

Newtown Creek Community Advisory Group (CAG)

NATIONAL GRID PRESENTATION SUMMARY

June 22, 2021 | Virtual Meeting No. 12

Summary of Presentation and Discussion¹

SALTWATER PUMP HOUSE STORM HARDENING PROJECT

Per CAG request, John Wolf, National Grid (NG), came to provide some background information on their Saltwater Pump House Storm Hardening Project. Mr. Wolf explained that the project is for emergency fire protection and the replacement has been required by FDNY. He further detailed that National Grid will be building above the existing relieving platform along their bulkhead. He then highlighted that the only areas of ground disturbance anticipated would be during the installation of intake structure, scour pad, and beams within the relieving structure. Regarding Environmental controls they will have a turbidity curtain and oil boom for which continuous remote monitoring (via turbidity monitoring buoys), as well as background turbidity monitoring, daily inspections would be taking place. If necessary, corrective actions would be made as needed, following BMPs, regulations, and guidelines of relevant agencies. To date, EPA provided comments on permit application regarding: health & safety measures, BMPs to prevent/minimize resuspension, and advanced notice regarding schedules and work. National Grid is also required to notify EPA about current or outfalls and will be collecting sediment samples per their request.

The **tentative** schedule for the Saltwater Pump House Storm Hardening project can be found below:

Date	Project Phase
Fall 2022	Design complete
Winter 2022	Permitting complete
Spring 2023	Mobilization/Initiate Marine Work – installation of piles, intake structure, and scour pad
Fall 2023	Start building construction
Spring 2024	Solar Panel installation
Spring 2025	Construction completed

Questions and discussion regarding the material presented are included in bullets in the sections below. Direct responses from EPA are in italics.

- **What is the lifespan of this project?**

¹For additional detail of the presentations, refer to the slides found at <https://newtowncreekcag.wordpress.com/presentation-slides/>

- NG: 3 years.
- **When was the Initial structure built?**
 - NG: It was built in the 1970s.
- **Will the building be supported by solar entirely?**
 - NG: Solar panels will not support the entire building, but we did want to incorporate solar, and the flat roof created the opportunity to do so.
- **Dirty water will be going in, what kind of water will be going out?**
 - NG: Whatever water goes in will go out, this is strictly an emergency system, it operates only under emergency circumstances.
- **Is it the same capacity as the old system, in terms of the amount of water being pulled in from the creek?**
 - NG: It is, and it is not. One is the same, the hydrant demand is increasing for this new pumphouse.
- **What is the reason for the increase? How much water does it pull?**
 - NG: Part is addition of the new building and hydrants. We tried going on freshwater systems, but FDNY is pushing to have the buildings and hydrants included in the system. Since these are only during emergencies, there is a 12K gallons/minute pump 6.5K gallons/minute pump. These pumps are on-demand pumps, so there is no water storage in the building itself, it just houses the electrical components. The building is not meant to be managed it is just equipment.
- **Can you confirm what the replacement is about, what is the protection for?**
 - NG: This replacement is mostly for storm-hardening. The old pumphouses on grade and this new one is 11.5ft above the flood zone. The old one was flooded during Hurricane Sandy, and it has been there since 1970 and just exposed to the elements over time.
- **Are there plans as to what to do with the area once the old house is demolished?**
 - NG: Not that I'm aware of, I do not know what facility has planned for this area.
- **Is the sampling being done by EPA or by contractors for NCG? How does this fit in with the remedial investigation, what depths, anything specific being looked for?**
 - EPA: We are following the same process as part of the RI/FS, we will use the same work, and it will be a contractor from NCG that will do this work and will develop a work plan to collect the same sediments and use the same protocols as for the rest of the RI work. The one challenge is if there is not a lot of room to collect extensive samples, the project will need to be as opportunistic as possible.
- **Are the samples core samples, what range will be cored?**
 - EPA: We have asked NCG to develop a work plan and it will be similar to what we have done in this region, and we have been trying to get samples of sediments, our work plan will be similar to the work in this area. This will be with the NCG contractor and will do this work under EPA oversight.
- **What depth is this system being drawn from (especially during testing)?**
 - NG: It depends on the tide, but it will be pulling water from just above the creek bottom. There is a ramp to mitigate pulling this in, it is designed so we are off the

bottom of the creek and there will be a wedge of water to mitigate pulling up sediments.

- **How frequently tested?**
 - *NG: Pumps are tested weekly; FDNY tests the system annually.*
- **Where is the water that is drawn in go?**
 - *NG: Water that gets drawn in, goes through the building piping and then discharge into another cell. There are redundant pumps.*
- **The shoreline has old timber framing for muscels, is ther an easy way to make sure that they aren't just thrown into the dumpsters of the project? What is the new shoreline look like from the water side?**
 - *NG: This is not a straight bulkhead, these fenders don't go allt he way to the shoreline, these fender boards don't go all thew ayt o the bottom and we are only removing around 29 ft to make way for the intake structure, we are adding an additional 66 feet of substrate for muscels to reattach themselves to on the side of this intake structure. Will have 33 ft on either side of this intake structure that the muscels could reattach themselves too, we are adding in 66ft of new surface area.*
 - Perhaps there is some way we can go at low tide to figure that out
- **How will the materials be brought on-site? All at once, or as needed? Can you notify the community (perhaps via text message)?**
 - *NG: When doing the intake structure and scour pads, will be done from barges in curtained off areas, once the marine work is done, all the building materials will be brought to the site through the NG security gate? Everything will be brought as needed. We could notify the community board. There are plans to do a mailing to the community, there will be post-card mailing going out.*
- **For EPA, will this project affect your ability to remediate the area, as it is local to where this project is going to be?**
 - *EPA: We don't have a remedy or a ROD, so right now we cannot provide any direction as to the number of sediments that needs to be taken out so we cannot have any direction. However, as we go through this process and go into the design we are able to collect more samples in this area and there are ways to work around this, there are stabilization options, but there are ways to look at different remedial options and once we have a ROD this will inform part of the design process and we will have that opportunity to collect samples and look at remedial alternatives in this area.*
- **Who can take care of contaminated sediments?**
 - *NG: We will do waste characterization sampling ahead of time and then make sure it goes to an approved disposal facility that can accept it. As of right now, (still early), we are talking about using 800 cubic yard hopper barges. Ideally, we would do sampling ahead of time for waste characterization and so the barges aren't sitting there*
- **Approximately what percentage of electric will be by solar, vs the grid? I assume the solar will have a battery backup involved.**

- *NG: I don't know the percentages off-hand, the solar design is still at an early stage. Solar panels will not support the entire building, but we did want to incorporate solar, and the flat roof created the opportunity to do so.*