

**NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION**

Public Meeting

**March 18, 2009 at 7:00 PM
NYSDEC Annex Building
11-15 47th Avenue (NE Corner of
11th Street and 47th Avenue)
Long Island City, NY**

Document Repositories:

**Queens Public Library
Sunnyside Branch
43-06 Greenpoint Avenue
Long Island City, NY 11104
Call 718-784-3033 for Hours**

**NYSDEC Region 2 Office
Hunters Point Plaza
47-40 21st Street
Long Island City, NY 11101
(Call in advance – 718-482-4608)
Hours: M-F 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM**

Project-related Questions:

Shaun Bollers
NYSDEC, Region 2 Office
47-40 21st Street
Long Island City, New York 11101
(718) 482-4096
snboller@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Public Health-related Questions:

Christopher Doroski, Public Health
Specialist
NYSDOH
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180
(800) 458-1158 x 27880
cmd16@health.state.ny.us

**If you have any further questions, visit:
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/brownfields.html>**

FACT SHEET

FEBRUARY 2009

**Amtrak Sunnyside Yard, Operable Unit 4
39-29 Honeywell Street, Queens, NY
Site Code No. 241006**

Public Meeting Announced Proposed Remedial Action Work Plan Available For Public Comments

Comment Period runs from February 27 through March 30, 2009

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), working cooperatively with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), announces the availability of a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for Operable Unit 4 of Amtrak Sunnyside Yard (Site). NYSDEC seeks input from the community on all PRAPs. The PRAP was released to the public on February 27, 2009 and a summary will be presented at the public meeting along with the results of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The RI/FS are publicly available documents which present the results of the investigation undertaken to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the Site.

Site Description: The Amtrak Sunnyside Yard is a railroad maintenance and storage facility that currently encompasses approximately 133 acres, and it is currently undergoing capital improvements. To allow these improvements to continue prior to the conclusion of a site-wide remedial investigation, the remedial effort was divided into six (6) operable units. OU-4 is the subject of this PRAP. It encompasses an area of 120 acres and consists of the contaminated soils above groundwater excluding OU-1, OU-2, and OU-3.

Investigations to date: The Yard has widespread contamination from polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAHs) and lead. cPAHs are a subset of semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs). Past releases of PCBs are attributable to spills from locomotives and train-mounted transformers over time. In the past, coal fired boilers and locomotives and on-site incinerators generated significant amounts of cinders and coal ash which were then used as fill material throughout the Yard. This contributed to the high levels of cPAHs and lead in OU-4. In addition, the presence of lead is attributed to the four New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) bridges that span the Yard.

Proposed remedy: NYSDEC proposes excavation and proper disposal of the soils in OU-4 impacted by PCBs, total SVOCs, and lead at levels that exceed the modified site-specific cleanup values. In addition, an existing inspection pit located below one of the train tracks would be dismantled and removed.

Next Steps: The PRAP will be presented by NYSDEC at the public meeting. After the presentation, a question-and-answer period will be held, during which verbal or written comments may be submitted on the PRAP. NYSDEC is accepting written public comments on the PRAP from February 27 to March 30, 2009. The PRAP is available for review at the document repositories identified on the left side of this page. Public comments are an important part of the review and approval process. The Department may modify the proposed remedy or select another alternative presented in this PRAP, based on new information or public comments.

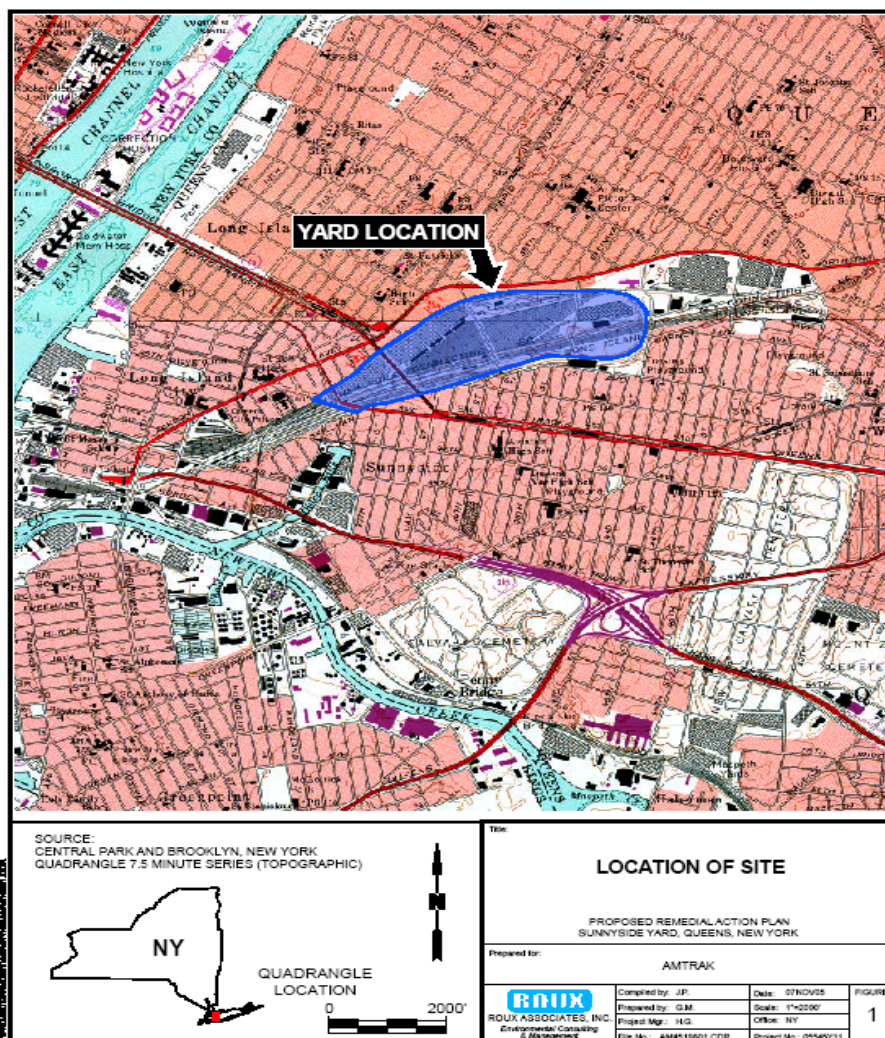
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State Superfund Program Overview: The New York State Superfund Program was set up to identify, investigate, and clean up sites where consequential amounts of hazardous waste may exist. Once the presence of a consequential amount of hazardous waste is confirmed at a site, the Site is added to the State’s official list of sites and is given a classification code. Sites that receive a classification of 2 (representing a significant threat to public health and/or the environment and requiring action) usually undergo a detailed environmental investigation, called a remedial investigation. When the parties responsible for the contamination are known, the responsible parties often pay for and perform the investigation and evaluation of cleanup options. At sites where responsible parties cannot be found or are unable or unwilling to fund an investigation, the State pays for the investigation using money from the 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act, also known as the “State Superfund.” The State may try to recover costs from a responsible party after the investigation and cleanup are complete.

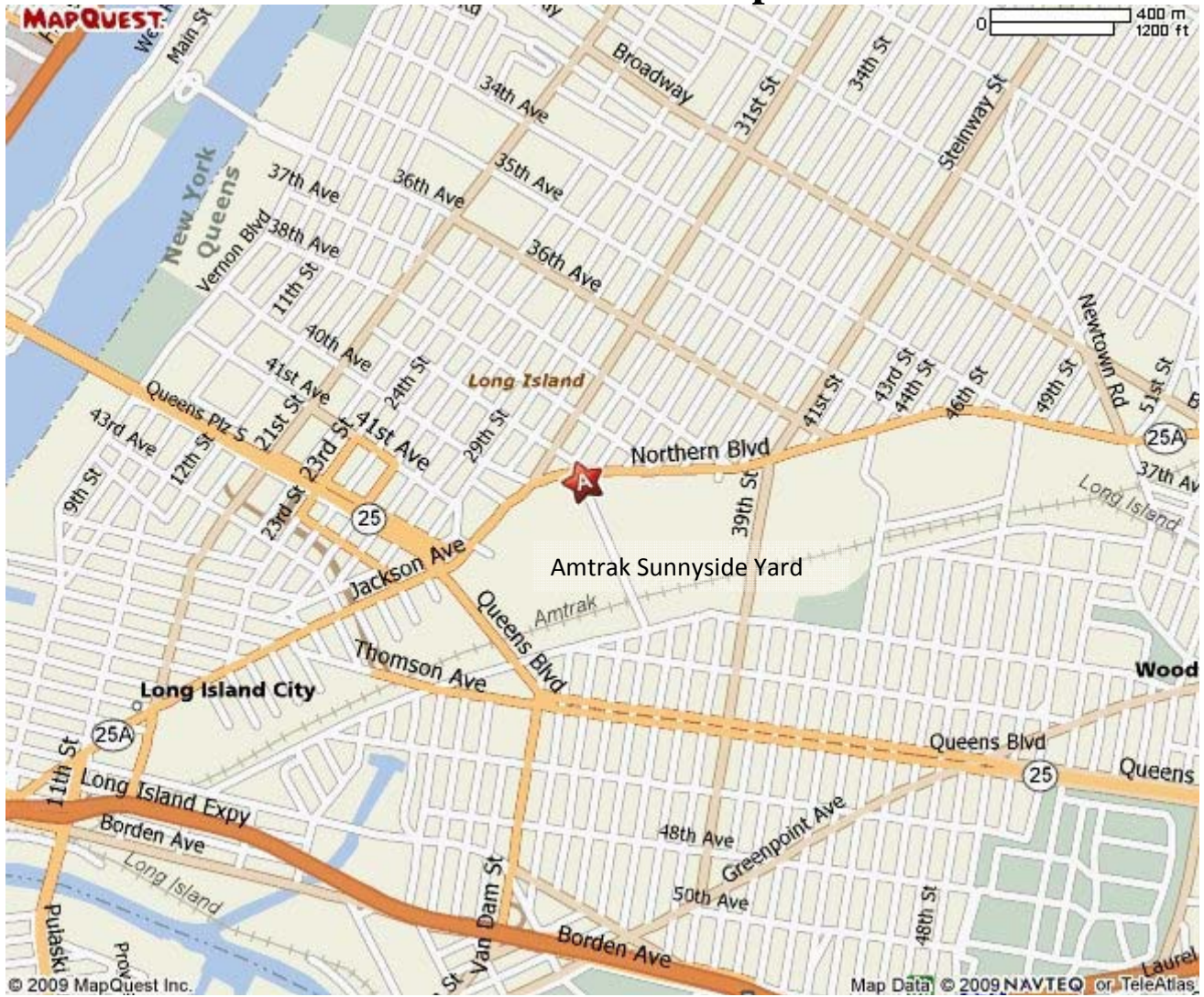
Each class 2 site is assigned a project manager. For sites where state money pays for an investigation, the project manager oversees the investigation and evaluation of cleanup options directly, or he may supervise a consultant

The project manager also writes the PRAP that outlines the State’s preferred method to address the Site. After a final plan is selected and the Record of Decision (ROD) is approved, NYSDEC staff oversees the design and implementation of the cleanup.

Contact the NYSDEC Project Manager if you have any concerns or questions on the PRAP, or if you or someone you know would like to be added to the project contact list to receive future fact sheets for this site. 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.



Site Location Map



Location Map for NYSDEC Annex Building 11-15 47th Avenue Long Island City, NY

