



In conjunction with



# Fact Sheet

October 2014

Purdy Street Station

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

## Remedial Action Comment Period Announced

**Public Meeting at St. Raymond High School on Nov. 5 at 7:00pm**

### Dear Interested Citizen:

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

**If you have questions or would like more information, 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 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.

NYSDEC is now releasing the Remedial Alternative Analysis Report (AAR) and the Proposed Decision Document (PDD) for public review and comment. These documents can be found at [www.coned.com/mgp](http://www.coned.com/mgp) (Purdy Street tab). **A public meeting will be held on Nov. 5 at 7:00 PM at St. Raymond High School to present the proposed remedy and take comments.**

### Project Status and Schedule

Con Edison conducted Site investigations for the Purdy Street Station in 2004 and 2006, in accordance with work plans approved by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH. The field investigation showed that there are MGP related impacts in the form of contaminated soil and coal tar product beneath the athletic field portion of the property.

In response to the findings from the various investigation activities, Con Edison prepared an evaluation of remedial alternatives to address contamination found at the Site. Based on the information presented, the NYSDEC and NYSDOH have selected an alternative for implementation at the Site. The proposed remedy entails removing 3,900 cubic yards of soil, over an area of 12,000 square feet in the area of the athletic field. The excavation will range in depth between 5 to 8 feet and will remove about 90% of the known contamination on the Site. Ground water contamination at the Site will be addressed via in-place treatment which will result in the decomposition of contaminants. The remediation will take approximately 3-4 months to complete.

The proposed remedy includes the development of a Site Management Plan (SMP) which will provide measures for eliminating uncontrolled exposure to the small amount of contaminated soil remaining in place after remediation is completed. The SMP will also incorporate the imposition of a deed restriction which will require compliance with the SMP and notification to the NYSDEC if any intrusive work is conducted. The proposed remedy also contains a provision for a periodic certification to the NYSDEC that remedial controls implemented at the Site remain in place.

### 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 10-6; Tues & Thurs 11-7; Fri 10-5; & Sat 10-5 (closed Sunday).

## 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.

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 and the property was used as a maintenance yard. Con Edison, which acquired the Bronx Gas and Electric Company through a merger in 1936, sold the property to the Roman Catholic Church of Saint Raymond in 1960.

## Potential Exposure

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. Exposure to contaminated groundwater through ingestion is not expected because New York City is served by a municipal water system. During the remedy, extensive efforts will be made to protect the community from potential hazards. These will include working within a fenced-in Site, wetting all materials, covering all inactive dirt piles and air monitoring. The NYSDOH-based Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) will be implemented to detect organic vapors and dust at the Site perimeter to mitigate potential exposure to local residents. Controls will be implemented, including adjusting work methods and applying additional dust and/or odor suppressants, or suspending work, if necessary to address conditions.

## 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. 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.

## Public Involvement

The comment period commences on October 22, 2014, the release date of the PDD, and will end on November 21, 2014. The AAR and the PDD are available for review at the document repositories listed on the first page of this fact sheet, as well as online at [www.coned.com/mgp](http://www.coned.com/mgp) (Purdy Street tab). In addition, Con Edison, NYSDEC and NYSDOH will be holding a public meeting on November 5, 2014 at 7:00 PM at St. Raymond High School to answer questions and take comments. Comments may also be submitted to Doug MacNeal, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> floor, Albany, NY 12233. Phone: 518-402-9684. Fax: 518-402-9662. Or via email: [douglas.macneal@dec.ny.gov](mailto:douglas.macneal@dec.ny.gov). After consideration of all comments received, NYSDEC will approve a final remedy.

