



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

FACT SHEET

Brownfield Cleanup Program

Astoria Steel

3-15 26th Avenue
Astoria, NY 11102

SITE No. C241155

NYSDEC REGION 2

December 2019

Where to Find Information

Access project documents through the DECinfo Locator and at these location(s):

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 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
Center for Environmental Health
Corning Tower, Rm 1787
Albany, NY 12237
(518) 402-7860
beci@health.ny.gov

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

NYSDEC Certifies Cleanup Requirements Achieved at Brownfield Site

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has determined that the cleanup requirements to address contamination related to the Astoria Steel site ("site") located at 3-15 26th Avenue in Astoria, NY, under New York State's Brownfield Cleanup Program have been or will be met. Please see the map for the site location.

The cleanup activities were performed by Astoria Owners LLC ("applicant") with oversight provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). NYSDEC has approved a Final Engineering Report (FER) and issued a Certificate of Completion (COC) for the site.

- Access the FER, Notice of COC and other project documents online through the DECinfo Locator:
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C241155/>.
- The documents also are available at the location(s) identified at left under "Where to Find Information."

Completion of the Project: The following activities have been or will be completed to achieve the remedial action objectives:

- Excavation and off-site disposal of approximately 16,600 tons of contaminated soil exceeding the Restricted Residential or Protection of Groundwater soil cleanup objectives (SCOs). Clean fill was brought in to replace the excavated soil and to establish the design grades at the site.
- A site cover was installed to allow for restricted residential use in areas where the upper two feet of exposed surface soil exceeds the applicable SCOs.
- Removal of three underground storage tanks (USTs) and existing utilities.
- Treatment of remaining volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the groundwater using In-Situ ("in-place") chemical reduction. A chemical reducing agent (sodium lactate) was injected uniformly through 21 temporary points to a treatment depth of 6-20 feet below ground surface. The goal of the injection program is to break down remaining contamination into harmless compounds.
- Application of agricultural grade gypsum to soil below the groundwater table over petroleum-impacted areas as a post-excavation polishing measure to accelerate the rate of any naturally-occurring biodegradation of residual petroleum-related VOCs in groundwater.
- Collection and analysis of groundwater performance monitoring samples to document the effectiveness of the treatment program.

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- A Site Management Plan (SMP) was developed for long-term management of residual contamination as required by the Environmental Easement, including plans for: (1) Institutional and Engineering Controls (IC/ECs); (2) monitoring; and (4) reporting.
- An Environmental Easement was recorded to prevent future exposure to any contamination remaining at the site and to ensure implementation of the SMP.

Final Engineering Report Approved: NYSDEC has approved the FER, which:

- 1) Describes the cleanup activities completed.
- 2) Certifies that cleanup requirements have been or will be achieved for the site.
- 3) Describes any institutional/engineering controls to be used. An *institutional control* is a non-physical restriction on use of the site, such as a deed restriction, when contamination left over after the cleanup action makes the site suitable for some, but not all uses. An *engineering control* is a physical barrier or method to manage contamination such as a cap or vapor barrier.
- 4) Certifies that a site management plan for any engineering controls used at the site has been approved by NYSDEC.

The following institutional controls have been put in place on the site:

- Site Management Plan
- Groundwater Use Restriction
- Land Use Restriction
- Environmental Easement

The following engineering controls have been put in place on the site:

- Cover System

Next Steps: With its receipt of a COC, the applicant(s) is eligible to redevelop the site. In addition, the applicant(s):

- Has no liability to the State for contamination at or coming from the site, subject to certain conditions; and
- Is eligible for tax credits to offset the costs of performing cleanup activities and for redevelopment of the site.

A COC may be modified or revoked if, for example, there is a failure to comply with the terms of the order or agreement with NYSDEC.

Site Description: The site is located at 3-15 26th Avenue in Astoria and is identified as Block 911, Lot 1 on the Queens County Tax Map. The site is about 3.7-acres 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. Based upon investigations, the subsurface soils and/or groundwater are contaminated with metals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), semi volatile organic compounds and VOCs, which have been cleaned up under the Brownfield Cleanup Program.

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/external/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=3>

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.

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Stay Informed With DEC Delivers

Sign up to receive site updates by email:

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html

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

DECinfo Locator

Interactive map to access DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>

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Site Location Map

