



In conjunction with



Fact Sheet

March 2013

East 11th Street Works – OU-1

www.coned.com/mgp

Riis Houses – Indoor Air Testing and Remedial Planning Update Con Edison attending Tenant Association Mtg March 12, 2013

Dear Interested Citizen:

This fact sheet is to provide you with an update on the site investigation for East 11th Street Works.

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

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For site-related health questions, please contact:

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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 site investigation at the former East 11th Street Works, a historic manufactured gas plant. 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.

This fact sheet offers an update on the site, upcoming indoor air testing from March 25-28, 2013 and remedial planning activities. Con Edison will be attending the March 2013 Tenant Association meeting to present an update on the site and answer any questions that may come up.

Project Status and Schedule

A Site Characterization Study (SCS) and Remedial Investigation for Jacob Riis Houses, St. Emeric's and Haven Plaza was completed to investigate soil and ground water, in accordance with a work plan approved by NYSDEC and NYSDOH. Site investigation activities included the collection of soil and groundwater samples. MGP impacts were found on the site in subsurface soils. Because the impacts are below the surface, they do not pose an exposure risk. There were potential impacts identified in the surface soil in the grassed areas at Jacob Riis that may be related to MGP, but no short-term actions were needed because the area has a protective cover of grass with limited access due to fencing.

Additional activities at the E. 11th Street site included a study of indoor air at Jacob Riis, St. Emeric's, Haven Plaza and PS 34. Given the results of these investigations, the NYSDOH has concluded that these buildings do not appear to be impacted by MGP vapors.

In March 2013, indoor air will be sampled at Riis Houses which is part of routine annual sampling to confirm no MGP impacts in indoor air. The results of this investigation will be submitted to NYSDEC and NYSDOH for their review and approval and provided to the public.

Con Edison is working on an Alternatives Analysis Report that will outline the potential remedy for Jacob Riis that will address the sub-surface contamination. This report will be submitted to NYSDEC and then made

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

Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer's Office, 1 Centre Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10007; 212-669-8300, Hours: M-F 9am-5pm; Tompkins Square Branch, New York Public Library, 331 E.10th Street, New York, NY 10009, Phone: 212-228-4747, Hours: Mon /Wed 12-7, Tues/Thurs 11-6, 10-8, Fri/Sat 10-5 (closed Sun).

available to the community for review and comment. NYSDEC will schedule a Public Meeting to take comments from the public.

Potential Exposure

The primary goal of these investigations is to evaluate the potential for exposure to these historical operations. Potential human exposure may come from breathing, ingesting or touching the contaminants. The potential for people to come in contact with contaminants from Riis Houses and St. Emeric has been evaluated as part of the investigation and the potential for exposure to site-related contaminants is minimal. Exposure to contaminated groundwater through ingestion is also unlikely because New York City is served by a municipal water system.

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

The 11th Street Works was located on the lower East Side of Manhattan prior to 1903 and continued until after 1920 when the structures were removed. The site was located on the north side of East 11th Street and the south side of East 12th Street. The plant grounds extended from the east side of Avenue D to the East River. The plant also extended from Avenue C to the East River on the block bounded by the north side of East 12th Street and the south side of East 13th Street. Today, the buildings located at this site are the Jacob Riis Houses, the Haven Plaza North Co-op Apartments, the NYCDEP pumping station and the grounds of the St. Emeric Roman Catholic Church and School.

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 website at www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8430.html.