



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

September 29, 2025

Via E-Mail Transmission

Andrea Parker, Executive Director
Gowanus Canal Conservancy
andrea@gowanuscanalconservancy.org

Alexandra Dadourian-Nelson, Chair
Friends of Thomas Greene Park
thomasgreenepark@gmail.com

Re: Gowanus Canal, Thomas Greene Park Cleanup

Dear Ms. Parker and Ms. Dadourian-Nelson:

Thank you for your Gowanus Canal Conservancy/Friends of Thomas Greene Park correspondence to EPA dated September 9, 2025 regarding the cleanup of Thomas Greene Park (Park). This letter is in response to that correspondence.

As your letter states, in 2018 EPA entered into an administrative settlement agreement with National Grid to conduct a removal action at the Park to address contamination related to the former manufactured gas plant (MGP). The work section required that National Grid design a remedy that would address MGP contamination "utilizing response activities which may include, but are not limited to, excavation or in-situ stabilization." In 2023, EPA developed the Gowanus Canal Upland Cleanup Matrix in coordination with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), which identified In-Situ Geochemical Stabilization (ISGS) as another alternative to address MGP contamination along with excavation and In-Situ Stabilization (ISS). As you rightly assert, EPA has requested that National Grid prepare a work plan to perform a bench-scale pilot and geotechnical data-collection event relative to the cleanup at the Park utilizing ISGS. This will help EPA to evaluate and determine whether ISGS is an appropriate remediation approach for the Park.

To move forward with analyzing this approach, National Grid and EPA are working to finalize the work plan for the evaluation of ISGS. As we are at the beginning phases of evaluating the efficacy of ISGS at the Park, the work covered by the work plan will likely be conducted in the spring/fall of 2026, so as to not interfere with the summer pool season. EPA has not yet approved a schedule for the cleanup; EPA's goal is to complete the Park cleanup by the time that the adjacent RH-034 CSO tank is completed in 2029.

EPA intends to update the community with a presentation in the near future and again after the results of the pilot and data-collection effort are available. In addition to the community, EPA will be coordinating with National Grid, New York City Parks, and NYSDEC regarding the Park cleanup.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this information further, please feel free to contact me at sivak.michael@epa.gov or 212-637-4310.

Sincerely,

Michael Sivak, Manager
Passaic/Hackensack/Newark Bay Remediation Branch

cc: Congress Member Dan Goldman (John Blasco, Deputy Chief of Staff/District Director)
NY State Senator Andrew Gounardes (Maia Yedin, Deputy Chief of Staff)
NY State Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon (Talia Hoch, Community Liaison)
NYC Council Member Shahana Hanif (Matthew Malloy, Chief of Staff)
Iris Rodriguez-Rosa, Commissioner, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
Martin Mahar, Brooklyn Parks Commissioner, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation