

FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

Receive Site Fact Sheets by *Email*. See "For More Information" to Learn How.

Site Name: K - Fulton Works
DEC Site #: 224051
Address: Nevins, DeGraw & Sackett Sts.
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Have questions?
See
"Who to Contact"
Below

Remedy Proposed for State Superfund Site; Public Comment Period and Public Meeting Announced

Public Meeting, Thursday, 4/16/2015 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Wyckoff Gardens Community Center 280 Wyckoff Street, Brooklyn, NY

NYSDEC invites you to a public meeting to discuss the remedy proposed for the site. You are encouraged to provide comments at the meeting, and during the 30-day comment period described in this fact sheet.

The public is invited to comment on a remedy proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) related to the K - Fulton Works site ("site") located at Nevins, DeGraw & Sackett Sts., Brooklyn, NY. Please see the map for the site location. Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information."

How to Comment

NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan for 30 days, from **April 3, 2015** through **May 3, 2015**. The proposed plan is available for review at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information." Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project - Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area below.

How the Proposed Plan Will Be Implemented

At present, this site is fully developed. Buildings, city streets, and a city park occupy the ground surface, with contaminated soils found at depth beneath them. Liquid coal tar is the principal contaminant, and this tar has been found to be moving slowly through the subsurface to the Gowanus Canal. Sediments at the bottom of the canal are heavily contaminated with coal tar.

An extensive dredging program to clean up contaminated sediments in the canal is currently being designed under the direction of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Cleanup of the Fulton site must be coordinated with USEPA's efforts in order to prevent coal tar from the Fulton MGP site from re-contaminating canal sediments when the USEPA project is complete.

Accordingly, the remedy proposed for the Fulton site includes both near-term actions that must be completed promptly, prior to the USEPA dredging program, and future actions to address the sources of contamination. Scheduling of the future actions will be implemented as individual land parcels become available.

Components of the Proposed Remedial Action Plan

Near-Term actions will address the contamination which could threaten the successful completion and long term effectiveness of the USEPA's Gowanus Canal cleanup program. Near-Term Actions will include:

1. **Containment:** The primary near-term action is construction of a subsurface barrier wall along the east bank of the Gowanus Canal to prevent the migration of coal tar to the canal.
2. **Coal Tar Collection:** A series of coal tar recovery wells, or other system of collection, will be constructed in conjunction with the barrier wall to collect coal tar that accumulates behind the wall. Tar will be removed from these wells as it accumulates, and sent off site for proper treatment and disposal.
3. **Utility Corridors:** Coal tar contamination which may be encountered during routine maintenance work on underground utilities such as water pipes and gas mains will be identified and addressed.
4. **Cover System:** The buildings, streets, and park facilities which currently cover the site are effective at preventing contact with subsurface contaminants. This cover will be maintained to allow continued recreational use of Thomas Greene Park and the current commercial/industrial use of the remainder of the site.
5. **Interim Site Management:** A plan to manage each parcel and prevent exposure to underlying contaminants before full remediation can proceed will be developed and implemented.

Future actions will address the remediation of MGP contamination in areas that are currently inaccessible due to the presence of buildings or other infrastructure, including Thomas Greene Park. Future actions will include:

1. **Excavation of MGP Structures and Contaminant Source Areas:** The remaining MGP subsurface structures, including gasholder foundations, tanks, and associated pipes, and the surrounding heavily contaminated soils will be excavated and shipped off site for treatment and disposal. This work will be performed as each individual parcel becomes available, and will be completed before any redevelopment can proceed.
2. **Stabilization/Excavation of Deeper Source Materials:** Areas where liquid tar has migrated away from the original MGP structures, will either be excavated or solidified in place to prevent further migration.
3. **Long-term Site Management:** Continued management of all parcels will be required, since some contamination will remain at depth when cleanup work has been completed. This will include an Institutional and Engineering Control Plan, a Monitoring Plan, and an Operation and Maintenance Plan.

Summary of the Investigation

A Remedial Investigation (RI) has been conducted to define the nature and extent of any contamination resulting from previous activities at the site. Analytical data was collected for soil, groundwater, air, indoor air and soil vapor. The results of the RI indicate that subsurface soil and groundwater are severely contaminated by coal tar.

NYSDEC developed the proposed remedy after reviewing the detailed investigation of the site and evaluating the remedial options in the "Feasibility Study" submitted under New York's State Superfund Program by National Grid.

Next Steps

NYSDEC will consider public comments as it finalizes the remedy for the site. The selected remedy will be described in a document called a "Record of Decision" that will explain why the remedy was selected and respond to public comments.

Background

Location:

The Fulton Municipal Works MGP is located in the Gowanus neighborhood in South Brooklyn to the east of the Gowanus Canal. The site occupies five properties (designated Parcels I through V) located between Douglass and Sackett Streets and between the Gowanus Canal and Fourth Ave. These five properties comprise approximately 6.5 acres. The remedial investigation identified three additional parcels (designated Parcels VI through VIII) affected by contamination from the Fulton MGP. Parcels VI and VII abut the eastern bank of the Gowanus Canal and Parcel VIII lies on the canal's west bank.

Current Zoning and Land Use:

The area is zoned for industrial use, specifically light manufacturing (M2-1 and M1-2). Parcel I is currently in use as a film studio. Parcel II is occupied by the Thomas Greene Park. Parcel III is currently used as a text book warehouse with offices on the upper of two stories, parcel IV is occupied as a roll-off container and truck repair facility, and Parcel V, which formerly housed the NY Daily News automotive garage, is currently used as a rock climbing gym. The site is surrounded by mixed use parcels, including commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential properties.

Site Features:

The site is comprised of commercial and industrial properties, as well as a city park containing a playground, basketball and handball courts and a swimming pool, in an urban area. Site topography is nearly flat, with a gradual downslope westward toward the Gowanus Canal.

Past Use of the Site:

The site was operated as a manufactured gas plant (MGP) by Brooklyn Union Gas Co. from approximately 1879 to 1929. The operation of the MGP led to contamination of subsurface soil and groundwater by coal tar, a byproduct of the gas manufacturing process.

The site has been divided into two operable units. An operable unit represents a portion of a remedial program for a site that for technical or administrative reasons can be addressed separately to investigate, eliminate or mitigate a release, threat of release or exposure pathway resulting from the site contamination.

Operable Unit 1 includes the footprint of the former MGP operation, and the neighboring off site properties east of the Gowanus Canal, where coal tar has spread in the subsurface. This includes parcels I through VII. MGP source areas have been identified on parcels I through IV; tar from these source areas has migrated westward beneath parcels VI and VII. Parcel V, although included in the definition of Operable Unit 1, appears to be uncontaminated.

Operable Unit 2 includes the more distant off-site areas to the west, including Parcel VIII, where coal tar has spread beneath the Gowanus Canal and a short distance beyond.

Site Geology/Hydrogeology:

The site is underlain by urban fill ranging from 10 to 20 feet in thickness, which overlies a discontinuous peat and silt layer approximately 4 feet thick. Beneath the peat are glacial outwash deposits consisting predominantly of sand, with lesser amounts of silt and clay. Bedrock is approximately 150 feet below the ground surface. Groundwater is encountered at depths of 8 to 14 feet across the site, and flows westward toward the Gowanus Canal.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/external/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=224051>

State Superfund Program: New York's State Superfund Program (SSF) identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and/or the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds.

For more information about the SSF, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed.

Brooklyn Community Board 6
250 Baltic Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
Phone: (718) 643 3027
District Manager: Craig Hammerman

NYSDEC Central Office
625 Broadway, 11th Floor
Albany, New York 12233-7014
Attn: Henry Willems
Phone : (518) 402-9662
Email: henry.willems@dec.ny.gov

Who to Contact

Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

Project - Related Questions

Henry Willems
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7014
518-402-9662
henry.willems@dec.ny.gov

Site-Related Health Questions

Christopher Doroski
New York State Department of Health
Empire State Plaza
Corning Tower Rm. 1787
Albany, NY 12237
(518) 402- 7860
BEEI@health.ny.gov

We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox.

NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>. It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you *better informed*.



As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.

Site Map



Proposed Remedy

