

# Wellsville, New York Progress Report

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Atlantic Richfield Company,  
a BP affiliated company

## Atlantic Richfield completes project to protect Genesee River, reopens walking trail and expands partnership with Alfred State College



The restored Genesee River swale can be seen from the newly reopened walking trail.

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# Atlantic Richfield Company completes project to protect the Genesee River, clean groundwater and enhance the area's natural environment

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Atlantic Richfield Company (AR), a BP-affiliated company, has completed a multi-year project at a long-closed Sinclair refinery site. The project will protect the Genesee River from any residual historic contamination, clean the groundwater and enhance the natural environment of the area. The project has been conducted in close cooperation with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and USEPA.

The Sinclair refinery closed in 1958 after a major fire. Over the years, AR dismantled the refinery site, donated much of the property to Alfred State College to build its Wellsville campus and performed various cleanup activities. This most recent remedy involved construction of what is known as a wetland treatment system, which is designed to remove any residual contaminants from the groundwater that passes beneath the site and prevent contamination from migrating to the Genesee River.

AR's innovative wetland treatment system uses natural processes to finish the job of cleaning groundwater at the site. A series of pumps pull groundwater into a conveyance trench that is 3300 feet long and 28 feet deep. The trench intercepts groundwater that might otherwise move to the River and conveys it to the top of the wetland system. There, the water is aerated (mixed with oxygen) by running through corrugated pipes before dropping into a sedimentation pond, where the naturally occurring iron in the groundwater is removed before the water is released into the wetlands.

Water then travels for approximately 13 days by gravity through a series of wetland cells where native plants naturally break down hydrocarbon contamination and clean the water to meet strict state and federal water quality standards. The wetland treatment system was constructed so that the water could move by gravity through the cells and into a swale before it is released into the Genesee River. The design of this system to utilize gravity minimizes the energy required to operate the system, making the system that much greener and more sustainable.

As part of this overall project, AR also completed the excavation of portions of the River and the adjoining swale to remove historic contamination, and recapped an existing landfill on site.



AR has installed educational signage about its Genesee River project along the walking trail.

# Atlantic Richfield opens walking trail along the River

With the completion of its Genesee River project, Atlantic Richfield Company (AR) restored and re-opened an enhanced walking trail that runs along the River through the project site. The restored trail includes educational signage about the wetland treatment system to enhance the experience of walkers. This fall, AR landscaped the trail with native plantings. Next spring, AR will plant wildflowers and install birdhouses on the closed landfill on site and then open up a new trail spur over the landfill that will offer good views of the wetlands.

The trail is part of a system owned and operated by Allegany Trails, Inc. Allegany Trails plans to work with Jones Memorial Hospital to install outdoor fitness stations, benches and tables along the trail.

**Wellsville Mayor James Cretokos, Town of Wellsville Supervisor Darwin Fanton, Allegany Trails President William Dibble, BP Operations Project Manager Eric Larson, BP Operations Manager Joe Sontchi and BP Vice-President of Global Operations, Remediation Management Pat King cut the ribbon opening up the restored walking trail along the Genesee.**



# AR and Alfred State College announce the transfer of the wetland treatment system site to the College creating an outdoor laboratory for students

Atlantic Richfield, a BP-affiliated company, and Alfred State College are taking another step forward in what has been a successful partnership by announcing the transfer of the wetland treatment system site to the Educational Foundation of Alfred.

AR will retain responsibility for the environmental cleanup at the site, but the Educational Foundation will take ownership of the property, expanding the footprint of the campus

and offering a unique educational opportunity for area students. The wetland treatment system will become an outdoor environmental laboratory for students.

Area biology and environmental science students currently utilize the site. Future opportunities may include training students in water monitoring and testing. Alfred State students and faculty also have designed and will construct and operate a solar-powered

telemetry system that will control water levels in the wetland.

The wetland treatment system is expected to operate for many years, cleaning up impacted groundwater. AR has contracted with a local firm, On-Site Technical Services, to maintain the system and ensure its continued successful operation. On-Site has been an integral part of the site's operations since the mid-1990's.

## Land transfer is one more step in a successful partnership between BP and Alfred State College

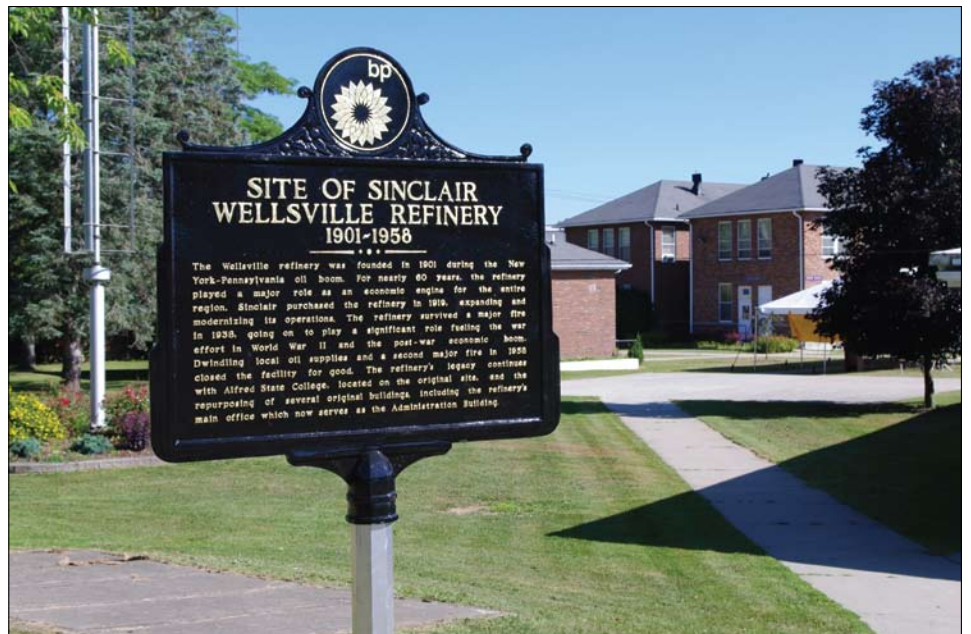
Atlantic Richfield Company's wetland treatment system project and Alfred State College are located next to each other on what once was the footprint of the old Sinclair refinery. But their proximity has meant more than just being good neighbors; it has sparked a successful partnership that began with BP, a global leader in solar energy, linking up with the College's solar energy technology program. BP donated funding to help install state-of-the-art solar energy arrays that power parts of the campus and provide hands-on training for students.

AR went a step further by contracting with the College to have its faculty and students design, construct and operate a solar telemetry system that will control water levels in the wetland treatment cells on the site. In conjunction with the project, BP also has donated funds to purchase new solar technology for the department's use.

BP's project team has volunteered with Alfred State students for several years

in a row planting trees to celebrate Earth Day. BP also has contributed to a scholarship program for the Culinary Arts program.

BP made a major commitment to the College when it donated \$235,000 to help the College complete its new Construction Workforce Development Center.



**A new historic marker will remind visitors of the historic connection between the Sinclair Refinery and Alfred State College.**

## In the community



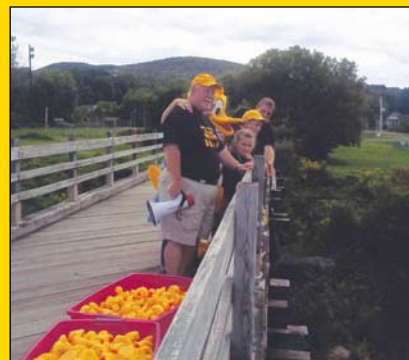
### BP continues support for major community events

BP has continued to support a number of major community events, including Music on the Lawn, the Trout Derby and the Ridge Walk and Run. BP also again sponsored the fireworks for the Great Wellsville Balloon Festival.



### BP is a major sponsor of United Way

BP is a major sponsor of this year's United Way campaign. BP was the primary sponsor of the Annual Rubber Duck Derby, the United Way's largest fundraiser. Pictured here are rubber ducks being launch into the Genesee River to kick off the Derby.



# Message to the community

## Note from Eric Larson, Wellsville Operations Project Manager

As I look back at the successful completion of our project here in Wellsville, I know this project will be a highlight in my career. To complete a project of this size and importance, that uses natural, sustainable processes to protect natural resources and clean up the environment, is a dream project for those of us who work in the field of environmental remediation.



I want to take a moment to recognize and thank some of the many people who played a key role in our project's success. First, I want to thank the Wellsville project team – On-Site Technical Services, URS, Envirocon, Ball Surveying and the many local contractors and suppliers who did their work so well and so safely. Everyone on this project team took real ownership of this project and took real pride in working safely every day.

I also want to thank New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, led by Maurice Moore. They were strong partners on this project, providing supportive oversight and ensuring that this project met the goals of protecting the Genesee River and cleaning residual impact on groundwater beneath the site.

I want to praise Michael Negrelli and USEPA for their support of this innovative remedy that incorporates principles of sustainability and enhances the natural environment of an area where outdoor recreation plays such an important part of the economy and the quality of life here.

I want to recognize Brent Kelley and Trout Unlimited who played a key role in pushing for a strong remedy to protect the Genesee River. Over the course of a project like this, we generate thousands of pages of technical documents usually read in their entirety by a handful of people whose job requires it. But from his tough questions and perceptive comments, I know the time Brent has spent on behalf of the community reading and commenting on our work.

I also want to take a moment to thank Mayor James Cretokos and his team at the Village, especially Public Works Director Bill Whitfield, as well as Wellsville Town Supervisor Darwin Fanton and his team. The support we have received from both the Village and the Town played a major role in helping us move this project forward.

I also can't say enough about the positive partnership that we have created with Alfred State College. Their progressive leadership and willingness to work together with us has added tremendous value to the community from our project.

Finally, on behalf of all of us on BP's project team, I want to thank the people of Wellsville for your kindness and your hospitality. It has been a privilege to work in your community and complete this important project.

Eric

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