



# FACT SHEET

## State Superfund Program

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Site Name: 192 Ralph Avenue Off-Site Plume Trackdown  
DEC Site #: 224042  
Site Address: 192 Ralph Ave  
Brooklyn, NY 11233

September 2012

### Investigation to Begin at State Superfund Site

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) will soon begin a detailed environmental study at 192 Ralph Avenue Off-Site Plume Trackdown ("site") located at 192 Ralph Ave, Brooklyn, 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."

**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>

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 plan, called a "Scope of Work," was submitted to NYSDEC under New York's State Superfund Program. The investigation will be performed by the NYSDEC. The investigation will assess conditions off-site, initially under the area sidewalks and roadways.

#### Highlights of the Site Investigation

The site investigation has several goals:

- 1) Define the nature and extent of contamination in soil, surface water, groundwater and any other parts of the environment that may be affected;
- 2) Identify the source(s) of the contamination;
- 3) Assess the impact of the contamination on public health and the environment; and
- 4) Provide information to support the development of a proposed remedy to address the contamination.

#### 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. Another possibility is that the information collected during the site investigation may support the conclusion that no action, or no further action, is needed to address site-related contamination.

NYSDEC then develops a draft cleanup plan, called a "Proposed Remedial Action Plan". This plan describes the remedy preferred by NYSDEC, or a no action or no further action alternative. The draft cleanup plan summarizes 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 present the draft cleanup plan to the public for its review and comment during a 30-day comment period and at a public meeting.

**Location:** The Site is located in an area of the southeast part of the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, NY. The boundary of the off-site area has yet to be defined, but is generally located on Ralph Avenue between Bainbridge and Macon Streets.

**Site Features:** The 192 Ralph Avenue Off-Site Groundwater Plume Trackdown is related to the 192 Ralph Avenue on-site property. The on-site property is being addressed separately under the NYSDEC Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP). The on-site property, DEC Site #V00669, encompasses the parcel of property identified on the New York City tax map as Section 6, Block 1678, Lot 53. This parcel contains a three-story building on the northern part and a connected one-story building that includes a basement area on the southern part.

**Current Zoning/Use(s):** The off-site area properties and surrounding land uses are primarily residential (rowhouses/apartments) and commercial.

**Historical Use(s):** A dry cleaner operated on the on-site parcel from approximately 1946 to 1998. Contamination from the dry cleaning operation identified at the on-site property appears to be source of the contamination associated with the off-site groundwater plume and soil vapor.

Completed investigations/actions at the on-site property include a Subsurface Investigation (2002), a Remedial Investigation (2006), and a Supplemental Investigation (December 2007) conducted under the VCP. Also under the VCP, a mitigation system was installed at the on-site property. The system consists of a soil vapor extraction system beneath the former dry cleaners and adjacent management office and the installation of a vapor barrier in the basement.

The volunteer under the VCP program elected not to conduct the off-site investigation and remediation. Therefore, the portion of the building that housed the former dry cleaning operation (20 x 20' basement) was officially listed in the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal sites in New York State. The listing allows the Department to perform the necessary Off-Site Plume Trackdown investigation.

**Site Geology and Hydrogeology:** The general area geology is composed of outwash sand and gravels deposits. Locally there are highly permeable fine to medium sands with some gravel. There appears to be a confining silty clay layer of unknown thickness present in the site area around 60 to 70' below the ground surface. Groundwater is encountered at 35 to 40' below ground surface (~9' above sea level). The area groundwater flow is thought to be headed South to Southeast.

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=224042>

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Where to Find Information

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

Saratoga Library  
Attn: L. Taylor  
8 Thomas S. Boyle St. @ "Macon St."  
Brooklyn, NY 11233  
phone: 718-573-5224

### Who to Contact

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

#### Project Related Questions

Robert Filkins  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Environmental Remediation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-7016  
Tel: 518-402-9767  
Email: rhfilkin@gw.dec.state.ny.us

#### Site-Related Health Questions

Bridget Callaghan  
New York State Department of Health  
Empire State Plaza Corning Tower Room 1787  
Albany, NY 12237  
Tel: 518-402-7860  
Email: beei@health.state.ny.us

**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.

You may continue also to receive paper copies of site information for a time after you sign up with a county listserv, until the transition to electronic distribution is complete.

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



**SITE LOCATION MAP**  
**192 RALPH AVENUE OFF-SITE PLUME TRACKDOWN**  
**DEC Site # 224042**

