



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



In conjunction with



Fact Sheet

May 2015

E. 115th St. Works

www.coned.com/mgp

Start of Remediation and Meeting with Parents Association

Dear Interested Citizen:

This fact sheet provides a status update for the former E. 115th St. Works MGP.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact:

Bernadette Walsh
Con Edison
4 Irving Place
New York, NY 10003
Toll-free (877) 602-6633

For site-related environmental questions, please contact:

Elizabeth Lukowski
Project Manager
NYSDEC
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233
(518) 402-9662

For site-related health questions, please contact:

Dawn Hettrick, P.E.
Public Health Engineer
New York State Department
of Health
Bureau of Environmental
Exposure Investigation
Empire State Plaza -
Corning Tower Room 1787
Albany, NY 12237
(518) 402-7860

Introduction

Consolidated Edison Company of New York (Con Edison), together with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is providing this update on project activities at Manhattan Center for Science & Mathematics (MCSM) and the Isaac Newton Middle School for Math and Science, which are located on the site of a former manufactured gas plant (MGP), E. 115th St. Works.

This Fact Sheet is announcing the start of remediation in July 2015. Con Edison has selected a contractor, Deborah Bradley Construction Inc., to perform remediation at the Site. Remediation will be conducted in several phases. The first two phases will take place during the summers of 2015 and 2016, when students are not in the building.

Con Edison will be providing an update on the project at the MCSM Parents Association meeting on May 12, 2015. In addition, all project documents can be found at www.coned.com/mgp.

Project Status and Schedule

Con Edison, in cooperation with the NYSDEC and NYSDOH, developed a remedy to address residual soil and groundwater contamination at the site. After all comments received from the public were addressed, the remedy was finalized and approved by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH.

The approved remedy entails installation of a sub-slab depressurization system (SSDS) underneath the school building foundation, which will prevent soil vapor from entering the building in the future and protect indoor air quality. The remedy also includes excavation of shallow soils from some areas of the school backyard, and construction of a subsurface barrier wall along the FDR Drive to prevent contaminant migration into the adjacent Harlem River. In conjunction with these engineering controls, administrative controls, such as Site Management Plan, will also be enacted to ensure long term management of any residuals that remain in the subsurface after the remediation is complete and to prevent any potential future exposure to such conditions.

In July 2015, Con Edison will begin work on the installation of the SSDS in the school building. The work will take place over two summers in 2015 and 2016.

Documents related to this project are available at: **Manhattan Borough President Gail Brewer's Office**, 1 Centre Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10007; 212-669-8300, Hours: M-F 9am-5pm; **Aguilar Branch, The New York Public Library**, 174 E.110th Street, New York, NY 10029; 212-534-2930; Hrs: Mon/Wed 11-6, Tues/Thur 11-7, Sat 10-5 (closed Sunday); www.coned.com/mgp

Potential Exposure

Because the soil contamination was found well below the surface, the public is not exposed through direct contact. No indoor air impacts from MGP residuals have been found. Exposure to contaminated groundwater through ingestion is also not likely because New York City is served by a municipal water system.

During the remediation, extensive efforts will be made to protect the community from potential hazards. These will include placing physical barriers to prevent access to work areas and the use of real-time air monitoring to detect any contaminants that may be released into the air.

What are former MGPs?

Manufactured gas plants (MGP) were operated between the 1800s and mid-1900s, before the development of natural gas systems, to convert coal and oil into gas for heating, lighting and cooking. Byproducts of this early production process included contaminants such as tar and purifier wastes. Tar is a dark, viscous fluid with a distinctive acrid odor. Purifier wastes are materials formed during removal of other unwanted chemicals from the gas before it was sent out to customers.

The substances of concern related to MGP operations include BTEX compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and metals. BTEX compounds are benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene. These are volatile hydrocarbons found in MGP byproducts and also found in most petroleum products such as gasoline. PAHs are also found in MGP byproducts as well as many petroleum products, such as asphalt.

Site Background

Historic information indicates that the East 115th Street Works was built and operated by the Standard Gas Light Company of the City of New York from 1895 to 1936 and was turned over to Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. in June 1937, as a result of the companies' merger. According to historic information, the Site was not operated as a manufactured gas plant while under the ownership of Con Edison. The plant was dismantled and in 1941, a public high school was erected on the property and is still present today as the Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics and the Isaac Newton Middle School for Math and Science.

Public Involvement

Public understanding and involvement are an integral part of a successful investigation and remediation program. To provide you with the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding manufactured gas plants, Con Edison has created a series of informational resources including fact sheets, a toll-free hotline, and internet content at www.coned.com/mgp. Information can also be found at the NYSDEC web site at www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html.

