




## COMMUNICATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	June 15, 2021
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Randle Reef Sediment Remediation Project Update - HW.21.01
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Mark Bainbridge Director, Water and Wastewater Planning and Capital Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

The following update is provided for City of Hamilton (City) Council to identify progress made on the Randle Reef Sediment Remediation project currently active in Hamilton Harbour under the leadership of Environment Canada. The City's contribution to this project is \$14M, the last instalment of which has been paid in 2021, as prescribed under the 2015 project agreement. As previously shared with Council, Stage 1 of the project is complete and through that effort a finished 6.2 hectare (15 acre) steel isolation cell structure was built. There are two (2) additional stages of work to complete before the entire project is deemed finished.

Stage 2 consists primarily of dredging operations that have extended into 2021 to move remaining contaminated sediments from the area into the containment cells. Stage 3 will be a future effort to install and consolidate the surface cap ready for use as new port land.

As of June 2021, Stage 2 dredging work is complete. All other associated Stage 2 activities are expected to be complete for August 2021. The project is currently on budget but complications that include dredge equipment fabrication as well as COVID have caused the overall project schedule to be delayed by one year, target completion is now set for Q4 2023.

The work done to date has already achieved some environmental benefits for the Harbour, its fish and wildlife, and our local community by eliminating contact with historical contaminated sediments. The primary goal of this work is thus largely

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successful from an environmental perspective. Work continues in order to finish the last details of Stage 2 and look forward to Stage 3, transforming the land created by the project into a productive port facility.

The Randle Reef Sediment Remediation Project has a total estimated project cost of \$138.9M. Stage 2 dredging was awarded by contract to Milestone Contracting Inc. in joint venture with Fraser River Pile and Dredge Inc. This Stage 2 contract is valued at \$32.9M and had originally been expected to be complete in 2020 prior to unexpected complications. Production dredging for 2020 started on March 14 but was suspended as a precautionary step due to COVID concerns. Dredging restarted on June 1, 2020 with the work crews operating under an expanded health and safety protocol. Dredging in 2020 ended for the year on December 15. The 2021 season received a good start due to the mild winter, resuming dredge operations on March 15, 2021 and now dredging is complete. While taking longer due to unexpected events, the dredging operation has been more efficient than anticipated from a volumetric recovery perspective. The original plan intended to supplement dredging with in-place capping strategies for lower priority sediments. It is now expected that there will be little to no need to leave these lower priority sediments in place.

Planning and engineering work also continues in preparation for the Stage 3 contract which is expected to be released for tender late in 2021. The project consulting engineer and federal project staff are looking at value added opportunities for use of surplus steel production materials to be used in the capping design. This adjustment has the potential to offset the cost of purchasing commercial granular materials to be replaced by slag materials. Environment Canada and the Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority have also successfully amended their agreement for the delivery and application of large quantities of aggregate material needed to temporarily compress the containment cells in order to create stable land upon which the port can operate.

The project partnership remains strong, as does the financial outlook for the work. Schedules have been impacted but progress continues to be made with a focus on completion in 2023. Environmental monitoring has been undertaken since the project began to assess any air or water impacts the project construction may have.

During 2020, there were no compliance issues reported for air or water. As a point of interest, the Project Management Institute ranked Randle Reef work as the third most influential project in Canada for 2020, the link to this publication is provided for your convenience here:

<https://www.pmi.org/most-influential-projects/top-10-by-region/canada>

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While there are many activities and stakeholder efforts that contribute to Harbour remediation, cleaning up Randle Reef is one of the most significant steps in the remediation program to remove Hamilton Harbour from the list of Areas of Concern. The project will reduce the amount and spread of contaminants through the Harbour, significantly improving water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. The Harbour will also experience economic and social benefits as a result of this project including, enhancement of shipping and port facilities, increased recreational opportunities and the promotion of the Harbour community as a clean and progressive place to live and work.

You can obtain further information about the project on-line by visiting [www.randlereef.ca](http://www.randlereef.ca).

### **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

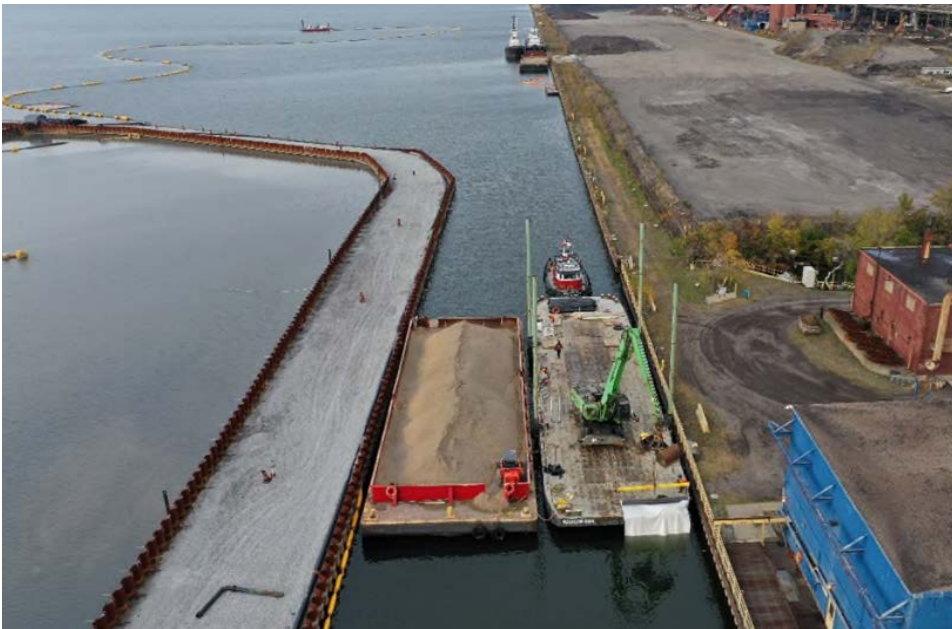
Appendix "A" to Report HW.21.01 – 2020 Randle Reef Progress Photos

## 2020 Randle Reef Progress Photos

You can obtain further information about the project on-line by visiting [www.randlereef.ca](http://www.randlereef.ca). A couple of photos from 2020 are provided below:



*June 16, 2020 ECF overview showing complete wall structure and dredge pipeline*



*2020 Stelco Channel showing sand capping and reactive core mat deployment*

If you have any further questions or comments regarding the Randle Reef project, please contact:

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