

(Fact Sheet Begins Next)

Act Now to Continue Receiving Information About This Site!

DEC's Division of Environmental Remediation (DER) now distributes information about contaminated sites *electronically by email*.

If you would like to continue to receive information about the contaminated site featured in this fact sheet:

You must sign up for the DER email listserv:

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html

DER cannot register your email address - only the email address owner can do so. If you already have signed up for the listserv for the county in which the site is located, you need do nothing.



Why You Should Go “Paperless”:

Get site information faster and share it easily;

Receive information about all sites in a chosen county - read what you want, delete the rest;

It helps the environment and stretches your tax dollars.

If “paperless” is not an option for you, call or write to the DER project manager identified in this fact sheet. Indicate that you need to receive paper copies of fact sheets through the Postal Service. Include the site name in your correspondence. The option to receive paper is available to individuals only. Groups, organizations, businesses, and government entities are assumed to have email access.

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FACT SHEET State Superfund Program

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email. See "For More Information" to Learn How.

Site Name: Former Melrose Avenue Dry Cleaner
DEC Site #: 203009
Address: 753 Melrose Avenue
Bronx, NY 10451

Have questions? See "Who to Contact" Below

Investigation to Begin at State Superfund Site

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) will soon begin a detailed environmental study at the Former Melrose Avenue Dry Cleaner site ("site") located at 753 Melrose Avenue, Bronx, NY. Please see the map for the site location. Documents related to the cleanup of this site can be found at the location(s) identified below under "Where to Find Information."

The site is listed as a Class "2" site in the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites (list of State Superfund sites). A Class 2 site represents a significant threat to public health or the environment; action is required.

Investigation Work Plan

The investigation work plan, called a "Remedial Investigation Work Plan / Scope of Work," was developed under New York's State Superfund Program. NYSDEC will perform the investigation which will assess conditions on-site (and, if appropriate, off-site).

Highlights of the Site Investigation

The purpose of the investigation is to define the nature and extent of contamination in soil, surface water, groundwater and any other parts of the environment that may be affected. The site investigation will fully characterize all contamination at the site.

Tetrachloroethene (a chemical used in the dry-cleaning process) has been found in on-site soils up to 2.2 parts per million (ppm), which is slightly above the 1.3 ppm soil cleanup objective for the protection of groundwater. Tetrachloroethene (also known as PCE) has been found in groundwater adjacent to the site at concentrations up to 6,200 parts per billion (ppb), well above the groundwater standard of 5 ppb. Trichloroethene (a break-down product of PCE also known as TCE) has been found in groundwater adjacent to the site at concentrations up to 500 ppb, well above the groundwater standard of 5 ppb. Cis-1,2 Dichloroethene (a break-down product of TCE) has been found in groundwater adjacent to the site at concentrations up to 3,500 ppb, well above the groundwater standard of 5 ppb. This contaminated groundwater has migrated at least 2 blocks downgradient (south) of the site underneath residential areas. Given

these circumstances, PCE-contaminated soil vapor (the gasses in between soil particles below ground) could potentially be migrating toward nearby residential areas and the adjacent school (PS 29) potentially resulting in vapor intrusion; the investigation will include the collection of samples to determine if this is happening or not.

Next Steps

The information collected during the investigation will be summarized in a report. After the site investigation has begun, NYSDEC will conduct a "Feasibility Study". This study uses information developed during the site investigation to develop and evaluate potential ways to clean up contamination related to the site. The information collected during the site investigation may also support the conclusion that no action, or no further action, is needed to address site-related contamination.

NYSDEC will then develop a draft cleanup plan, called a "Proposed Remedial Action Plan". This plan describes the remedy preferred by NYSDEC, or, if warranted, a no action or no further action alternative. The draft cleanup plan explains the decision that led to the preferred remedy by discussing each alternative and the reasons for choosing or rejecting it. The goal of the plan will be to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. NYSDEC will announce the draft cleanup plan in a future fact sheet, and will present it to the public for its review and comment during a 30-day comment period and at a public meeting.

Background

Location:

The site is located in the Melrose section of The Bronx, NY. The site is located on the west side of Melrose Avenue between East 156th and East 157th Streets.

Site Features:

The site is a vacant lot covered with vegetation, and is surrounded with a chain-link fence. The site is bordered to the north by a community garden, to the east by Melrose Avenue, to the south by a 6-story apartment building, and to the west by the PS 29 athletic fields.

Current Zoning and Land Use:

The site is zoned for residential. There are no buildings on the site, and the property is not currently in use.

Past Use of the Site:

The Department began a Site Characterization in this area during the Fall of 2003 based on results obtained from a petroleum spill investigation at the FDNY Engine 71/Ladder 55 property located at 720 Melrose Avenue, which indicated elevated levels of tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), and cis-1,2-dichloroethene (DCE) in groundwater.

Based on the field sampling program (which was conducted in several phases, and was completed in the Spring of 2007), and a review of available historical information, the site was identified as a primary source of the area-wide chlorinated solvent contamination. According to

Sanborn fire insurance maps and an interview with a long-time resident, this site was occupied by a dry cleaner during the 1950's. The maps show that the solvent tanks were located in the rear of the building. Since the time of that former facility's operation, the site has been abandoned.

Site Geology and Hydrogeology:

The site is underlain by a fill unit (5-7' thick), a fine-medium sand unit with some silt (5-25' thick), and bedrock (11-28' below grade).

Groundwater is approximately 16-19' below ground surface in the vicinity of the site. In some areas, the groundwater is below the surface of bedrock). Groundwater on-site flows SE towards Melrose Avenue, and then to the south towards the East River (~7,000' south of the site) along a former stream bed.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3&progno=203009>

State Superfund Program: New York's State Superfund Program (SSF) identifies and characterizes suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites. Sites that pose a significant threat to public health and/or the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

NYSDEC attempts to identify parties responsible for site contamination and require cleanup before committing State funds.

For more information about the SSF, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8439.html>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed.

New York Public Library - Melrose Branch
Attn: Sadeqwa Atkinson
910 Morris Avenue
Bronx, NY 10451
Tel: (718) 588-0110

Bronx Community Board 1
Attn: Cedric Loftin
3024 Third Avenue
Bronx, NY 10455
Tel: (718) 585-7117

Who to Contact

Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

David Harrington
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7016
Tel: (518) 402-9768
E-mail: david.harrington@dec.ny.gov

Site-Related Health Questions
Jacqueline Nealon
New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation
Empire State Plaza - Corning Tower Room 1787
Albany, NY 12237
Tel: (518) 402-7860
E-mail: BEEI@health.ny.gov

We encourage you to share this fact sheet with neighbors and tenants, and/or post this fact sheet in a prominent area of your building for others to see.

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. NYSDEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>. It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you *better informed*.



As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select.

Note: Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.



753 Melrose Ave

753 Melrose Ave, Bronx, NY 10451

