



Newtown Creek Superfund Site Queens and Brooklyn, New York City June 19, 2019

Site Status

- EPA is completing a Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study of Newtown Creek under Superfund
- Current schedule targets remedy selection no sooner than 2023. After this, the following steps need to occur:
 - Negotiation with PRPs to conduct remedial design
 - Complete remedial design
 - Negotiation with PRPs to implement remedial action
 - Start remedial action
- Cleanup work not likely to start before 2027
 - Could be even later

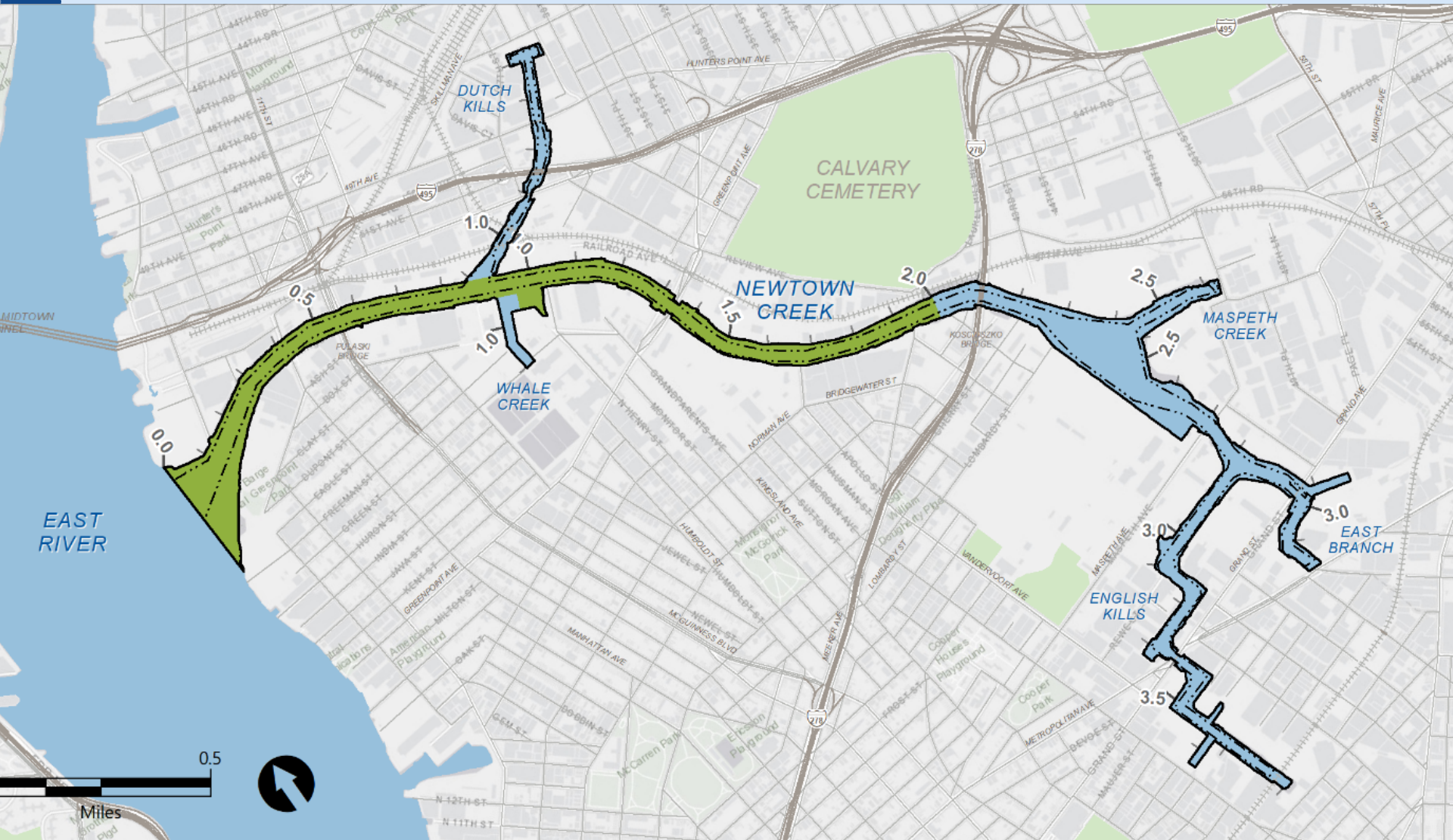
Early Action Proposal

- Given the timeline, the Newtown Creek Group has proposed conducting an Early Action on the creek
- EPA has been discussing the rationale for this Early Action, and the conditions for conducting it, with the NCG and with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- At this point, it looks like an interim Early Action evaluation will move forward
 - Still finalizing the details
 - Sharing with CAG now since the next meeting is not until September

General Approach

- Develop a Focused Feasibility Study to evaluate efficacy of conducting an Early Action
- If supported, select a cleanup plan for the Early Action area as an interim remedy.
- Implement the selected remedy and conduct a robust action-specific performance monitoring plan
- Use the results to help inform the site-wide remedy development process

Newtown Creek with CM 0-2 shown in green



Why Creek Mile 0-2?

- The Conceptual Site Model for Newtown Creek is being developed as part of the site-wide Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
- The lower 2 miles of the creek (CM 0-2) is generally less complicated from an environmental perspective than the upper portions of the creek and the tributaries

Bases for Early Action

- **Position 1:** Tidal flow from the East River is currently the dominant source of solids to the surface water and sediment in CM 0–2.
- **Position 2:** The lower 2 miles of Newtown Creek are net depositional, and natural recovery toward urban reference conditions is expected to continue over time via deposition of solids from the East River.
- **Position 3:** The creek bed is physically stable as evidenced by minimal or no net erosion of the sediment bed (supported by pre- and post-Hurricane Sandy bathymetric evaluation) and lower concentrations of contaminants of concern observed in surface sediment (top 6 inches) versus subsurface sediment.
- **Position 4:** Ongoing sources of hazardous substances will not negatively impact Early Action remedy success. Potential sources include, but are not necessarily limited to:
 - In-creek potential sources, such as NAPL transport, ebullition, shoreline erosion, groundwater, propeller scour, sediment transport and tidal inputs.
 - Out-of-creek potential sources, such as overland flow, point source inputs, industrial outfalls, other stormwater inputs, CSOs and MS4s.

Objectives of Focused Feasibility Study

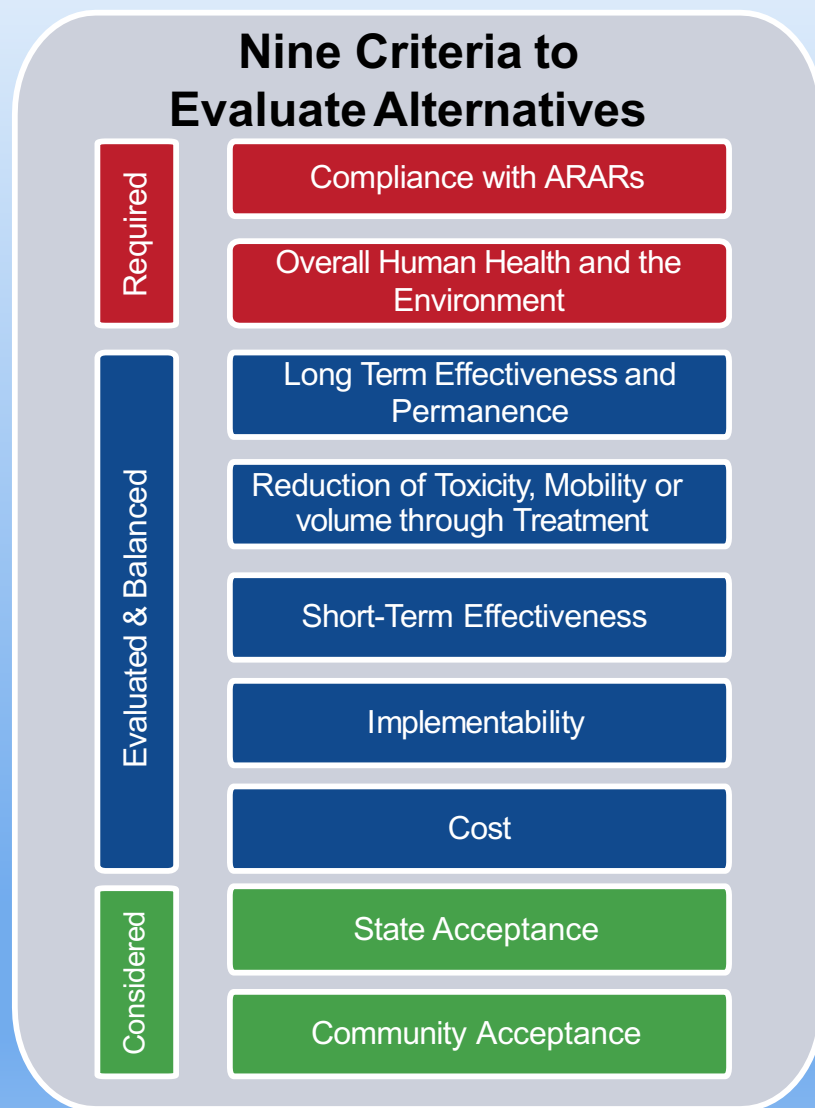
- Determine whether an Early Action remedy for CM 0-2 is appropriate as an interim action or whether the selection of a remedy for this portion of the creek should be deferred pending completion of the site-wide RI/FS and selection of a site-wide remedy.
 - In other words, determine if the positions described previously are supported through analysis.
- If the data and analyses support conduct of an Early Action for CM 0-2, then develop and evaluate potential remedial alternatives for this portion of the site.
- Develop action-specific performance metrics to determine whether an Early Action remedy, if one is implemented, is effective.
 - Or to put it another way, gather data to confirm that the positions described previously and supported through analysis are valid and supported over time by data.

Primary Benefits of Conducting an Early Action

- **Opportunity to start cleaning up the creek**
- **Opportunity to gain direct experience working in the creek**
 - Will help inform future efforts
 - Logistics
- **Opportunity to truth test the developing conceptual site model**
 - Robust post-implementation sampling would be conducted
 - If assumptions are not true, the data will tell us

Record of Decision Process

- **Focused Feasibility Study**
- **Proposed Plan**
 - Minimum 30 day public comment period
 - Formal public meeting during comment period
- **Record of Decision**
 - Community involvement throughout
 - Amended Community Involvement Plan to be prepared



Post Record of Decision Path Forward

- Implementation of selected Early Action remedy
 - Goal is to finish implementation prior to selection of site-wide remedy
- Conduct of a robust Performance Monitoring Plan
 - Action-specific performance metrics will be developed
 - Performance monitoring will continue at least until a site-wide monitoring plan is initiated
- Overall site-wide remedial process to move forward concurrently
 - A determination will be made regarding whether the Early Action remedy is consistent with the site-wide remedy
 - If necessary, additional actions will be taken

Next Steps....

- Finalize an agreement with the Newtown Creek Group under which it will perform this work, with EPA oversight
- Conduct additional sediment sampling in CM 0-2
 - To help define areas of contamination
 - Expected to start in July 2019
- Prepare Focused Feasibility Study report

Questions?