



St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

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PRESS RELEASE

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SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO BEGIN DREDGING

Permit Granted by Tribe's Environment Division

Akwesasne Territory. The St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) will be conducting routine maintenance to keep the channel safe for shipping. The project is restricted to the northern portion of Tribal Waters in the St. Lawrence River. The section of the channel is between Cornwall Island and the village of St. Regis. The dredging, confined to that specific location, cannot remove more than 4,000 cubic yards of material.

Since the area is contaminated with low levels of PCBs, the permit requires SLSDC to use "best management practices" to control downstream flow. These best practices include using a closed clamshell bucket, modifying the clamshell speed, avoiding multiple "bites" on the river bottom and not permitting the barge to overflow.

"We've been getting some questions from community members wondering about the work about to be done in the channel," remarked Ken Jock, Director of the Tribe's Environment Division. "This is simply routine river maintenance to make the channel deeper in one spot. We issued the permit that calls for strict standards for the work and will monitor it very closely."

The dredged materials (including water) will be transferred to secure containers at an upland site belonging to SLSDC. The materials will then be permanently disposed in an appropriate landfill, in compliance with the New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation Region 6 solid waste regulations.

"This is a fairly small operation and does not include any widening of the St. Lawrence Seaway," stated Tony David, Water Resources Program Manager. "These areas were missed when the channel was originally designed. Over a period of time, sediments tend to build up in certain areas and then require dredging so the ships can go through safely."

Interested community members can view or obtain a copy of the permit by stopping by the Environment Division office. The Seaway Corporation expects to complete the dredging within a four-week period. Interested community members can direct questions to Tony David, SRMT Water Quality Manager at 518-358-5937.

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The St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council is the duly elected and federally recognized government of the St. Regis Mohawk People.

Helping Build A Better Tomorrow

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