



# On the Penobscot

Spring 2018 Vol. 14, Issue 1

## Final Stretch Begins for HoltraChem Remediation Work as Spring Looms in Orrington

As the environmental remediation of the Orrington Remediation Site turns the corner into 2018, the project is now well past the halfway mark. Phase 1 of the Plant Area has started and work on the removal of Landfill 1 is expected to start in late spring. Site progress was evident to local residents who attended a tour and briefing at the site on September 30, 2017. The former Holtrachem site, which began operations in 1967 and then shut down in 2000, little resembled the site they had last seen. What they saw during the tour was the transformation of a former manufacturing site that has occurred since active remediation began just three years ago, including:

- The four site landfills that have been remediated and are now covered under new vegetation and rolling hills designed to protect groundwater;
- Specially designed barges with large excavators on top which, at the time, were in the Southern Cove of the Penobscot River removing sediment for transport off site (now complete);
- The construction of an extension to the rail spur (now complete) to allow site workers to more efficiently load covered rail cars with excavated soils for transport to designated secure landfills;
- The ongoing restoration of the Northern Drainage Ditch and the Southerly Steam areas now that remediation has been completed, and;
- The remediated and restored Landfill Ridge and the Scrap Metal Yard areas .

While all the above remediation projects required detailed planning, engineering, state regulatory approvals and confirmation sampling, the most complex project to date may be the work in the Southern Cove. This work started in late summer to meet state and federal requirements regarding protection of fish and the river habitat; and it had to be completed before winter ice started to form to prevent working in unsafe conditions. Furthermore, the remediation was conducted using large excavators on floating barges which had to be managed amid the challenges of shifting tides and fast currents. The soil and sediment excavation and the ongoing groundwater treatment has measurably improved environmental conditions on site.



Orrington residents, including state Rep. Dick Campbell, got a guided tour of the site last September from members of the remediation project team and enjoyed a stunning view of the Penobscot River.

**On The Penobscot**  
P.O. Box 14  
99 Industrial Way  
Orrington, ME 04474

**PRSRT STD**  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #76  
Bangor, ME

 Printed on 100% recycled paper. Please recycle when done.  
Published by Mallinckrodt US LLC.  
Find us at [www.beyondholtrachem.com](http://www.beyondholtrachem.com)

## Up Next: Remediation of Final Landfill Set to Begin in Spring

The last of five landfills on the site of the former HoltraChem manufacturing plant in Orrington is scheduled for excavation and remediation beginning this spring, marking a significant milestone in the site restoration project.

Landfill 1, located west of the manufacturing area, includes two discrete disposal areas and a former surface impoundment for wastewater. This area was closed and capped with plastic (Hypalon) material in approximately 1980.

Under the direction of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), final revisions to the Corrective Measures Implementation (CMI) Plan (design) are now underway. New England-based environmental firm Charter Environmental was chosen to conduct this work. Charter, which has been working on the Orrington site for more than a year, also has experience with other projects in Maine, including remediation projects in Brooksville and Brunswick.

The remediation of Landfill 1 will primarily consist of excavating certain soils with mercury concentrations above the Media Protection Standards. Soil samples will be collected during the remediation process to confirm that the design criteria is being met; excavated soils will then be transported off site for disposal in secure landfills. After completion of the excavation of soils, the area will be backfilled, graded and restored with vegetation similar to the restoration work that was completed at the Landfill Ridge. The work will start this Spring upon DEP approval.

*The aerial site map shows the area map where Landfill 1 is located and slated for removal this spring. The remediation of the Southerly Stream at the site was also completed last fall and the new stream bed is in place. The removal of Landfill 2 is now complete and the area has been back-filled and planted.*

