

## **STS Hydropower Completes Sediment Removal Project at South Wenke Park Tuesday, April 20, 2021**

In early March, STS began to remove sediment deposits from an oxbow feature in the Kalamazoo River that is adjacent to South Wenke Park in Comstock, Michigan. The oxbow is a natural depositional area that had been filled with sediment. The intent of the project was to restore the natural characteristics of the river feature. Project plans were developed in consultation with Michigan EGLE, Michigan DNR, and the US EPA and the project was conducted in partnership with the Comstock Department of Parks and Recreation.

Prior to initiating sediment removal activities, STS installed a sheet pile wall at the southern extent of the oxbow feature to isolate the dredging prism. Environmental controls, including sediment curtains, were strategically deployed to control the risk of sediment transport and turbidity issues.

Sediment was mechanically excavated from the dredge prism and temporarily stacked in a containment cell within the dredge prism footprint to allow it to passively dewater prior to transport to a secondary containment cell adjacent to Morrow Dam. The material is currently being staged at the secondary containment site prior to final disposition. Sediment removal activities were completed in early April. Approximately 2,100 cubic yards of material were removed.



**STS Contractors Work to Install Sheet Pile Wall to isolate dredge prism prior to commencing sediment removal activities at South Wenke Park.**



**Sediment being removed from Oxbow and stacked in primary containment cell.**

Completion of the Wenke Park sediment removal project is an important milestone. In addition to accomplishing the primary goals of removing sediment and restoring the natural characteristics of this section of the river, STS was able to ground-truth sediment removal methods and processes. STS is in a good position to keep moving forward. Heavy equipment is deployed on the river and work crews are ready to go once additional plans are finalized.

STS Hydropower, LLC (STS) owns and operates the Morrow Hydroelectric Project (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 9000) located on the Kalamazoo River in Comstock Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan.