



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation



In conjunction with



Dear Interested Citizen:

**This fact sheet provides a status update for the former E. 115<sup>th</sup> Street Works MGP.**

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# Fact Sheet

May 2016

E. 115<sup>th</sup> Street Works  
[www.coned.com/mgp](http://www.coned.com/mgp)

## Remediation Work Update and Parents Association Meeting

### 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. 115<sup>th</sup> Street Works.

Con Edison will begin the second phase of construction of a Sub- Slab Depressurization System (SSDS) inside the school. Con Edison will also begin construction of a subsurface barrier system in the back of the school to prevent contaminant migration into the adjacent Harlem River. Work on both projects will begin in July 2016, while students are on summer recess.

**Con Edison will be providing an update on these projects at the MCSM Parents Association meeting on May 17, 2016 at 6 p.m. In addition, all project documents can be found at [www.coned.com/mgp](http://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 in 2009.

The approved remedy entails the installation of the SSDS underneath the school building foundation, which will prevent soil vapor from entering the building and protect indoor air quality. In July 2015, Con Edison began work on the SSDS inside the school building. In July 2016, Con Edison will begin the second and final phase of the SSDS project, and expects to complete it by the end of August 2016.

The remedy also includes excavation of shallow soils from some areas of the school backyard, and construction of the subsurface barrier along the FDR Drive. Work on the subsurface barrier will continue in the back of the school until early 2017.

In conjunction with these engineering controls, administrative controls, such as development of a Site Management Plan, will also be instituted 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.

### 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.

Con Edison has conducted multiple rounds of indoor air and soil gas sampling to confirm that subsurface MGP contamination has not negatively impacting indoor air quality in the building. The last indoor air sampling was conducted on February 8,

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 9-5; **Aguilar Branch, The New York Public Library**, 174 E.110<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10029; 212-534-2930; Hrs: Mon. 11-6, Tues. – Thurs. 10-7, Fri. and Sat.10-5 (closed Sunday); [www.coned.com/mgp](http://www.coned.com/mgp)

2016. This sampling data continues to indicate no apparent impacts to indoor air from MGP impacts in the soil.

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. The entire backyard of the school property will be closed throughout the duration of the construction.

### What are former MGPs?

MGPs were operated at various times 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 may include BTEX compounds, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), and metals. BTEX compounds are benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene. These are volatile hydrocarbons which may be found in MGP byproducts and are also found in most petroleum products such as gasoline. PAHs may also be found in MGP byproducts as well as many petroleum products, such as asphalt.

### Site Background

The East 115<sup>th</sup> 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. The site was not operated as an MGP while under the ownership of Con Edison. The plant was dismantled and, in 1941, a public high school was erected on the property, which now houses 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 MGPs, Con Edison has created a series of informational resources including fact sheets, a toll-free hotline, and internet content at [www.coned.com/mgp](http://www.coned.com/mgp). Information can also be found at the NYSDEC website at [www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html).

