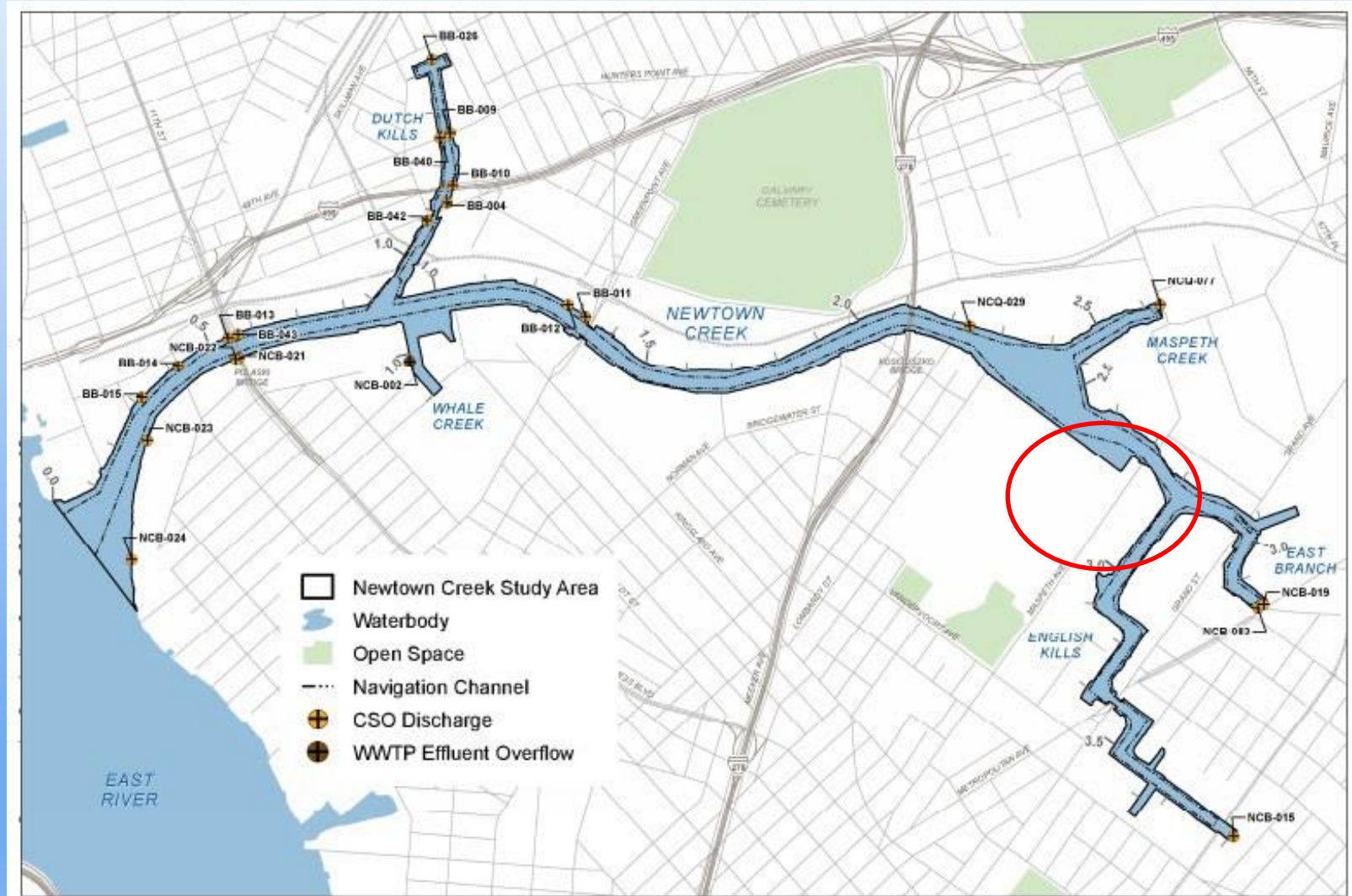




**East Branch Early Action  
Schedule and Comment Resolution Process  
Newtown Creek Superfund Site CAG Meeting  
January 17, 2024**

# Study Area



# East Branch Early Action Study Area



- Tributary of Newtown Creek
- Approximately 0.5 miles in length
- Surface area ~11 acres
- Depth 10.3-16.5 ft in channel and shallower at head of tributaries
- Extensive investigations completed as part of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Process
- Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) was developed to evaluate remedial alternatives for the East Branch

\*Additional detail on the rationale for conducting the East Branch Early Action can be found in a June 20, 2023 presentation to the CAG (available on the CAG website).

## Completed Items East Branch Early Action Process

<b>CSTAG Meeting 3 (all key stakeholders participate)</b>	<b>7/11/2023 to 7/13/2023</b>
<b>Draft FFS Submitted by NCG</b>	<b>7/28/2023</b>
<b>Recommendations Received from CSTAG*</b>	<b>9/26/2023</b>
<b>EPA Region 2's Response to CSTAG Recommendations</b>	<b>11/3/2023</b>
<b>EPA Comments Submitted on the Draft FFS</b>	<b>11/15/2023</b>

\*CSTAG is EPA's Contaminated Sediment Technical Advisory Group, which is comprised of members from all 10 EPA regions, EPA Headquarters and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



## Tentative Schedule for East Branch Proposed Plan Release and Record of Decision

EPA Comments Submitted on the Draft FFS	11/15/23
CSTAG Meeting 4 (EPA Only)	2/13 to 2/14/24
CSTAG Recommendations Received	By 3/27/24
<b>→ NCG Submits Revised FFS</b>	<b>April 2024</b>
EPA Response to CSTAG Recommendations	By 5/8/24
CSTAG Reply	By 5/22/24
NCG Submits Draft Final FFS	June 2024
<b>→ Release Proposed Plan</b>	<b>Early summer</b>
Public Meeting	About 2 weeks after release of Proposed Plan
End of Public Comment Period (minimum 30 days)	Late summer
Record of Decision	Late 2024

# Draft FFS Comment Categorization Approach

- The Schedule is very tight and will take close coordination and cooperation to achieve.
- To help expedite the schedule, EPA suggested the use of a “Categorization Approach” to address the more than 300 comments submitted on the July 2023 Draft FFS report and produce deliverables in a timely manner.

## **Category 1**

- The concern needs to be addressed before CSTAG Meeting No. 4 to inform EPA’s preliminary recommendation of the preferred alternative and our ability to support this determination to CSTAG
- Also includes comments related to key topics that should either be resolved prior to going into the CSTAG meeting or discussed with CSTAG.

## **Category 2**

- The concern needs to be addressed before the FFS and Proposed Plan are released for formal public comment.

## **Category 3**

- The comment can be held for the remedial design and does not need to be addressed in the FFS.

# Key Topics

- Non-aqueous phase liquids (NAPL) and in-situ stabilization (ISS)
  - NAPL mobility
  - Options for treating NAPL
  - ISS as a common element of all alternatives
- Uplands and CERCLA Policy/ARARS/Water Quality
  - Seeps
  - Sealed bulkheads as a common element of all alternatives
  - Ongoing source control authority and role of background
  - Climate change and resiliency
  - Navigation
- Alternative Descriptions and Flexibility in Design
  - Dredging
  - Capping
- Detailed Analysis of Alternatives
  - Long- and short-term effectiveness
  - Post-implementation monitoring
  - Metrics