
ENHANCED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Remediation Project:
Former Melrose Avenue Dry Cleaner
Melrose, South Bronx, NY
DEC Site No. 203009



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF ENHANCED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

This Enhanced Community Engagement Plan (ECEP) serves to identify the project, the clean-up objectives and requirements, the project team members, the community surrounding the site, and the involved stakeholders. The ECEP functions as a guide to project personnel on the best ways to communicate project information; answer questions; and for the community to raise issues and concerns to the proper contact for answers and explanations. In short, it is a roadmap to the resources and information regarding the impacted site, ongoing remediation or investigations, and project activities that may generate public interest or questions. While each state superfund site has its own citizens participation plan, this ECEP was developed in response to heightened community interest about the Site and its offsite impacts, a broad desire expressed by the community to learn more about the Site and cleanup, and the proximity of the site to disadvantaged communities.

1.2 PROJECT HISTORY

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Department of Health (DEC and DOH, respectively) are working together to protect public health and the environment in the South Bronx Melrose community. The DEC, working closely with the DOH, has completed multiple environmental investigations to identify the nature and extent of contamination related to the Former Melrose Avenue Dry Cleaner Site, located at 753 Melrose Avenue, Bronx, NY (the “Site”).

Historic records indicate that the Site was developed with a single structure circa 1946. Between the 1950s and 1968, the Site was occupied by a dry cleaner, however few public records are available from this period to document operations of the business. The structure was demolished in 1968, and the Site has remained vacant since that time. The Site is currently owned by the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (NYC HPD). The former dry-cleaning operations have been identified as a source of contamination to groundwater and soil vapor at and near the Site. Chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs) associated with dry cleaning solution are the primary contaminants of concern in off-Site groundwater and soil vapor. The primary compounds of concern in soil vapor include tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE).

The Site is a Class 2 site in DEC's Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites and its Site No. is 203009. The goal of the Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site Remedial Program, also known as the State Superfund Program, is to identify and characterize suspected inactive hazardous waste disposal sites (sites) and to ensure that sites which pose a significant threat to public health or the environment are properly cleaned up.

History of Prior Environmental Investigations

Prior environmental investigations have been conducted at the Site and adjacent properties between 2004 and 2022. These investigations included research of historical information; collection of soil, groundwater, and soil vapor samples; and Ecological and Human Health Exposure assessments. As part of prior environmental investigations, analytical data for soil, soil vapor, indoor air, and groundwater were generated. The findings of the prior environmental investigations are summarized below:

- Remediation of soil is not required at the Site.
- An interim remedial measure, the installation of a Sub Slab Depressurization System, was implemented in 2019 as a precautionary measure and is currently operating at the NYPD Police Service Area 7 (PSA 7) building.
- With the exception of the location noted above, the potential for soil vapor intrusion (which may impact indoor air quality) has not been observed in off-Site structures that were sampled during multiple Soil Vapor Intrusion (SVI) Investigations. Additional evaluation of structures over the identified plume is ongoing.
- On-Site and off-Site groundwater is contaminated with CVOCs and is the focus of the remedy selected in the October 2022 Record of Decision.

Based on the findings of the prior environmental investigations, the primary area of contaminated groundwater is along Melrose Avenue between 154th Street and 157th Street as shown below:



Figure 1: Melrose Avenue – Groundwater PCE Isoconcentrations (Source: Phase I Remedial Investigation Report, 2018)

1.3 REMEDIATION PROJECT SCOPE

In October 2022, the DEC issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Site. The ROD presents the remedy selected to address contamination related to the Site and provides a rationale for why the remedy was chosen. The identified remedy, In-situ Chemical Oxidation with Monitored Natural Attenuation was selected to target and treat the contaminants of concern in groundwater and soil vapor. The ROD also includes a Responsiveness Summary which memorializes comments received during the public meeting and throughout the comment period with responses to each. The selected remedy (referred to in this ECEP as “Remediation Project”) includes:

- In-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) to treat contaminants in groundwater (includes Pilot Test and Remedial Design),
- Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA),
- Vapor Intrusion Evaluation, and
- Implementation of a Site Management Plan.



1.3.1 REMEDIATION PROJECT TASKS

The Remediation Project Area includes the section of Melrose Avenue between 154th Street and 157th Street. The Remediation Project consists of three tasks, which must be completed consecutively:

Task	Purpose
A – Environmental Investigation	Further investigate the extent of contamination in groundwater and soil vapor resulting from the former dry cleaner operations to inform the design of the selected remedy. This step includes a pilot-scale study.
B – Remedial Design and Implementation	Design and carry out the in-situ chemical oxidation program to target and treat the contamination with minimal disruptions to local residents and businesses.
C – Remedial Monitoring	Following application of the in-situ chemical oxidant, conduct monitoring to confirm that the remedy is effective in targeting and treating the contamination.

As part of Task A, multiple environmental investigations were conducted at the Site and adjacent properties. These reports are available on the DEC website for the Remediation Project: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/203009/>.

The implementation of Task B (Remedial Design and Implementation) began in the spring of 2024. Task B consists of pre-design investigation activities (i.e., groundwater sampling, surveys, vapor intrusion sampling, etc.); pilot test activities (work plan preparation, well installation, ISCO pilot test, etc.); reporting; and Remedial Design (i.e., full-scale ISCO Injection Design).

1.3.2 ISCO PROGRAM

The overall goal of the Melrose Avenue Dry Cleaner Remediation Project is to target and treat the contamination in groundwater and soil vapor via a process known as in-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO). Chemical oxidation uses chemicals referred to as “oxidants” to help break down contaminants into carbon dioxide and water, which are naturally occurring and already present in the environment. “In-situ” remediation means the process is conducted in place and underground, without having to excavate soil or pump out groundwater for aboveground treatment or disposal.

The specific oxidants, dosing, and application methods used for the clean-up will be selected based on the pilot scale test. The pilot test, which will last several months, will be a small-scale off-site application and evaluation of the oxidant selected for the in-situ clean-up. Based on assessments made during the pilot scale test, the full-scale application of the oxidant will be made to the identified treatment area.

Key details on the ISCO program are included below:

- A series of injection wells will be installed via a drilling rig.
- Chemical oxidants will be pumped into the injection wells to treat the contaminated groundwater.
- Three injection events are anticipated to be conducted over three years (i.e., one injection event per year).
- Following each injection event, groundwater samples will be collected within the treatment zone to monitor the breakdown of contaminants in groundwater and to inform the need for and timing of additional injections.

The ISCO program will not impact public water supply in the area. Under Article 141 of the NYC Department of Health (DOH) Code, groundwater may not be utilized for potable/drinking purposes (i.e., not ingested) in the vicinity of the Site.

For additional information on ISCO, the United States' Environmental Protection Agency's (US EPA) *A Citizen's Guide to In Situ Chemical Oxidation* can be accessed at: https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-04/documents/a_citizens_guide_to_in_situ_chemical_oxidation.pdf.

1.4 PROJECT TEAM

It is not unusual for projects of this type to have several teams working together to address the various aspects of a remediation project, while interacting with stakeholders to make sure their needs and concerns are met. The teams involved in this project include DEC, the lead State agency for State Superfund sites; DOH, which oversees issues of human health; and TRC Engineers, Inc. (TRC), an engineering firm under contract with DEC that produces the environmental designs and reports for the Remediation Project. TRC performs sampling and data management and oversees remedial program implementation as the Engineer of Record. Following the completion of engineering designs related to the Remedial Project, additional contractors or vendors (i.e., drillers, surveyors, etc.) may be involved with the project under the direction of DEC.

All these team members coordinate with each other to ensure that the work is done properly and efficiently, and that the community is kept informed of project activities. All project personnel will easily be identified by high-visibility safety vests and/or clothing with either DEC, DOH or company (e.g., TRC) branding (logo).

1.4.1 NEW YORK STATE'S MISSION & REMEDIAL TEAM

The mission of the DEC, in consultation with the DOH, is to conserve, improve, and protect New York's natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being. DEC's goal is to achieve this mission through the simultaneous pursuit of environmental quality, public health, economic prosperity, and social well-being, including environmental justice and the empowerment of individuals to participate in environmental decisions that affect their lives.

New York State is committed to the Remediation Project to address the contamination associated with the Former Melrose Avenue Dry Cleaner Site. DEC's foremost priority is to protect public health and the environment in the South Bronx Melrose community. This Remediation Project is being completed to treat the groundwater contaminant plume and eliminate the potential for future soil vapor intrusion in off-Site structures. Fortunately, there are no observed or known exposures to the contaminants associated with this site.

The following are the primary DEC staff responsible for this site:

- Project Manager, Division of Environmental Remediation, Alan Wong
- Special Assistant, Region 2 (NYC), Rodney Rivera

It is a standard practice that the DEC oversees the remedial work in consultation with the DOH, who ensures that remedial activities are conducted in a way that is protective of public health. The following is the primary DOH staff on this project:

- Project Manager, Sarita Wagh



1.4.2 OTHER REMEDIAL TEAM MEMBERS

TRC has been contracted by the DEC to provide standby engineering services for a variety of projects throughout New York State. TRC has a focus on environmental, infrastructure, security, and construction projects, with experience in environmental investigation and remediation projects. TRC has provided engineering services for environmental projects to DEC since 2011 and has performed site characterizations and remedial investigations/feasibility studies, developed remedial designs, and provided remedial construction oversight. Additionally, TRC has performed numerous other related tasks and provided services to DEC such as conducting project data reviews, quality assurance/quality control activities, reporting, and public outreach/engagement.

TRC has been retained by DEC to provide remedial design services for the Former Melrose Avenue Dry Cleaner Site, and to support ongoing SVI evaluations. TRC will also aide DEC staff in public outreach/engagement activities at the Site. TRC is responsible for performing the pre-design investigation activities (groundwater sampling, surveys, vapor intrusion sampling, etc.); pilot test activities (work plan preparation, well installation, ISCO pilot test, etc.); data reviews and reporting (Data Usability Summary Reports, Pre-Design Investigation Reports, SVI Reports, etc.); design services and assistance with contractor procurement (specifications, drawings, bid reviews, etc.); and public outreach support (preparation of plans, information sheets, meeting attendance, etc.). TRC is providing staff and resources from its Manhattan office, which includes an array of environmental professionals local to the NYC Metropolitan area. The following are the TRC lead staff on this project:

- Kevin Boger, P.E.: Project Manager for the Remediation Project for DEC, with over 15 years of experience designing and implementing environmental remediation projects.
- Aine Chalmers, E.I.T.: Community Outreach Liaison for the Remediation Project, with approximately 8 years of experience supporting environmental remediation design projects.

Given the sensitivity of this site being both an environmental justice area and disadvantaged community, the project team has also collaborated with DEC's OEJ in the development of this ECEP. OEJ provides support across all divisions within the agency to ensure fair treatment and meaningful involvement of New Yorkers in the environmental decision-making process.



1.4.3 REMEDIATION TEAM ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Team	Role	Contact Information
DEC	DEC is the lead regulatory agency for the Site activities and is responsible for ensuring that Site activities are conducted according to New York State Environmental Conservation Law.	Alan Wong Project Manager (518) 402-9643; Alan.Wong@dec.ny.gov Rodney Rivera Special Assistant, Region 2 (NYC) (718) 482-4958; Rodney.Rivera@dec.ny.gov
DOH	DOH is responsible for identifying potential impacts to public health associated with the Site and answering site-related health questions.	Sarita Wagh Project Manager (518) 402-7860; Sarita.Wagh@health.ny.gov
TRC	TRC is a consultant to DEC retained to design the Remediation Project, prepare reports, perform sampling and data management, and oversee remedial program implementation as the Engineer of Record.	Kevin Boger, P.E. Project Manager (212) 782-7822; KBoger@trccompanies.com Aine Chalmers, E.I.T. Community Outreach Liaison (347) 630-0301; AChalmers@trccompanies.com

2.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Former Melrose Avenue Dry Cleaner Site is located at 753 Melrose Avenue in the Melrose section of the South Bronx, New York. The South Bronx is typically identified as the area west of the Bronx River and south of the Cross Bronx Expressway (Interstate 95). According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the South Bronx consists of the neighborhoods of Hunts Point, Longwood, Melrose, Concourse, Highbridge, Mount Eden, and parts of Belmont, Crotona Park East, and East Tremont. The Site is in the Bronx Community District 1, which also includes the Mott Haven section of the Bronx. The Remediation Project Area includes the section of Melrose Avenue between 154th Street and 157th Street.

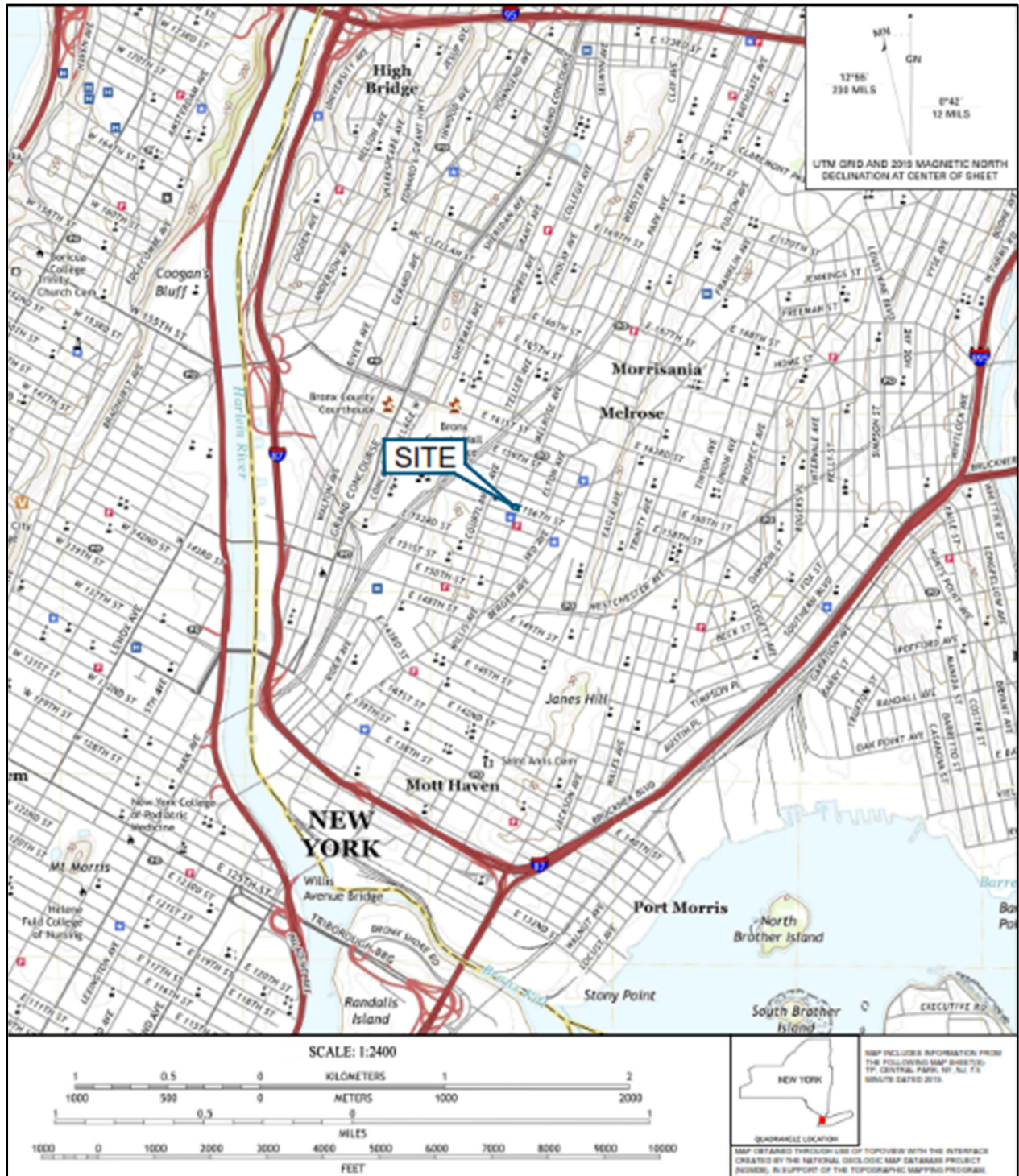


Figure 2: Site Location Map

2.1 COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the “Community Health Profile” published by the New York City (NYC) Department of Health, approximately 96,500 people reside in Bronx Community District 1. Approximately 61% of the population are adults (ages 18 to 64), 27% minors (under 18), and 13% seniors (ages 65+). Racial make-up indicates that 74% of residents identify as Hispanic or Latino, 24% as Black or African American, 1% as Asian, 1% as White, and 1% as other. Thirty percent of residents were born outside of the U.S., and 29% of residents have limited English proficiency. Approximately 32% of residents live below the NYC Government poverty threshold, which is calculated based on consumer spending and the cost of living in New York; the NYC Government poverty threshold is approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000 greater than the threshold established by the federal government.

2.2 ELECTED OFFICIALS

The community is represented by elected officials in the municipal, state, and federal governments. As stated, the Site is in Bronx Community District 1. Additionally, the Site is in NYC Council District 17, NYS Assembly District 79, NYS Senate District 29, and U.S. Congressional District 15.

- Charles Schumer U.S. Senator
- Kirsten Gillibrand U.S. Senator
- Ritchie Torres U.S. Representative (CD 15)
- José M. Serrano NYS Senator (SD 29)
- Chantel Jackson NYS Assemblywoman (AD 79)
- Eric L. Adams Mayor of New York City
- Rafael Salamanca Jr. New York City Councilman (CD 17)
- Jumaane D. Williams New York City Public Advocate
- Brad Lander New York City Comptroller
- Vanessa L. Gibson Bronx Borough President
- Darcel D. Clark Bronx District Attorney
- Clarisa Aleyeto Bronx Community District 1 Chairperson
- Anthony R. Jordan Bronx Community District 1 Manager



2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AREA

Environmental Justice (EJ) is the fair and meaningful treatment of all people, regardless of race, income, national origin or color, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. To this end, New York State has developed criteria to identify disadvantaged communities to ensure that frontline and otherwise underserved communities benefit from the state's historic transition to cleaner, greener sources of energy, reduced pollution and cleaner air, and economic opportunities.

Potential EJ Areas are U.S. Census block groups of 250 to 500 households each that, in the Census, had populations that met or exceeded at least one of the following statistical thresholds:

1. At least 52.42% of the population in an urban area reported themselves to be members of minority groups; or
2. At least 26.28% of the population in a rural area reported themselves to be members of minority groups; or
3. At least 22.82% of the population in an urban or rural area had household incomes below the federal poverty level.

The federal poverty level and urban/rural designations for the above census block groups are established by the U.S. Census Bureau. The thresholds are determined by a statistical analysis of the annual American Community Survey (ACS) data, which is published during the fourth quarter of each year with the survey results from the prior year.

The Former Melrose Avenue Dry Cleaner Site is located in a designated Potential Environmental Justice Area (PEJA). PEJAs are determined by a statistical analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS). The Site's designation is based on the 2014-2018 ACS data as analyzed by the DEC Office of Environmental Justice.

The Site is also designated as a Disadvantaged Community (DAC). New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) requires the identification and consideration of DACs in implementing the Climate Act and other State-led actions. The Climate Act requires that 35% of the State's clean energy and energy efficiency investments benefit DACs and State agencies must prioritize greenhouse gas and pollution reductions and consider impacts on DACs in decision making. DACs are identified at the census tract level and based on geographic, public health, environmental hazard, and socioeconomic criteria, which includes:



1. Areas burdened by cumulative environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects;
2. Areas with concentrations of people that are of low income, high unemployment, high rent burden, low levels of home ownership, low levels of educational attainment, or members of groups that have historically experienced discrimination based on race or ethnicity; and
3. Areas vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The NYSDEC Office of Environmental Justice works to address environmental issues and concerns that affect primarily low income and minority communities through grant opportunities, enforcement of environmental laws and regulations, consultation, guidance, and enhanced public participation.

3.0 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PLAN

Since 2014, DEC and DOH have been working with project stakeholders to keep the community informed and respond to concerns and suggestions to mitigate disruption and inconvenience wherever possible (See Section 3.3). DEC is committed to ensuring continued meaningful and effective public participation throughout the implementation of the Remediation Project associated with the Site. The objective of this Community Participation Plan (CPP) is to outline and describe the program of activities that the DEC will implement to actively seek and enhance public participation associated with the Remediation Project.

3.1 STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND CONTACT LIST

A contact list consisting of the names and email addresses of stakeholders is provided in **Attachment A**. The contact list includes individuals and organizations with a direct stake in the Remediation Project and people and individuals and organizations that have expressed interest in the Remediation Project or similar projects affecting the same neighborhood or community.

The current contact list has been developed by identifying stakeholders from the following categories: Site owner, local government and elected officials; business owners, residents, and commercial property occupants; local civic, community, environmental and religious organizations; administrator/operators of any school or day care that live, work and/or represent a neighborhood or community within the Remediation Project Area (i.e., 154th to 157th Street, Melrose Avenue). The contact list will be reviewed periodically and updated as appropriate throughout the Remediation Project. The DEC will update the

contact list with any new stakeholders identified during public information meetings or execution of other CPP components. In addition, individuals and organizations will be added to the contact list upon request. Such requests should be submitted to the DEC project manager, Alan Wong. Other additions to the contact list may be made at the discretion of the DEC project manager, in consultation with other DEC staff, as appropriate.

The DEC will utilize this contact list to communicate and disseminate information about the Remediation Project to the affected community and stakeholders. At minimum, this includes distribution of the written information and outreach materials described in Section 3.2 and 3.3 to inform the community about upcoming public information meetings and community availability sessions and any other opportunities for public participation. Additionally, the Project Team will work with key stakeholders (i.e., elected officials, community groups, Bronx Community Board 1, religious institutions, etc.) to engage the community and identify additional stakeholders for each milestone of the remediation plan.

3.2 COMMUNITY MAILER

The DEC will conduct two direct mailings, one in 2024 and one in 2025, to properties located within the Remediation Project Area (i.e., the section of Melrose Avenue between 154th Street and 157th Street). The mailers will consist of a status update on the Remediation Project, the location of the online and physical document repositories, and how the public can stay informed on the Remediation Project. The mailers will be published in English, Spanish, and French, in an easy-to-read, understandable format, using plain language free of legal terminology, and geared towards a non-technical audience.

3.3 PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The DEC will continue to utilize a range of engagement strategies and conduct various public outreach activities to facilitate participation, involvement, and direct communication with the affected community during the Remediation Project. Prior public outreach efforts associated with this site include, but are not limited to:

- Fact Sheet (English, Spanish), August 2016
- Fact Sheet (English, Spanish), May 2022
- Proposed Remediation Action Plan Presentation (Public Meeting), May 2022
- Public Availability Session, July 2022
- Community Newsletter Update (English, Spanish), November 2023
- Community Task Force Meeting, March 2024

Fact sheets and newsletters that were published can be found on the DEC website at: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/203009/>.

3.3.1 PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY AVAILABILITY SESSIONS

The DEC will hold public information meetings and community availability sessions to keep the public informed prior to key Remediation Project milestones. Prior to each information meeting and/or availability session, the DEC will prepare, distribute, and post written information and materials, including a meeting notice and fact sheet, to encourage dialogue and solicit input from interested stakeholders. All public outreach materials and information will be prepared in English, Spanish, and French, and presented in an easy-to-read, understandable format, using plain language free of legal terminology, and geared towards a non-technical audience.

Each information meeting/availability session notice and fact sheet will be made available in English, Spanish, and French. In addition, the public can contact the DEC Project Manager, Alan Wong, regarding the availability of language assistance and to request that the notice and fact sheet be translated into additional languages or interpretation services be provided during the meeting.

The Project Team (i.e., DEC, DOH, TRC) will facilitate hybrid (i.e., in-person and virtual) public information meetings or in-person community availability sessions prior to key Remediation Project Milestones to:

- Inform the public about the status of the Remediation Project.
- Provide the opportunity for stakeholders to ask questions and express concerns about the Remediation Project and identify how to obtain information or answers to questions after the meeting has concluded.
- Inform attendees how they may submit written comments on the Remediation Project to the DEC.

If any stakeholders have questions about the status of the project between the key Remediation Project Milestones, they should email the Project Manager to request an update or are encouraged to check the project webpage.

Necessary Public Information Meeting Discussion Points and Requirements

All public information meetings will be facilitated by the DEC, in coordination with DOH and TRC, both in-person and virtually. During the meeting, the Project Team will present a brief overview of the upcoming Remediation Project milestone, including any relevant background information, scope of work, schedule, and potential community impacts. The

second part of the meeting will include a question-and answer period during which the floor will be open for attendees to ask questions, make remarks, and/or express concerns. In addition, the following discussion points will be addressed:

- Provide an update on the Remediation Project and identify future milestones.
- Identify the location of the online and physical document repositories and provide directions on how attendees may obtain and review materials relevant to the Remediation Project, as well as documents related to the meeting and other community engagement plan components.
- Identify and provide contact information for the project liaison and announce procedures for how attendees may obtain answers to questions after the meeting has concluded and interested stakeholders can submit questions, express concerns, or request additional information by telephone, email, and in writing.
- Announce any future outreach, opportunities for public participation, and/or required follow-up with attendees including, but not limited to additional meetings and future mailings.

Attendance will be recorded during each meeting. The Project Team will track the number of attendees for all meetings held during implementation of this CPP and, where feasible and applicable, identify any affiliation of participants and interests represented at the meeting. In addition, the Project Team will be responsible for documenting meeting notes or minutes, along with a record of comments and questions raised in the meeting and respective responses and answers provided. Attendees not identified on the contact list will have the option to be added in the event of future meetings or information sharing.

Community Availability Session

Availability sessions are facilitated to allow the Project Team and community to discuss several topic areas of interest related to a project at one time. These sessions are often held in partnership with other NYS agencies or local governments. Multiple stations are set up in an auditorium or large meeting room with DEC program staff available at each station representing specific areas of interest. The advantage of this type of availability session is that it allows for a one-on-one interaction, with staff discussing a particular topic relating to the project, such as water or air quality, with individual members of the public.

Attendance will be recorded during each availability session. The Project Team will track the number of attendees for all availability sessions held during implementation of this CPP and, where feasible and applicable, identify any affiliation of participants and interests represented at the meeting. Attendees not identified on the contact list will have the option to be added in the event of future meetings or information sharing. These sessions are held in person; due to the structure, a virtual option is not feasible.

The public can learn more about availability sessions by watching our YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XomDsUkc_k.

Public Information Meeting/Community Availability Session Notice Preparation and Distribution

Information regarding the details of the information meeting(s)/community availability session(s) and how to participate will be distributed in reader-friendly meeting notice(s). The notices will be prepared in English and will be translated into Spanish and French. Through each notice, the public will be invited and encouraged to attend the information meeting/availability session.

Following the announcement of each information meeting/availability session, the notice will be posted and available in the online and physical document repositories described in Section 3.4 of this document. At least two weeks in advance of each information meeting/availability session, the notice will be:

- Published in the Bronx Free Press which is a weekly newspaper printed, published, and circulated weekly in Bronx County, NY. In addition, notices may be published in virtual news sources.
- Emailed, mailed and/or hand delivered (door-to-door) to the stakeholders identified in the contact list in **Attachment A**. The Project Team will work with key stakeholders (i.e., Elected Officials, community groups, Bronx Community Board 1, religious institutions, etc.) to ensure greater distribution of notices.
- Posted within the vicinity of the Site and visible to the public. For example, notices maybe posted on bulletin boards located in the lobby of residential complex buildings or public facilities such as libraries, schools, or community centers near the Remediation Project. At the discretion of business owners, the notices may also be posted at private businesses within the vicinity of the Site.

Fact Sheet Preparation and Distribution

In coordination with information meetings/availability sessions, updates on the Remediation Project and future milestones will be provided to the public via reader-friendly fact sheets. Each fact sheet will outline how interested stakeholders can: access the document repositories (online and physical) to review relevant Remediation Project materials; attend upcoming information meeting(s) and/or availability session(s); and contact the project team to obtain additional information. The fact sheets will be prepared in English and translated into Spanish and French.

Each fact sheet will be posted and available in the document repositories (online and physical) described in Section 3.4 of this document. The fact sheet will be:



- Emailed, mailed and/or hand delivered (door-to-door) to the stakeholders identified in the contact list in **Attachment A**. The Project Team will work with key stakeholders (i.e., Elected Officials, community groups, Bronx Community Board 1, religious institutions, etc.) to ensure greater distribution of notices.
- Posted within the vicinity of the Site and visible to the public. For example, notices may be posted on bulletin boards located in the lobby of residential complex buildings or public facilities such as libraries, schools, or community centers within the project site. At the discretion of business owners, the notices may also be posted at private businesses within the vicinity of the Site.

3.4 DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES

An online document repository has been established for the community and interested stakeholders to access and review information about the project. The online repository available at <https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/203009/> will provide information and documents relating to the Remediation Project.

Two physical document repositories have been established at the following locations:

Woodstock Library
761 East 160th Street
Bronx, NY 10456

Bronx Community Board 1
3024 Third Avenue
Bronx, NY 10455

The repositories will be updated throughout the Remediation Project with project-related information and written materials (i.e., information meeting/availability session notices, fact sheets, periodic reports, etc.).

3.5 DOCUMENTING PUBLIC INQUIRIES AND CONCERNS

Given the project involves a variety of stakeholders, it is important that a process be in place that provides plans for each property and information to the public, but also allows them to submit their inquiries and comments. This process will allow DEC to track inquiries, resolutions to those inquiries, as well as those issues that remain outstanding. In order to accomplish this task, questions and comments may be sent directly to DEC Project Manager Alan Wong (see Section 1.4). Responses to such inquiries will be discussed during information meetings/availability sessions or as addendums to fact sheets if broadly applicable to the public.



4.0 PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

From the inception of this project, DEC has been working closely with DOH to ensure that public health considerations are a priority in every aspect of the Remediation Project. The documented site-related chemical contamination is not in an area where anyone can touch, breathe, or drink it; there are no observed or known exposures to this contamination. Groundwater at the Site is not used as a public water supply. Additionally, prior SVI Investigations indicate that soil vapor intrusion (which may impact indoor air quality) is not occurring.

If there are any site-related questions regarding the protection of public health associated with the Remediation Project, please contact: Sarita Wagh, DOH Project Manager at Sarita.Wagh@health.ny.gov.

4.1 POTENTIAL DISRUPTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

Work hours for all phases of the Remedial Project are expected to be from 7:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. The total number of project personnel will vary based on the work being performed and may include representatives from DEC, DOH, TRC, subcontractors, and vendors. The number of workers is expected to generally range from approximately 3 to 15 individuals. All project personnel will be easily identified by high-visibility safety vests and/or clothing with state or company logos.

During monitoring activities (i.e., groundwater sampling, SVI sample collection), the community may see personnel utilizing portable equipment to collect groundwater samples from monitoring wells in streets and sidewalks or air samples from buildings.

During ISCO activities, the community may see or hear drilling equipment, support vehicles/equipment, and tanker trucks near or at the Site. The location of the injection points will be determined based on the findings of the pilot scale test and a review of underground utilities. To the greatest extent possible, the injection point locations will be selected to minimize disruptions to the community. There are no expected impacts to air quality during the injection events. However, to ensure the highest level of protection of public health, the air quality in properties located near the injection locations may be monitored with owner permission. Outside of the injection events (up to one per year), other aboveground disruption will be minimal since the groundwater cleanup process is occurring underground.

The ISCO program will not impact potable/drinking water for the area. As stated above, groundwater may not be utilized for potable/drinking purposes (i.e., not ingested) in the

vicinity of the Site pursuant to Article 141 of the NYCDOH Code. Potable/drinking water for the area is provide by NYC from a source unrelated to the groundwater at the Site.

4.2 MINIMIZING DUST DURING FIELD WORK

There are no expected impacts to air quality during the ISCO injection events. However, to ensure the highest level of protection of public health, TRC will implement a DEC-approved Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) to measure airborne particulate matter wherever soils may be disturbed during drilling and injection activities. Data from the CAMP will be available on the online document repository. One or more air monitoring stations will be active during all drilling and injection to ensure no dust is released to adjacent properties or the environment during Remediation Project implementation. These stations will monitor for dust particulates using real-time monitoring equipment. Results will be compared to the airborne particulate action level. The equipment has an audible alarm that sounds if there is an exceedance of the action level. In addition, there is a requirement for no visible dust during all work activities (i.e., no visible dust emissions will be allowed outside the work zone). Monitors are set close to the work zone to ensure that should any dust be generated, it will be recorded by the monitors right away, and corrective measures (such as wetting down the area) can be taken immediately, well before the dust has a chance to reach down-gradient receptors.

5.0 KEY MESSAGES

As the Remediation Project proceeds, DEC is committed to promoting dialogue with the community that is open and enhances two-way understanding of both the needs and concerns, and the requirements of the work to be conducted. Remediation work is by its nature, impactful, whether on private property or on public streets. While TRC and its team will do all they can (under DEC oversight) to mitigate any impacts to the community, the public may still have questions and concerns. Multi-year, multi-task remediation projects such as this one understandably generates questions from the public, and both DEC and DOH are committed to resolving these inquiries as they arise.

Therefore, it is important that in addition to the commitment by DEC staff and involved parties to inform the community, the community keep in mind the following:

- The community has an open line to DEC, its staff and contractual teams, who are able and willing to work with them throughout the life of the project.
- DEC will continue to work in good faith with project stakeholders to engage community members regarding Remediation Project milestones.
- There will be no cost to individual property owners for any investigation or remediation activities that may be undertaken at their property (if required).



However, the property owner will be requested to consent to access.

- The site-related chemical contamination investigated and documented to date is not in an area where anyone can touch, breathe, or drink it. Groundwater at the Site is not used as a public water supply.
- There are no observed or known exposures to the contaminants associated with the Site.
- Soil Vapor Intrusion Investigations have shown that soil vapor intrusion (which may impact indoor air quality) is not occurring. The potential for soil vapor intrusion has been observed in only one building and that building was proactively mitigated.

6.0 AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Where can I find more information?

DEC and DOH staff are always available to provide updates or answer any questions community members have. Information on how to contact them is provided in Section 1.4 of this document.

An online document repository has been established for the community and interested stakeholders to access and review information about the project. The online repository available at <https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/203009/> will provide information and documents relating to the Remediation Project.

Two physical document repositories have been established at the following locations:

Woodstock Library
761 East 160th Street
Bronx, NY 10456

Bronx Community Board 1
3024 Third Avenue
Bronx, NY 10455

The repositories will be updated throughout the Remediation Project with project-related information and written materials (i.e., information meeting/availability session notices, fact sheets, periodic reports, etc.).

How do I stay informed?

DEC and DOH will continue to keep the public informed on the milestones associated with the Melrose Remediation Project. The Community Participation Plan, which includes details on mailers and information meetings/availability sessions, is outlined in Section 3.0. Additionally, community members can request to be added to the project stakeholder contact list by reaching out to the DEC Project Manager, Alan Wong (Alan.Wong@dec.ny.gov).

Stay informed with DEC Delivers

Sign up to receive site updates by email:

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/environmental-cleanup-email-newsletters>

Learn about environmental data in your neighborhood with DECinfo Locator

DECinfo Locator is an interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites:

<https://dec.ny.gov/maps/interactive-maps/decinfo-locator>