



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

FACT SHEET

Brownfield Cleanup Program

Astoria Steel Site
3-15 26th Avenue
Astoria, NY 11102

SITE No. C241155
NYSDEC REGION 2

March 2019

Remedy Proposed for Brownfield Site Contamination; Public Comment Period Announced

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

Queens Library at Astoria

14-01 Astoria Boulevard
Long Island City, NY 11102
(718) 278-2220

Queens Community Board 1

45-02 Ditmars Boulevard
LL Suite 125
Astoria, NY 11105
(718) 626-1021

Who to Contact:

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

Project-Related Questions

Javier Perez-Maldonado, Project Manager
NYSDEC
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7016
(518) 402-8172

javier.perez-maldonado@dec.ny.gov

Project-Related Health Questions

Renata Ockerby
NYSDOH
Bureau of Environmental
Exposure Investigation
Empire State Plaza
Corning Tower, Room 1787
Albany, NY 12237
(518) 402-7860

bee@health.ny.gov

For more information about New York's
Brownfield Cleanup Program, visit:
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html

The public is invited to comment on a proposed remedy being reviewed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), to address contamination related to the Astoria Steel site ("site") located at 3-15 26th Avenue, Astoria, 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 to the left under "Where to Find Information."

Based on the findings of the investigation, NYSDEC, in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), has determined that the site poses a significant threat to public health or the environment. This decision is based on the nature of the existing contaminants identified at the site; the potential for off-site migration of contaminants in the groundwater; and the potential for human exposure to site-related contaminants via soil vapors.

How to Comment: NYSDEC is accepting written comments about the proposed plan for 45 days, from **March 13** through **April 27, 2019**. The proposed plan is available for public review at the location(s) identified at left under "Where to Find Information." Please submit comments to the NYSDEC project manager listed under Project-Related Questions in the "Who to Contact" area at left.

Draft Remedial Work Plan: The proposed Restricted Residential Use remedy consists of:

- Excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil which exceeds the Restricted Residential Use Soil Cleanup Objectives (RRSCOs). The excavation includes removal of 10,032 cubic yards of contaminated soil to a maximum depth of approximately 11 feet below ground surface (bgs) within the perimeter of the site;
- During excavation, any Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) and other possible sources of contamination will be removed;
- Clean fill will be brought in to complete backfilling of the excavation and establish the design grades at the site;
- In-situ (in-place) chemical treatment will be used to treat chlorinated volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in site groundwater;
- Dewatering of the site to allow excavation below the water table and treatment of the extracted groundwater;
- Collection of "endpoint" samples after excavation to evaluate the effectiveness of the remedy;
- Implementation of a Health and Safety Plan (HASP) and Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) during all ground intrusive activities;

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- Implementation of a Site Management Plan (SMP) would also be required for long-term maintenance of the remedial systems; and
- Recording of an Environmental Easement to ensure proper use of the site.

The proposed remedy was developed by Astoria Owners LLC ("applicant(s)") after performing a detailed investigation of the site under New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP).

Interim remedial measures (IRM) may be conducted at a site when a source of contamination or exposure pathway can be effectively addressed before issuance of the Decision Document. The following IRMs have been completed at this site based on conditions observed during the Remedial Investigation (RI):

- Sampling and proper disposal of soil piles, a concrete vault and its internal tanks, construction and demolition debris, asphalt, concrete, and trash to facilitate remedial investigation efforts;
- Installation of a perimeter fence and removal of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated soil and debris; and
- Demolition of PCB-impacted above-grade structures, and the scarification and the proper disposal of PCB-impacted surfaces.

Next Steps: NYSDEC will consider public comments, revise the cleanup plan as necessary, and issue a final Decision Document. NYSDOH must concur with the proposed remedy. After approval, the proposed remedy becomes the selected remedy. The applicant(s) may then design and perform the cleanup action to address the site contamination, with oversight by NYSDEC and NYSDOH.

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

Site Description: The site consists of one 3.7-acre parcel and is located on the East River north of 26th Avenue. To the west is a former complex with filming sets and production offices, and to the east are various commercial businesses. The site formerly consisted of three buildings and an associated paved parking lot. The buildings were demolished in 2018. Past uses of the site have included a steel company, a foundry, an iron aggregate supplier, a gas purifying operation, and a lumber operation.

Additional site details, including environmental and health assessment summaries, are available on NYSDEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database (by entering the Site ID, C241155) at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/externalapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3>

Summary of the Investigation: The primary contaminants of concern at the site are metals, PCBs, poly-cyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are present site-wide in soil and groundwater at concentrations above use-specific soil cleanup objectives. The PAH and metals contamination in soils is likely related to the presence of historic fill. Groundwater sampling indicates PAHs, VOCs, and lead exceed Class GA groundwater standards. Some metals were found in relatively low levels in groundwater and are likely related to the presence of historic fill.

Brownfield Cleanup Program: New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) encourages the voluntary cleanup of contaminated properties known as "brownfields" so that they can be reused and redeveloped. These uses may include recreation, housing, business or other uses. A brownfield site is any real property where a contaminant is present at levels exceeding the soil cleanup objectives or other health-based or environmental standards, criteria or guidance adopted by NYSDEC that are applicable based on the reasonably anticipated use of the property, in accordance with applicable regulations.

For more information about the BCP, visit:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html>

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.

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

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Site Location Map

