



In conjunction with



# Fact Sheet

May 2010

Purdy Street Station

[www.coned.com/mgp](http://www.coned.com/mgp)

**Remedial Investigation Report Approved by NYSDEC**

**Public Meeting at St. Raymond H.S. on May 27, 2010 at 7:00pm**

## Dear Interested Citizen:

**This fact sheet is to inform you of the results of the remedial investigation for the former Purdy Street Station.**

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

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Con Edison  
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**For site-related environmental questions, please contact:**

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Project Manager  
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**For site-related health questions, please contact:**

Chris Doroski  
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## Introduction

Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (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 the investigation activities for the former Purdy Street Station, a historic manufactured gas plant (MGP) and storage holder station. The former MGP plant is currently the site of St. Raymond High School.

Although MGP operations took place in the athletic field exterior to the current building, an indoor air study was conducted in two phases at the school in August 2002 and January 2003. Based on the results of the indoor air investigation, the NYSDEC and NYSDOH concluded that there is no impact to the indoor air as a result of any MGP contamination. Two field investigations, including a site characterization study and a remedial investigation to assess soil and groundwater conditions were performed in summer 2004 and early 2006. The results of the investigations are described below in "Project Status and Schedule".

**In addition, a community meeting will be held May 27, 2010 at 7:00pm, at St. Raymond H.S. to discuss the results of the investigation.**

## Former Manufactured Gas Plants and Holders

Manufactured gas plants (MGPs) were operated between the 1800s and mid-1900s, before the development of natural gas systems. Gas holders supported the gas plants, and were designed for the storage and distribution of the manufactured gas. Potential residuals from these operations include tar, oil, and purifier wastes. In certain types of storage holders tar was used to create an airtight seal between the holders' foundations and upper tank shells. Tar is a dark, viscous fluid with a distinctive acrid odor. The substances of concern in tar can be divided into two categories: BTEX compounds and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). BTEX compounds include benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene, which are found in most petroleum products such as gasoline. PAHs are also compounds found in many petroleum products, such as asphalt. Purifier wastes are materials formed during removal of other unwanted chemicals from the gas before it was sent out to customers.

Con Edison has entered into a voluntary cleanup agreement with the NYSDEC to identify, investigate and remediate, if necessary, this and other former MGPs and manufactured gas storage holders that were previously operated by Con Edison or its corporate predecessors.

## Documents related to this project are available at the following locations:

**Office of the Bronx Borough President, Ruben Diaz Jr.**, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York, NY 10451; 718-590-3500, Call for hrs ; **Westchester Square Library**, 2521 Glebe Ave., Bronx, NY 10461; 718-863-0436. Hrs: Mon & Wed 12-6; Tues & Thurs 11-7; Fri 12-5; & Sat 10-5 (closed Sunday). **NYSDEC Region 2 Office** 1 Hunters Point Plaza 47-40 21st St., Long Island City, NY 11101 (718)-482-4953. Hours: Mon - Fri. 9am-4pm

## **Project Status and Schedule**

Con Edison conducted a site characterization study for the Purdy Street Station in the summer of 2004, and performed additional field work at off-site locations in early 2006, in accordance with work plans approved by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH. The investigation work included the collection of soil samples, installation of groundwater monitoring wells, and collection of groundwater samples to determine whether materials from former historical operations remain on or beneath the surface. The work areas were restored after the conclusion of the investigation activities. Based on the results of the indoor air investigation, the NYSDOH concluded that there is no impact to the indoor air as a result of any MGP contamination. The field investigation showed that there are MGP related impacts in the forms of contaminated soil and the existence of coal tar product beneath the athletic field portion of the property. These impacts generally begin at 3 feet below the surface and may be found up to almost 20 feet below the surface and do not pose an exposure risk to school children engaged in normal activities on the field.

Con Edison is working with NYSDEC and the Archdiocese to develop a suitable remedial alternative for the site. A draft remedial Alternatives Analysis Report will be presented to the community for public review and comment before it is approved for implementation.

## **Site Background**

The Purdy Street Station former manufactured gas plant and holder site is located on the west side of Purdy Street and the north side of St. Raymond Avenue in the Bronx. The MGP structures and holder were located in the northern portion of the property which today is occupied by a running track and grass playing field. An MGP era storage building is located on the northwest portion of the site adjacent to the track. An asphalt playground and parking area occupies the east-central portion of the site. The southern and western portions are occupied by the school building. Records show that no portion of the school building was constructed above areas occupied by former MGP structures.

Site maps suggest the plant began operation sometime between 1870 and 1895. Because of the size of the plant and its location near a Catholic Protectory, the plant may have mainly supplied gas to the protectory. The Bronxdale & Westchester Gas Company sold the plant to the Bronx Gas & Electric Company in December of 1895. The plant probably ceased manufacturing gas operations in the early 1900's and remained as a holder station. The site was a holder station until the 1920's when the holders were taken down. Con Edison, which acquired the Bronx Gas and Electric Company through merger in 1936, sold the property to the Roman Catholic Church of Saint Raymond in 1960.

## **Potential Exposure**

A primary goal of these investigations is to evaluate actual and potential risk to the public through exposure to contaminants from these historical operations. Because the historical MGP operations ended many years ago and the site was redeveloped, contamination is located at depth, below the present surface of the site. Therefore, direct contact exposure to these materials is not anticipated. Exposure to contaminated groundwater through ingestion is not expected because New York City is served by a municipal water system.

## **Public Involvement**

**A community meeting will be held May 27, 2010 at 7:00pm, at St. Raymond H.S. to discuss the results of the investigation and next steps in the remedial planning process.**

Public understanding and involvement are integral to 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](http://www.coned.com/mgp) or [www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html). In addition, a Citizen Participation Plan has been approved by NYSDEC that outlines the steps to be taken to provide for public participation in the remedial program for the site. A document repository for site related documents have also been established so that concerned citizens can review available information.