



In conjunction with



Dear Interested Citizen:

This fact sheet is to update you on the remedial plan for the former E. 115th Street MGP.

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Fact Sheet

November 2011

East 115th Street Works

www.coned.com/mgp

MGP Site Update

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 remedial planning process at the former East 115th Street Works (currently Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics High School and Isaac Newton J.H.S. for Science and Math).

Project Status and Schedule

Investigation activities at the site were conducted in June 2002, August 2003 and August 2004 and involved the collection of soil, groundwater, indoor air and soil gas samples within the school property. Sediment samples from the Harlem River adjacent to the site were collected as part of the investigation in January 2005. The investigation results indicate that soil and groundwater contamination is present beneath the site at depths of approximately 5 feet in the school basement (south wing) and 10 feet in the school courtyard and extending to approximately 40 feet below grade surface.

Con Edison has conducted multiple rounds of indoor air and soil gas sampling to determine if subsurface MGP contamination was negatively impacting indoor air quality in the building. The last indoor air sampling was conducted on September 29, 2011. The sampling data obtained to date indicate that there does not appear to be any impact to indoor air from MGP impacts in the soil. Con Edison will continue indoor air monitoring every six months until a remedy is implemented.

Based on the investigation results, a draft Alternatives Analysis Report (AAR) and Site Management Plan (SMP) were prepared and made available for public comment. The draft AAR described the proposed remedy which the NYSDEC and NYSDOH found to be approvable for the site. The public comment period was May 12 to June 12, 2009. A public meeting was held on May 12, 2009 at the MCSM Parent's Association meeting. NYSDEC responded to all comments received in a summary document. The Decision Document and Summary of Public Comments and Department Responses are available on the www.coned.com/mgp website.

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; **Aguilar Branch, The New York Public Library**, 174 E.110th Street, New York, NY 10029; 212-534-2930; Hrs: Mon/Wed/Fri 10-6, Tues/Thur 12-8, Sat 10-5 (closed Sunday)

The final Decision Document delineates the selected remedy for the site. The selected remedy includes the installation of approximately 500 feet of a low permeability subsurface barrier wall along the FDR; the excavation of shallow contaminated soils in certain areas of the site which have been further delineated through test pits and soil borings last summer; the installation of a sub-slab depressurization system underneath the school building foundation which will provide negative pressure below the building to prevent soil vapor from entering the building in the future; the development of a Site Management Plan (SMP) to manage contaminated soils that are left in place and provide for proper monitoring and maintenance of the components of the remedy; the imposition of a deed restriction which will require compliance with the SMP and notification to Con Edison and NYSDEC if the building use is suspended or changed; lastly, the remedy contains a provision for an annual certification to the NYSDEC on the institutional and engineering controls that are implemented at the site. Engineering design of the selected remedy is currently underway.

Potential Exposure

A primary goal of the environmental investigation is to evaluate the potential for exposure to these historical operations. Potential human exposure may come from breathing, eating or touching contaminants. Because the soil contamination was found well below the surface, the public is not exposed through direct contact. As stated above, there are no indoor air impacts from MGP residuals. Exposure to contaminated groundwater through ingestion is also not likely because New York City is served by a municipal water system.

What are former Manufactured Gas Plants?

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.

The substances of concern related to these operations include BTEX compounds and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). 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.

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 or www.dec.state.ny.us/chemical/8430.html.