

Fact Sheet 1

October 9, 1997

Brooklyn Borough Gas Works**Surface Soil Removal to Begin at Brooklyn Borough Gas Works Site****Brooklyn Union
Opens Coney Island
Hotline**

Brooklyn Union has opened two hotlines for Coney Island neighbors with questions about the clean-up at the Brooklyn Borough Gas Works.

Telephone Hotline:

Cathy Sevos
718.403.2900

E-Mail Hotline:

Cathy Sevos
Csevos@bug.com

NYSDEC and NYSDOH contacts are available to answer questions.

NYSDEC Contact:

Bureau of Construction
Services

Dave Crosby
518.457.9285

NYSDOH Contacts:

Health Liaison Program
Nina Knapp

1.800.458.1158 ext.402

Bureau of Environmental
Exposure Investigation

Bill Gilday

1.800.458.1158 ext.6305

Order on Consent Process

Brooklyn Union and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) have agreed to an Order on Consent under which the site will be evaluated relative to its being used as a Manufactured Gas Plant from around 1908 through the mid-1950's. The Order on Consent commits Brooklyn Union to a process in which it first investigates environmental conditions at the site and prepares a Remedial Investigation Report (RIR), which provides data gathered from the site investigation and which is subject to review and approval by NYSDEC. Once the RIR is approved by the NYSDEC, Brooklyn Union is then required to prepare a Focussed Feasibility Study (FFS) that proposes remedial measures that eliminate, to the extent possible, contamination identified in the RIR. Cleanup levels in the FFS may be proposed by Brooklyn Union by performing a risk assessment based on, among other things, the nature and type of contamination present, and potential future uses of the site. Finally, once NYSDEC decides upon a remedial program, Brooklyn Union has committed to implementing the remedial program. In the Order on Consent, Brooklyn Union has committed to implementing a Citizens Participation Plan and paying for State oversight costs. Brooklyn Union also has the opportunity to propose Interim Remedial Measures (RIMs), such as the IRM discussed in this Fact Sheet.

Interim Remedial Measure Defined

Brooklyn Union, the owners of the former Brooklyn Borough Gas Works site (BBGW) that is bordered by the Belt Parkway and Coney Island Creek, will begin an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) to remove surface soil containing lead residue from a portion of the site, beginning around October 20. An IRM is a discrete set of planned actions used for non-emergency situations, such as this one, as well as emergency situations, that can be conducted without extensive remediation and evaluation of a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). It is extremely adaptable and covers a variety of activities to remediate an array of diverse, well-defined problems at the site. The IRM work is being done by contractors for Brooklyn Union, under the supervision of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

History

Brooklyn Union became the owner of this site in 1959, when it acquired the Brooklyn Borough Gas Company. At the time of the acquisition, production of gas on the site had already been discontinued and only the gas storage tanks and a gas regulator station remained. These were torn down and removed by the early 1980's, although the cylindrical foundations for the gas storage tanks were left intact. The storage tanks had been painted with lead-based paints, then in common usage, during the years of operation. Over the years the lead-based paint flaked from the holders due to ageing and when the holders were torn down more paint chipped off into the ground immediately surrounding the foundations.

Document Repositories on BBGW Clean-Up Opened

Coney Island residents have access to documents and reports about the BBGW site, including more information about this Interim Remedial Measure of lead. The Document Repositories, as they are called, are at:

Community Board 13
2900 W. 8th Street
Brooklyn NY 11224
718.266.3001
Contact: Chuck
Reitchenthal

NYSDEC Region 2
1 Hunters Point Plaza
47-40 21st Street
Long Island City 11101
718.482.4995

The repositories will include all documents approved by NYSDEC during the investigation and clean-up process at the former BBGW site.

We recommend calling ahead for an appointment.

Continued from Page 1:

There is no public access to the site and the lead paint residue has remained undisturbed in the soil near the former gas storage structures. As Brooklyn Union and NYSDEC prepare the site for remediation, removing the surface soil containing the lead paint residue is the first project to be undertaken.

Community Health and Environmental Impact

Brooklyn Union's investigation indicates that the area around the former gas storage tanks has concentrations of lead ranging from below 1000 parts per million to over 4200 parts per million. Brooklyn Union's goal is to remove all soils in this area with concentrations over 1700 parts per million. This level will allow for removal of the most concentrated areas of surface soil containing lead paint residue from the site and is consistent with EPA cleanup levels for an industrial area.

The process of removing the lead paint residue is being conducted under a Work Plan prepared by Brooklyn Union and its contractors and approved by NYSDEC. That Work Plan requires that all of the soil to be excavated will be handled in a manner to ensure that no lead paint residue is spread beyond the site, that the soil will be removed and prepared for shipment, and that the trucking company removing soil from the site covers its trucks properly to ensure that no soil containing lead paint residue is spread into the community. In addition, special steps will be taken to prevent odors from being released during removal of soils that have not been disturbed for many years. Further, air monitoring will be conducted, under the oversight of the NYSDEC, to protect public health during the excavation process.

Truck Traffic

We estimate that the excavation will involve approximately 60,000 square feet of the site, at depths up to one foot. This means that we will have to remove about 2,200 cubic yards of soil from the site. To minimize inconvenience to the community, we have scheduled the truck movements over a seven day period, which should mean approximately 20 truckloads a day will be leaving the site. These trucks will travel during daytime on streets already in use for industrial traffic, making their way to the Brooklyn Queens Expressway and to approved disposal sites located in Pennsylvania and Delaware. As a result, we anticipate that there will be little disruption to local traffic, and apologize, in advance, if any inconvenience is caused.

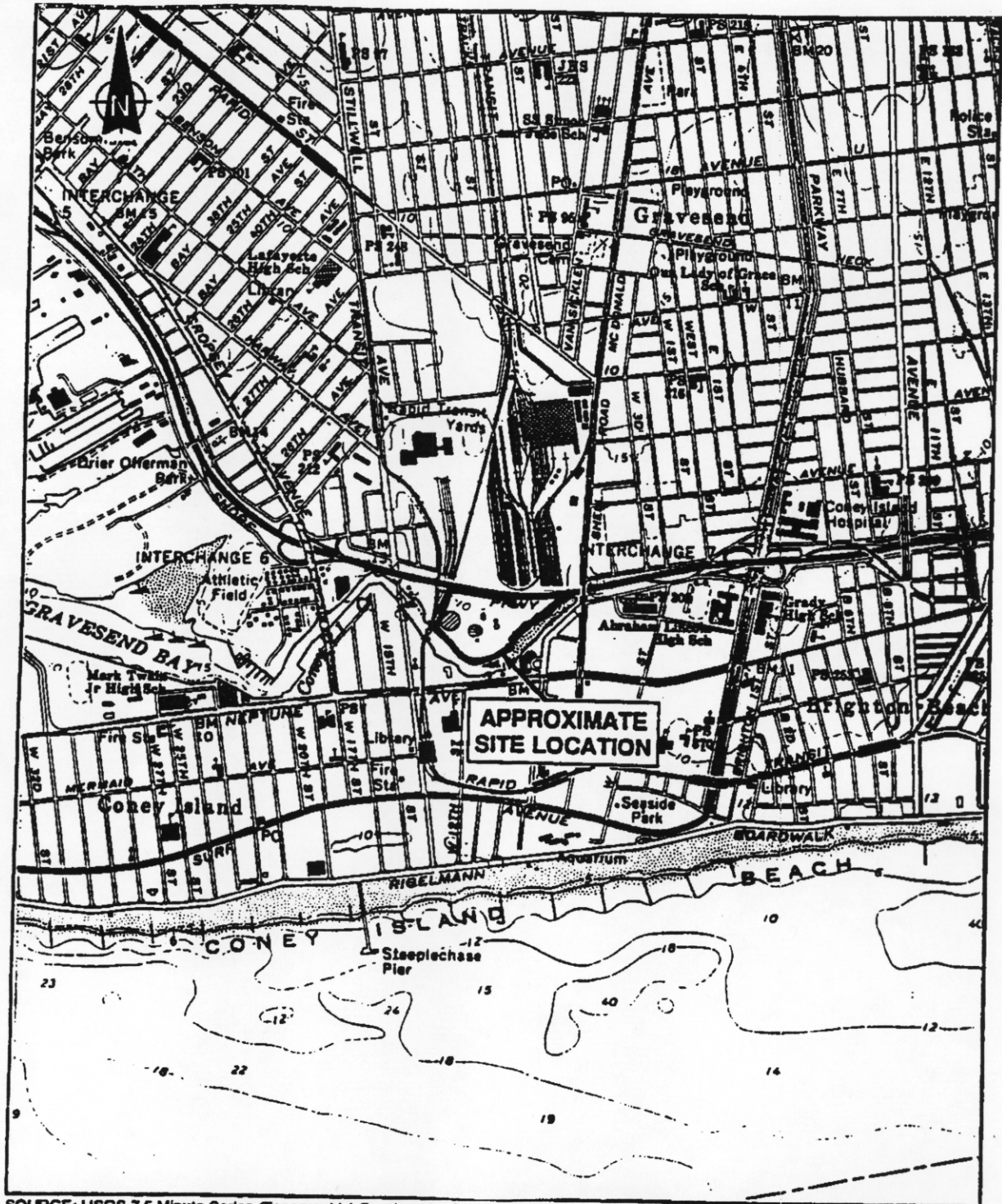
Work Schedule

The excavation is scheduled to begin around October 20 and will be completed around October 28. All work will be conducted during the daytime, beginning at 7:00 a.m., and will be completed by 5:00 p.m. each day. No weekend work is scheduled.

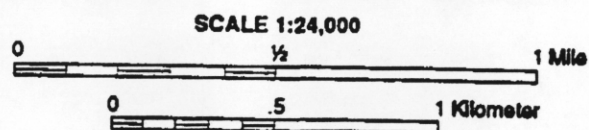
Brooklyn Union, NYSDEC, and NYSDOH Reps Will Answer Your Questions

If you or your organization have questions about the remediation of the BBGW site, please contact Cathy Sevos through the BBGW Hotline.

The NYSDEC and NYSDOH representatives identified on the first page of this fact sheet are also available to answer any questions.



SOURCE: USGS 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) Quadrangle: Coney Island, NY - NJ 1966 Photorevised 1979.



**SITE LOCATION MAP, BROOKLYN BOROUGH GAS WORKS SITE
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK**