



FACT SHEET

State Superfund Program

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21-03 44th Avenue Site
Site Number 241107
Long Island City, NY 11101

April, 2011

Investigation and Interim Action to Begin at State Superfund Site

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) will soon begin a detailed environmental study at 21-03 44th Avenue site (“Site”) located at the intersection of 21st Street and 44th Avenue in Long Island City, New York. See map for site location. The NYSDEC will also be implementing an interim remedy in the near future. This action is being taken to address a known problem in the groundwater beneath the Site without having to wait for the results of the entire investigation.

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.

Highlights of the Site Investigation:

The study to be done at the Site is called a “Remedial Investigation,” and will be performed under New York’s State Superfund Program. The investigation work plan is called a “Remedial Investigation Work Plan Executive Summary” and is available for public review at the location identified below under “Where to Find Information”.

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.

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

The primary contaminants at the Site are a degreasing chemical known as perchlorethylene or “perc” (most

commonly associated with the dry cleaning industry), as well as hexavalent chromium (a metal that is sometimes found at metal plating facilities). Both of these contaminants are known to be present in the groundwater at the Site. In order to determine the source of the contamination, as well as to determine how far it has spread, the department will be directing its contractors to:

- Install soil borings in the vicinity of the suspected source area;
- Install groundwater monitoring wells down gradient from the source area, and;
- Take samples of gases beneath building basements to determine if they present a threat to building occupants.

The investigation is planned to begin in late May, 2011 and should take less than a year to complete.

Highlights of the Interim Action:

The NYSDEC has already identified contamination in the groundwater beneath the Site and will be taking steps in the near future by treating the groundwater to remove the contaminants. This action, called an “*Interim Remedial Measure*” (IRM) will be undertaken in late April, 2011, and will consist of drilling several holes in the ground and injecting an iron powder into the groundwater. The powder chemically reacts with the contamination and breaks it down to less toxic byproducts. The injection process is expected to take only one week.

Next Steps:

The information collected during the investigation and IRM will be summarized in a report called a Remedial Investigation (RI) report. Following the RI, the NYSDEC will conduct a “Feasibility Study”. This study uses information developed during the site investigation and IRM to develop and evaluate potential ways to permanently 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.

NYSDEC will keep the public informed throughout the investigation and cleanup of the Site.

Background:

The 21-03 44th Avenue 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, 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 are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed. These documents include the investigation work plan executive summary.

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

Hours of Operation:
Mon 10 – 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:

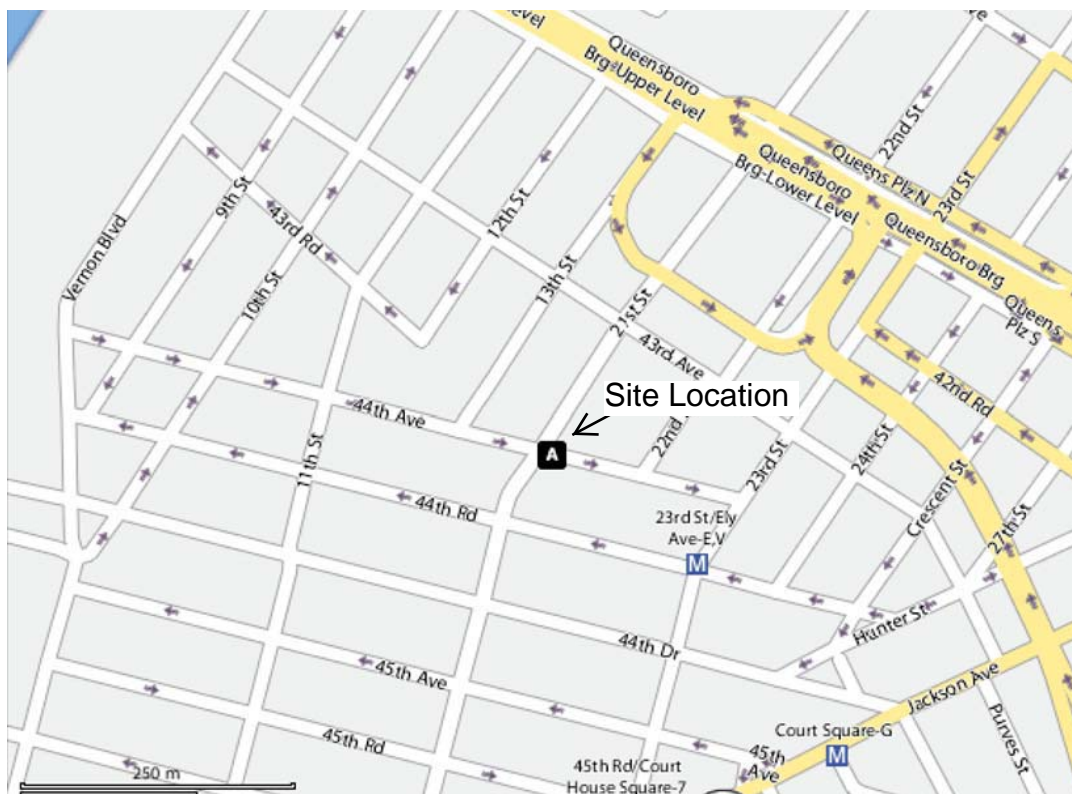
Project Related Questions

Mr. Jonathan Greco
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7016
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jxgreco@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Site-Related Health Questions

Ms. Dawn Hetrick
NYSDOH
Flanigan Square
547 River Street
Troy, NY 12180-2216
Phone: (800)458-1158 ext. 27860
beei@health.state.ny.us

Site Location



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:

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.