



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



In conjunction with



Dear Interested Citizen:

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

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Fact Sheet

November 2016

E. 115 Street Works
www.coned.com/mgp

Remediation Update

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 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 Street Works.

Con Edison, in cooperation with the NYSDEC and NYSDOH, developed a remedy to address residual soil and groundwater contamination at the site. The approved remedy entails the installation of a Sub-Slab Depressurization System (SSDS) underneath the school building foundation, which will prevent soil vapor from entering the building and thereby protect indoor air quality. It also includes the excavation

of shallow soils in the back of the school property and the construction of a subsurface barrier system along the FDR Drive to prevent contaminant migration into the adjacent Harlem River.

Project Status and Schedule

- In July 2016, Con Edison began the second phase of the SSDS project, continuing to install the SSDS inside the school to prevent potential soil vapor intrusion. Con Edison anticipates resuming SSDS work on the building façade and roof and in one section of the cafeteria in March 2017. The SSDS project is expected to be finished in 2017.
- In August 2016, Con Edison began constructing the subsurface barrier system in the back of the school. The barrier system entails the installation of a series of wells and cement-like columns along the FDR Drive to stop movement of residual MGP contamination toward Harlem River. It is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2017.

In conjunction with these two projects, administrative controls, such as development of a Site Management Plan, will also be established to ensure long-term management of MGP residuals that may 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 that is not affected by this contamination.

Con Edison has conducted multiple rounds of indoor air and soil vapor sampling to confirm that subsurface MGP contamination is not negatively impacting indoor air quality in the building.

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.110th Street, New York, NY 10029; 212-534-2930; Hrs: Mon. 11-6, Tues. – Thurs. 10-7, Sat.10-5 (closed Friday and Sunday); www.coned.com/mgp

The last such sampling was conducted on September 7, 2016. This sampling data continues to indicate no apparent impacts to indoor air from MGP impacts in the soil.

During the remediation, extensive efforts have been made to protect the community from potential hazards. These 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 remain 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 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. 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. Information can also be found at the NYSDEC website: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html.

