles settle and contact the plates, the particles will be directed by gravity to the bottom of the clarifier, where the solids stream will be continuously removed. Because of the high surface area provided by the plates, an inclined plate clarifier requires a smaller footprint compared to a circular clarifier.
- *Sludge Dewatering* **-** Settled solids from the inclined plate clarification (underflow) will be pumped into a sludge dewatering box where solids will be dewatered by gravity. The liquid that drains out of the solids will be pumped back to the influent storage tanks for reprocessing. The dewatered solids will be moved to the excavation solids dewatering area and disposed of with other solids from the excavation.
- *Multimedia Filtration* Clarified water from the inclined plate clarifier (overflow) will be pumped through the multimedia filtration system, which is a series of pressure vessels filled with media of different densities and particle sizes. Typically, anthracite, sand, and garnet are used. Larger solids will be captured by the largest media (anthracite). Smaller particles will be captured further into the bed by intermediate media (sand), with the smallest solids captured by the smallest media (garnet). As solids build up in the filter, the pressure across the filter will increase, which requires backwashing to remove the collected particles. The backwashing process will use a forward feed process that does not require a backwash tank or backwash pump.
- *Bag/Cartridge Filtration* Filtrate from multimedia filters will then enter bag filters to remove residual solids. Bag filters use fabric to collect solids as water is pumped through the filter. The filter is designed to collect particles larger than the specified opening in the filter. Filtrate will enter the two sets of filters, the first with a filtration size of 10 µm, followed by the second with a filtration size of 1 µm. Both filters will be specified to have a minimum of

95% removal efficiency for particles at the given micron rating. Higher removal efficiencies are obtained for larger sized particles.

- *GAC Filtration* GAC is a form of carbon that is processed to have small pores that increase the surface area available for adsorption. Residual organic compounds (e.g., dioxins, furans) in the filtrate from the bag filters will be removed with GAC.
- *Effluent Storage* Four (4) B-36 Lake Tanks (1.51 million gallons of working capacity each) are proposed to store water after treatment. Storage tanks will allow for water to be stored while test results are pending.

Details of the basis of design of the WTS are provided below. Note, that the WTS design is subject to changes based on field performance.

5.9.2.1 Major Equipment List and Sizing Basis

The major WTS components and basis of sizing are detailed in Table 5-2. This includes sizing criteria assumptions, design value, and notes for each major equipment and process component.

5.9.2.2 Water Treatment Equipment Layout

The WTS, including the two (2) 1.33 million-gallon water storage tanks, water treatment equipment, and space for a second treatment system, will be staged within a lined containment area of approximately 100,000 ft². The effluent storage includes four (4), B-36 Lake Tanks (1.51 million gallons) and return pumping system. The WTS and effluent storage tank containment areas will be surrounded by an earthen berm covered with an impermeable geomembrane. The top of containment berms will be at or above +10 ft NAVD88. The layout of WTS and Effluent Storage Areas are provided in the attached design drawings.

At the time of the Revised 100% RD submittal, property access negotiations are still ongoing, so the location of the WTS has not yet been determined.

5.9.2.3 Specification and Equipment Data Sheet List

Detailed design drawings associated with the WTS, technical specifications detailing the potential water treatment equipment, consumables, staging/sequencing, and operation are included in Appendices G and H, respectively.

5.9.3 Operations and Maintenance Requirements

The WTS associated with the Northern Impoundment RA will operate intermittently primarily based on the need to treat contact water. A preliminary discussion of the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) requirements (including consumables and utilities) associated with the WTS is provided, below. In addition, the water treatment system operations include the following:

- The contractor operating the WTS (WTS Contractor), which may also be the RC, shall be a licensed operator as required.
- The WTS Contractor shall include provisions for back-up generator(s) as needed.
- The WTS Contractor shall provide a plan to protect equipment if a severe storm is predicted. Preparation may include provisions such as draining equipment, extra heaters, and/or moving equipment offsite until the storm passes.

5.9.3.1 Consumables

Effective treatment of contact water will require the use of several water treatment chemicals to facilitate solids separation, metals precipitation, and pH adjustment. A brief discussion of the water treatment chemicals is provided, below. All water treatment chemicals will be stored within sufficient secondary containment at the work site.

Coagulant - Coagulants (poly aluminum chloride or equivalent) will be dosed to facilitate enhanced removal of metals (through co-precipitation) and suspended solids in the inclined plate clarifier of the WTS. Required type and dosages

will be confirmed based on on-site jar testing. It is anticipated that coagulant will be delivered to the work site in intermediate bulk container (IBC) totes (~300 gallons).

Polymer - It is anticipated that liquid polymers will be utilized to enhance the settling of suspended solids and precipitated metals in the inclined plate clarifier of the WTS. Polymer may also be required to enhance the dewatering of chemical sludge in the sludge dewatering boxes. Polymer will be activated/diluted prior to dosing into the water treatment process. Required type and dosages will be confirmed based on on-site jar testing. It is anticipated that polymer will be delivered to the work site in drums or IBC totes.

Organosulfide - Organosulfide is a flocculant that is a commonly used water treatment additive for removal of metals (via sulfide precipitation). Organosulfide may be added if influent soluble metals concentrations exceed the discharge criteria. Precipitated metals may be removed in the inclined plate clarifier and filtration processes of the WTS. It is anticipated that organosulfide will be delivered to the work site in IBC totes. No organosulfide was required during the Southern Impoundment remediation.

Acid/Caustic - Acid and/or caustic may be added to the water to adjust the water pH to optimize metals removal, enhance the effectiveness of the added coagulants, and/or return the treated water pH to within the discharge criteria range. It is anticipated that acid/caustic will be delivered to the work site in IBC totes. No acid or caustic were required during the Southern Impoundment remediation.

Bag/Cartridge Filters - Bag and cartridge filters with minimum 95% removal efficiency will be used. As the bag and cartridge filters are fouled (with captured solids), they will need to be removed and replaced.

GAC - The proposed GAC treatment vessels will be filled with bitumen-based GAC media. The GAC vessels will be configured in a lead- lag arrangement. Effluent quality of the lead GAC vessel will be monitored for chemical breakthrough (i.e., detection of COPCs in effluent) to identify the need for media replacement.

5.9.3.2 Power

The WTS (in addition to the other facilities) in the Northern Impoundment will require temporary source(s) of electricity for operation. The power requirements will be confirmed by the selected RC and will be obtained by temporary power connections from the local utility and/or by portable generators.

5.9.3.3 Labor

The WTS is expected to operate in a semi-automatic mode on an intermittent basis (i.e., after a rain event). The WTS will operate primarily during the initial phase of an excavation season to dewater the excavation cell and during precipitation events; thus, there may be periods of time in which the WTS is idle and treatment system operators are not required. Key process decisions and operations will be executed with oversight by the RC's treatment system operators. When the system is being operated, it is expected to require one to three operators, depending on the activities being performed.

5.9.3.4 Residuals

The operation of the WTS will result in the generation of a number of residuals.

Tank Liners: The liners from the Lake Tanks will need to be disposed of at the conclusion of each excavation season. The liners will be characterized and disposed of as indicated in the TODP (Appendix J, Attachment 8), which references the applicable federal and state requirements.

Solids in Lake Tanks: Solids that collect in the Lake Tanks will need to be disposed of at the conclusion of each excavation season. The solids will be characterized and disposed of as indicated in the TODP, which references the applicable federal and state requirements.

Chemical Sludge: The contact water is expected to contain solids from the waste material in the excavation. It is anticipated that coagulants, organosulfide, and/or polymers will result in the precipitation of metals and removal of suspended solids. The resulting sludge will be withdrawn as the underflow of the inclined plate clarifier. The settled solids will be directed to sludge dewatering boxes where it is estimated that it will be gravity-thickened to a solids concentration of up to 6 to 8 percent (mass basis). Treatability testing showed that the clarifier underflow can be thickened easily. However, provisions for polymer addition are being included in the design to provide enhanced thickening. During operation of the WTS, thickened chemical sludge may be generated at a rate of approximately 700 pounds (lbs) per hour (dry solids basis). Once dewatered, the sludge dewatering boxes will be transported to the impacted solids dewatering pad for solidification and off-site disposal.

Spent Filter Bags/Cartridges: Filter bags/cartridges will become fouled with solids as the treatment system operates. These fouled filters will need to be removed and replaced. The spent filter bags will be characterized and disposed of as indicated in the TODP, which references the applicable federal and state requirements.

Exhausted GAC Media: GAC media has a finite capacity to remove dissolved constituents (including metals and dioxins and furans) from water. As previously noted, the GAC vessels will be operated in a lead-lag configuration. The discharges of both the lead and lag GAC vessels will be monitored to identify when the GAC media is exhausted. When concentrations of COPCs are detected at elevated levels in the water in the lead GAC vessel, the media in this vessel will be removed and replaced. Once back in service, this vessel will become the lag vessel, and the previous lag vessel will be operated as the lead vessel. The spent media will either be regenerated or will be characterized and disposed of as indicated in the TODP, which references the applicable federal and state requirements.

It is anticipated that all of the spent residuals will be disposed of as RCRA non-hazardous waste, as was the case for these spent residuals during the Southern Impoundment RA.

5.9.4 Compliance Monitoring

Routine effluent compliance monitoring requirements associated with the WTS are expected to include pH, TSS, metals, and dioxins and furans. Treated effluent samples from the WTS will need to be collected from a specified compliance monitoring point on the effluent line to the San Jacinto River. In accordance with 30 TAC Part 1 Chapter 319 Subchapter A Rule 319.5, Section A, (30 TAC 319.5 (a)), samples and measurements of the effluent will be taken at a location following the last treatment unit. Monitoring frequencies and sample types from 30 TAC 319.9 (c) Table 3 (for treatment units with effluent flow from 0.50 million gpd to less than 2.00 million gpd) are identified in Table 5-J, below:

Notes:

- 1 Samples will be collected from effluent storage tanks.
- 2 Flow rate and pH data will be collected on-site using real-time in-line monitors.

Process monitoring samples will also be collected within the treatment process to inform necessary operational adjustments, such as chemical dose refinement. During pilot testing, clarifier effluent and filter effluent turbidity were measured to evaluate performance of the system and adjust chemical dosage rates. Real-time turbidity readings (post clarifier, post filtration, post GAC) will be used as an indicator for operational performance as related to TSS and dioxin and furans. In addition, process monitoring samples will be collected within the treatment process (e.g., influent, post clarifier, post filtration, post lead GAC column) to inform necessary operational adjustments, such as chemical dose optimization and GAC change out. As discussed, turbidity will be monitored through online instrumentation to evaluate treatment system performance and adjust operations as needed. Actions to be taken in response to operational parameter monitoring may be incorporated into a future treatment system monitoring plan. Actions may include turning off pumps upon high turbidity.

Determination of discharge criteria is discussed in Section 3.4.1, with specific criteria specified in Table 3-2.

5.10 Monitoring and Controls

Monitoring and controls may be implemented during the RA at the Northern Impoundment to prevent releases of impacted material to the surrounding land, water, or air. The specific controls will be developed and/or refined in conjunction with the RC and will be included in revisions or modifications to the SWMP (Appendix J; Attachment 5) and CQA/QCP (Appendix J; Attachment 6). A summary is included in the following sections.

5.10.1 Dust Control

During implementation, the RC will be required to use methods that minimize production of dust from construction operations. The RC may be instructed to use potable water for potential misting operations to prevent airborne dust from dispersing into the atmosphere. Further detail is included in the SWMP (Appendix J; Attachment 5).

5.10.2 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and Controls (SWPPP) and BMPs

Prior to beginning construction activities on the Northern Impoundment, soil erosion and sediment controls may be implemented. These structures would either be put and remain in place and be maintained throughout the implementation of the RA or may be put in place and maintained for a given work season.

When removing waste material, the excavation will need to be maintained to be free of water as much as possible. Within the confines of the BMP around the seasonal cell, measures that may be taken to keep water out of the open excavation include grading the excavation to drain stormwater away from the excavation and/or berm construction to prevent water from entering the excavation. To the extent possible, measures will be put in place to segregate non-contact water (water that falls on the TCRA armored cap, BMP Soil Buttress area, and/or areas that have been confirmed clean) from contact water (water that has come into direct contact with waste material). In addition to stormwater controls outside of the excavation limits, the RC will provide, operate, and maintain dewatering equipment appropriately sized to maintain an excavation to be free of water, to the extent possible. The RC may be required to ensure that the pumping equipment, machinery, and tankage be in good working condition for potential emergencies, including power outages, and that appropriately trained workers be employed to operate the pumping equipment. All contact water will be pumped to the water storage tanks for eventual treatment and discharge.

The RC will also be responsible for managing any stormwater that may come into contact with temporarily staged and stockpiled excavated material. The dewatering pads and decontamination pads will be maintained by the RC to contain, collect, and transfer contact water to the water storage tanks for treatment. Stormwater that has not been in contact with impacted material would be discharged in accordance with the SWPPP that the RC will be required to develop. Details of the dewatering pads, overburden stockpiles, and decontamination pads are shown on Drawings C-24 through C-26 in Appendix G.

Excavation dewatering may employ methods such as sheeting and shoring; groundwater control systems; surface or free water control systems employing ditches, diversions, drains, pipes and/or pumps; and any other measures necessary to enable the removal of waste material in as dry of a condition, as possible. The RC will be required to use best management practices for the provision of all dewatering and water removal activities. A SWPPP will be developed for the Northern Impoundment excavation program prior to commencement of any waste material removal work. Further detail is included in the SWMP (Appendix J; Attachment 5)
5.10.3 Odors

There is potential for odors resulting from the Northern Impoundment RA or associated activities. Odors are most likely to occur during excavation activities when previously buried material are unearthed and exposed to air. As needed, the RC will implement odor mitigation and suppression measures during the implementation of the Northern Impoundment RA. Further detail is included in the SWMP (Appendix J; Attachment 5)

5.10.4 Turbidity Controls and Monitoring

The BMP and FRP barrier wall will be placed outside the TCRA armored cap, and thus will not be installed through waste material. Turbidity controls (e.g., turbidity curtains) are planned to be utilized during installation and removal of the BMP and FRP barrier walls as a construction best practice to limit the potential for off-site migration of turbidity. Turbidity monitoring is also planned to be utilized during installation and removal of the sheet and FRP piles as a construction best practice to compare downstream turbidity values with upstream values to monitor any significant contribution from BMP and FRP barrier wall installation and removal to downstream turbidity.

It is anticipated that BMP and FRP barrier wall installation would proceed incrementally in segments from upstream to downstream locations so that vessel movement is aided by the downstream currents. The turbidity curtains would be employed at locations where water flow is away from the work and has the potential for turbidity to be transported with the flow away from the work site. This would be the case for much of the area around the Northern Impoundment, from the northwest corner, along the north and down on the eastern side. On the western side of the Northern Impoundment, flow appears to be towards the impoundment at the corner furthest from I-10. Flow then decreases in location closer to I-10 where water depths are low and a backwater condition exists. The configuration of the turbidity curtain would be such that turbidity migration is mitigated and flow is parallel to the curtain to the extent possible.

During the SDI, and as required by the EPA, turbidity curtains were deployed in the northwest corner of the Northern Impoundment while soil borings were being installed. The initial plan was to utilize impermeable curtains that spanned the full extent of the water column (6 to 14 ft), but due to higher-than-expected water velocities in that area, it was not possible to maintain that configuration and the curtains had to be realigned to use shorter curtains across the deeper areas (ones that did not extend to the river bottom). In light of these challenges, a double layer, permeable Type III curtain extending to one-half the water column depth is being proposed for use during BMP and FRP barrier wall installation and removal. The Type III silt curtain is the most robust class that is commercially available. The use of a permeable curtain of manageable length is expected to help maintain placement and alignment of the curtain.

In addition to the use of silt curtains, monitoring will be performed to confirm that elevated levels of turbidity are not being generated during installation and removal of the sheet piles. Details of this monitoring are provided in the SWMP (Appendix J; Attachment 5). The turbidity monitoring equipment will consist of a buoy with solar charging capabilities, a water quality sonde for collecting turbidity readings, and a dual anchor to the riverbed. Turbidity measurements will be collected in NTUs using a data logger and transmitted in intervals to a database using cellular telemetry. The equipment will also contain a built-in GPS to record and transmit its location.

One turbidity monitoring buoy would be placed upstream of the work to collect background turbidity levels and another one would be placed downstream. Turbidity levels from both monitors would be compared to determine whether the downstream values exceed the upstream by a set threshold. If levels above the thresholds persist, the RC will investigate the source of the turbidity and address it as appropriate (if within RC's control). Another monitor would be utilized as an early warning monitor that will be maintained in close proximity to the work as it progresses. The data will be used internally by the RC to provide an early indication of changes in typical turbidity readings as part of an adaptive management approach. Turbidity monitoring data would be collected once per hour at the start of work. If turbidity levels are below the thresholds included in the SWMP (Appendix J; Attachment 5), the monitoring frequency will be reduced to once per day thereafter.

5.11 Site Restoration

5.11.1 Removal of the BMP

In all areas, except for the southern wall, the BMP wall will be removed once all waste has been excavated. The BMP will be disassembled in a similar but reversed sequence to how it was installed. The sheet piles can seize or get hung-up in the interlocks due to corrosion over time or due to the presence of the sealant specified to avoid seepage through the interlocks. In such cases, complete removal of the BMP wall may not be possible without tearing the sheets and the sheet piles will be cut or driven below the mudline.

The recently excavated and exposed bank along the southern extent of the impoundment will need to be supported. Therefore, the BMP sheet piles in this area will be left in place but cut down to existing grade. A soil embankment will be placed along the southern edge of the excavation limit by sloping back into the river at an approximate 4:1 slope. Once the buttress is established to elevation 0 ft, the fill within the BMP walls will be removed to elevation 0 ft along with the tie-rods connecting the two walls. The BMP sheet piles will be cut from top of wall to the lowest of elevation +2 ft or at approximately 1 ft depth below the final grade. The fill material between the walls will be reinstalled to the new established top of wall elevation.

Erosion and scour protection (i.e., rip rap) will be placed at specified locations to protect the buttressed shoreline and prevent washout. Hydrodynamic modelling was performed to evaluate the potential scour along the end-state southern edge of the excavation to support the design of the armament of the backfilled slope. The results of the modelling are included in the Hydrodynamic Modelling Report, included as Appendix F.

5.11.2 TxDOT Access Road

Upon completion of the RA activities and removal of the BMP, the TxDOT access road would be restored to pre-construction conditions. This would include removing the access ramp over the BMP, removing additional aggregate fill used to raise the grade of the access road, and grading areas adjacent to the access road. Any modifications to the end-state of the access road will be coordinated through TxDOT.

5.12 Technical Challenges Associated with Design and Implementation

The remedial alternative for the Northern Impoundment outlined in the ROD was based upon data collected during the RI in 2011 and 2012. At the time the ROD was issued in 2017, a limited amount of subsurface data had been collected from the Northern Impoundment. Subsequent analytical results from the post-ROD PDI and SDI demonstrate that the remedial alternatives considered in the Feasibility Study (FS) and the ROD were not informed by the actual conditions that have since been determined to exist at the Northern Impoundment. The actual conditions have in turn had a significant impact on a number of elements of the RD, including: (1) the type and alignment of the BMP wall required to enclose the Northern Impoundment; (2) the safe excavation of impacted material "in the dry" without the risk of hydraulic heave in locations across the Northern Impoundment particularly in the Northwest Corner (3) the safe excavation of impacted material "in the dry" without the BMP being overtopped by the San Jacinto River during a weather event; and (4) a significant extension of the time required to implement the RD.

In addition, the ROD outlines the need to prevent releases to the San Jacinto River from the Northern Impoundment during construction; however, due to the sheer nature and location of the remedial alternative being imposed by the ROD, there is inherent risk associated with its undertaking causing a release to the river during construction that cannot be entirely eliminated during the design. The below section is intended to identify these technical implementation challenges that will impose risks for this project for all parties planning to undertake its construction.

5.12.1 Use of TxDOT ROW

There are two aspects of site access involving the TxDOT ROW that create technical challenges with respect to the implementation of the Revised 100% RD. One involves whether the TxDOT ROW road that borders the Northern Impoundment to the south and is essential to the execution of the RA, will be available to provide access for vehicles into the Northern Impoundment. The second involves whether TxDOT will allow the southern extent of the BMP wall to be constructed within its ROW.

Use of TxDOT ROW to Access the Site

The TxDOT ROW road is the only route to access the Northern Impoundment by land. During the RA, thousands of haul trucks will be required to drive onto the Northern Impoundment to transport the waste material offsite for disposal. This is in addition to access and egress of general site equipment and personnel. To support these activities, the TxDOT ROW road will need to be widened, and the elevation will be increased such that the road will serve as a ramp up over the +10 ft NAVD88 BMP wall into the Northern Impoundment to allow trucks to drive in and out.

Plans by TxDOT to replace and widen the I10 Bridge were not known or addressed in the ROD. TxDOT has not yet completed its design of the replacement bridge or established a construction schedule. Over the course of the RD, the Respondents have been in regular contact with TxDOT about plans for the Northern Impoundment RD and learned from TxDOT that construction of a replacement bridge could begin as soon as 2027 and could last up to 5 years. Given the time period for the RA, the implementation of the two projects will overlap. The concurrent construction of these two major infrastructure projects in the same location is a technical challenge for the implementation of the RA that will remain once this Revised 100% RD is finalized. This challenge will necessarily result in changes to the design and intended plans for the remedial alternative during construction to accommodate the TxDOT project. The preliminary schedule for implementation would necessarily be impacted to the extent there are periods of time during which TxDOT is unwilling to allow use of the ROW for ingress and egress to the Northern Impoundment.

Further, this design relies on TxDOT approving use of its ROW for construction and installation of the BMP, a portion of the BMP wall will be constructed on the ROW and will need to remain there throughout the period of implementation of the RD.

The Respondents were previously informed by the EPA that TxDOT has committed to work with the Respondents to provide access. As part of their efforts to obtain access, and prior to and following submission of the 100% RD, the Respondents attempted to engage TxDOT in discussions regarding the specific timing and terms under which it will allow the Respondents to use the ROW for purposes of the RA. TxDOT, however, has not been in a position to engage in such discussions. As Respondents are still working to obtain TxDOT's approval to use the ROW; the need for access therefore remains dependent upon TxDOT approval.

5.12.2 Excavation Limits

Effects of Undefined Excavation Limits on BMP Design

The absence of a predefined excavation bottom elevation remains a technical challenge in relation to the BMP design. The elevation (or depth) of the required excavation has a direct effect on the design of the BMP and dictates the type, size, and tip elevations of the pilings. While the double wall system included in the Revised 100% RD can accommodate limited variable excavation elevations, there remains a limit to how many feet of additional excavation it can support without creating conditions that could impair the structural integrity of the BMP. To accommodate this unknown, the entire BMP has been designed to accommodate at least two feet of overexcavation, though overexcavation will remain technically challenging in many places due to the risk of hydraulic heave. In addition, to further reduce the risk from this challenge, the FSP will enable confirmation of excavation bottoms prior to excavation.

Effects of Undefined Excavation Limits on Schedule

The absence of a predefined excavation bottom elevation also presents a challenge in relation to the schedule for the RA. If during the RA, additional volume of material is identified above 30 ng/kg TEQ_{DF,M}, then the schedule for the RA construction will be longer as more material will be removed and there could also be delays as post-excavation confirmation sampling results are obtained. This would impose the many challenges (e.g., risk of flooding) on the project to be sustained over longer time periods, compounding the risk. Therefore, to further reduce the risk from this challenge and critical to the successful implementation of the Revised 100% RD, the FSP has been developed to enable the confirmation of excavation bottoms prior to excavation through the use of pre-excavation sampling.

Risk of Hydraulic Heave

Based on data from the SDI (combined with RI and PDI data), it was found that waste material extends to much deeper depths than was known at the time of the ROD. Considering these deeper impacts, significant geotechnical evaluation work was conducted to better understand the stratigraphy and geological conditions and how they could affect implementation of the remedy during excavation in the dry, as it is prescribed by the ROD. The potential for hydraulic heave during excavation in the dry was evaluated across the entire Northern Impoundment during this design and determined to exist in several areas of the Northern Impoundment. This potential for hydraulic heave will remain a risk for the project during construction, however measures are included in Revised 100% RD (as outlined in the Updated Hydraulic Heave Analysis Report) in an attempt to minimize its likelihood during construction.

5.12.3 Uncontrollable Weather Events

Risk of Overtopping and Release During Excavation

The proposed top elevation of the BMP is +10 ft NAVD88 (exterior wall), an elevation which exceeds historical water levels since 1994 during the excavation season proposed. Although the top elevation for the BMP is +10 ft NAVD88 (exterior wall), there is an inherent risk of a flooding event during excavation for the ROD selected remedy which could cause overtopping of the BMP and result in a release of waste material into the river and/or potentially put worker safety at risk. Moreover, when digging in and working below the river surface, the dynamics of the weather and associated river levels create an inherent risk of releases to the river, and there is no guarantee that future river levels during the excavation season will not exceed historical levels. Furthermore, it is not feasible or constructable to simply build a taller cofferdam that can protect against any possible weather event and river elevation while also accommodating equipment and personnel entry into and out of the cofferdam for excavation and waste material removal from below the river; limitations to enable both of these measures exist.

Schedule Interruptions Due to Weather Events

Over the course of the RA construction, the possibility for significant weather events and flooding exists at the work site. A HWPP has been developed to provide guidance on what measure will be undertaken to mitigate the potential consequences of high river levels and flooding at the work site. However, even if the measures in the HWPP are undertaken during RA construction, inevitably there will be an unknown number of demobilizations and remobilizations over the span of the RA construction in attempts to limit the consequences of flooding events. The timing, number, frequency and duration of these demobilizations and remobilizations will be unknown and remain a challenge throughout the RA. This represents a technical challenge inherent in the construction of the remedy selected in the ROD in order to attempt to meet the RAO that prevents releases from the Northern Impoundment to the river and will result in schedule challenges that will most likely lengthen the overall schedule for construction.

5.12.4 Water Treatment

Access to Property for Water Treatment System

Due to lack of usable land in the vicinity of the Northern Impoundment, the WTS will have to be located offsite on a separate piece of property. Approximately 15-20 acres of upland property will be necessary to support RA activities, including water storage and treatment, materials storage, office trailers and parking, truck staging and scales, and sheet pile loadout to marine vessels. Though several properties are being evaluated for long-term access and extensive discussions with property owners have occurred, an agreement for use of such an upland property has not yet been fully secured. Ideally, the offsite property would be located as close to RA activities as possible (and north of the I-10 Bridge), to minimize the distance that water would need to be conveyed for treatment and to minimize the travel distance between the Northern Impoundment and the WTS for site personnel. The details of the future TxDOT bridge replacement project will also affect the options available, as TxDOT's use of its ROW may cut off access to properties located to the west and TxDOT's bridge construction activities could eliminate any option of conveying impacted water to the south under the I-10 Bridge.

6. Sand Separation Area (SSA)

6.1 2019 Sediment Sampling Program

The ROD identifies MNR as the preferred remedial alternative for San Jacinto River sediments in the SSA. The rationale for selection of MNR as the preferred alternative was that the $TEQ_{DF,M}$ concentrations in the SSA are relatively low and there are data indicating that the area is subject to sediment deposition. Modelling of hydrodynamics and sediment transport conducted as part of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) suggests that the reach of the river adjacent to the SSA is an area of sediment deposition.

In accordance with the PDI-2 Work Plan (GHD, 2019d), sediment samples were collected during PDI-2 field activities from the SSA to meet the following objectives:

- Provide further characterization of the dioxin and furan concentrations in sediment of the SSA.
- Provide a radioisotope analysis of ²¹⁰Pb and ¹³⁷Cs to estimate the natural rate of sediment deposition.

¹³⁷Cs was released into the environment as a result of atmospheric testing of nuclear devices beginning in 1954 with a peak in 1963. Because natural occurrence is extremely rare and its presence can be related to a specific period of time, $137Cs$ detections are useful in dating sediments. $210Pb$ is used to calculate deposition rates because it occurs naturally.

Samples were collected from the locations shown on Figure 2-4 using Vibracore sampling devices and a dive team. Collection and analysis of samples were carried out in accordance with the PDI-2 Work Plan (GHD, 2019d).

6.1.1 SSA Analytical Sampling

Thirty-six sediment samples were collected for analysis of dioxins and furans. Samples were collected at the nine locations identified on Figure 2-4. At each location, samples were collected at depth intervals of 0 to 1 foot, 1 to 2 ft, 2 to 4 ft, and 4 to 6 ft below the sediment/surface water interface. Eurofins TestAmerica analyzed the samples for dioxins and furans by EPA Method 1613B and for percent solids by ASTM D2216.

6.1.2 SSA Isotope Sampling

Ninety-nine sediment samples were collected for analysis of ¹³⁷Cs and ²¹⁰Pb. Samples were collected at the same nine locations sampled for analysis of dioxins and furans. Samples were collected at depth intervals of 2.5 cm (0.98 inches) from the sediment/surface water interface to a depth of 82.5 cm (32.5 inches). Eleven intervals were sampled at each location. Teledyne Brown Engineering, Inc. analyzed all of the sediment samples for 137Cs and 210Pb by EPA Method 901.1.

6.1.3 SSA Investigation Results

6.1.3.1 SSA Analytical Results

Concentrations of TEQ_{DF, M} are below the risk-based protective level of 30 ng/kg (as determined by the EPA in the ROD) in the top 24 inches of all but one of the SSA sampling locations - SJSSA06 (see Table 6-1 and Figure 2-4). The laboratory report and data validation report for dioxins and furans are provided in Appendix E.

6.1.3.2 SSA Isotope Results

Cesium-137

¹³⁷Cs was not detected in any of the 99 samples. Because it was not detected, it can be concluded that sediment to a depth of 82.5 cm (2.71 ft) has been deposited in all areas of the SSA since the mid-1960s. This corresponds to an overall deposition rate of approximately 1.5 cm per year (cm/year).

The laboratory report and data validation report for ¹³⁷Cs are provided in Appendix E.

Lead-210

Radioactivity of ²¹⁰Pb decreases with depth at SJSSA01, SJSSA04, SJSSA07, and SJSSA02. The decrease in activity indicates that deposition is occurring at estimated rates ranging from 0.77 cm/year to 3.5 cm/year.

Radioactivity of ²¹⁰Pb at near shore location SJSSA05 increases with depth, indicating that erosion has occurred at this location. Radioactivity of ²¹⁰Pb at SJSSA08, SJSSA03, SJSSA06, and SJSSA09 is variable. This variability could be due to alternating periods of erosion and deposition caused by boat traffic, storm events, and/or natural river flows.

Table 6-1 summarizes the results for $2^{10}Pb$. The laboratory report and data validation report for $2^{10}Pb$ are provided in Appendix E.

6.1.4 SSA Conclusions

Results of the 2019 sampling event indicate that, due to no radioactivity of ¹³⁷Cs above detection limits, the SSA has generally been depositional since the mid-1960s. Radioactivity of ²¹⁰Pb indicates that deposition is occurring in four locations at estimated rates of approximately 0.77 cm/year to 3.5 cm/year but that activities may be occurring in the SSA that are affecting deposition in other locations in the area. Concentrations of TEQ_{DF, M} are below the risk-based protective level of 30 ng/kg (as determined by the EPA in the ROD) in the top 24 inches of all but one of the SSA sampling locations - SJSSA06 (see Table 6-1 and Figure 2-4). Changes in the shoreline are visible in historical aerials provided in Appendix E, Sand Separation Area Supporting Documents. The SSA has been superimposed on the historical aerial images. Many of the changes in the shoreline are due to man-made activities.

6.2 Monitored Natural Recovery

The ROD selected MNR as the remedy for sediments in the SSA. The EPA selected MNR on the basis of the relatively low concentrations of dioxins and furans in sediment, low potential for risk to human and ecological receptors, and evidence of net deposition of sediment. Data generated from the PDI-2 sampling event indicate that varying degrees of deposition are occurring in most of the mid shore and far shore areas. With the exception of the one near shore area (location SJSSA06), concentrations of $TEQ_{DF,M}$ at depths less than 24 inches are at or below the level that EPA identified in the ROD as being protective of human and ecological receptors. In one of the mid shore sample locations (SJSSA05), erosion appears to be occurring, however concentrations of $TEQ_{DF, M}$ at all depths at this location are below EPA's protective level of 30 ng/kg. In summary, eight out of nine total sample locations at depths less than 24 inches have TEQ_{DF, M} concentrations below 30 ng/kg. This is consistent with the results observed during the RI. MNR activities moving forward include additional monitoring at the nine locations sampled for PDI-2 to (1) confirm that concentrations of $TEQ_{DF,M}$ remain below 30 ng/kg at depths less than 24 inches at the eight locations identified in PDI-2 and (2) and further monitoring of concentrations at sample location SJSSA06.

The MNR Plan is included as Attachment 9 in Appendix J. The MNR Plan discusses the processes of MNR as related to dioxins and furans, the site-specific characteristics considered in further development of the plan, parameters for monitoring MNR, sampling frequency, and the decision rule for evaluating the effectiveness of MNR. The implementation of ICs will also be considered for the area around SJSSA06 (Appendix J, Attachment 7).

7. Environmental Footprint (Greener Clean-Ups)

EPA's *Principals for Greener Clean-Ups* (EPA, 2009) have been considered in the development of the Northern Impoundment RD. The EPA and state agencies have developed a framework outlining the desired outcomes of a potential standard for greener clean-ups. The framework focuses on five principals associated with a clean-up project's environmental footprint. These principals are listed below along with the potential methods by which they may be incorporated into the Northern Impoundment RA.

Minimizing Total Energy Use and Maximizing Use of Renewable Energy. This includes reducing total energy use while also identifying means to increase the use of renewable energies throughout the clean-up. The selected RC may incorporate this principle into the RD by:

- Limiting traffic at the Northern Impoundment by requiring workers to carpool.
- Requiring the RC to, if appropriate, to use energy efficient equipment or vehicles.

Minimizing Air Pollutants and Greenhouse Gas Emissions. This includes reducing total air emissions, including emissions of air pollutants and GHGs, throughout the RA. The selected RC may incorporate this principle into the RD by:

- Implementing an Air Monitoring Plan to control dust in and around the Northern Impoundment.
- Requiring air emission control devices on equipment that deliver solidification agents.
- Specifying the use of electricity at the laydown and staging areas, where available, rather than portable diesel generators.

Minimizing Water Use and Impacts to Water Resources. This includes minimizing the use of water and impacts to water resources throughout the RA. The selected RC may incorporate this principle into the RD by:

– Employing best management practices for stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation control, as detailed in a SWPPP to be developed prior to the RA.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Materials and Waste. This includes minimizing the use of virgin materials and generation of waste throughout the RA as well as maximizing the use of recycled materials. The selected RC may incorporate this principle into the RD by:

- Using recycled rock from the TCRA armored cap for restoration of the Northern Impoundment area.
- Using recycled non-impacted material from the historic central and southern berms on-site to construct site features and/or SWPPP controls.
- Using recycled aggregate from inside the two walls of the BMP as cover at the completion of the RA.
- Implementing a recycling program for workers.
- Considering recycled material when purchasing material for the RA.
- Reuse of SWPPP controls, where possible.

Protect Land and the Environment. This includes reducing impacts to land and the environment throughout the clean-up. The selected RC may incorporate this principle into the RD by:

– Minimizing the footprint of disturbed areas at the laydown and support areas, to the extent practicable.

8. Drawings and Specifications

8.1 Design Drawings

The Revised 100% RD design drawings are presented in Appendix G and include the following:

- Drawing G-01 Cover Sheet.
- Drawing C-01 Overall Plan.
- Drawing C-02 Existing Conditions.
- Drawing C-03 SSA Area and Northern Impoundment Works.
- Drawing C-04 Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Overall.
- Drawing C-05 Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Seasonal.
- Drawing C-06 Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Details.
- Drawing C-07 Project Traffic Control Plan.
- Drawing C-08 Excavation Plan Overall.
- Drawing C-09 Excavation Plan Northwest.
- Drawing C-10 Excavation Plan Northeast.
- Drawing C-11 Excavation Plan Southeast.
- Drawing C-12 Excavation Plan Southwest.
- Drawing C-13 Excavation Section 1 of 6.
- Drawing C-14 Excavation Section 2 of 6.
- Drawing C-15 Excavation Section 3 of 6.
- Drawing C-16 Excavation Section 4 of 6.
- Drawing C-17 Excavation Section 5 of 6.
- Drawing C-18 Excavation Section 6 of 6.
- Drawing C-19 Typical Seasonal Excavation Sequencing.
- Drawing C-20 Typical Excavation Sequencing 1 of 2.
- Drawing C-21 Typical Excavation Sequencing 2 of 2.
- Drawing C-22 Restoration Plan.
- Drawing C-23 Typical Construction Sequencing 1 of 2.
- Drawing C-24 Typical Construction Sequencing 2 of 2.
- Drawing C-25 Typical Details 1 of 3.
- Drawing C-26 Typical Details 2 of 3.
- Drawing C-27 Typical Details 3 of 3.
- Drawing C-28 Pile Wall Layout Plan.
- Drawing C-29 Double Pile Wall Plan and Profile 1 of 4.
- Drawing C-30 Double Pile Wall Plan and Profile 2 of 4.
- Drawing C-31 Double Pile Wall Plan and Profile 3 of 4.
- Drawing C-32 Double Pile Wall Plan and Profile 4 of 4.
- Drawing C-33 South Wall Plan and Profile 1 of 2.
- Drawing C-34 South Wall Plan and Profile 2 of 2.
- Drawing C-35 Double Pile Wall Sections 1 of 7.
- Drawing C-36 Double Pile Wall Sections 2 of 7.
- Drawing C-37 Double Pile Wall Sections 3 of 7.
- Drawing C-38 Double Pile Wall Sections 4 of 7.
- Drawing C-39 Double Pile Wall Sections 5 of 7.
- Drawing C-40 Double Pile Wall Sections 6 of 7.
- Drawing C-41 Double Pile Wall Sections 7 of 7.
- Drawing C-42 South Wall Sections 1 of 3.
- Drawing C-43 South Wall Sections 2 of 3.
- Drawing C-44 South Wall Sections 3 of 3.
- Drawing C-45 Dredging Northwest Corner Works Plan.
- Drawing C-46 Dredging Northwest Corner Dredging Controls.
- Drawing C-47 Dredging Northwest Corner Dry Excavation.
- Drawing C-48 Dredging Northwest Corner Wet Excavation.
- Drawing C-49 Dredging Northwest Corner Sections 1 of 2.
- Drawing C-50 Dredging Northwest Corner Sections 2 of 2.
- Drawing C-51 Dredging Northwest Corner Sequencing 1 of 3.
- Drawing C-52 Dredging Northwest Corner Sequencing 2 of 3.
- Drawing C-53 Dredging Northwest Corner Sequencing 3 of 3.
- Drawing C-54 Dredging Northwest Corner Final Grade.
- Drawing C-55 Dredging Northwest Corner Dredging Details.
- Drawing C-56 Restoration Sections 1 of 2.
- Drawing C-57 Restoration Sections 2 of 2.
- Drawing S-01 Structural Notes.
- Drawing S-02 Structural Layout Plan.
- Drawing S-03 Structural Sections.
- Drawing S-04 Structural Details 1 of 2.
- Drawing S-05 Structural Details 2 of 2.
- Drawing S-06 FRP Barrier Wall.
- Drawing P-00A Water Treatment System Process Flow Diagram Symbols.
- Drawing P-00B Water Treatment System Process Flow Diagram Schedules.
- Drawing P-001 Water Treatment System Process Flow Diagram (Non-Contact Water).
- Drawing P-002 Water Treatment System Process Flow Diagram (Contact Water)
- Drawing P-003 Water Treatment System P&ID (Non-Contact Water) (1 of 3).
- Drawing P-004 Water Treatment System P&ID (Non-Contact Water) (2 of 3).
- Drawing P-005 Water Treatment System P&ID (Non-Contact Water) (3 of 3).
- Drawing P-006 Water Treatment System P&ID (Contact Water) (1 of 4).
- Drawing P-007 Water Treatment System P&ID (Contact Water) (2 of 4).
- Drawing P-008 Water Treatment System P&ID (Contact Water) (3 of 4).
- Drawing P-009 Water Treatment System P&ID (Contact Water) (4 of 4).
- Drawing P-010 Water Treatment System Site Plan (Non-Contact Water).
- Drawing P-011 Water Treatment System Equipment Layout (Non-Contact Water).
- Drawing P-012 Water Treatment System Site Plan (Contact Water).
- Drawing P-013 Water Treatment System Equipment Layout (Contact Water) (1 of 2).
- Drawing P-014 Water Treatment System Equipment Layout (Contact Water) (2 of 2).
- Drawing P-015 Mechanical Details 1 of 1.
- Drawing P-016 Helical Pile Details.
- Drawing P-017 Mechanical Schedule.

These drawings, insofar as they reflect use of specific means and methods for carrying out the Northern Impoundment remedy selected in the ROD, may be modified as the means and methods for performing the Northern Impoundment remedy selected in the ROD are further defined.

8.2 Technical Specifications

To supplement the Northern Impoundment Revised 100% RD design drawings, technical specifications are presented in Appendix H and include the following:

- Section 00 01 10 Table of Contents.
- Section 00 01 20 Seals.
- Section 01 10 00 Summary.
- Section 01 30 00 Administrative Requirements.
- Section 01 33 00 Submittal Procedures.
- Section 01 35 00 Temporary Traffic Controls.
- Section 01 35 29 Health and Safety Requirements.
- Section 01 40 00 Quality Requirements.
- Section 01 50 00 Temporary Facilities and Controls.
- Section 01 57 13 Temporary Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls.
- Section 01 57 19 Temporary Environmental Controls.
- Section 01 60 00 Product Requirements.
- Section 01 70 00 Execution and Closeout Requirements.
- Section 01 91 00 Water Treatment Consumables.
- Section 01 91 20 Facility Testing and Commissioning.
- Section 02 55 00 Waste Material Solidification.
- Section 02 61 14 Material Handling and Transportation.
- Section 02 61 16 Off-Site Transportation and Disposal.
- Section 22 05 03 Pipe Data Sheet-PVDF Tubing and Carrier Piping.
- Section 23 05 53 Identification for Piping and Equipment.
- Section 31 05 19.13 Geotextiles for Earthwork.
- Section 31 10 00 Site Clearing.
- Section 31 23 16 Excavation.
- Section 31 23 19 Dewatering.
- Section 31 23 23 Fill.
- Section 31 35 26.16 Geomembranes.
- Section 31 37 00 Riprap.
- Section 31 41 16 Sheet Piles.
- Section 32 31 13 Chain Link Fences and Gates.
- Section 32 92 19 Seeding.
- Section 35 24 00 Dredging.
- Section 35 49 25 Turbidity Curtain.
- Section 40 05 13 Common Work Results for Process Piping.
- Section 40 05 33 High Density Polyethylene Process Pipe.
- Section 40 05 51 Common Requirements for Process Valves.
- Section 40 70 00 Instrumentation for Process Systems.
- Section 46 07 01 Water Treatment System (WTS).
- Attachment A Residual Management Plan.
- Attachment B Pre-Excavation Stratigraphic Borings and Piezometers.
- Attachment C Treatability Testing to Identify Reagents and Dose for Enhanced Settling.

9. Supporting Deliverables

Pursuant to the SOW, supporting deliverables have been prepared as part of the Revised 100% RD, as summarized below.

- *HASP*
- *ERP*
- *FSP*
- *QAPP*
- *SWMP*
- *CQAQCP*
- *ICIAP*
- *TODP*
- *MNR Plan*
- *HWPP*

Most of these plans consider that the RC will be required to prepare its own plans that address the topics covered by these plans and detail the means and measures to be implemented to accomplish the objectives of such plans.

9.1 Health and Safety Plan

The Construction HASP (Attachment 1 in Appendix J) has been prepared in accordance with 29 CFR 1910 and 1926 to provide protection of human health and the environment during activities performed to implement the Northern Impoundment RA. It includes all physical, chemical and all other hazards posed by the work required to perform the Northern Impoundment RA.

9.2 Emergency Response Plan

The ERP (Attachment 2 in Appendix J) describes procedures to be used in the event that there is an emergency while work to implement the Northern Impoundment RA is being performed. The ERP includes procedures with respect to the entity(ies) responsible for responding to an emergency, the plan for meeting with those involved in the response, contingency plans for spills, and release reporting and response.

9.3 Field Sampling Plan

The FSP (Attachment 3 in Appendix J) describes the sampling activities for all media to be sampled during work to implement the Northern Impoundment RA. The FSP provides the rationale for sample collection and describes the protocol for sample handling and analysis.

9.4 Quality Assurance Project Plan

The QAPP (Attachment 4 in Appendix J) provides an explanation of the quality assurance and quality control procedures and Chain-of-Custody procedures for all sampling to implement the Northern Impoundment RA. This includes quality assurance during data generation and acquisition and during data validation and review.

9.5 Site-Wide Monitoring Plan

The SWMP (Attachment 5 in Appendix J) describes the procedures for monitoring to prevent the potential spread or off-site migration of contaminated media from the Northern Impoundment during and following implementation of the Northern Impoundment RA.

9.6 Construction Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plan

The CQA/QCP (Attachment 6 in Appendix J) describes the planned and systematic activities that verify that the remedial construction to implement the Northern Impoundment RA will meet requirements consistent with clean-up goals and performance requirements set forth in the ROD.

9.7 Institutional Controls Implementation and Assurance Plan

The ICIAP (Attachment 7 in Appendix J) describes the institutional controls expected to be applicable to the SSA and the process for developing and implementing them.

9.8 Transportation and Off-Site Disposal Plan

The TODP (Attachment 8 in Appendix J) details, for the Northern Impoundment RA, waste characterization activities and disposal options. It addresses the transportation routes for off-site shipments of waste material during implementation of the Northern Impoundment RA, identifies procedures to protect any communities that may be affected by such truck shipments, and describes the procedures for on-site management and loading of the waste materials.

9.9 Monitored Natural Recovery Plan (Operations & Maintenance Plan)

The MNR Plan (Attachment 9 in Appendix J), describes for the SSA the routine monitoring and testing to be conducted and procedures for data collection and evaluation, record keeping and reporting of data to be followed, after completion of the Northern Impoundment RA. As discussed with the EPA on May 7, 2020, the MNR Plan takes the place of the O&M Plan referred to in the SOW.

9.10 High-Water Preparedness Plan

The HWPP (Attachment 10 in Appendix J) describes the specific procedures to be followed during the Northern Impoundment RA for the protection of equipment, employees, and the environment during high-water, flooding, or severe weather events at the work site.

9.11 Operations & Maintenance Manual

Per discussion with the EPA, this plan is not anticipated to be necessary.

10. References

- EPA, 1986. Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods, Updates I to V. SW-846. NTIS Publication No. PB97-156111 or GPO publication No. 955-001-00000 1. Office of Solid Waste. September 1986 (with all subsequent revisions).
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- EPA, 2009. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. *Principles for Greener Clean-Ups*. August 27, 2009.
- EPA, 2010. Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for Removal Action. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 CERCLA Docket No. 06-12-10. In the matter of San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site Pasadena, Harris County, Texas. International Paper Company and McGinnes Industrial Management Corporation, Respondents.
- EPA, 2013a. Record of Decision, Grasse River Superfund Site, Massena, St. Lawrence County, New York. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, New York, New York, April 2013. Site ID Number: NYD980506232.
- EPA, 2013b. Record of Decision, Gowanus Canal Superfund Site (Operable Unit: 01), Brooklyn, Kings County, New York, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2, New York, New York, September 2013. Site ID Number: NYN000206222.
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d and noted. Respondents have made an effort to make such changes throughout the entire

d and noted. The RC's proposed means and methods will be provided to EPA in updated plans, and any other updated RD components for EPA review and approval.

have been revised to address the comment. The data is provided in Figure 3-A.

is defined in the 4th bullet of this section as "The ML for each analyte is defined as the level at al system must give a recognizable signal and acceptable calibration point. It is equivalent to the est calibration standard, assuming that all method specified sample weights, volumes, and clean up mployed.", which is directly from EPA correspondence dated February 18, 2020 (EPA, 2020b;

ras strictly limited to an approach where material would be excavated through a water column and ed through recirculation and filtration in the excavation. The text has been revised to clarify this proach B water treatability testing.

tion, Paragraph 1.3.C, of the Design Specifications, requires the RC to submit a Heave Mitigation ed procedures for excavation in the potential heave areas that includes provisions for off-setting option to consider mitigation measures listed in Paragraph 3.4 of the specification or propose other measures that will off-set heave. As stated in Response to EPA Comment #2, supporting plans that are updated with (including the Heave Mitigation Plan) will be provided to EPA for review and approval.

6.2.7 (Appendix I), several different options of the wall were considered for the southern alignment and the prince was the only workable solution. The 30-ft wide double wall system with a 30-ft wide soil buttress I to provide a balanced system to withstand the high water levels on the exterior while ired excavation depths on the interior to remove all waste material as required by the ROD.

ing to engage TxDOT and EPA on the BMP alignment on the TxDOT right-of-way in order to rward. Respondents, EPA, and TxDOT have scheduled a call in December to continue e southern alignment and double wall system.

d to address the comment and references Section 5.9.2 which describes how the non-contact

ed to address the comment.

Table 1-1

cover have been added to Design Drawing C-06 and the C-06 detail reference has been added to

r Treatment System of the Design Specifications (Appendix H) has been revised to include a requirement for the RC to submit a discussion submit a Mobilization and Demobilization Plan that addresses seasonal ation.

loes not provide for the BMP to be flooded between excavation seasons. If water is intentionally IP for some other use (i.e., heave mitigation) then the water will be managed in accordance with

the Northwest Corner is described in more detail in Section 5.7.3.2.

Intentional floods and the 90% RD as one approach to mitigate potential scouring on the interior of the BMP pping during a high-water event. An additional benefit of the intentional flooding, although not was the offset in lateral forces acting on the exterior of the BMP.

Int approach is being proposed to mitigate scouring on the interior of the BMP by using a grouted rin uppressive stang proposes to ming the security of the intentionally flooded.

on of the BMP design addresses these comments about impacts from overtopping events on the ate comparison of different methods (intentional flooding vs rip-rap protection) with regards to the MP's structural integrity is not considered necessary.

ated using AutoCAD Civil 3D. Design Drawing C-19 has been updated to provide the AutoCAD quested volumes.

n volume of 230,000 cubic yards includes the unimpacted material within the center berm. The npacted material within the center berm is currently estimated to be 30,700 cubic yards.

though the intent would be to separate out the center berm material during excavation activities, led as it is excavated and before it will be considered for re-use. If the material does not meet the that portion of the center berm will be sent for off-site disposal along with the other known

n volume of 230,000 cubic yards did not include the removal of rock cover, which is estimated to This is based on the measured average rock thickness of 1.5 feet over the portion of the udes a rock cover (approx. 510,000 square feet). It should be noted that a small portion of the square feet) extends beyond the limits of the current rock cover. This uncovered area is located ary of the excavation area, as indicated on Drawing C-02.

ed to address the comment.

tion for each season will be determined based on RC means and methods and will be described in is required by Section 31 23 16 - Excavation, of the Design Specifications (Appendix H). In nt, additional requirements have been added to the RC Excavation Plan including providing a on areas between cells.

Table 1-1

dified to address this comment.

vation, in the Design Specifications (Appendix H) outlines the process to identify potential heave hwest corner. Prior to any excavation, stratigraphic borings and piezometers will be installed as t B of the Design Specifications. The RC will coordinate with the engineer to review the data from ers in combination with the results of the pre-excavation sampling to define the safe excavation e areas with potential heave risk. The RC will then prepare a Heave Mitigation Plan for these areas procedures for excavation in the potential heave areas. The Heave Mitigation Plan will be prior to any excavation in these areas.

nent, Section 5.6.3.3 of the Revised 100% RD Report has been modified to reference the Heave mittal to EPA for approval prior to excavation. The options being considered to address the heave thwest corner have also been added to this section.

th a water column is considered a heave mitigation option, it would likely only be done in localized t water management procedures than the Northwest Corner. These procedures will be defined in an prior to any excavation.

atment of non-contact water to remove solids is included in Section 5.9.2. The water that will be nical dredging will be considered contact water. Treatment of contact water is also described in

e tanks will be within secondary containment with the capacity to hold 110 percent of the largest tainment areas are shown on the Design Drawings (C-27, P-011, P-013, and P-014). Section iption of the secondary containment areas. The water transfer piping outside of the containment n HDPE. Section 40 05 33 - HDPE, of the Design Specifications (Appendix H), provides the HDPE

r Treatment System, of the Design Specifications (Appendix H), has been modified to require the a plan to systematically check each pipe connection, valve, and locking mechanism prior to any $sible$).

fied to clarify how non-contact water is managed verses contact water. Non-contact water is water mpacted surfaces, meaning this water would only have been in contact with either the TCRA cap have been remediated. Non-contact water will be pumped to the non-contact water treatment s move solids before discharging to the river. Because it is non-contact water, it does not require

water that has come in contact with impacted surfaces/material and also includes any non-contact water with 2 feet of the excavation. Any non-contact water that mixes with contact water will be ter. The contact water will be pumped from the excavation to the contact water treatment system, treatment, clarification, and filtration and discharged to the river. The contact water will be compliance with WTS effluent discharge concentration criteria prior to discharge.

ference has been added to both sections to address the comment.

Table 1-1

I Comments were previously received and addressed within the 100% RD. Consideration for a provided in Section 5.3.2, as was included in the 100% RD. The hindcast model was calibrated from the on-site transducer. The hindcast model was used to establish the basis of design for top of wall business wall business with the materials increased the continuation was increased to +10 ft NAVD88 for the 100% RD. As such, the top of wall BMP elevation has ft NAVD88 and both the hindcast model and top of BMP elevation are not planned to be revised al hindcast was submitted to EPA in March 2024.

ge data is provided in Attachment 3.9 of Appendix I (BMP Structural Report). Respondents have lested river stage transducer data in the monthly reports and will continue to do so.

nined to be corrupted was removed from the dataset and not used in the hindcast modelling.

ed and noted. Respondents provided Figure 5-4 to provide a different visual to view the hindcast shown on Figure 5-4 is the same on-site hindcasted data represented in Figures 5-2 and 5-3.

will be treated by filtration that will include a combination of multimedia filters followed by a series of with the final filter at 1µm. P&IDs of the non-contact water treatment system are shown on Design and P-005.

capable to remove the suspended sediments to 1µm, the contact water treatment system can iments loads because there is additional chemical treatment and an inclined plate clarifier up-front Therefore, the non-contact water will be treated down to a depth not shallower than 2 feet so that maintained 2 feet or above the bottom to control the amount of sediment that goes to the system. n 2 feet will then be treated through the contact water treatment system. A requirement that the 2 bint of the cofferdam would not be more protective than what is proposed.

ay vary each year depending on productivity during each excavation season. The Temporary of Appendix G) will be constructed as transitions to demarcate and prevent contact water from sly remediated surfaces. The RC will be required to place berms, or similar BMPs, at the start of with the ability to adjust as work progresses. The RC means and methods will be described in the equired by Section 31 23 16 - Excavation, of the Design Specifications (Appendix H).

tential uses for the central berm, it was determined the central berm needs to be removed to emove all waste material adjacent to the berm.

vator mounted on a barge to perform the mechanical dredging/excavation. As stated in Section cavator will be equipped with real time kinematic global positioning system (RTK GPS) that will slope. After dredging in this area, the excavation will be filled with sand that will cover the entire ing up to the adjacent buttress.

I has been revised to address the comment by indicating the five boring locations that have 30 ons in the deepest sample interval collected.

#13 for discussion on water levels in the vicinity of the Northern Impoundment. Selection of high-D88 is appropriate for design.

n 5.5.1 describes the load cases defined as Usual, Unusual and Extreme. The text has been the Unusual and Extreme load condition to note the consideration of Barge Impacts as Extreme e evaluated at the high-water level to result in maximum loading on the BMP. Additional note added trification.

included the note for Barge Impact in Extreme load case condition. An additional note has been Appendix I for clarification.

Table 1-1

on Figure 5-4 in the 100% RD which references the on-site river levels and not the river levels at (5) instances of water level exceeding elevation +10 ft NAVD88 occurred outside the planned ted in Section 5.3.1.

added to the sentence in Section 5.5.3.4 for clarification - "there have been five (5) instances of wation +10 ft NAVD88 that occurred outside the planned excavation season."

esent the same on-site river level data. Figure 5-4 has been revised to clarify the 5 instances the 1994 Flood Event (1 instance) and Hurricane Harvey in 2017 (4 instances).

ed in Section 5.4.1 to include USCG and TxDOT and to state that the RC, once on-board, will estakeholders and coordinate accordingly as the project progresses.

e to engage with USCG and the RC, once selected, will address USCG requirements along with arding the watercraft usage.

wind, water levels, and waves is provided in Appendix I (BMP Structural Report). The data shows er levels and wind speeds from a tropical storm event and then an overlap near peak winds. There around the Northern Impoundment to generate winds and even limited winds coming from North.

vertopping water is accounted for in the calculations for required length of the rip-rap layer and the re provided in Attachment 3 of Appendix I.

to note "The anticipated vibration from the vibratory hammer is below the acceptable threshold at heet pile installation."

be installed with the vibratory hammer to setup the press-in equipment. Additional sentence added lowed to use a vibratory hammer or impact hammer only for the initial setup of sheet piles and the at least 35 ft away from the I-10 bridge."

he 100% RD and Section 6.8 of Appendix I have been updated.

vised accordingly.

It extensive sampling of the NI was completed during the RI, PDI 1, PDI 2, and SDI field events. s used to inform the initial excavation elevation so that intervals with higher dioxin/furan ady been included in the area slated for excavation. Therefore, the intervals slated for preanticipated to have concentrations at or below the clean-up level. Completing pre-excavation er time for critical decisions to be made, if needed, in consultation with the EPA.

avation sampling will reduce the overall schedule and potentially decrease the excavation seasons time during excavation activities waiting on laboratory analytical results and over-excavating

ansport is not believed to be a concern because the pre-excavation sampling will demonstrate all up limit have been removed. A similar pre-excavation sampling program was implemented during Impoundment and was instrumental in the expedited completion of excavation activities.

vised in response to this comment. Refer to the response provided for Comment. ion of each discrete sample that was used for the composite sample will be held by the laboratory ecomposite sample analysis.

I to cite sampling as "pre-excavation sampling".

vised accordingly. Refer to the response provided for Comment #43. Also, it is important to note ng frequency would be the same for either pre- or post-excavation sampling.

on sampling program would be completed at one time to minimize extending the project schedule. vation sampling needs to be completed in the dry once the BMP is installed and the area inside the to maintain sample integrity and confidence. The soil samples collected during the PDIs and SDI rmed clean levels below the cleanup limit which is the basis of design and to be confirmed by the

he 100% RD and additional text has been provided in Section 5.6.1 of the Revised 100% RD.

sample interval is above the ROD cleanup level, but the 1-2 foot sample is below the ROD cleanup

rom the 0 to 1 ft interval will be analyzed and discrete locations above the cleanup level, only, will

ed 1 ft below the initial excavation interval.

ed to address the comment.

designed to uniformly sample across the excavation area within the BMP wall and should not as the sampling program. Figure 2-1 in the FSP (included as Appendix J, Attachment 3) shows verage across the entire site, including sidewalls, and in the immediate vicinity of boring SJSB046-

ting depth of this overcut will be based on the final excavation surface as determined by the pre-

be based on estimated production rates and are independent of the DUs. The DUs are identified as part of the pre-excavation sampling program. The central berm will be removed during and tested separately as described in Section 5.3.4.

tion for each season will be determined based on RC means and methods and will be described in required by Section 31 23 16 - Excavation, of the Design Specifications (Appendix H).

vation, of the Design Specifications (Appendix H) has been revised to require the RC to inimize the potential for material to be tracked from un-remediated cells into remediated cells in

ap over the entire cell to be excavated will be left intact to reduce risk from potential storm or HWPP contains procedures to protect open excavations from adverse weather events.

a thin profile and the section will be buried under the ramp material. The tie-rods will also be buried he fill material between the walls to avoid impact from wheel loads. Wheel loads behind a wall ral earth pressure on the walls and will not govern the design over the demands from the hydrostatic

heasure, the 100% RD (Section 5.7.3.2.3) has been updated to have the RC use crane mats, steel e construction technique to protect the sheet piles. The means and measures shall be reviewed

inspection upon re-entry procedures that includes inspection of site conditions after a high-water

byide the sequence of excavation for each season in the Excavation Plan as required by Section f the Design Specifications. This will include a requirement to describe the approach for excavation to be used for waste materials beneath the interior ramp.

Table 1-1

ns (Section 31 23 16 - Excavation) require the RC to submit an Excavation Plan. In response to ments have been added to the Excavation Plan for the RC to provide means and methods to and contact water and prevent contact water from coming into contact with non-impacted or

ns (Section 31 23 16 - Excavation) require the RC to submit an Excavation Plan. In response to ments have been added to the Excavation Plan for the RC to provide means and methods to and contact water and prevent contact water from coming into contact with non-impacted or

ns (Section 31 23 16 - Excavation) require the RC to submit an Excavation Plan. In response to ments have been added to the Excavation Plan for the RC to provide means and methods to and contact water and prevent contact water from coming into contact with non-impacted or non-contact water mixes with contact water, it will all be handled as contact water.

ns (Section 31 23 16 - Excavation) require the RC to submit an Excavation Plan. In response to ments have been added to the Excavation Plan for the RC to provide means and methods to and contact water and prevent contact water from coming into contact with non-impacted or non-contact water mixes with contact water, it will all be handled as contact water.

ed to specify a stable slope between 2:1 and 3:1. A 2:1 slope is considered constructable for a tent, but if the RC determines that a 2:1 slope is not stable then a less steep slope would be pecifications (Section 31 23 16 - Excavation) require the RC to submit an Excavation Plan. The Is a requirement for the RC to address sloping of excavation faces and slope stability issues.

shown adjacent to the BMP represent the soil buttress that is considered an integral part of the BMP intained for the duration of the project.. The excavation slopes are not constructed in waste 0, a 3:1 slope was considered sufficient.

Il be the unremediated material adjacent to the areas already remediated. At the end of an exposed unremediated surfaces will be capped with a temporary seasonal cover to prevent any ater. At the beginning of the next excavation season, the bottom HDPE liner in contact with the ill be disposed of and the overlying clean cover material will be staged for future use. The transition diated. A detail of the temporary seasonal cover has been added to Design Drawing C-06.

te is referring to backfilling areas as a post-excavation heave mitigation strategy to prevent heave that have been remediated if the river stage reaches +10 ft NAVD88 during the RA. The options llic Heave Report address heave mitigation during excavation, not post-excavation.

reas that are susceptible to heave due to the depth of excavation will be backfilled to an elevation

5 has been revised to clarify that the aggregate fill within the BMP may be collected and used for lieu of disposing off-site.

es Section 5.7.3.6 for managing residuals. Section 5.7.3.6 "Settling of the Residuals" discusses the rs and coagulants for settling the material after the production pass and prior to the clean-up pass.

3.6 has been revised to state a minimum 3-inch sand layer. The base of the residuals will be defined elevation, as measured by the operational data collected during dredging as described in Section firmed by the RC by probing.

lular material is to provide weight to offset heave as the water is removed and treated.

ranular material has been added to the Design Specifications (Section 31 23 23 - Fill).

Table 1-1

il is shown on Design Drawing S-03 and Section 31 23 23 - Fill, of the Design Specifications, pe. The buttress berm will be constructed of aggregate to allow placement under water, which will .
es as shown on Drawing S-03 to be achieved.

ed documents have been revised to make all sections and specifications consistent in how each and treated.

ons (Section 31 23 16 - Excavation) require the RC to submit an Excavation Plan. In response to ements have been added to the Excavation Plan for the RC to provide means and methods to and contact water and prevent contact water from contaminating non-impacted or remediated

has been revised accordingly. Refer to the response provided for Comment #31.

ed to consistently identify the two types of water as non-contact water and contact water. Nonvithin the BMP that has not contacted impacted surfaces and occurs 2 ft or more above the lowest the dewatering activity. The non-contact water will be treated by filtration that will include a ers followed by a series of bag or cartridge filters with the final filter at 1µm. P&IDs of the noncontact water are shown on Design Drawings P-003, P-004 and P-005. The non-contact water does not perior

<u>discharge</u>.

ter that has contacted impacted surfaces, any water 2 feet above the lowest point of the excavation, and any non-contact water that has comingled with contact water. The contact water will be treated by chemical addition, an inclined plate clarifier, multimedia filters, bag/cartridge filters and GAC with the final filter at 1µm. P&IDs of the noncontact water are shown on Design Drawings P-006, P-007 and P-008. The contact water will be compliance with WTS effluent discharge concentration criteria prior to discharge.

been revised to address this comment.

ed to consistently identify the miscellaneous contact water.

nged to only include contact water sources and identifies contact water at the start of construction er above the lowest elevation and any water that has contacted impacted surfaces.

ed to in Section 5.9.1.2 is from the treatability testing described in Section 3.4 (Sample ID EXC-1 in water sample was generated by creating an open excavation within the impacted material and the water that accumulated in the excavation without filtering. The sample was meant to simulate ve excavation. While this water sample did exceed the ML for dioxin, the sample had a total stration of 240 mg/l. It was concluded that the dioxin was associated with the suspended solids and vater.

age that occurs within active excavation areas will be managed as contact water. Other seepage hat have already been remediated or from areas that are still covered by the TCRA cap would not ater. The groundwater seepage in the remediated areas would not be through impacted materials ed areas would not transport suspended solids with dioxin upward through the TCRA cap material.

been revised to be consistent with a 7-day TAT.

to sample non-contact water. Accordingly, no revisions are proposed to the SWPPP, SAP or

an effort to make the descriptions of the WTS design, operation and sample collection points rroughout the Revised 100% RD and will continue to do so with any updated design based on the

has been revised to include the following statement "Any non-contact water that mixes with e into contact or mixes with waste materials will be managed as contact water."

VTS will discharge through a diffuser located in the San Jacinto River. The diffuser is designed to ed water into the river and minimize any localized differences in dissolved oxygen between the and the river. In addition, dissolved oxygen is not a discharge parameter that was identified for

4 has been revised per the SWMP. Initial turbidity readings will be collected hourly and then data supports the reduction.

sign Drawing C-56 and Sections W and X on Design Drawing C-57 have been adjusted to extend ase of the restored slope, with an additional rock apron to be installed within a 3-foot deep length beyond the base of the slope, with a 1:1 slope coming back up to surface. In addition, the ock cover has been updated on Drawing C-22. The text in Section 5.6.5 or 5.11 already states that op of the soil embankment.

ised 100% RD is updated to provide clarification - "The sheet piles can seize or get hung-up in the on over time or due to the sealant specified to avoid seepage through the interlocks. In such cases, BMP wall may not be possible without tearing the sheets and the sheet piles will be cut or driven

I and noted. The Respondents will continue to address these logistical uncertainties with EPA and \overline{r} , TxDOT, as the remediation cannot proceed until, among other things, access issues with

Table 1-1

Ill system with a soil buttress on the interior provides a balanced system to withstand the high ior, along with potential vessel impact, while allowing for the full extent of excavation depths to ial. The balanced system design was not determined by the vibration analysis.

leave Report, Attachment E, has been revised to address this comment.

eters will be installed by the RC at critical locations to monitor the actual uplift pressures in real time ties. These pressures will allow for better estimation of the hydraulic heave safety factors during will help to define the maximum river water elevation that would not trigger hydraulic heave risk. ign Specifications (Appendix H) provides the RC requirements for installation of the Pre-Excavation **Piezometers.**

Iel are not considered significant, since the cells' dimensions were not changed and the bathymetry nd in areas outside of the main channel and the area close to the site. Nevertheless, a verification o a previously existing HEC-RAS model was conducted as shown in Appendix A of Appendix F. ata was analyzed in Attachment 3 of the BMP Structural Report (Appendix I) and the values are l velocity values. The design was not only based on the Hydrodynamic Model results but also site data.

I was used in conjunction with on-site velocity data to establish the basis of design for the 100% nd scour protection. As such, the Hydrodynamic Model is not planned to be revised moving

es for the geomembrane and geotextile limits of the TCRA cap have been moved from Drawing Cddition, a reference was added to the 2012 Removal Action Completion Report (RACR) on mation in the 2014 Enhancement Completion Report indicated that additional rock was placed but ane or geotextile was placed.

es that there was geotextile placed within the south central portion of the site to the east of the was previously defined as having Armored Cap Type A which did not include geotextile. This was

cluding the area under the ACBM, does not have geotextile, as confirmed by Figure 5-1 of 2012

been revised to identify "Soil Type S1 Fill" to be placed between the BMP sheet piles.

concern for the structural stability of the BMP. The monitoring described in Attachment B of the ppendix H) is sufficient to address heave concerns for excavations.

16 - Paragraph 3.8 (J) has been revised to eliminate grade control as a confirmation method and n surveys performed by a licensed surveyor in the state of Texas.

Table 1-1

16 - Paragraph 3.10 has been revised to state that the tolerance is "Equal to or 2 inches greater

vised to be consistent with the revisions to Section 5.2 and Section 5.9.1.

f water that are typically generated, contact water and non-contact water. Non-contact water is t has not contacted impacted surfaces and occurs 2 ft or more above the lowest elevation at the tivity. The remaining 2 feet of water and any water that has accumulated within the BMP and has acted surfaces or has comingled with contact water will be managed as contact water.

Vater from Overtopping Event" has been changed to "Contact Water from Overtopping Event" me of water that would be generated during the overtopping of the BMP when impacted surfaces agency, Section 31 23 19 - Dewatering, of the Design Specifications (Appendix H) requires the RC to contact water treatment system to treat this water.

Section 31 23 19 - Dewatering, of the Design Specifications (Appendix H), to specify that the t water pump intake must be maintained at or above 2 feet above the bottom of the excavation. using a floating intake to accomplish this.

ovide a Dredging Operation Plan describing their means and methods to minimize the risk of dging. The engineer will review their plan to ensure it meets the specified requirements.

sequence will depend on contractor's means and methods, and will be reviewed and approved by rior to beginning construction.

owing for clarification - "The following sections provide the sequence of construction for each crosstruction sequence is subject to the Contractor's means and methods and must be reviewed and

d to justify the selection of the Manning's roughness value of 0.045. This roughness coefficient equations outlined in Roughness of loose rock riprap of steep slopes (Rice et. al, 1998) and 0% to account for grouting of rock. This reduction factor is based on guidance in hydraulic design ego's 2014 Hydraulic Design Manual.

evised to clarify the calculations of the hydraulics at the toe of the bench. The friction slope and i Equation 1 to calculate the depth and velocity at the toe of the bench. The velocity at the toe of I to calculate the Froude number at the toe of the bench per Equation 3.

and Attachment 3.6, the FRP pile barrier system is designed to withstand impact energy of 829 ge. This is equivalent to head-on impact at 2.2 ft/s with a laden (loaded) barge and 5.3 ft/s with a $\breve{\bm{\bar{\text{}}}}$ balls are designed for impact forces equivalent to energy absorbed by the barrier wall 2.2 ft/s with a laden (loaded) and 5.3 ft/s with a ballasted (empty) barge). Additional explanation has for clarification. The combined system (FRP pile barrier and BMP wall systems) can withstand .4 ft/s (loaded barge) and 10.6 ft/s (empty barge). The BMP walls will have localized damage at ot result in a collapse of the BMP walls. This performance is considered adequate and acceptable

esigned as a sacrificial system. The piles absorb impact energy by accommodating large ot be reinforced. This absorption method also avoids damage to barge hulls to prevent undesired l leaks etc.).

the design for protective barrier and evaluation of the BMP walls is an appropriate approach and ation models (hydrodynamic analysis) and the buoy data on site.

d FRP pile barrier system is designed to support and protect the excavation in the Northern Import on a temporary basis. The TxDOT requirements for permanent bridge protection are above and beyond the for the Northern Impoundment and would require significant modifications to address TxDOT's ments

t and should not be required to include in the design bridge protection measures that are outside juired in the ROD for RA activities associated with the Northern Impoundment.

Table 1-1

lata from the buoys installed on site was analyzed and is presented in Attachment 3.8 of um values obtained were comparable to maximum velocity output from the hydrodynamic model.

as been added in the Revised 100% RD report and Appendix I for the velocity of impact and energy vall and BMP walls. The 4.4 ft/s velocity is the upper bound limit for impact with a laden (loaded) act.

en designed for a different velocity to provide a higher factor of safety as noted in the report. The inspected after storms as readily as the interior scour protection or the condition of the sheet piles. safety is appropriate.

submitting the requested river velocity data in the monthly reports and will continue to do so.

d and noted.

bling will be conducted prior to any excavation (including the mechanical dredging of the Northwest ration surfaces will be defined up front including any excavation across the boundaries between the e remainder of the area. The DUs are designed to grid off the site relatively evenly based on the bundment with respect to the center and southern berm. Based on the proposed number of preations and the data previously collected in the PDIs and SDI, the DUs and sample locations are define the excavation surface to remove material above the remedial goal of 30 ng/kg.

pling will be conducted prior to any excavation (including the mechanical dredging of the Northwest ation surfaces will be defined up front including any excavation across the boundaries between the he remainder of the area. The DUs are designed to grid off the site relatively evenly based on the bundment with respect to the center and southern berm. Based on the proposed number of preations and the data previously collected in the PDIs and SDI, the DUs and sample locations are define the excavation surface to remove material above the remedial goal of 30 ng/kg.

I from the initial pre-excavation sampling will inform decisions on potential additional samples efine the excavation surface, as outlined in the flow chart of Figure 2.4 shown in the FSP.

unimpacted berm material was generated using AutoCAD Civil 3D. The basis of the limits of the ial is based on historical clean soil sample data and aerial photography. During excavation, the will be determined based on historical borings and visual observation of the material type. aged for potential reuse will be sampled at a frequency of 1 sample per 500 cubic yards, as pendix J, Attachment 3).

ed and noted. The RC's proposed means and methods will be provided to EPA in updated plans, and any other updated RD components for EPA review and approval.

(FSP) has been revised accordingly.

roject Plan (QAPP) has been revised accordingly.

roject Plan (QAPP) has been revised accordingly.

mbient A, B, C, and D have been included as Attachment 2 in the Site-Wide Monitoring Plan

Table 1-1

e is any bias. If any basis exists, it is likely conservative with background turbidity levels from ne summer and the hurricane season.

a are included in Attachment 3 of Appendix I (BMP Structural Report) to support the interpretations gure 3.3.

will be located at a minimum of 100 feet away from the BMP. Installing Background Location B fhown on Figure 3.3 would make it susceptible to damage and disturbance from outside vessel ation B may be slightly adjusted to stay upstream of the active BMP activities.

y Assurance/Quality Control Plan (CQA/QCP) has been revised accordingly.

conducted and/or overseen by the Engineer.

y Assurance/Quality Control Plan (CQA/QCP) has been revised.

Assurance/Quality Control Plan (CQA/QCP) has been revised.

y Assurance/Quality Control Plan (CQA/QCP) has been revised.

ave been identified and noted in the Revised 100% RD. As the SSA process moves forward, the lluated with EPA to determine if other stakeholders need to be engaged.

ed and noted. The TCEQ's Restrictive Covenant template has been included as an attachment to purposes.

has been revised to note that sediment monitoring has continued post-2006.

has been revised to include the completion of a site inspection annually.

and the text has been revised to remove reference to the first Five Year Review.

d boundaries were established during the ROD by EPA. EPA provided a shapefile of the SSA b and that shape has been used on all figures. As such, the boundary of the SSA has been change.

and the text has been revised to remove reference to the first Five Year Review.

ete sample utilized to calculate the arithmetic mean will be reported.

Table 1-1

9 has been amended to remove reference to specific Five Year review periods.

edness Plan (HWPP) has been revised accordingly.

ed and noted.

ed and noted.

mment #11.

Table 1-1

Response to EPA Comments on 100% Remedial Design Revised Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site

LJA Comments for permits to work within TxDOT ROW

This will be discussed in future coordination with TXDOT. Respondents will continue to engage TxDOT and EPA on the BMP design and TxDOT's Interstate Highway-10 bridge project, including protective structures, in order to progress both

provided in the 100% RD as Appendix I, Attachment 3.7. The discussion on the vibration limits itch the graph.

This will be discussed in future coordination with TXDOT. Respondents will continue to engage TxDOT and EPA on the joint use of the access road, in order to progress both projects forward.

Table 2-1

First Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

Notes:

ng/kg - microgram per kilogram

pg/kg - picogram per kilogram

mg/kg - milligram per kilogram

Deg C - Degrees in Celsius

s.u. - standard unit

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Esti

-- Data not available

Table 2-1

First Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

-- Data not available

Notes:

Notes:

ng/kg - microgram per kilogram

pg/kg - picogram per kilogram

mg/kg - milligram per kilogram

Deg C - Degrees in Celsius

s.u. - standard unit

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Esti

Table 2-1

First Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

Notes:

ng/kg - microgram per kilogram

pg/kg - picogram per kilogram

mg/kg - milligram per kilogram

Deg C - Degrees in Celsius

s.u. - standard unit

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Esti

-- Data not available
First Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Total solids %

-- Data not available

80.6 | 74.5 | 79.5 | 81 | 77 | 74.6 | 78.3 | 82.6 | 79.1 | 80.1 | 80 | 89.7 | 86.5 | 84.2 | 81.9

Notes:

Notes:

ng/kg - microgram per kilogram

pg/kg - picogram per kilogram

mg/kg - milligram per kilogram

Deg C - Degrees in Celsius

s.u. - standard unit

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Esti

First Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Total solids %

-- Data not available

Notes:

Notes:

ng/kg - microgram per kilogram

pg/kg - picogram per kilogram

mg/kg - milligram per kilogram

Deg C - Degrees in Celsius

s.u. - standard unit

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Esti

First Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

-- Data not available

Notes:

Notes:

ng/kg - microgram per kilogram

pg/kg - picogram per kilogram

mg/kg - milligram per kilogram

Deg C - Degrees in Celsius

s.u. - standard unit

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Esti

First Phase Pre-Design Investigation Waste Characterization Results Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

TCLP - Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure NA - Not Applicable
mg/L - milligrams per Liter NA - Standard unit

mg/L - milligrams per Liter
ug/L - microgram per Liter

mg/kg - milligram per kilogram
Deg C - Degrees in Celsius

TCLP - Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.
J - Estimated concentration.

UJ - Not detected; associated reporting limit is estimated.
--- - Not analyzed

¹ - TCLP Regulatory Levels from the *Guidelines for the Classification and Coding of Industrial and Hazardous Wastes*, November 2014, and Table 1 - Maximum Concentrations.

2 - Method Detection Limits were taken from *Table 9 Analyte, Method Reporting Limits, and Method Detection Limits for Waste Characterization Samples* from the First Phase Pre-Design Investigation Report.

 3 - TPH Regulatory Standard is a Total value, not a TCLP.

GHD 11215702 (16)

Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

pg/g - picogram per gram

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Estimated concentration.

Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

pg/g - picogram per gram

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Estimated concentration.

Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

pg/g - picogram per gram

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Estimated concentration.

Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

pg/g - picogram per gram

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Estimated concentration.

Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

pg/g - picogram per gram

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Estimated concentration.

Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

pg/g - picogram per gram

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Estimated concentration.

Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

pg/g - picogram per gram

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Estimated concentration.

Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

pg/g - picogram per gram

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Estimated concentration.

Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

pg/g - picogram per gram

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Estimated concentration.

Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

pg/g - picogram per gram

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Estimated concentration.

Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

pg/g - picogram per gram

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Estimated concentration.

Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation Analytical Results Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

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Supplemental Design Investigation Analytical Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:
U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit
U - Estimated concentration
UJ - Not detected; associated reporting limit is estimated
JJ - Ristimated concentration, result may be biased low

pg/g - picogram per grams

J+ - Estimated concentration, result may be biased high TEQ - Toxicity Equivalent Quotient ft bgs - Feet below ground surface

GHD 11215702 (16)

Supplemental Design Investigation Analytical Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

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Notes:
U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit
U - Estimated concentration
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JJ - Estimated concentration, result may be biased low

GHD 11215702 (16)

Supplemental Design Investigation Analytical Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

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J+ - Estimated concentration, result may be biased high TEQ - Toxicity Equivalent Quotient ft bgs - Feet below ground surface

Supplemental Design Investigation Analytical Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

pg/g - picogram per grams

J+ - Estimated concentration, result may be biased high TEQ - Toxicity Equivalent Quotient ft bgs - Feet below ground surface

Notes:
U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit
U - Estimated concentration
UJ - Not detected; associated reporting limit is estimated
JJ - Estimated concentration, result may be biased low

Supplemental Design Investigation Waste Characterization Results Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site

s.u. - standard units

Notes:

¹ Regulatory limits listed in Title 30 of the Texas of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 335, Subchapter R (Waste Classification) Appendix 1, Table 1 for Class 1 Nonhazardous Industrial Waste.

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit

J - Estimated concentration

J- - Estimated concentration, result may be biased low

CNL - Contains Free Liquid

CNF - Contains No Free Liquid

TCLP - Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure

mg/L - milligrams per liter

ug/kg - micrograms per kilogram

ft bgs - feet below ground surface mg/kg - micrograms per kilogram

RI, PDI-1, PDI-2, and SDI Dioxins and Furans Results Summary - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

RI, PDI-1, PDI-2, and SDI Dioxins and Furans Results Summary - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site

Harris County, Texas

RI, PDI-1, PDI-2, and SDI Dioxins and Furans Results Summary - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

RI, PDI-1, PDI-2, and SDI Dioxins and Furans Results Summary - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

RI, PDI-1, PDI-2, and SDI Dioxins and Furans Results Summary - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site

Harris County, Texas

RI, PDI-1, PDI-2, and SDI Dioxins and Furans Results Summary - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

2019 Treatability Waste Material Characterization Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

2019 Treatability Waste Material Characterization Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

2019 Treatability Waste Material Characterization Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

TCLP - Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure -- Data not available

mg/L - milligrams per Liter

ug/L - microgram per Liter

mg/kg - milligram per kilogram

Deg F - Degrees in Fahrenheit

s.u. - standard unit

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Estimated concentration.

2019 Pilot Test Effluent Characterization Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

2019 Pilot Test Effluent Characterization Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

2019 Pilot Test Effluent Characterization Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

2019 Pilot Test Effluent Characterization Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

¹ Per an EPA email dated February 18, 2020, compliance with the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards will be determined using the minimum level from the EPA approved method (1613B), cited in 40 CFR Part 136, in sampling

TCLP - Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure Deg F - Degrees in Fahrenheit EPA - US Environmental Protection Agency s.u. - standard unit CFR - Code of Federal Regulations J - Estimated concentration.

mg/kg - milligram per kilogram NL - No limit

- TCEQ Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
BHC benzene hexachloride
PCB polychlorinated biphenyl Imit.
PCB polychlorinated biphenyl Imit. J+ - Estimated concentration, result may be biased high.
- mg/L milligrams per Liter and the result of the result from a duplicate sample that the result from a duplicate sample ug/L milligrams per Liter Dup indicates the result from a duplicate sample ug/L microgram per L

UJ - Not detected; associated reporting limit is estimated.

pg/L - picograms per Liter -- Data not available

J- - Estimated concentration, result may be biased low

2019 Bench-Scale Contact Water Filtration Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

mg/L - milligrams per Liter

pg/L - picograms per Liter µm - micron U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Estimated concentration.

2019 Focused Filtration Testing Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

pg/L - picograms per Liter

µm - micron

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Estimated concentration.

2019 Armored Cap Test Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

2019 Armored Cap Test Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

2019 Armored Cap Test Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

pg/L - picograms per Liter

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Estimated concentration.

TEQ - toxic equivalency

WHO - World Health Organization

Analytical Results from 2020 Field Filtration Testing Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

mg/L - milligram per liter

pg/L - picogram per liter

µm - micrometer

TSS = total suspended solids

Total TCDD = Total tetrachlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxin

Total TCDF = Total tetrachlorodibenzofuran

2,3,7,8-TCDD = 2,3,7,8 tetrachlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxin

2,3,7,8-TCDF = 2,3,7,8 tetrachlorodibenzofuran

J - Estimated concentration

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit

Results from Filtrate Generated from Particle Size Analysis - Approach B Filtration Testing Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

mg/L - milligram per liter

pg/L - picogram per liter

µm - micrometer

Total TCDD = Total tetrachlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxin

Total TCDF = Total tetrachlorodibenzofuran

2,3,7,8-TCDD = 2,3,7,8 tetrachlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxin

2,3,7,8-TCDF = 2,3,7,8 tetrachlorodibenzofuran

J - Estimated concentration

Constituent Concentrations throughout Treatment Process - Additional WTS Treatability Testing Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

mg/L - milligram per liter

pg/L - picogram per liter

µm - micrometer

WTS - Water Treatment System

Total TCDD = Total tetrachlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxin

Total TCDF = Total tetrachlorodibenzofuran

2,3,7,8-TCDD = 2,3,7,8 tetrachlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxin

2,3,7,8-TCDF = 2,3,7,8 tetrachlorodibenzofuran

J - Estimated concentration

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit

on Ship Channel System has been adopted and an implementation Northern Impoundment, including nickel, was determined by t Limitations (WQBELs) using TexTox Menus model provided by odel used to develop the TMDL ensures that the cumulative effects r quality criteria for nickel.

Fexas 303(d) list, San Jacinto River Segment 1005 is classified as vchlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in edible tissues as category 5; f a TMDL. A TMDL for dioxin and PCBs in edible tissues Segment exas Surface Water Quality Standard (TSWQS) for dioxins is om the Northern Impoundment, in accordance with the EPA's ppendix D of this Northern Impoundment 90% RD Package), which

Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARAR) Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

I is below the minimum level using the EPA approved be identified as non-detect and the discharge would be *determined to be in compliance with the ARAR.*

the state's quidance and other permits issued by TCEQ. EPA's ϵ water treatment facility using a 1 micron final filtration step in the

comply with the substantive technical requirements of the CWA arges to a Publicly Owned Treatment Work (POTW) would be **Regulate Solutate SOTW.**

ctivities in the Northern Impoundment will be treated and ment 1005). The discharge location(s) have yet to be determined ern Impoundment, so only the substantive requirements of an t, will be required.

sing TexTox menu # 5 for bay or wide tidal river were calculated esign. Development of the treatment system discharge limits are

EPA has determined that compliance with the TSWQS ARAR will be attained as follows:

- The state surface water quality standard for Dioxins/Furans is 7.97 x 10-8 μg/L [0.0797 pg/L] (as

ill be determined by using minimum level of the EPA approved method (1613B), cited in 40 CFR Part 136 (GUIDELINES ESTABLISHING TEST PROCEDURES JTANTS), in sampling of surface water discharges during the Site

ponse activity were to enter receiving waters directly or indirectly, must comply with applicable Federal, State, and Local ninistrative permitting requirements.

Impoundment 90% RD Package, contact water generated during d to a POTW; therefore this regulation does not apply.

Int of projects that involve discharge of dredge/fill or would impact dam barrier wall to be installed at the Northern Impoundment is on 401 would apply to the project. The project will comply with

.S. These requirements are applicable to dredging, in-water or levees, stream channelization, excavation and/or dewatering ply to the work in the Northern Impoundment.

ould be made to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse effects on le, select a practicable (engineering feasible) alternative with the -site work will not be required; however, the substantive technical the development, evaluation, and implementation of the remedial ters of the U.S. AA "Waters and Wetlands Delineation Report" will following submittal of the Northern Impoundment 90% RD.

rk must comply with the substantive technical requirements of loped and implemented using best management practices to iments in stormwater runoff.

surface water discharge from the Northern Impoundment, in 0, e-mail quoted in Item No. 1, and included in Appendix D of this

. A SWPPP will be developed and implemented using best rosion and entrainment of sediments in stormwater runoff.

ent for projects that involve discharge of dredge fill or would impact rdam barrier wall that will be installed at the Northern Northern Impoundment RD Package, is considered "fill material"; project. The BMP installation and removal activities will comply

for projects that involve the use of state water and/or divert water use more than 10 acre-feet of water and/or exceed one year term Hydrodynamic modeling was performed at the request of the Harris evaluate the effect the cofferdam barrier wall planned for the water levels of the surrounding floodplain. Results of the structure on the floodplain would be negligible under 2-year, rios. This evaluation was summarized in a letter submitted to the rsion of the letter was submitted on May 6, 2022, which addressed ceived on April 8, 2022. The revised letter is included in nt 90% RD package. At the request of the Texas Department of s also evaluated the potential effect the cofferdam barrier would ss. The results of this evaluation were submitted to TxDOT on Aded in Appendix D.

activities if the waste materials or affected soils contain RCRA dous waste characteristic.

bundment would be required to comply with these regulations. vestigations (PDI-1, PDI-2) and supplemental design investigation materials sampled to date are not listed hazardous waste, do not CRA-thresholds, and are not classified as characteristic hazardous $\mathbf f$ the material as non-hazardous was summarized in a letter to the rrovided a response letter dated November 19, 2020, supporting included in Appendix D of this Northern Impoundment 90% RD ed the waste classification, as described in Section 3.3 of the main D Package.

Impoundment are below the regulatory threshold of 50 mg/kg, at could require management of any waste materials as a TSCA

ivities will not involve the construction of a municipal landfill;

mote the proper collection, handling, storage, processing, and cipal hazardous waste in a manner consistent with the purposes of 361. These regulations also define the classification of the Impoundment. They are applicable and will be followed for waste nt that are transported to off-site landfills.

be necessary based on this regulation. The Northern Impoundment and other site controls as defined in the Health and Safety Plan. of current signage required pursuant to the Operations and itical Removal Action (TCRA) are expected to be addressed

ctivities associated with the Northern Impoundment would be . Based on the results of the PDIs and SDI for the RD, the ampled to date are not listed hazardous waste, do not contain lesholds, and are not classified as characteristic hazardous waste. aterial as non-hazardous was summarized in a letter to the EPA ed a response letter dated November 19, 2020, supporting the luded in Appendix D of the Northern Impoundment 90% RD ed the waste classification, as described in Section 3.3 of the main **D** Package.

azardous material transported to and from work sites for the e results of the PDIs and the SDI, it is not expected that the waste orthern Impoundment and transported off-site will be classified as ts would not apply.

compliance with the substantive technical requirements of the CAA vith any applicable TCEQ requirements regarding such emissions.

e air permits in Texas, so discharges must comply with the s regulation. Emissions generated from equipment used to extract, stroy contaminants for the purpose of remediation are covered by a emissions are limited to 5 ton per year or 1 pound per hour for the commencing construction, emission calculations would be th the PBR.

at the Northern Impoundment is considered "fill material"; tarbors Act of 1899 would apply to the BMP installation and rformed in a manner that complies with substantive requirements

Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARAR) Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

GHD 11215702 (16)

astal Zone Boundary (GLO TCMP). During the Remedial n evaluation was made as to whether remedial alternatives may and provides a technical basis for the lead agency (EPA) to nsistent with the state's TCMP. These requirements have been

18201C074M, effective on 1/6/2017, indicates that the Northern ated coastal zone (Zone VE), which is within the Riverine Floodway. namic modeling was conducted as part of the RD to determine if the Northern Impoundment 90% RD Package, would have any ults of that evaluation suggest that the impacts would be negligible.

namic modeling was conducted to determine if the cofferdam on the floodplain. The results of that evaluation suggest that the

odplain and the temporary structure (cofferdam barrier wall) will be No. 10 above, hydrodynamic modeling was conducted to Id have any adverse effect on the floodplain. The results of that Id be negligible. The Respondents will be preparing and submitting lelineation Report" to address requirements under EO 11990.

ccur within the cofferdam wall and footprint of the Northern le dredging, and therefore will not impact critical areas. An updated cies Habitat Suitability Evaluation will be included in a submittal to rthern Impoundment 90% RD.

astal Zone Boundary (GLO TCMP). During the RI/FS, an evaluation atives may affect (adversely or not) the coastal zone and provides a to determine whether the activity will be consistent with the state's porated into the design as applicable.

hal instrument should not be required; however, the work will be

18201C074M, effective on January 6, 2017, indicates that the a designated coastal zone (Zone VE), which is within the Riverine erty that may be used for offices, laydown and staging areas are ual exceedance probability (AEP) for flooding Zone AE. Design of liquid storage tanks, will comply with Harris County Texas dditionally, at the request of HCFCD, as stated in Item No. 10 ducted as part of the RD to determine if the cofferdam structure odplain. The results of that evaluation suggest that the impacts

ew of photographs and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) NMFS) species and habitat maps was performed. Another evaluations concluded that there are no federally listed T&E or Impoundment or in areas in the vicinity of the Northern I be included in a submittal to the USACE following submittal of the

hal restoration of the Northern Impoundment after remedial h the USFWS, Department of Interior, and state wildlife resources quate protection of fish and wildlife resources.

bald or golden eagles frequent the Northern Impoundment; entified prior to or during construction, activities will be designed to

be carried out in a manner to avoid adversely affecting migratory their nests.

ew of photographs and USFWS and NMFS species and habitat was performed in 2021. Both evaluations concluded that there are present on the Northern Impoundment or in areas in the vicinity of T&E Habitat Suitability Evaluation will be included in a submittal to rthern Impoundment 90% RD.

te Pits RI/FS cultural resources assessment, no NRHP-eligible f concern. This was further confirmed by a cultural resources 21. This assessment will be included in a submittal to the USACE requirement is therefore not applicable.

te Pits RI/FS cultural resources assessment, no NRHP-eligible concern. This was further confirmed by a cultural resources 21. This assessment will be included in a submittal to the USACE undment 90% RD. This requirement is therefore not applicable.

archaeological site is found; based on evaluations during the esources would be found on the Northern Impoundment. This was assessment completed in December 2021. This requirement is

 $\overline{\text{a}}$ if the noise exceeds a decibel level of 85 at the point of potential the noise receives notice from a magistrate or peace officer that

poundment RA, as described in the Northern Impoundment 90% 85-decibel level beyond the immediate work area. The activities nuisance due to the isolation of the work, its location adjacent to a g normal working hours, and the industrial nature of activities on in the Site-Wide Monitoring Plan (Appendix J), noise impacts from ed by the remedial contractor at the start of work.

Excavation Removal Elevations Final 100% Remedial Design – Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes: Notes:

- Bold font indicates dioxins results >30 ng/kg TEQ.

- Yellow shading indicates material >30 ng/kg TEQ being removed.

- Green shading indicates material <30 ng/kg TEQ being removed.

- Red line indicates the elevation in each boring at which there is risk of hydraulic heave (Factor of Safety <1.25).

- Green line indicates the target removal elevation for each boring.

- Black line indicates the target removal and hydraulic heave elevations are essentially identical.

- Dark grey shading indicates soil borings in the northwest corner.

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Water Treatment Basis of Sizing Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Water Treatment Basis of Sizing Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes & Design Assumptions

eparate flocculation and inclined plate clarifier sections ication sections will flow by gravity ill include sludge hopper to allow for sludge withdrawal

on VFD to adjust treatment rate, as required n on low level in flocculation/clarifier tank(s) n on high level in treatment system (WTS) area frac tank

sels with forward-feed automated backwash 10-um Bag Filtration Units (2,000 gpm) (bulk water)

dge Model PL-POMF-R1-10-P2

1-um Bag Filtration Units (2,000 gpm) (bulk water) dge Model PL-POMF-R1-1-P2

ad-lag with 10 minute contact time each

ve displacement pump(s) (e.g., air diaphragm) on solids accumulation rate ted during start-up and operations

se bottom box to trap solids and allow water to drain

will be adjusted during start-up and operations

Notes:

Abbreviations:

gpm - Gallons per Minute ppm - Parts per Million VFD - Variable Frequency Drive Guilding the Gallons per Hour ft² - Square Feet cy - Cubic Yard ft³ - Cubic Feet

- The 100% process flow diagram (drawing P‑001 & P-002) and piping and instrumentation diagrams (drawings P‑003 through P‑009) illustrate the major water treatment system equipment and components.

- The 100% pump schedule (drawing P-017) illustrate the pump criteria and preliminary selections

- The 100% civil details (drawing C-27) illustrate the design of the discharge diffuser
Sand Separation Area Analytical Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Notes:

pg/g - picocuries per gram

DUP - indicates the result from a duplicate sample

U - Not detected at the associated reporting limit.

J - Estimated concentration.

- - Not analyzed

GHD 11215702 (16)

Sand Separation Area Analytical Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

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GHD 11215702 (16)

Sand Separation Area Analytical Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

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GHD 11215702 (16)

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GHD 11215702 (16)

Sand Separation Area Analytical Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

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Sand Separation Area Analytical Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Sand Separation Area Analytical Results - Northern Impoundment Final 100% Remedial Design - Northern Impoundment San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site Harris County, Texas

Data source: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong). (O)
OpenStreetMap contributions, a

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TCRA Cap Perimeter ЦJ,

Legend

- **4** Staff Gauge and Transducer Location (Approximate)
- **1** PDI-2 Analytical Boring Location
- **1** PDI-2 Geotechnical Boring Location
- **1** PDI-2 Analytical and Geotechnical Boring Location
- / PDI-2 Analytical Contingent Boring Not Completed
- **A** Transducer Location

Non-impacted Berm Area

Articulated Concrete Block Mat (ACBM)

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Legend

1 2019 PDI-2 Sand Separation Area Sample < 30 ng/kg

1 2019 PDI-2 Sand Separation Area Sample > 30 ng/kg

Number 2010 Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study 2010 Sediment Core Sample Location **Number 2010** Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study 2010 Sediment Grab Sample Location Half-Acre Grid

- TCRA Cap Perimeter --. **L..a** C]
	- Sand Separation Area Outline from 2017 Record of Decision (ROD)

Data source: ©2024 Google, Imagery Date 2/9/20 Created by: yxiong2

Project No. **11215702** Revision No. **-** Date **Jul 16, 2024**

SAND SEPARATION AREA ANALYTICAL RESULTS

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FIGURE 2-7

SJSB097 SJSB103 SJSB057 SJSB098 22 6.2 **SJSB095** 71 24200 **SJSB100** -20.39' -17.36' -16.36' -17.64' 35000 110 1900 37600 1.1 1.2 **SJSB055-C1 SJSB099** -198 -18.36' -15.36' -22.39' -19.64' -4.07' 1800 59 3540 14 1.8 34.3 **SJSB070** 3.7 53000 **SJSB096** -21.36' -24.39' -6.07' -11.5' -20.36' -21.64' -17.36' -2.61' 160 372 1.0 92 4.8 87000 43900 31.1 1.4 54000 -22.36' -26.39' -23.36' -23.64' -13.5' -3.2' -8.07' -19.36' -8.55' -4.61' 7.60 3.9 9.7 9600 22000 2.6 **SJSB071** 1.34 68600 130 -21.36' **SJGB013** -24.36' 0.81 -25.36' -5.2' -28.39' -25.64' -10.07' -15.5' -10.55' -6.61' **203** 0.49 3900 -27.36' 1200 0.697 310 45600 0.77 34700 2.3 13 5100 **SJSB101** -27.64' -30.39' -12.07' -17.5' -7.2' -26.36' -12.55' -100 -23.36' -2.8' -8.61' **0.46** 680 15.9 57 1.07 45900 24300 1.4 $^{4.9}$ 0.58 **SJSB058** 63000 15 1740 -32.39' -3.2' **-29.36'** -14.07' -19.5' -9.2' -28.36' -29.64' **SJSB037** -14.55' -25.36' -2.15' -4.8' -10.61' 1.59 -12.0' **0.29** 11 6.0 1.16 8500 12.0 0.57 1.43' 26.8 16700 210 59000 -21.5 ⁸⁸⁸-27.86 -16.55' **-31.64'** -16.07' -5.2' -30.36' -34.39' -11.2' -6.8' -12.61' **1.5** -1.4' -4.15' -14.0' **0.16** 0.671 55 **0.51** 84 2.24 1000 36100 25000 1.9 104 **-29.36' -36.39'** -18.55' **-32.36'** -18.07' -23.5' -14.61' -7.2' -8.8' -13.2' **SJSB073** $-3.4'$ **0.60** 1.12 -2.6' -16.0' -6.15' 5.2 609 4840 40400 1.03 26.0 **25.2 -20.07'** 9.6 -25.5' 18 \bullet **SJSB103 5.49** -20.55' -4.4' -9.2' -10.8' -15.2' -5.4' -16.61' 1.9 -8.15' -4.9' **-18.0'** -0.71' 324 1.48 6.90 **14** 0.873 2.7 **-27.5'** -6.6' **-18.61'** -22.55' 31000 -12.8' -17.2' -11.2' **13** -7.4' -10.15' **b**
SJSB057 **EUSEOCY SJSB097 4.69** -2.71' 1160 0.523 230 -8.6' -9.6' **-24.55' -13.2' 200 - 613 - 1927**
-000 - 613
200 - 6145 26000 -14.8' -9.4' -12.15' **SJSB056 SJSB055** $\mathbf Q$ -4.71' 0.62 **-11.6'** 44.6 376 $\mathbf{\mathbb{Q}}$ **SJSB100** -16.8' 68000 -14.15' -11.4' 9890 **45.4** -6.71' **SJSB098 -18.8'** 0.27 **0** ⁸³⁰⁰⁰ -134 -16.15' -8.71' $\sum_{i=1}^{n}$ 136 \bullet 11 !(< **SJSB055-C1** 41 -18.15' **SJGB013 SJSB056-C1** -15.4' -10.71' **3.2** 788 **-20.15'** !(< **SJSB053** 5.2 -17.4' $\overline{}$ areas **0.524** -12.71' **SJSB095 SJSB096** $\textcircled{\small{}}$ 15 **-19.4' SJSB099** !(< **SJSB053-C1** -14.71' \bigcirc **5.6 SJSB070 -16.71'** $_{\rm SJSE054}$ $^{\circ}$ $\overline{\mathbf{X}}$ **SUSB001 Causem SJSB033 SJSB034** !(< **SJSB058 SJGB014** \bigcirc 85.6 ") **R**
SJSB037 **SJSB094 SJSB052 SJGB012** 1.1' $\textcircled{\small{}}$ 4050 **SJSB052-C1** 1050 **SJSB033** SJGB012 -0.9' **SJSB072** \circledcirc -1.6' \bullet \triangle \bigcirc 7120 25100 **SJSB074 SJSB092 SJSB073 SJSB104** -2.9' **SJSB072** -3.6' \bigcirc **SJSB093** 5740 7800 !(**SJSB038** -0.58' **SJSB076** 24400 **SJSB075** -4.9' 1.34' ") -5.6' 3000 **A** success **SUCCESS** 1700 -2.58' 70000 **17700** \bullet **SJSB074 SJSB036** -6.9' -0.66' **-7.6'** 0.26' **SJGB016** 157 -4.58' 0.28' 30000 2.25' 49000 \bigcirc \bigcirc -8.9' **SJSB075 SJSB076** -2.66' -1.74' **SJSB090 SJSB091 SJSB088 SJGB011** -6.58' \bigcirc -1.72' \bigcirc 63000 24.0 87 ") **SJSB036 A**
SJGB011 55000 -10.9' 12 \bullet -4.66' -1.25' 12700 -3.74' ") -8.58' -3.72' 50500 17.6 5.1 ") **SJSB032** 210 **SJSB106** -1.6' **SJSB035** -12.9' 340 -2.25' 22200 **SJSB089** -6.66' -5.74 \bigcirc -10.58' -5.72' **SJSB078** \bigcirc **12.5 -14.9'** -3.75' 3.1 -3.6 11.0 **SJSB049 SJSB077** *# **SJGB010** \bigcirc 276 1.3 9430 -8.66' -7.74' -5.75' -12.58' -7.72' 0.37 150 -5.6' \bigcirc 270 **SJSB079** 1.7 -10.66' -9.74' -7.6' 14800 -7.75' -14.58' 519 ¹⁹ -9.75' **-10.75' ¹⁸⁹** -9.72' **SJGB017** -8.75' 2.6 21 \bigcirc 34 0.88 -12.66' -11.74' 8710 **SJGB010** -16.58' -11.72' **0.84** 5.2 -9.6' \bigcirc **SJSB087** 0.52 1.8 **3.37 SJSB080 SJSB047-C1 -14.66'** \bigcirc -13.74' 4720 **SJSB086 -11.1' SJSB077** $\textcolor{blue}{\bullet}$ -18.58' -13.72' **3.7** -1.1' ") \bullet 120 **6.7 SJSB081 -15.74' SJSB032 -15.72'** 26900 **SJSB031** $\boldsymbol{\Omega}$ -20.58' -0.58' **0.81** -3.1' 3410 6350 **SJSB046-C1 -22.58' ONSERIE ON CONSERIES** -0.3' **SJSB083** -2.58' -5.1' **194** $\mathbf 0$ 7660 **SJSB080 SJSB084** ") **SJSB030** \bigcirc -2.3' **-6.3' SJSB082** -4.58' **SJSB078** 23000 3170 **SJSB102** 63000 **O**SJSB046 -4.3' $\mathsf Q$ -0.23' -6.58' 33000 6.19 14000 !(< **SJSB045-C1** 77000 -0.18' -6.3' -2.23' **SJSB079 SJSB081** -8.58' 85.8 47000 ${\mathbb Q}$ 9200 **SJSB029** 150 -2.18' 2300 ") -8.3' **SJSB045** -4.23' 32000 **SJSB082** -10.58' 26.5 86000 3200 -0.95' -4.26' 24 -4.18' -10.3' -6.23' 15000 52000 -12.58' 47000 **SJSB028 15.9** 140 1500 -3.75' \mathfrak{g} -2.95' -6.26' 350 -6.18' -12.3' 670 **SJSB046-C1** -8.23' 28000 47000 -14.58' 100 2.13 12 -5.75' **SJSB083 0.21** -8.18' -4.95' -8.26' 1550 -14.3' -10.23' 2000 **-16.58'** 50000 46000 5.3 -4.4' 110 **SJSB102 SJSB028 12.7** -7.75' 15 _{-6.95} -10.18' -10.26' 3350 **-16.3'** -4.93' -12.23' 7.7 59.2 50000 1400 19000 -6.4' 16 -9.75' 2200 044 _{-8.05} 2.5' -12.18' -12.26' 2820 -14.23' -4.05' -6.93' 190 120 2.40 280 -8.4' 12 9.80 5.9 -10.95' **13** -11.75' -14.26' 11700 0.5' -14.18' -6.05' **-16.23'** -8.93' 4.1 **Legend** 3.1 2.8 -10.4' 35.9 140 340 14 -13.75' -12.95' -16.26' -1.5' **In Supplemental Design Boring <30 ng/kg** 14900 -16.18' -8.05' -10.93' 1.1 16 1.7 -12.4' 12.3 2.7 -15.75' 15000 24 **6** Supplemental Design Boring >30 ng/kg -14.95' -18.18' -18.26' 55.1 -3.5' -10.05' -12.93' **0.64** 3.7 **0.87** -14.4' 21.2 **1** PDI-2 Sample Location <30 ng/kg 260 200 5.6 **-16.95'** -17.75' **-20.26'** -20.18' **0.99** 2230 -12.05' -5.5' -14.93' **O** PDI-2 Sample Location >30 ng/kg **-19.75'** -16.4' **0.42** 3.35 2.5 24 205 _{-16.93} -14.05' -7.5' **-22.18' PDI-1 Boring Location <30 ng/kg** -18.4' 2.59 9.0 34 **5690 D** PDI-1 Boring Location >30 ng/kg -16.05' -9.5' -18.93' **-20.4'** 2.39 0.72 1.4 * RI Boring Location <30 ng/kg -180 -11.5' -20.93' **4.8 1.19** * RI Boring Location >30ng/kg 110 **-13.5'** Non-impacted Berm Area **-22.93'** -20.05' Non-impacted Berm /
— TCRA Cap Perimeter 8.9 -22.05' Extent of ACBM 3.9 -24.05' Excavation Limit Feet Map Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic Feet Map Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic Feet
Notes: **4.0 Excavation Limit -26.05' Notes:** $TEQ_{DF,M}$ = TCDD Toxicity Equivalent for Mammals TCDD = 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxin

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- **Composite Sample 2** Composite Sample 3
	- § Composite Sample 4
- Approximate Location of Excavation for Contact Water Sample masa
	- TCRA Cap Perimeter
	- Approximately 30 gallons of material from 4
	- separate portions of the Northern Impoundment were composited into 4 treatability samples. **1.**
	- Material from the first 20 feet of the PDI-2 geotechnical borings in the northwest, northeast, and southeast quadrants was used as Composite Samples 2-4. Material from the pilot test excavation was used as Composite Sample 1 for the southwest quadrant. **2.**
- PDI-2 Second Phase Pre-Design Investigation
TCRA Time Critical Removal Action Time Critical Removal Action

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Notes:

pg/L = picogram per liter mg/L = milligram per liter 2,3,7,8 TCDD =Tetrachlorodibenzodioxin TSS = total suspended solids $U =$ not detected at the associated reporting limit 1) The Minimum Level (ML) of EPA approved method 1613B is 10 pg/L. 2) Full analytical data set included in Table 3-2.

Lab reports included in Appendix D.

FIGURE 3-2

Project No. **11215702** Revision No. **-** Date **May 6, 2022**

SAN JACINTO RIVER WASTE PITS SITE HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

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2019 PILOT TEST PROCESS FLOW DIAGRAM

FIGURE 3-3

Project No. **11215702** Revision No. **-** Date **May 6, 2022**

SAN JACINTO RIVER WASTE PITS SITE HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

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2019 PILOT TEST EFFLUENT TURBIDITY

Notes: pg/L = picogram per liter $\lim_{n \to \infty}$ = micron TCDF =Tetrachlorodibenzofuran OCDD = Octachlorodibenzodioxin TCDD = Tetrachlorodibenzodioxin HxCDF = Hexachlorodibenzofuran PeCDF = Pentachlorodibenzofuran HpCDF = Heptachlorodibenzofuran

HpCDD = Heptachlorodibenzodioxin pilot test was then filtered through 1 μm, 0.45 μm, The graph on the right shows dioxin/furan results after the clarified and filtered effluent from the on-site 0.1 µm, 0.05 µm, and 0.025 µm filters.

The graph on the left shows dioxin/furan results after the raw contact water was filtered through 100 µm, 10 µm, 1 µm, 0.45 µm, and 0.1 µm filters.

across each area.

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Notes:

• gpm = gallons per minute

• min = minutes

• psi = pounds per square inch

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Notes:

- TSS = total suspended solids
- mg/L = milligrams per liter

• This graph shows the TSS values after recirculation. Expected TSS values for filtrate from Tank 1 and Tank 2 were calculated based on particle size distributions prior to recirculation versus filter pore sizes used during recirculation. Paper Size ANSI B

FIGURE 3-7 Project No. **11215702** Revision No. **-** Date **May 19, 2022 SAN JACINTO RIVER WASTE PITS SITE HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS ACTUAL VERSUS EXPECTED (CALCULATED) TSS VALUES - APPROACH B FILTRATION TESTING**

Legend

Notes: San Jacinto River water surface elevations measured at the Sheldon Gage (USGS #08072050)

- Water Surface Elevation (Feet NAVD88)

NAVD88 = North American Vertical Datum of 1988

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HISTORICAL RIVER ELEVATIONS -SHELDON GAGE

Project No. 11215702 Revision No. -Date May 6, 2022

FIGURE 5-1

Legend

Northern Impoundment Water Surface (Hindcasted)

Sheldon Gage Water Surface (Measured)

San Jacinto River water surface elevations measured at the Sheldon Gage (USGS #08072050)

BMP = Best Management Practice (ie: cofferdam or sheetpile wall)"
 FIGURE 5-2 UPDATED HINDCASTED WATER SURFACE ELEVATIONS - YEAR ROUND

Project No. **11215702** Revision No. **-** Date **Nov 25, 2024**

SAN JACINTO RIVER WASTE PITS SITE HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

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San Jacinto River water surface data at the Northern Impoundment based upon data obtained from a transducer installed in the river on the west side of the Northern Impoundment in July, 2019

NAVD88 = North American Vertical Datum of 1988

Legend

Northern Impoundment Water Surface (Hindcasted)

Sheldon Gage Water Surface (Measured)

San Jacinto River water surface elevations measured at the Sheldon Gage (USGS #08072050)

NAVD88 = North American Vertical Datum of 1988

Notes:

San Jacinto River water surface data at the Northern Impoundment based upon data obtained from a transducer installed in the river on the west side of the Northern Impoundment in July, 2019

BMP = Best Management Practice (ie: cofferdam or sheetpile wall)"

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Station

- SanJac
- Sheldon

SAN JACINTO RIVER WASTE PITS SITE
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

UPDATED HINDCASTED WATER SURFACE ELEVATIONS -NOVEMBER TO APRIL

Project No. 11215702 Revision No. -

Date Jul 8, 2024

FIGURE 5-3

FIGURE 5-4

Project No. **11215702** Revision No. **-** Date **Nov 19, 2024**

