



In conjunction with



Fact Sheet

September 2012

East 115th Street Works

www.coned.com/mgp

Dear Interested Citizen:

This fact sheet provides an update on the former East 115th Street Works site.

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

Laura Mascuch
Con Edison
4 Irving Place
New York, NY 10003
Toll-free (877) 602-6633

For site-related environmental questions, please contact:

Elizabeth Lukowski
Project Manager
NYSDEC
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233
(866) 520-2334

For site-related health questions, please contact:

Dawn Hettrick, P.E.
NYSDOH
Bureau of Environmental
Exposure Investigations
Flanigan Square
547 River Street, Rm 300
Troy, NY 12180
(800) 458-1158,
ext. 2-7880

Introduction

Con Edison provides an annual update on the status of the Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) program each fall as the school year begins. The Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics and the Isaac Newton Middle School for Math and Science are located on the site of a former MGP. MGPs 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. Con Edison has been working on the site since 2002 and activities have included indoor air sampling every six months and sampling of soil and ground water. Con Edison is currently in the design phase for the remedial plan that was approved by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and NYS Department of Health (DOH).

Project Status and Schedule

This summer Con Edison conducted a Supplemental Pre-Design Investigation in the back yard of the school to assist with the design of the barrier wall that will be built along the FDR Drive. Con Edison did a number of borings to determine depth and condition of bedrock and define contamination boundaries. In addition, test pits were excavated to observe any underground structures in the area where the wall will be built. The work was successfully completed and the site was restored by August 31st.

Con Edison will be conducting the biannual indoor air sampling on Monday, September 17th when school is closed. 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 February 2012. The NYSDOH has reviewed the data from all the rounds of soil gas/indoor air sampling and concluded that there does not appear to be any impact to indoor air from MGP impacts in the soil.

Con Edison will be presenting at the MCSM Parents Association meeting on October 9th.

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)

Potential Exposure

A primary goal of the environmental investigation is to evaluate the potential for exposure to these historical MGP 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 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

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 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 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.