



FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

21-03 44th Ave. Site
Site ID No. 241107
Long Island City, NY

September, 2009

Interim Remedial Measure to Begin at State Superfund Site

Action is about to begin that will address contamination related to the 21-03 44th Ave. Site (“site”) located in the vicinity of 21-03 44th Ave. in Long Island City, Queens County, under New York’s State Superfund Program. See map for site location.

This cleanup action is being conducted as an interim remedial measure (IRM). An IRM is a cleanup action which can be undertaken without extensive investigation and evaluation in order to address both emergency and non-emergency site conditions.

The IRM for this site includes pumping contaminated groundwater to the surface for treatment. The cleanup activities will be performed by contractors under the direction of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

Highlights of the Upcoming Cleanup Activities

The goal of the IRM is to intercept contaminated groundwater immediately downgradient of the suspected source area in an effort to minimize further spreading of contamination.

Work will be occurring on 44th Avenue, between 21st and 22nd Streets. The work will be primarily conducted on sidewalks, so you may experience some disruption in use of the sidewalks for a period of several days at a time. Work will include:

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 the environment go through a process of investigation, evaluation, cleanup and monitoring.

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

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

- Drilling of test wells and soil borings;
- Collection of soil and groundwater samples;
- Analysis of soil vapors beneath buildings to determine whether vapor abatement systems may be necessary, and;
- Installation of up to ten groundwater extraction points with piping to a temporary treatment system.

This work is being performed to address groundwater contaminated with perchlorethylene (PCE), a common industrial solvent, which is also frequently used in the dry cleaning industry.

Next Steps

The NYSDEC is expected to begin cleanup activities at the site on or about September 17, 2009. These activities are anticipated to take several months.

After it completes the IRM, the NYSDEC will prepare a completion report. The completion report will describe the cleanup activities undertaken and will discuss the level of success achieved.

In addition to the IRM, the NYSDEC is designing a full-scale investigation of the site and its impact to the environment. Following that study, a final plan for complete cleanup will be issued. The NYSDEC will keep the public informed prior to and during these activities.

Background

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.

The site is located in an urban area of Queens County, NY. Industrial uses that appear to have led to site contamination include metal plating and/or fabricating. Contamination is believed to have entered the environment from leaking sewer pipes in the vicinity of 21-03 44th Avenue, resulting in contamination of the surrounding soils and groundwater.

The immediate surrounding uses are commercial and industrial. A New York City high school is located approximately three hundred fifty feet to the south of the site. There are a few isolated residential properties located approximately five hundred feet to both the southeast and southwest along 44th Drive, and the closest primarily residential block is approximately seven hundred feet to the south along 45th Avenue.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Where to Find Information

Project documents will be made available at the following location to help the public to stay informed. Currently, the only document available for viewing is the "*Site Characterization and Plume Tracking Report For 21-03 44th Avenue*," dated February, 2009. Upon completion of the IRM, the NYSDEC will place a completion report in the repository.

Queens Public Library
Long Island City Branch
37-44 21st Street
Long Island City, NY 11101
(718) 752-3700

Hours of Operation:
Mon 1-8 Fri 10-6
Tue 1-6 Sat 10-5:30
Wed 10-6 Sun closed
Thu 1-8

Who to Contact

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

Project Related Questions

Mr. Jonathan Greco
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7016

Phone: (518) 402-9694
jxgreco@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-Related Health Questions

Ms. Charlotte Bethoney
NYSDOH
Flanigan Square
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180-2216

Phone: (800)458-1158 ext. 27860
beei@health.state.ny.us

If you know someone who would like to be added to the site contact list, have them contact the NYSDEC project manager above. 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



