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Environmental tests clear Mohawk River development site

Construction set to begin in spring for 192 apartments

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Niskayuna

Environmental testing at a Niskayuna auto scrap yard — planned as the new home for 192 apartments on the Mohawk River — found no significant levels of pollution, clearing the way for construction to begin in the spring.

Groundbreaking at the 21-acre property off Aqueduct Road near the Rexford bridge, should result in a summer 2018 opening, said **Adam Schultz**, a lawyer for the Albany-based developers, **Peter Luizzi & Bros. Contracting**.

A small amount of petroleum-tainted soil should be excavated this fall from the William Auto Parts property for the \$30 million project, which recently received a zoning change for planned unit development from the town, he said.

Williams Auto Parts remains open and "will continue to operate until further notice," owner **Joe Williams** said Friday. The business, including its scrapyard, is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and until 2 p.m. on Saturday.

"The widespread and relatively low levels of contamination suggest the residual contamination is the result of the historic use of the subject property as a junk yard and the historic placement of excavated site soils and shale rock as fill material to re-grade the site," according to an environmental report filed this spring with the state **Department of Environmental Conservation**.

If any further pollution is found, it must be reported to DEC. The project still needs approval from the state **Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation** to planned crossings of the bike trail.

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